



“GOD IS IN PRISON AND HE’LL NEVER
GET OUT. BECAUSE THERE’S TOO MUCH
WORK FOR HIM TO DO THERE.”

“I WAS SITTING IN PRISON, A VERY ANGRY MAN. It was a combination of 20 years of alcohol and drug use, and I had come to my bottom. I was at the point where there was no solution other than to cry out for something outside of myself that would relieve me of the insanity I was living.”

David Peña heard the call in a prison cell, the day before he was planning to kill another inmate.

“I remember I was sick that day and had to go to the infirmary. While I was sitting there, they brought in a man shackled from head to toe. Shirtless, no shoes, covered from head to toe with tattoos — so many you didn’t know whether to look at him or read him. We got to talking, and he asked me what year it was. I said, ‘Man, how long you been in here...don’t even know what year it is.’ As we waited, he told me his story. He had been in prison for 26 years, most of them in solitary. He said he came in on a 10-year sentence but killed two inmates and got two life terms on top of his 10 years. Here was this man, in prison for life and still full of himself. Cocky, arrogant, thinking he was on top of the world. I looked at this man and I saw myself, and I just started shaking. I left the infirmary, went back to my cell and fell down on my knees. I said, ‘God, I don’t know who You are, but if You care anything about me, You’ll show me the way out of here. I can’t live this way anymore.’”

Today David has a degree in psychology and runs an outreach program for ex-cons.

DAVID PEÑA *Ex-con. Christian Minister. Texan.*