

My name is Daniel Ferreira, I am serving a first-degree life sentence. My "career of crime" started at the age of 15 as a petty thief. Shortly after I was sent to a Reform School and then "graduated" to State Prison. After leaving prison, I got married, worked a short time, then became a professional burglar. As a thief I was very successful, traveling around the country burglarizing homes and businesses as well. I did not lack for material things. I had all, plus some.

During my years of crime, I had women, booze and nightclubs, but was never completely happy, there was something missing in my life. I had a void that could not be filled! So I decided to get involved in the drug scene for there was money to be made.

Suddenly things began to fall apart. In an 18-month period, my sister and father died. Soon after my wife and brother were both killed in a car accident. Just 30 days after the death of my wife in 1973, I was arrested for murder. Later, I was convicted and sentenced to spend the rest of my natural life in prison. I appealed the verdict and in 1977 my conviction was overturned. I was granted a new trial which ended in a mistrial. In the middle of the trial the judge offered me a plea deal, to plead guilty to a lesser charge of second-degree murder. Unfortunately, I refused the plea deal and once again I was convicted and sentenced to life without parole.

Just before my last trial, I was invited to a Christian Prayer group, 100 inmates and 15 outsiders. I had never seen people like them before. At first I thought many were nuts or stoned on drugs! I did not know what to expect. Then I saw grown men cry out to Jesus- bankrobbers, murderers, rapists, and drug addicts. I could see the power of God at work before my very eyes. Before I realized what was happening, I cried out to Jesus to forgive me and save me. At that very moment, something happened, I knew without

a shadow of a doubt that Jesus was real. From that day on life was different!

During my 3 years of walking with the Lord, I felt a call to the ministry. I had the opportunity to work with the Protestant Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Phillip Bellisario. Under his supervision I was able to accomplish the following: (1) diploma from the Bethel Bible Institute for a two year study course; (2) diploma from Berean Bible School for an intensive two year ministerial study course; (3) successful completion of a Deacon training course; (4) successful completion of a Lay Ministry training program; (5) preaching assignments; (6) teaching the Bible and coordinating the Bethel Bible Institute program in MCI-Norfolk. (See Lifers Group FACEBOOK for additional documents).

When I first entered prison, I only had a 7th grade education. I needed to take the opportunity of the Norfolk Educational program offered to inmates. So I entered the school program and passed the G.E.D. exam. Since then many more opportunities opened up to me. In 1974 I went to work at the MCI-Norfolk Hospital as a custodian. The following year the X-Ray Training Program was offered to me. Under the supervision of Radiologist Dr. Landy, MD., I was trained as an X-ray technician. I was on 7 day a week call, available for emergencies. In addition, I was also trained as an EKG technician when requested to do so. (See Lifers Group FACEBOOK Page for additional documents).

In 1980 there was a canteen shortfall of \$35,000. At that time inmates were in charge of the canteen. The Norfolk Inmate Council decided to remove those who were running the canteen. I was approached by a Council member wanting to know if I would be willing to become the Canteen Manager. I agreed under these conditions: If I'm going to be responsible for it's finances, then I must hire my own workers that I can trust, and the Council agreed. In one year the \$35,000 debt was cleared.

During the early 1970s the Massachusetts legislature passed Chapter 777-the Furlough program in which inmates were allowed

14-days per year to go home and spend time with their families. Along with their sponsor, whether it was a wife or parent, they were allowed to go shopping together, go out to eat, or visit with family and friends. Of course I wanted to take part in the furlough program but I would need OUS (Outside Under Supervision) clearance. First, I had to see the Classification Board and was approved by the Board for OUS as a staff cook for officers and Staff workers. The Eatery was located at the Gatehouse outside the prison wall.

Then in 1983, I was approved by the Classification Board to transfer to a minimum security facility, N.C.C. at Concord (known as Concord Farm). Now I would be eligible for work-release, community work programs and weekend furloughs. When I arrived at N.C.C. Concord I was immediately given a job assignment working in Property.

Of course, my desire was to get involved with the Protestant Chaplain. The Chaplain was a volunteer from the community, he donated his personal time in our religious programs. By this time I was licensed and ordained as a minister with the Full Gospel Association. This opened many doors in which I was able to make numerous contacts with other ministers and churches throughout the country. I met Rev. Frank Erdman, a Pastor of Beacon On A Hill church in Concord, he was hired as a part-time Chaplain at N.C.C. Because of my experience in the prison ministries I volunteered my services to assist Chaplain Erdman and became his assistant.

At this time, I became very active with the local church throughout the community. I started a comprehensive prison ministry program with community participation. It was during these programs I met my wife, Maureen, who was a volunteer. As of now we've been married 38 years. She visits faithfully and is my number one supporter! Every Sunday we would have a Family and Friends Worship Service and Maureen would provide special music for the service. Also, every other month we held a Gospel Concert in the large

Dining Hall for inmates and their family to join us in which we would invite outside Gospel singers and church choirs.

Faith Chapel would come to Concord Farm and put on "Saturday Night Christian Concerts." It was such a blessing to the inmates and their families. I was able to arrange and organize many local churches to get involved in the prison ministry, such as: Beacon On A Hill; Peace Lutheran Church; Freedom Full Gospel Evangelistic Association, and many other ministries throughout Massachusetts. At this time I consulted with the Chaplain and the Warden, and was given approval, with two other inmates to build an alter and a church front to the former N.C.C. "pinball machine room." For the first time at N.C.C. inmates had their own chapel.

I was finally approved for weekend furloughs with my wife. On numerous furloughs we were invited by church Pastors to preach from their pulpits and lead discussions with student groups about the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and prison. (See Lifers Group FACEBOOK Page for additional documents):

Another door of opportunity opened up when I was approved to work at the Acton Public Schools, Acton-Boxborough School District in Acton. I had many responsibilities, such as custodian, painter, furniture mover, floor washer/polisher, carpenter, lunchroom aid and groundskeeper. (See Lifers Group FACEBOOK Page for additional documents).

On one occasion, while working at Acton Boxborough High School near the nursery school, I heard a child's voice and I noticed a small child had wandered from the school in a wooded area. Immediately, I shut off the tractor and approached the child and said "little girl where is your teacher?" and she said "I don't know." Her class was having a "Field Day outing. I took the child by the hand and tears began to run down my cheeks - thinking if someone sees me coming out of the woods hand in hand with a 5 year old child, what would they think! Finally, I approached the nursery and returned the child. Sadly, they had no idea the child was

missing and Officer Don Vasconcellos found out what happened, he was so upset he reported the incident to the school Superintendent who, himself was so furious he admonished the teacher for not taking a headcount before returning to her classroom.

I had the privilege to speak to students in both public and private schools in the area including: Concord Academy, Acton High School, and Concord-Carlisle School. Also the students would be invited to come to N.C.C, given a tour and told about prison life.

During this time I started the Full Gospel Inter-Prison Ministry, my wife, Maureen, became the secretary and many outside churches and volunteers joined the program. The ministry was designed to help inmates and their families. A special couple I need to mention are Howard H. Green, MD, and Elizabeth McSherry, MD. Howard was in charge of the Veterans' Hospital in Boston, and Elizabeth in Roxbury. The couple who became very active in the Ministry, approached me and asked if I would marry them. Of course, it was an honor. In January of 1987, I also had the privilege to perform the Baby Dedication(Christening) of their infant daughter. (See Lifers Group FACEBOOK Page for additional documents).

All of a sudden, on December 29, 1987 at 3:00AM I was abruptly awakened by the sound of rattling chains and voices of correctional officers. My door was opened and the Shift Commander said "dress warm!" It turned out that I, and 63 other first degree lifers, all across the state were being transferred out of minimum security. Nobody had the slightest idea where we were going. Finally, somewhat after 4:00AM our "motorcade" arrived at Old Colony Correctional Center, a brand new medium security facility in the Bridgewater complex.

One of my major concerns was for my wife Maureen and how she was going to react to all of this. Having met her at minimum, I knew the much stricter regime(searches of visitors and so on) would be foreign to her. I thank God we both managed very well.

It was not long before I had the opportunity to help build a Chapel at Old Colony. At first the church group was very small, and only a handful of us attended services. We started out with a formal Dedication Service in March, and more than 100 prisoners and family members, clergymen, community leaders, prison volunteers, and officials gathered together to honor the opening of "The Old Colony Christian Center." At this time Kevin Dodge, Joe Watson, and myself were appointed as Elders under Chaplain Bud Wood. In November, Old Colony Christian Center began holding Baptismal services and I personally had the honor of baptizing five of the men who had chosen to follow our Lord in this manner. (See Lifers Group FACEBOOK Page for additional supporting documents).

Two years later the Department of Correction opened Bay State Correctional Center, it used to be a minimum facility designed for community workers and work release programs. The D.O.C. then closed baystate and transformed it into a medium security facility. Myself and the 63 other lifers were offered the opportunity to transfer to Baystate, and we gladly accepted. It was a much more comfortable housing situation for us and visitors.

At this time I decided to further my education through correspondence courses. In 1992 I enrolled in Calvary Christian College and Seminary in South Bend Indiana. It was an honor for me to earn a degree of Bachelor of Biblical Studies. And I continued my studies and completed my Master of Biblical Studies in 1993. Later I transferred my credits to Promise Ministries, Inc., Battle Creek Michigan. In 1994 I was able to enroll and successfully complete my assignments and earn my Doctor's degree of Biblical studies. (See Lifers Group FACEBOOK Page for other info).

Currently I am at MCI-Norfolk, after Baystate again closed. I hope and pray that I'll see changes in the criminal Justice System.

God Bless.

Daniel K. Ferreira(W-36548
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