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### **Bobby and Helen**

Brothers this letter is dedicated to dear friends who have been responsible for mailing out these letters for years. They are old friends and are now suffering from illness and old age. Helen is dying with cancer. Bobby is the caregiver who has to watch his wife slip away from this world. But this is not a sad letter because both of them have great faith in JESUS AS THEIR LORD AND SAVIOR. They do not complain or feel sorry for themselves in fact they minister to the people around them, me included. They have conquered suffering with LOVE. First of all they love Jesus and second of all they love each other. They have been best friends for many years; truly a marriage made in heaven. Helen who is not long for this world spends her time making warm hats for the homeless. These two are perfect examples of what Jesus want us to do. They abide in love for each other and everyone around them. Remember; **God is love**, and whoever remains in **love** remains in **God** and **God** in him. 1 John 4.

So we all need to take a lesson from Bobby and Helen, for they truly accept their fate and abide in Love for God and each other. So how do I explain why the most kind and Loving God would allow His followers to suffer so much. It seems fair to me that the rich and lucky folks should have to suffer, but not his disciples. So first I turned to the Apostle he chose to lead the church, Peter. In Peter chap 2 vs 20 he states; "but if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps. He WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; and while being hated, He did not hate in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds **you** were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls." This was written by the Peter who was put in jail a lot, and then crucified upside down on the cross.

And now; Lets look at Jesus, how about Christ himself, what about God's only son. A roman crucifixion was the worst death for the worst criminals, even worse most were tied to the cross but Jesus was nailed. He was nailed in the wrist and the tendon would tear forcing him to use his back muscles and not being able to breathe. Both feet nailed together could not support himself by his legs because it was too painful on the feet. And before this painful death he was beaten severely his flesh was torn, face beard pulled and ripped and a crown of thorns on his head. He Christ, suffered a horrible painful death. Some times when I feel really bad for all of you guys I thinks of the people who reject Jesus; and are going to Hell. At least I know that Jesus loves you and is truly with you in your prison sentence. So embrace your suffering; as did all his apostles and many of his followers. Remember the many Christians who were killed brutally sometime torn apart by wild animals; because they would not deny Christ. And now I think of all of you incarcerated who are sometimes physically abused and always mentally abused. We have all sinned against God, but for some reason you are in prison and the rest of us are not.

SO THAT MAKES YOU SPECIAL IN THE EYES OF GOD. Anyone chosen to suffer is special and your job is to make the best of it. Draw closer to God. It is the truth that Jesus laid down His physical human life for your and my sins, because he loved us so much; and He wanted to be the example of great love. He knows our hearts and that we are sorry for our sins, We lovers of Christ need to pray and feel sorry for those who are who do not believe in HIM. We find the JOY of Christ in our hearts because, the Word of God says; "eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him." 1 Corinthians 2. Your reward in heaven will be great if you sincerely turn your heart to Him, are sorry for your sins and ask Jesus into your heart. But like my dear friends Bobby and Helen you must love Him with your whole heart, your whole soul and your entire mind and all your strength. Which means that you will love and forgive your neighbors every wrong they have done to you? THEN you will be truly FREE and full of Gods Joy. Learn from the lives of others who have found God and loved their neighbors. We in the Catholic Church call them Saints. So as we all join together at 7 pm in prayer, let's remember my dear friends Bobby and Helen and their entire family as they go through this final phase of life, then we will have two more angels in heaven to pray for us.

May the Peace of Christ come to each and every one of you and remember that Jesus and I love you too. Michael

**Let us all pray together at 7 pm for Bobby and Helen and all our brothers in prison.**