

## PART 8

Well...so things have changed a little since our last chat. Like what? For starters I'm typing this myself!!! Rather than penning my letters by hand, then mailing it to Grace Chapel for it to be typed....I'm actually here at Grace Chapel, sitting at the office volunteer desk typing away on my own personal laptop!!! (An incredibly generous gift I recently received from one of our Grace family members!) **In other words...as of June 27<sup>th</sup> 2011... I, Eric Robert Cox, am no longer owned by the State of Ohio. I am a FREE man!!!!!!!** 40 plus supporters, many from Grace Chapel, stood in the court room in support of my release and witnessed what many of us have been longing and praying for...for so long now!

Listen to what eyewitness, Kathy Benken, poignantly penned after reflecting upon the incredible day's experience: *"All, I am so thankful that I made the time to go this morning to support Julie and Eric. The experience was like no other as I sat with a group of Godly believers, waiting and waiting for the proceedings to start. I listened intently as the Judge held the first two cases. I listened to the cadence of his voice and I heard softness in his heart. When they called Eric in, everyone held their breath, at once, straightening and sitting taller on the benches. Our breathing was almost in unison as the minutes ticked by until Eric had the opportunity to speak. There was not a dry eye among us as he captured the hearts of all with a strong and confident voice outlining his dreams and goals. He spoke from the depths of his soul as he said how sorry he was for his actions so many years ago. He turned to see his mother Julie often. The Judge asked us all to stand, those who supported Eric and would forever be linked with him as guardians. My knees were weak with worry, but soon, Julie would hear what she has been praying for- for so long. Eric's request for early release would be granted, sealed with a sweep of God's mighty hand. Just like that. One journey over and another soon to begin. As I exclaim, the experience was like no other, I am so proud of Julie and her constant reminder to me that God is in control, accepting the years of denied attempts with grace and renewed spirit. God job!"*

What a perfect description of what turned out to be the perfect day. I want to now take this time to thank from the bottom of my heart ALL of my supporters that day and all who continue to support me in welcoming me home. I love you all and find myself literally blown away with sheer amazement at how incredibly kind you continue to show yourself to both me and my precious mother. These past 9 years have been extremely challenging as you can only imagine.

But I am so strengthened and encouraged to see the often quoted passage of God's promise come to fruition in my life...His promise to restore unto His children the years lost to the locusts in our lives! (Joel 2:25) And as our God continues to do just that, I look forward to keeping everyone updated. For *"I waited patiently for the Lord; He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him"* (Psalm 40)... which is exactly why I'm working on acquiring a "live copy" of my court-room hearing! My desire is to download it shortly after this section of my story is posted, that way all who desire to will be afforded the opportunity to witness the mighty move of God's hand on that day. Just as the Psalmist says...God has placed a new song in my heart and I desire to sing it to you if you'll be so kind as to listen.

I'm definitely going to be quite the busy one now that I'm home but I desire to keep writing and sharing my story with you. In fact, more recently I've felt a strong nudge from God to eventually compile it into a book...something I'll share with you little later on. In addition to that, I'll be working my tail off at Grace Chapel doing miscellaneous jobs to earn an income until I can raise enough support to focus on full-time ministry. Once I have enough support I hope to concentrate in full-time on my internship with Grace Chapel, leading and developing the adults in our single's ministry and leading and developing our outreach ministry as well. Besides leading our single's ministry and outreach ministry, I'll be continuing towards my B.A. via Moody Bible Institute's online courses. I have a little over a year left of school before I receive my Bachelor's in Biblical Studies.

I know God has amazing plans for my life...I am completely in awe of what he has done so far and am completely open to whatever Ministry he calls me to...my heart's desire is to do His will for my life and to use my crazy past as a way to touch people's lives and change lives for the Glory of God!

Since I'm no longer in Prison, I will not be writing "Letters from Prison"...but will be blogging weekly...I would love for you to follow me and the continuation of my story at [www.ecox737.blogspot.com](http://www.ecox737.blogspot.com) .

Until next time,  
Eric