

FILE COPY

BEFORE THE
BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES
STATE OF GEORGIA

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:
Application OF WILLIAM NEAL MOORE :
For A 90-Day Stay of Execution And :
For Commutation Of His Sentence Of : Application No.
Death :
:
:
-----X

TONY L. AXAM
175 Trinity Avenue, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

DANIEL GIVELBER
Northeastern University
School of Law
400 Huntington Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
ATTORNEYS FOR WILLIAM NEAL MOORE

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INTRODUCTION

William Neal Moore, by his undersigned counsel, applies to the Board of Pardons and Paroles, pursuant to Article IV, Sec. 11, Par. 11(a) & (d) of the Georgia Constitution of 1983, O.C.G.A. § 42-9-20, 42-9-42(a) and Chapters 475-2.01 (1) and 475-3.10 (2)(b) of the Rules of this Board: (i) for consideration of his application for commutation of his sentence of death, imposed by the Superior Court of Jefferson County on July 17, 1974; (ii) for a 90-day stay of execution, presently scheduled for Thursday, May 24, 1984, to permit consideration of his application; (iii) for a hearing before the full Board, allowing him to present witnesses and to be heard through his counsel; and after that review, (iv) for the commutation of his sentence of death.

Those who come before this Board seeking a stay of Billy Moore's May 24, 1984 execution, and, following a full hearing, commutation of his death sentence, include an extraordinary range of citizens. Members of the victim's own family, well-established community leaders in Jefferson County where the crime occurred, respected religious leaders, ordinary citizens of all backgrounds - black and white, old and young, Georgians and dozens of persons from other states throughout the country, are united in the strongly held belief that Billy Moore should not be executed.

They point to a host of reasons why Billy Moore should be spared: (i) that his crime, though tragic, was not aggravated; (ii) that in Billy Moore's past, and in the circumstances surrounding the crime, there existed many powerful mitigating factors; (iii) that another far more responsible for Fredger Stapleton's death was never brought to justice; (iv) that the sentencing judge was never presented with critical evidence about the crime and Billy Moore's past, and gravely misjudged community sentiment in imposing a death sentence; and (v) that Billy Moore has become, since 1974, an extraordinary force for good, whose powerful positive influence extends not only to those around him in prison but to a wide circle of admiring persons in Georgia and elsewhere.

Against this host of supporters, faced with a vast array of compelling reasons why Billy Moore should be spared, who demands Billy's death?

Virtually no one.

Neither members of the community, nor relatives of the victim, nor anyone else who knows about this crime or about Billy Moore has come forward to demand his execution. Those in the criminal justice system, though obliged to defend the technical propriety of Billy Moore's conviction and sentence, nevertheless do not strongly urge justice will not be done unless Billy Moore is put to death.

Surely Billy More is as powerful a candidate for clemency as Georgia will see. And surely this Board - whatever its ultimate judgment on sparing Billy Moore's life - should stay Billy's execution now, so that it might exercise its responsibility over life and death only after a thorough and careful review of the evidence he would place before this forum. When the standard for granting a 90-day stay of execution has not yet been fully developed, the justice and mercy with which this Board must render its weighty decision require that at the very least this Board allow itself time for the careful consideration of this most extraordinary of cases.

To a summary of the information Billy Moore seeks to present to this Board we now turn.

THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMUNITY -- INCLUDING
POLITICAL LEADERS, EDUCATORS, AND RELATIVES
OF THE VICTIM -- STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT BILLY
MOORE SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH

Billy Moore pleaded guilty to murder in Jefferson County in 1974. In a departure from normal practice in capital cases, the determination of the appropriate sentence was not by a jury of twelve Jefferson County citizens, but by a trial judge sitting alone, without any community input, his judgment based almost solely on a presentence report which, as we will show below, was flawed by critical inaccuracies and omissions. Ten years after Billy Moore was sentenced to death, many people in Wrens and surrounding areas of Northern Jefferson County, the community where the crime occurred, strongly believe that he should not be executed. Among them are members of the victim's family, some of whom have, through correspondence, developed deep attachments to Billy. Each of these community members -- political leaders, educators, church leaders, young people, and relatives of the victim alike -- has come forward on Billy's behalf, submitting letters and requesting an opportunity to appear, if necessary, before this Board.^{1/} Their pleas arise

^{1/} The letters from members of the Jefferson County Community are attached to this Petition at Appendix A. Because of the severe time constraints under which this application is being presented, they represent but a sampling of those in the community who feel that Billy Moore should not be executed. The appended letters do, however, attest to the strength and extent of that feeling.

not only from the sense that the crime, seen in all its aspects, does not warrant death, but also from the awareness that Billy has matured into a deeply religious and generous man whose life has become precious to others.

For the relatives of the victim, there are many reasons why Billy Moore should be spared. As their letters agree, Billy is a young man who received the death sentence for a crime in which another family member, the nephew of the victim, had a substantial part. The family also strongly believes that the facts of Billy's crime do not warrant a death sentence. "[W]hat was there in this killing", asks Loretta Farmer Jordan, a niece of Fredger Stapleton, the victim, "that got this man death?" (Letter of Loretta Farmer Jordan.) Moreover, as one relative of Stapleton, who became acquainted with Billy prior to the time the crime, expressed it, there is the memory that "Billy was real special. I can honestly say I have never met a nicer person and would say so still. He was a good man." (Letter of Mary Jordan.) But more than any other sentiment, the victim's family expresses the deeply held belief that Billy is "sincerely a changed man" (letter of L.F. Jordan), who is "changed with the Lord and now changes others" and "who deserves a second chance." (Letter of Sandra Farmer.)

Mrs. Sara Farmer, Fredger Stapleton's niece, remembers the night, after the crime, she saw Billy Moore and realized that he was a man who should be forgiven:

I remember the night they brought Billy Moore in at the police station. He, my aunt and my mother were there and Billy came in. He looked at me and I will never forget the look on his face. He said to me I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry. He said it over and over. There was something about that look and the way he said that that I felt in my heart he was really sorry. I knew then I could never hold nothing in my heart against him.

(Letter of Sara Farmer.) What was once a jailhouse encounter shaped by grief and remorse has since become an enduring friendship. Through correspondence with him, Sara Farmer and two other relatives of the victim have come to regard Billy Moore not only as a young man worthy of forgiveness, but also as a human being who is both a source of inspiration and love. (Letters of Sara Farmer, Loretta Jordan Farmer, Sandra Farmer.)

These sentiments are echoed throughout the community where the crime occurred. Many express a particularly strong dissatisfaction that Billy Moore has taken responsibility for a crime initiated and shaped by one of Wren's own citizens, the nephew of the victim. In the words of Henry Johnson, a long-time citizen of Jefferson County and a member of the city council:

I knew Fredger Stapleton, the victim of this crime, all my life. He was my next door neighbor. To me he was a good friend and I to him. I also know Uncle Fredger's nephew, George, from the first day he was born. And George was just a hard, mean boy from the first day up. He never changed and folks around here still have nothing good to say about him. Billy Moore was a stranger in this town with no people....

Everybody knows Billy Moore wasn't in this by himself. That boy didn't know anything about Uncle Fredger. He has never seen him and he didn't know how to get in the house or at the money...

I think we've been waiting ten years to see fairness done in this case. I think its time to take care to see who this young man is and what he's become. It's time to search out the case as it was never searched out when he got sentenced to the electric chair.

(Letter of Henry Johnson.)

Other Jefferson County inhabitants, young and old, also recall Curtis' coldness and random brutality. Over and over they express disapproval that "the nephew of the victim was the one who set the whole thing up - and then he ran. Billy did not run and he's taking all the blame." (Letter of Lee Shellman.) Sara Wynn, the owner of a local beauty shop and a former classmate of George Curtis, remembers:

This is a small town and people watch each other closely, looking out for one another. As soon as it happened, I can remember folks saying George must of planned the whole thing. That belief has only gotten stronger and stronger over these years. All you have to do is mention this and even today folks got riled up about it and say Billy Moore shouldn't have been dealt with like that by his lawyer and for sure shouldn't die..

(Letter of Mrs. Sara Wynn.) As the letter of Reverend Willie Tomlin, the former vice-president of the Jefferson County NAACP, agrees,

The sentiment in Northern Jefferson County among any number of people I've talked to is that the man is not the one responsible for the crime. Certainly people feel Billy Moore should not be executed. It is surprising how strong that feeling is even after ten years.

(Letter of Willie Tomlin.)

Because people believe that the facts about Billy Moore and the crime were not brought forward at the time of Billy's

sentencing, many share the view that the application of the death penalty in his case was arbitrary. In the words of Lee Shellman, President of the Jefferson County NAACP,

The execution of Billy Moore will leave a scar on Jefferson County. The record will go down that Billy will be killed for something that happened here. But people believe that the Court did not know everything about the crime at the time it happened.

(Letter of Lee Shellman; see also letters of Marvin Huff, Mary Jordan, Phil S. Brown.) After noting Billy's stress and intoxication at the time of the crime, Dr. Gardner Hobbs, the present principal of the Wrens High School, states:

There ought to be equity in the application of these laws and the review of cases especially where capital punishment is involved. I do not believe that Billy Moore received equity of the law. Granted a man was killed, but when all the facts are taken into account we can see Billy Moore does not seem to be a person who deserves to die.

I do not believe that capital punishment will serve any positive end in this case. I think we should spare him.

(Letter of Dr. Gardner Hobbs.)

Many community members compare the facts of Billy's crime with others they have heard of, including crimes committed in and around Jefferson County. But, in the view of Phil Brown, the first vice-president of the Jefferson County NAACP, "[p]eople who are aware of the situation believe that Billy Moore was too severely punished in getting the death penalty." (Letter of Phil S. Brown; see also letters of Loretta Farmer Jordan; Henry Johnson.) Reverend Herman Baker,

a city councilman of Wadley and the retired principal of the Wadley High School, explains his view on this point as follows:

I am also aware that there is feeling in our community that Billy is not a young man who deserves the death penalty.

My belief too is that Billy's offense is not one that should be punished by taking his life. Many of the facts about his life were not brought forth at his trial. As an educator and as a person who follows the facts of many other cases, I strongly believe that his was not a crime that merits death.

(Letter of Reverend Herman Baker.) As Henry Johnson frankly states, "I've seen all kinds of killings in my time here in Jefferson County. This one surely does not deserve death."

(Letter of Henry Johnson.)

Other do not want Billy Moore to be executed simply because they had the opportunity to meet him -- and to see what kind of a young man he was. In fact, though Billy was a stranger in Wrens at the time of the crime, those who had even brief contact with him remember him, ten years later, with an unusual vividness. As a cousin of George Curtis, Mary Jordan became acquainted with Billy Moore on the several occasions he visited Wrens. Though soldiers from Fort Gordon often passed through Wrens, Billy, she remembers, was special:

When I heard what happened at Uncle Fredger's and that Billy had been arrested, I just couldn't believe it. Unlike George, Billy wouldn't harm a hair on a dog's back -- that's how gentle he was. All I could think of was how Billy brought his little son dressed so nice and how he'd bring candy for my kids and lent my brother money even though Billy himself was in the hole.

(Letter of Mary Jordan.) Another person, now a retired welder, recalls the "wonderful personality" Billy showed while he was

in the Louisville jail awaiting sentencing. (Letter of Marvin Huff.) During that same period, Billy was baptised, a ritual that marked the beginning of what was to become a deep and powerful conversion to the Christian faith. Mrs. Elizabeth Birt, a retired nurse and the mother of thirteen children, remembers Billy Moore from that time with a special appreciation:

I really got to know Billy when he and my son Clarence were in prison at Louisville. I learned to love him there as a son and he called me Ma Birt.... We would go every Sunday and Billy was such a loving young man....

Billy and my son loved each other like brothers. My son never was too interested in the Bible, but since spending the time with Billy he is interested. Billy has changed his life. Now thank God Clancey is out and working raising a family.

(Letter of Mrs. Elizabeth Birt.)

Finally, there is widespread recognition in and around Jefferson County that Billy Moore, as Mayor B.A. Johnson of Wadley states, is a man who "has shown true remorse and now lives a Christian life that could influence other men to better their lives." (Letter of Mayor B.A. Johnson.) This great respect and admiration with which Billy Moore is regarded has led many to point out that, in the words of Reverend Herman Baker of Wadley:

[O]ne important fact we should consider is the message his death would sent to other young men trying to make their way. In deciding whether a person should live or die, shouldn't it matter that a young man betters himself, leads prayer groups and changes other peoples' lives?

(Letter of Herman Baker).

II

BILLY MOORE WAS SENTENCED TO DIE ON THE BASIS OF A PRESENTENCE REPORT THAT PRESENTED A FALSE AND INCOMPLETE PICTURE OF HIS BACKGROUND, HIS CHARACTER AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS OFFENSE

Why was Billy Moore sentenced to die in a community that felt so strongly that he should live? The answer lies in large part in the circumstances under which his sentence was imposed. After Billy Moore pleaded guilty, the trial court -- not a jury -- imposed sentence. As the principal basis upon which to render its judgment, the trial court was presented with a presentence report which purported to outline Billy Moore's background and to provide insights into his character. Yet that presentence report, however well-intended, was greatly flawed by material inaccuracies, omissions and misimpressions concerning both the circumstances of Billy Moore's prior life, and the facts of the crime.

The principal focus of the report was a "case study" of Billy Moore by the probation officer who interviewed him at the county jail and who investigated the circumstances of his life and of the crime. The "case study" purported to present Billy Moore's personal history, his previous criminal record, his military record, his marital and financial situation, and his account of the circumstances of the crime. In short, it purported to present a complete picture of the young man upon whom the Court was obliged to impose its sentence. In

attempting to aid the Court in its determination of Billy Moore's proper punishment, the "case study" also indicated the views on punishment of some members of the victim's family.

Though ambitious in its scope, the presentence report was utterly misdirected. It portrayed a Billy Moore who bore little resemblance to the young man actually before the Court for sentencing. The "Billy Moore" presented to the Court in the report was a man without any qualities of distinction at all - a man who appeared to possess no special characteristics that would have supported a judgment that he should live rather than die.

Yet those aspects of Billy Moore's character that led him to cooperate with the authorities at every point in the State's case against him, and to throw himself on the mercy of the court,^{2/} had long been present in his personal history, in the case summaries of his juvenile records, in his military background, and in his marital and financial background -- in each of the areas so incompletely presented by the report. Because neither Billy Moore nor his attorney

^{2/} At the close of Billy Moore's sentencing hearing the trial judge stated:

I have this comment to make, Mr. Moore. You, in my opinion, did everything that a man could do after you were caught and do an honorable thing insofar as your true statements made, your cooperation with the officials, pleading guilty to the mercy of the court, and placing an awesome responsibility on me.

Sentencing Transcript, 54-55.

was given an adequate opportunity by the State to review his information or to confront the testimony presented,^{3/} the basic omissions and inaccuracies that pervade the report went uncorrected. As a consequence, the Court was forced to impose its sentence in the absence of very information that has led so many in the community where the crime occurred, including members of the victim's family, to urge that Billy Moore should live.

Billy Moore's Childhood Circumstances

The presentence report did not accurately present even the outlines of Billy Moore's youth. Born in Columbus, Ohio in 1951, Billy Moore grew up the youngest of five children. From the age of five, however, only Billy and his brother Terry remained at home with their mother, a woman stricken with multiple sclerosis. Billy Moore's father was in prison

^{3/} At the state habeas hearing, Mr. Pierce testified as follows:

Q: Uh, do you recall seeing the presentence report [on the day of hearing]?

Mr. Pierce: No, sir, I haven't.

Q: You've already submitted, I think, an affidavit to that effect?

Mr. Pierce: Yes, yes, I did... I'll say this, I have never seen a presentence investigation report prior to sentencing in any State Court that I can recall. And I'm, I'm sure if I had seen it in this case, I would have remembered it, because it would have been most unusual.

State Habeas Transcript, 40-41.

from the time Billy was five until he was eighteen. Billy's older brother and sisters, many years older than he, had left home. Without any other means of income because of her advancing illness, Billy's mother mainly supported her two young sons through welfare.

In this troubled and difficult environment, Billy very early demonstrated a willingness to attend to the well-being of others around him, showing a special concern for his mother and sisters. In his early teens, he worked at whatever odd jobs he could find -- cutting lawns, painting houses and keeping a paper route for several years -- to ease his mother's financial troubles. He also cooked, cleaned and did the shopping his mother wasn't able to do, helped out with whatever bills and errands his school schedule would allow, and spent long hours with his mother in doctors' offices as well as simply helping her to move about. In addition to running errands and doing chores for his sisters when they lacked time or proper transportation, Billy also showed a special pleasure in helping to care for his nephews and nieces -- a trait that characterizes his relationship with his own son and with other children whose families he communicates with while on death row.

By the age of fifteen, Billy had become the primary source of financial and emotional support for his ailing mother. After attending school during the day, Billy worked a

full-time job at a nearby steel mill at night. As his mother grew more and more unable to care for herself, Billy exercised extraordinary responsibility, increasingly assuming the role of the head of the household. In the words of Evelyn Edwards, a long-time neighbor whose daughter Billy later married:

I've raised eleven children and I can say Billy was an unusual child. He wasn't like the other kids, most who were lazy and harder to handle. Billy was so incredibly caring. A lot of his goodness came from loving his mother who had multiple sclerosis.... I think because he saw himself as the man of the house he always had a job to earn money for his mother...

He was a delight to have in the house and I wanted his influence around my kids as much as possible -- a good student, loving and so responsible.

(See Appendix B, letter of Evelyn Edwards, see also, letters of Regina Walker, Norma Jean Gripper; Appendix C, Affidavit of William Neal Moore.)

Billy Moore's Juvenile Record

Billy and his mother lived in a poor and "rough" area of Columbus -- a neighborhood in which, as Billy would later note, almost all of his young friends were eventually headed for jail or for an early violent death. Under these circumstances, what is surprising is not that Billy had several youthful encounters with the law, but that he never experienced serious trouble with the law. Indeed, the picture of Billy Moore that emerges from his Ohio juvenile records in fact strengthens and confirms the descriptions of friends and family members. Though Ohio's juvenile court convicted Billy

of petty stealing on four occasions, its officers were quick to note the extenuating circumstances that led them to lessen or suspend punishment in every instance but one. (See Appendix D, Files of Ohio Juvenile Authorities.)

In summarizing Billy's case, the juvenile officers described Billy as an "attractive, pleasant, and well-mannered" boy who made Honor Roll in school and who had no disciplinary problems apart from incidents resulting from his association with boys "predisposed toward delinquency." The officers also pointed out that the supervisor who had worked with Billy while he held a Youth Corps job found him to be the best worker he had. Importantly, the juvenile file acknowledges Billy's role, at the age of fifteen, as a youth who saw himself as "the man in this house," who was an "excellent worker," and who "spen[t] his money judiciously -- buying food and clothes, and helping his mother pay the bills."

The Georgia presentence report makes no mention of those favorable assessments in the Ohio juvenile report -- of a fundamentally decent and caring youth whose minor encounters with law resulted from his sporadic association with several delinquent youths. The Georgia presentence report merely lists "previous offenses." Even this meagre information is inaccurate. For example, one particularly misleading entry is of an offense listed as "molesting." Though ominous sounding, that arrest resulted from an incident in which a grandmother

reported to police having overheard Billy, then eleven years old, say an obscenity to another boy. Billy was picked up and then quickly released. (See Appendix C, Affidavit of William Neal Moore.)

Billy Moore's Military Record

Though his goal as a teenager was to complete high school, and though his performance in school -- particularly in Art and History -- was outstanding, Billy could not sustain the pressure of attending school full-time as well as working in steel mills full-time and caring for his mother's needs. In 1970, after Billy's father came home from prison, a brother's return from Vietnam motivated Billy to join the Army. At the same time, Billy, then nineteen, married a childhood friend, Francine, who was then sixteen. In the spring of 1971 a son was born, Billy Jr., who became the "center" of Billy's whole life. (See Affidavit of William Neal Moore; Appendix B, letters of Evelyn Edwards, Regina Walker.) These new responsibilities appeared only to strengthen Billy, for he rapidly advanced in the Army and soon won the confidence of those with whom he served.

The presentence report mentions Billy Moore's military record, but it presents none of the facts about his performance that might have move the Jefferson County Court to attach any importance to that record. However, once again, there

existed information about Billy Moore that could have shed light on the Court's inquiry into his character and thus into its determination of his sentence.

Upon completing basic training, Billy Moore was one of very few soldiers, chosen from over 250 men, who were promoted to E-1 status. That promotion followed his receipt of an Award for Outstanding Soldierly that commended his role as a squad leader during basic training. By October of 1971, less than a year after he enlisted, Billy Moore received an Outstanding Service Award for his performance while stationed in Frankfurt, West Germany as the Brigade mail clerk for two companies. He was advanced with unusual speed to E-4 status. In 1973, while still stationed in Frankfurt, Moore completed his high school credits. In 1974, at the time of the crime, Moore had been recommended for E-5 status in spite of the interruption of his further studies caused by his prolonged hospitalization for knee surgery.

More important than this record of advancement, -- none of which was made clear to the trial court -- is the admiration and respect with which Moore was regarded by both his supervisors and his peers in the service. In the transcript of Moore's May, 1975 Army Dismissal Hearing, attached as Appendix E, Army personnel from Moore's commanding officer to his platoon sergeant expressed disbelief that the Billy Moore they had known could have committed the offense under normal

circumstances. Each stated his willingness personally to work with Billy again. In the description of the platoon sergeant with whom Billy had worked at Fort Gordon in the summer and fall of 1973, Billy Moore was "always a sharp-looking soldier" whose "attitude about the Army was excellent," a soldier who "did an excellent job under me as a squad leader" and who had a special ability to iron out conflicts, especially those arising from racial problems, better than could the sergeant himself. (See Appendix E, Testimony of SSG Larry Ray Jones, pp.8-9.) Another sergeant confirmed this account of Billy, describing him as a soldier whose "leadership abilities were outstanding," who "was always on the ball," and who could be greatly depended on -- traits that were reflected in the platoon's reputation as one of the best in the battalion. (Testimony of SFC Wallie Raymond Bridges, pp. 6-7.)

This and other testimony presented at the Army Dismissal Hearing contradicts the presentence report's suggestion that Billy Moore was a nondescript soldier about whom no one had anything to say. Under "Community Attitude," for example, the presentence report indicates that the first sergeant of the company simply had no comments, either good or bad, to make about Billy other than that he once did not come in uniform to pick up his paycheck. In fact, the sergeant, an officer with over eighteen years of troop experience, found Billy "outstanding" and pointed out that Billy had been

accelerated in his studies to an advanced electronics course and that he could have made a career in the Army. The sergeant also emphasized his willingness to have Billy Moore serve under him again. (Testimony of SFC Charles E. Reimer, pp. 14-15.) The Commanding Officer at Fort Gordon confirmed that view, and gave the accurate account of the incident suggested in the presentence report:

One incident I remember very clearly was when Moore came to the company to get paid and the first sergeant jumped him about getting a haircut. Moore went out and got his hair cut and went back and got paid. If I remember correctly, he was going on leave at that time.... I remember as the first sergeant really came down on him real hard, a lot of people would kind of brace up against that but Moore accepted it and went on his way and came back. His appearance was always good.

(Testimony of CPT Robert E. Hatfield, pp. 7-8.) While the report's failure to report this incident correctly may not itself be a major flaw, it contributed to the picture of Billy Moore as a merely mediocre soldier, which was a major inaccuracy.

It is indeed remarkable that Moore's supervisors commended him so highly in 1975, more than a year after they had last had any direct contact with him, a fact which indicates their strongly favorable views of Billy Moore. Thus, in this area, as in every other area covered, the sentencing Court was provided with information based on critical omissions and inaccuracies.

The Circumstances Surrounding the Crime

The presentence report is also utterly silent with respect to the circumstances of Billy Moore's life at the time of the crime. Mr. Moore, according to the report, had no marital problems and no financial difficulties worthy of any note. Yet in truth, the crime occurred while Billy Moore was caught up in a severe personal and financial crisis. These circumstances, never even suggested in the report, do not justify Billy Moore's crime. Yet the sentencing Court was forced to assume the responsibility of choosing between life and death without being informed of the human frailties that might have mitigated the punishment in Billy Moore's case.

After returning from his post in Frankfurt, Germany in the Spring of 1973, Billy Moore, together with young wife and his two-year-old son, visited family in Columbus, Ohio before proceeding to Billy's next post at Fort Gordon, Georgia. But two days before the family was scheduled to leave, Francine informed Billy that she refused to join him in Georgia. Unable to change his wife's mind and unable to postpone reporting to the base to begin his scheduled studies in electronics, Billy came to Georgia alone.

For Billy, this sudden separation from his wife and son was an especially great loss. Billy was deeply in love with his wife, his childhood friend and the only girlfriend he had ever had. And his relationship with his son, Billy Jr., was

ever more extraordinary. In the words of friends and family, Billy was not only a "gem of a husband" but he was also a loving and concerned father who assumed the primary responsibilities for caring for his son's needs. Much as he had cared for his mother while working and attending school, Billy cooked, cleaned and devoted whatever free time he had away from his Army responsibilities to his child. Whether because, in Billy's testimony, his wife was very young and unaccustomed to such work or because, in the words of family and friends, Francine had already ceased to care for her husband and child, Billy was, in a sense, both the mother and the father to the child. His separation from Billy, Jr., was thus doubly painful. (See letters of Evelyn Edwards, Regina Walker, Norma Jean Gripper.)

Upon arriving in Georgia, however, Billy acted quickly to insure that his wife and child were cared for. Billy arranged for Francine's allotment to be sent directly to her and then instructed the Army to forward to his wife all of his allotment except for \$50.00 per month. Having also arranged for Francine to keep his car, Billy visited Columbus by airplane whenever he could, each time hoping to persuade Francine to join him with their son. Francine refused, and in the fall and winter of 1973, Billy became aware that in his absence his wife had begun to spend time with people involved in drugs. After Billy was hospitalized for knee surgery in the winter of

1973-1974, he was not even able to visit his wife to see whether she was keeping her promises to care for Billy, Jr. and to avoid drugs.

In February 1974, Billy, still hospitalized for his knee, began to receive phone calls from his sisters and mother-in-law: Francine had been seen with a man who was rumored to be a pimp and a thief; she was not caring for Billy, Jr., sometimes leaving him with a stranger or a babysitter who was an alcoholic. The news became rapidly worse, for Francine grew dependent on drugs and moved in with a man involved in prostitution and drug-dealing. Billy, Jr. was all but abandoned. When Billy received word that his then only two year old son had been found wandering on the street in the cold, and that soon after he had nearly died in a fire in an unattended house, he made his decision. In late February, following another operation on his knee, Billy borrowed \$250 from the Red Cross on base, rented a truck and drove to Columbus to bring his son to Georgia to live with him.

Billy moved off base, losing his position as a squad leader as a result, and found housing for his son and himself in a nearby trailer park. He then requested the Army to redirect his allotment from Francine to him, but was informed that such a change would take at least three months. He applied for another loan from the Red Cross, but this was slow in coming through. In the meantime, his move off base and his

new responsibilities to his son, who needed special care because of his mistreatment, set Billy back in his electronics training and physical therapy. At this time, too, it became clear that Billy's marriage to Francine was over.

The Circumstances of the Crime

It was in the midst of this desperate financial and emotional crisis that Billy Moore first encountered George Curtis, the nephew of Fredger Stapleton. During the time Billy was undergoing repeated operations for his knee, Curtis, an ex-marine then in his early thirties, was placed in the same room at the military hospital. Curtis, lying in the bed across from Billy, witnessed Billy's growing anxiety as he became aware -- through phone calls and letters -- of his wife's involvement in drugs and prostitution, and her abandonment of their son.

Born and raised in Wrens, Curtis invited Billy to his home town on several weekends. These occasions gave Billy an opportunity to meet members of that small community, some of whom still remember his gentle and respectful demeanor -- and the contrast in character between him and George Curtis. (See Appendix A, letters of Sara Farmer, Marvin Huff, Henry Johnson.) Though Curtis apparently disappeared from Wrens soon after the crime, he is remembered by many in the community as a "hard, cruel boy from the first day up" (letter of Henry Johnson), an "arrogant and unbelievably brutal" man who

always wore "a slight cruel grin, (letter of Sara Wynn). In the words of Mary Jordan, George's closest cousin and a woman who befriended Billy when he visited Wrens, "George was bad through and through, just the opposite of Billy." (Letter of Mary Jordan.)

On the night of April 2, 1974, Billy visited Curtis in Wrens and the two began drinking at Curtis' house. After drinking a large amount of whiskey and wine, Curtis led Billy to Fredger Stapleton's house, and the two entered by the back door. According to Moore's sworn testimony, Curtis had mentioned on several occasions that he knew of an old man who kept \$20,000 on him at all times. But Curtis did not tell Billy that that man was his uncle. Though the two planned to rob Stapleton, when they entered the dark house they decided to turn back. (See Appendix C, Affidavit of William Neal Moore.) They returned to Curtis' house and continued to drink.

When Billy Moore finally left Curtis' home some time later, he was extremely intoxicated. He returned to Stapleton's house. He walked down the street, across Stapleton's yard, and climbed in the front window. The house was completely dark. At the closed door of Stapleton's bedroom, Billy knocked several times. Suddenly the door opened shortly and an object -- the barrel of Stapleton's shotgun -- hit Billy in the leg. The next instant Stapleton fired his

shotgun and Billy, in drunkenness and fright, fired back through the door behind which Stapleton stood. (See Appendix C, Affidavit of William Neal Moore; see also Moore v. Balkcom, 513 F. Supp. 772, 808; 817-818 (1981).)

Billy Moore has not to this day ever denied the shooting of Fredger Stapleton. Contrary to the picture of the crime sketched by the report, however, his actions were not the result of calculation or coldness. Billy Moore and Curtis never went to Stapleton's house prior to the night of the crime, nor did Billy plan to go with Curtis prior to that night. Further, Billy never suggested, as indicated in the report, that he, rather than Stapleton, was the first to fire. Billy has repeatedly maintained that he fired the pistol in a panicked and drunken response to the shotgun blast. (Id.)

Though the Court that sentenced Billy in 1974 sought information on his life and the circumstances of his offense, it was instead presented - without its knowledge - a false and incomplete picture of Billy Moore. That report, however well-intended in its aims, obscured the sentencing Court's view of the young man upon whom it was forced to impose its sentence. The unfairness of allowing Billy to go to his death on the basis of that false information, though beyond the power of the courts to redress, is plainly within the power of this Board to remedy.

Because of the profound inaccuracies and omissions in the presentence report, the Jefferson County Court could not have known the man upon whom it imposed its death sentence in 1974. Even less could the Court have had any awareness that the young man who came before it on July 17, 1974, would, in the ten years following the imposition of his death sentence, mature into an extraordinary man, a deeply spiritual person who has literally changed the lives of others on death row, and elsewhere. We will now turn to that changed man, and to the pleas of the many throughout Georgia, and in the United States, who ask that this Board spare his life.

III

BILLY MOORE HAS MATURED INTO AN EXTRAORDINARY AND DEEPLY RELIGIOUS MAN WHOSE LIFE IS PRECIOUS TO MANY IN GEORGIA AND ELSEWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES

Following his baptism in 1974 in the Louisville jail by the Reverend Nealon Guthrie, Billy Moore has matured, in the ten years he has been on death row, into a man who is admired and loved by men and women of every age and background, by ministers and religious leaders throughout Georgia, and by other death row inmates. Though Billy spends his days on death row quietly, leading prayer groups, pursuing his own Bible studies, and corresponding with family and friends, he has deeply affected the lives of many outside of prison.

Only the letters themselves can express the extent to which Billy has become a dear friend to ordinary people whose lives are remote from Georgia's death row. Yet the account of Billy given by one Atlanta couple illustrates the sincerity and strength of the support that exists for him. Though a firm believer in capital punishment, Sidney Cook, a pilot with Republic Airlines for over 25 years, visited death row as part of a prison ministry with several other businessmen. There, he first met Billy Moore:

Billy invited me into his cell. We sat on the floor and talked. From the start I sensed a peace about this man more so than anything I had seen before in a man. I asked him to tell me about his crime. He did. As we sat on the floor of his cell tears of remorse rolled down his cheeks.... I went to the prison to minister to him. He has ministered to me...

Who is Billy Moore? He is a man who made a terrible mistake -- a mistake that caused a tragic death with all of death's terrible consequences. He is a man who realizes these consequences. He is a sensitive man interested in others. He is a man I would not hesitate to trust my life or the lives of my wife or children to. He is a father, fulfilling that role to the best of his ability. He is a man who has spent years on death row, not with anger or distress, but with an overpowering peace.

(Letter of Sidney J. Cook.)

Mr. Cook's wife, Melba, also a proponent of capital punishment, confirms this picture of Billy's humbleness and gentleness, and of the blessing that his life is to those who know him both in and out of prison. She writes of Billy's special solicitude towards young people, especially towards his own son:

[Billy] has never asked for sympathy nor favors from us, but rather has involved himself with those things that concern us as a family, offering support and warm counsel. When our son was preparing to enter college, Billy wrote him a long letter urging him to take advantage of his opportunities rather than "following the crowd." Our son appreciated his advice. We all do.

I must try to tell you about Billy's son and the special relationship they share. It is so important. Billy, III lives with his grandmother in Columbus, Ohio, but Billy has established himself as an authority figure in that child's mind and involves himself in every detail of his life, offering praise when appropriate and rebuke when needed. We had the opportunity to observe this last summer when Billy, III spent a week with us in order to get a couple of visits with his Dad. ... I sat and watched as they made the most of their short time together. I wish I could adequately describe the effect they have on one another. I cannot. I can only say that Billy was able to bring out the best in this boy that I had perceived all week to be a very "typical" twelve year old. It was a most encouraging experience for me, one I will never forget.

(Letter of Melba Cook). As Evelyn Edwards, Billy's former mother-in-law and one of Billy Jr.'s guardians, writes "that child [Billy Jr.] lives for his father's calls and letters."
(Letter of Evelyn Edwards.)

Though the people who have, through correspondence or visits, developed a friendship with Billy come from every walk of life, their accounts of who he is do not vary. For many, correspondence and visits initiated out of pity for a man condemned to death were quickly transformed into sincere friendships in which Billy provided comfort and enlightenment. In the words of Reverend Nealon Guthrie and his wife,

We have seen the change in Mr. Moore's life. His complete life-style has changed along with his attitude. He has never shown any bitter resentment or animosity, expressed any hostile feelings toward law enforcement officers, the court, the judge, or toward society. He blames no one for his confinement in prison. He has helped other inmates make moral changes, some are even out of prison now and have found their place in society. He has been an inspiration to many even on death row. Yes, your honor, Mr. Moore has put life and hope in the lives of many men....

Many times my wife and I went to inspire and encourage him, but when we left he had lifted me higher, and inspired my faith.

(Letter of Reverend Nealon Guthrie and Laura Guthrie.) As thirteen year old Lantz McCrery recalls,

[W]hen [my family] first wrote to Billy we thought we were helping some lost soul. We were surprised to find out he was a spiritual help to us.

(Letter of Lantz McCrery; see also letters of Dennis, Carol, Heidi and Molly McCrery.)

Whether from an elderly woman confined to her wheelchair (letter of Mildred Roode), or from Georgia church leaders in Norcross (letter of Pastor Fred Kelly, Landmark Church), in Rome (letter of Pastor Nealon and Laura Guthrie, Christ Holiness Church), or in Kingston (letter of Pastor C.E. Wilkey, New Gospel Church), whether from the mother of two teenage sons (letter of Maria Gerardi) or from an Illinois farmer and his family (letters of Dennis and Carol McCrery, and children), the accounts all communicate the same message: Billy Moore, in the words of Pastor Paul Smith, "has touched my life in ways I did not know were possible." (Letter of Pastor Paul Smith, Hillside Presbyterian Church.) Billy has not simply sought to better his own life, but he has also sought to encourage and uplift others.

Billy Moore's extraordinary concern for the well-being of others has been demonstrated in a multitude of ways -- in modest gifts made through long effort from the limited materials around him, in stories and pictures created for the young children of those with whom he corresponds, in notes of encouragement and advice for the older children, in lengthy written dialogues each week with his twelve-year-old son, and most of all in "wonderful" letters that instill strength and hope in their readers. For one family, Billy's influence has been felt in the little decisions of life, as well as the most important ones:

We have a tremendous amount of respect and deep love for Billy. Our children are completely devoted to him. Billy's letters to our children (ages 13, 12 and five) are full of praise for God, encouragement to make God-directed decisions and a hope that they can continually see God's blessings surround them. ...

He has given not only our children, but Denny and me an insight into what it means to be a real Christian that we had never before been aware of.

(Letter of Mrs. Dennis McCrery.) Bea Altamore, a sixty-year old woman recovering from divorce, expressed the importance of Billy in her life in terms repeated over and over in the letter of many others:

I could have never made it without him -- his letters gave me strength, I felt his faith and love as I read his letters, he pulled me through with his prayers...

Please don't take Billy Moore away from us, we need him, for the first time in 19 years I can face the world and smile again all because of his love, kindness and his prayers. He saved my life.

(Letter of Bea Altamore; see also letters of Melinda Parker, Susan and Flora Burr, Fred Kelly, Joseph Ingle, Maria Gerardi, Nealon and Laura Guthrie, K. Ramirez, Beverly Robb, Maggie Woods, Michael and Terry Murray.)

Billy's "faith and love" have prompted equally extraordinary responses. Though Billy himself is completely silent with respect to his needs or cares, in the legal as well as every other area, those who have become his friends in the last ten years have sought to show their appreciation of Billy through such actions as sending Billy, Jr., presents on holidays, and welcoming him into their homes on his visits to

Georgia to see his father, traveling to Ohio to visit Billy's ailing parents, and traveling many miles to spend a few hours with Billy on death row. (See letters of Sidney and Melba Cook, Lisa Rittiner; Nealon and Laura Guthrie, Terri Murray and others.) For one Illinois family, the trip to Georgia to see Billy itself became a gift -- from Billy to the family: the visit with Billy so powerfully confirmed the reality of the gentle, loving man who emerges in his letters that the family shared their experience with their neighbors and friends. For the churchgoing community of Monmouth and Aledo, Illinois, Billy has become a source of concern and inspiration. (See letters of McCrery family and other members of Aledo, Illinois community.)

Finally, Billy Moore is a model inmate whose record of behaviour at the Reidsville State Prison and the Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Center is "spotless." (Letter of Lisa Rittiner.) In the view of one pastor with long years of experience with death row inmates, Billy's conduct while in prison "should be a model for the entire State of Georgia to demonstrate what can happen to a man when he is incarcerated in our system." (Letter of Fred Kelly.) As another church leader with extensive experience in prison ministry writes:

[Billy] is regarded with a great deal of respect not only by his fellow death row prisoners but by guards and administrative officials who come in contact with him. Those of us who have visited Billy from the outside I dare say are uniform in our opinion of the exceptional character Billy Moore now displays for all to see.

(Reverend Joseph Ingle.) Though Billy devotes most of his hours to prayer, study, and discussion, written and spoken, he has also acted as a tempering influence -- whether in soothing angers or frustrations or in befriending other inmates who are bullied by others -- on death row. (See letters of Lisa Rittiner, Rev. Nealon Guthrie, Paul Smith, Rev. C.E. Wilkey.)

Billy Moore is an exemplary inmate in yet another sense: he has become a spiritual leader on death row who is deeply respected by guards, prison administrators and other inmates. (Letters of Nealon Guthrie, Fred Kelly, C.E. Wilkey, Joseph Ingle.) Nathan Brown, one of the many Death Row inmates who has become a reborn Christian through Billy's ministering writes:

He was and still is a pillar of inspiration to many of us here such as being an example in faithfulness as Christians, setting/living according to pure moral standards, obeying authority, a lover of truth and so much more. He's a trustworthy friend and brother and I do love him.

(Letter of Nathan Brown.) Billy is considered distinctive by fellow inmates in two respects. As one inmate writes:

William simply did not have the appearance of a criminal. And he wasn't. He had had little or no experience with prisons and jails.... we knew, too, that, he was not a murderer.

[also] He was a follower of Christ. And that was the source of his strength; his courage ... Circumstances had brought him to Reidsville - and God would use him among the condemned. To bring hope amid despair. To make known that, death, did not have to be the end. But, instead, it could be the gateway to a new beginning. Yes, he was being used of God. And has touched many lives among the "death row" sect, including my own.

(Letter of James Lee Spencer). Still other inmates have written of Billy's serenity and peacefulness, his confidence in the face of the fears and anxieties that are common on death row, and his gift of calming and bettering those around him. (Letters of Warren McCleskey, James Lee Spencer, J. Alderman.) Pastor Kelly of the Hillside Presbyterian Church states that:

Here is a young man who has touched the lives of many others in prison, by his simple testimony of love for Jesus Christ. Billy is a person who looks you squarely in the eyes when he is talking with you, or reading from Scripture. His faith in Christ has been demonstrated over and over again during my visits to Jackson as he is greeted by fellow inmates who depend upon his wisdom, his insights, his faith, and his caring. Billy has truly been a priest and a prophet to the inmates of Jackson.

(Letter of Paul Smith.)

CONCLUSION

Billy Moore has indeed become, in the ten years since his sentence of death was imposed, an extraordinary and inspiring man whose life is very dear to very many. We submit that his powerful and sincere evolution should, under any circumstances, merit this Board's grant, at the very least, of a 90-day stay of execution to permit full consideration of his case. However, though Billy Moore's change has been great, the beginnings of the man he is today were already present in the twenty-two year old man who, in a drunken and desperate state, made the terrible mistake that led to his death sentence. The Court that sentenced Billy to death was never presented with sufficient evidence concerning that young man's life, but instead was forced to impose its sentence on a "Billy Moore" who emerged from the inaccuracies, omissions and misimpressions that pervade the presentence report. Because the Court did not know that Billy Moore was a decent and responsible child and young man, a devoted father and husband, an excellent soldier and a man who, at the time of the crime, found himself in desperate emotional and financial straits, it had no way of knowing that he could mature into the very rare human being he now is.

Yet this is the man who now petitions this Board to heed his request that this Board grant a 90-day stay of execution, to consider this written application, and to permit a full

hearing at which we may present in person and by witnesses the case which we sincerely believe should warrant the grant of clemency to Billy Moore. Under the constraints of time under which this application is presented, we can only join our voices to the many who plead, in the words of one relative of the victim, that this Board will act to see that "this young man will be able to go on living his new life." (See letter of Sara Farmer.) Billy Moore, another relative of the victim urges, "deserves a second chance." (Letter of Sandra Farmer.) We commend these pleas, and this application, to the wisdom and justice of this Board.

Dated: April 18, 1984

Respectfully submitted,

Tony L. Axam
175 Trinity Ave., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Daniel J. Givelber
Northeastern University
School of Law
400 Huntington Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02115

APPENDICES A & B

APPENDICES A & B

APPENDIX A

Letters from Members of the Jefferson
County Community

Dr. Gardner J. Hobbs,
Principal of Wrens High School

Honorable B.A. Johnson,
Mayor of City of Wadley

Henry W. Johnson,
City Councilman, Wrens, Georgia

Lee Schellman,
President of NAACP Jefferson County
Chapter

Rev. Herman Baker,
Former principal of Wadley High School

Rev. Willie Tomlin,
Former Vice President of the State
Chapter of the NAACP

Phil S. Brown,
First Vice President of NAACP,
Jefferson County Chapter

Mrs. Sara Farmer,
Relative of Fredger Stapleton

Loretta Farmer Stapleton,
Relative of Fredger Stapleton

Mary Elizabeth Jordan,
Relative of Fredger Stapleton

Sandra Farmer,
Relative of Fredger Stapleton

John Willie Hunt,
Relative of Fredger Stapleton

Mary Ann Neely,
Relative of Fredger Stapleton

Sara Wynn,
Neighbor of Fredger Stapleton

Elizabeth Birt

Marvin Huff

APPENDIX B

Letters from Others

Elder Nealon and Laura Guthrie

Sidney J. Cook

Melba S. Cook

Lisa F. Rittiner

Rev. C.E. Wilkey

Paul Smith, Pastor

Fred Kelly, Pastor

John A Pickens, Esq.

Rev. Joseph B. Ingle

Bishop and Mrs. William Tumlin

James Lee Spencer,
Death Row Inmate

Nathan Brown,
Death Row Inmate

Jack E. Alderman,
Death Row Inmate

Warren McCleskey,
Death Row Inmate

Beatrice Altamore

Kim Ramirez

Flora B. Burr

Gloria Beckham

Maria Bacchino Gerardi

Susan Burr

Maggie Woods

Melinda Parker

Michael and Terry Murray

APPENDIX B (cont'd)

Beverly Robb

Lisa Whitney

The McCrery Family

Letters from Monmouth and Aledo Illinois

Evelyn Edwards,
Mother-in-law of William Moore

Norma Jean Gripper,
Sister of William Moore

Terry Moore,
Brother of William Moore

James and Margaret Moore,
Parents of William Moore

William Neal Moore,
Petitioner

[Note: Handwritten letters have been typed for easier reading by this Board. Each handwritten letter is presented immediately after the typed version.]

APPENDIX A

OFFICE PHONE
404/547-6580

RESIDENCE
404/547-2326

Wrens High School

GARDNER J. HOBBS, PRINCIPAL

WADE BROOKS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

HENRY MAUNEY, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

NORTH MAIN STREET
WRENS, GEORGIA 30833

March 30, 1984

To Whom It May Concern:

Presently, I am the principal of Wrens High School, Wrens, Georgia and a long-time citizen of Jefferson County. Thus, I would like to express my opinion on the Billy Moore case. The circumstances of the case based on what I have heard (in my opinion) do not warrant the death penalty.

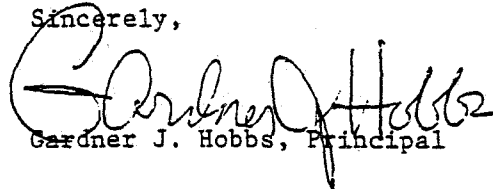
I have been involved in assisting young people in acquiring an education for many years. In my opinion people (especially young people) should be dealt with according to their individual differences and the circumstances of their background. I do not believe (based on the individual differences and circumstances that have been cited to me) that the judgement given Billy Moore is equitable. I am surprised that the trial lawyers did not take the time to thoroughly investigate the matter.

To me, this case is unusual. The man's background and the good he has tried to do say to me he is not the kind of person who would commit this kind of crime under normal circumstances. We now know he was under a lot of stress and drunk. I believe these circumstances might have precipitated the crime.

There ought to be equity in the application of these laws and the review of cases especially where capital punishment is involved. I do not believe that Billy Moore received equity of the law. Granted a man was killed, but when all the facts are taken into account we can see Billy Moore does not seem to be a person who deserves to die.

I do not believe that capital punishment will serve any positive end in this case. I think we should spare him.

Sincerely,



Gardner J. Hobbs, Principal

CITY OF WADLEY

HENRY A. SMART, SR., City Manager

B. A. JOHNSON, Mayor

HELEN P. STAVELY, City Clerk
(912) 252-1116

P. O. BOX 219
WADLEY, GEORGIA 30477

COUNCILMEN:

Herman Baker
Charles Lewis
Ralph E. Lewis
Clark Racheis
Willie R. Strowbridge

As the Mayor of the city of Wadley, I would like to express my views on the Billy Moore case. It is the view of myself and my advisors that this young man should not have to pay for his crime with his life.

For several reasons, I do not feel it would serve justice in any way to take Billy Moore's life. This young man confessed his crime and was not fully aware of his actions due to his intoxication. He cooperated with the authorities at all times. From the beginning, he has shown remorse and the need to come to terms with his mistake.

But there is another reason Billy Moore should not be executed. His life has been turned around and he has been reborn. He is living a Christian life that could influence other men to better their lives. I am aware that he is also a great source of love and hope to his young son.

We think that if Billy Moore is allowed to live he would be of great help to other inmates and to society as a whole.

Sincerely,

B. A. Johnson, Mayor

305 Stapleton Road
Wrens, Georgia

April 3, 1984

To Whom It May Concern,

I have lived in Wrens for fifty-one years. I have served on the City Council here for twelve years. I have wanted for a long time to write a few words for Billy Moore because I believe and folks in Wrens believe he should not die. The whole thing was pushed too fast and not searched out enough. George Curtis' part in it was not searched out enough.

I knew Fredger Stapleton, the victim of this crime, all my life. He was my next door neighbor. To me he was a good friend and I to him. I also know Uncle Fredger's nephew, George from the day he was born. And George was just a hard, mean boy from the first day up. He never changed and folks around here still have nothing good to say about him. Billy Moore was a stranger in this town with no people. Some body had to put him up to it and that person has not been made to pay at all. We're not concerned with George Curtis here though. We're concerned with Billy's life.

Everybody knows Billy Moore wasn't in this by himself. That boy didn't know anything about Uncle Fredger. He had never seen him and he didn't know how to get in the house or at the money.

Uncle Fredger used to keep \$20,000 on him all the time. I've seen it, he'd shown it to me many times. I kept telling him, this is dangerous and it'll kill you. George Curtis knew he had that money and George Curtis never did care for family or anybody else.

Billy took them right to the \$5000 he had and confessed his part. Where was the rest of the money which everybody knew Fredger had? If George hadn't covered for himself we might ask him. And Moore knows who was behind it. He may never point his finger at anyone else but he knows it and we know it.

I don't see how we could kill a man over what Billy did. Over these last ten years I've talked to people and they don't want him electrocuted. I sure don't want him electrocuted. Hasn't he been punished enough?

I've seen all kinds of killings in my time here in Jefferson County. This one surely does not deserve death. Some killings should be punished by putting a man in prison for his whole life. Maybe that's the case with the Flemming murderers who got people upset around the time Billy Moore came to judgement. But Moore is not a killer like that. Billy Moore has lived with death over his head for ten years. I'm not sure any of us can understand what that really means. The feeling is that he has lived with that long enough. Now let him help other boys to live.

I think we've been waiting ten years to see fairness done in this case. I think its time to take care to see who this young man is and what he's become. It's time to search out the case as it was never searched out when he got sentenced to the electric chair. If people knew then what they know now, he never would have been sentenced to death. After ten years we should see that we finally take the care Billy Moore deserves.

Sincerely,

Council Henry W. Johnson
Henry Johnson

Post Office Box 236
Bartow, Georgia
March 30, 1984

I am President of the NAACP Jefferson County Chapter. I am writing to oppose the execution of William Neal Moore.

The execution of Billy Moore would leave a scar on Jefferson County. The record will go down that Billy will be killed for something that happened here. But people believe that the Court did not know everything about the crime at the time it happened.

It is thought that the nephew of the victim was the one who set the whole thing up---and then he ran. Billy did not run and he's taking on all the blame. This is not what should have happened, but there is no way to help that situation now. Yet Billy should not die for it.

The case ought to be opened back up and looked into. The family of the victim and other people do not want Billy Moore killed. They want the chance to say so. After ten years we want to see the Court can judge Billy knowing all the facts. Let us spare him.

Lee Hillman

3-30-84

March 28, 1984

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Herman Baker and I have been an educator in Wadley, Georgia for thirty years. Though I am now retired, most recently I was the principal of the high school here in Wadley. I am also the pastor at the Saint Paul's Baptist Church in Louisville and I am presently a member of the city council of Wadley.

I am writing this letter because I believe that William Neal Moore, a young man convicted of a crime in the neighboring town of Wrens, should not be sentenced to death. I do not know Billy personally, but I am familiar with the facts of his case. I am also aware that there is feeling in our community that Billy is not a young man who deserves the death penalty.

My belief too is that Billy's offense is not one that should be punished by taking his life. Many of the facts about his life were not brought forth at his trial. As an educator and as a person who follows the facts of many other cases, I strongly believe that his was not a crime that merits death.

There are many reasons, I think, that folks in the community believe that Billy should not die. But one important fact we should consider is what message his death would send to other young men trying to make their way. In deciding whether a person should live or die, shouldn't it matter that a young man betters himself, leads prayer groups and changes other people's lives?

There should be no trace of doubt if and when we decide to take another's life. And there is great doubt in William Moore's case. We need to bring forth all the information about Billy's life and about the facts of his crime before we can make a decision. I think we'll be surprised at what we find

die. I really think Billy should be free because even now it hurts me to know he's taking the whole thing by himself. I was around George Curtis a lot. I know how he was---he had to plan it. I believe he told Billy about the house, the money and everything. I encouraged Billy to tell the whole story about George but he wouldn't say anything about anyone else. He wanted to protect his friend. I imagine he felt no one knew him and so he decided to shoulder it all.

I feel nothing about what happened ever came out at the trial. The Judge or noone else ever knew about George or how drunk I've heard people who were with them say they were. I don't know what happened, but I've wanted to know. Like I said before I don't wish my cousin any ill will, but he was in it. George was bad through and through, just the opposite of Billy. When I say George was cruel I mean things like torturing little animals and setting his mean dog on people he knew were scared of it. And when he got older I saw some other things like when he beat his girlfriend with a whiskey bottle in the head. After he come back from Viet Nam it seemed he was even crazier.

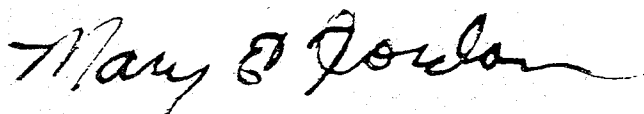
The judge should have known a lot of things about this crime. I think there should be a trial--let everything out, bring George back to the States and listen to both. I don't see how Billy could have done it himself in any way, but even if after the trial we could say he did, I don't believe they should kill him even then.

All they had in Court was George's people. If I could have I'd have spoken right up for Billy. He should never be executed. He was and still is the nicest person I've known and is so terribly sorry about what happened. Even now in his letters he is spiritually and in every other way repentent.

Billy loved his son, and I know he had bad money problems. I think the Court should look at all of this. Please understand Billy really should not be killed now or ever.

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth Jordan



when we look carefully. I know the Courts want and need to do that in order to know their judgements are fair and just.

I have worked with many people, mostly young people, in the task of changing and growing. That is what education and service in the church is about. And people do and can change. They can remain changed. I have seen that kind of change last until death.

Can't we make sure that we don't do damage to that change in Billy Moore?

Sincerely,


Reverend Herman Baker

130 Stevens St
Wadley, Georgia 30477

Jefferson County Chapter of NAACP

Route 3 Box 115
Louisville, Georgia 30434

LEE SHEMAN
President

MRS. CLEO LEWIS
Executive Secretary

March 31, 1984

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in the interest of William Neal Moore. As the former Vice President of the Jefferson County NAACP and as former Vice President of the State Chapter of the NAACP, I want to urge that the Billy Moore case be reconsidered. I also speak as an active member of the Church. I am actively involved in pastoring at three nearby churches.

There is feeling among people that things are not right with the Billy Moore case. There is feeling Billy's lawyer did not give folks a chance to speak their minds in support of Billy. The sentiment in Northern Jefferson County among any number of people I've talked to is that the man is not the one responsible for this crime. Certainly people feel Billy Moore should not be executed. It is surprising how strong that feeling is even after ten years.

A lot of people believe the nephew of Fredger Stapleton, George Curtis, got Billy into the trouble he's in now. Everyone knows George Curtis. I think people feel bad Billy got mixed up with George. I've had people tell me George was the kind of person who even when he was a young child was unusually cruel.

It is well known that when George Curtis' mother came home and was told about the crime, she would not go to Fredger Stapleton's funeral. She knew George had had a lot to do with it and others knew it too.

It has also come to the attention of folks in the community that Billy Moore was a decent man though young at the time of the crime. And he is even better now. He has confessed Christ.

We feel the key to this case is Billy Moore got mixed up in bad company. I think when we're young we do stupid things, we get pressured. But simply because Billy did get mixed up in bad company doesn't mean he should pay with his life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Willie Tomlin".

Reverend Willie Tomlin

Mr. Phil S. Brown
110 Hudson St.
Wrens, Georgia

March 30, 1984

Dear Sir:

My name is Phil S. Brown and I was born and raised in Wrens. I am now the 1st Vice-President of the Jefferson County Branch of the NAACP.

I am strongly for reinvestigating the Billy Moore case. I think that is the only way to obtain justice. On the basis of conversations I've had with people I deal with in Wrens, Louisville^e and Wadley, I think people are of the opinion all the information was not brought forward. People who are aware of the situation believe Billy Moore was too severely punished in getting the death penalty.

This is a churchgoing community and we think all sides of the story were not told. There were other people involved, that much is known. The investigation should be reopened and then the Court can decide. But people do not want Billy Moore to be killed

Sincerely,



Phil S. Brown

April 2, 1984

Mrs. Sara Farmer
406 Williams St.
Wrens, Georgia

Dear Judge McMillan,

I am the niece of Fredger Stapleton and I believe Billy Moore should not die for what happened to Uncle Fred.

I remember the night they brought Billy Moore in at the police station. Me, my aunt and my mother were there and Billy came in. He looked at me and I will never forget the look on his face. He said to me I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry. He said it over and over. There was something about that look and the way he said that I felt in my heart he really was sorry. I knew then I could never hold nothing in my heart against him.

Next time I saw Billy was in Court at the hearing. His sisters were there. I expected there would be more to it than there was. Billy's sister came over to us and she said will you help us. She was scared. Billy could receive the death sentence. I said we didn't want Billy to be electrocuted. I had met him about three weeks before it happened and he was with Tina, my cousin. He was very respectful and so polite. I liked him even then.

I told Billy's sister, no, Billy will not be electrocuted, they don't do that anymore and we don't want that.

But then the Judge came in and he sentenced Billy. His sisters began to cry. I felt so bad.

If I could have, I would have stood up and said No, please don't take his life.

Even though Billy took a life, we cant take his. He can bring more people to Christ. He knows Christ. I know that in my heart from his look at the police station and in the Court. I know it from the letter Billy sent me some years ago. He just wanted to say again I'm sorry.

I feel like Billy wouldn't have done what he did without being told. George Curtis and I are 1st cousins. Were never close. Nobody around here cared for him much. He was snotty and mean. Even when George was little he was mean. I felt like that George knew what was going on. He and Uncle Fredger used to be very close but he didn't even show up for Uncle Fredger's funeral. There had to be guilt there.

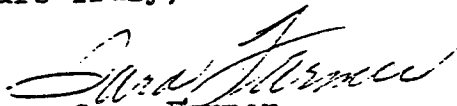
There is feeling in my family we don't want to see Billy go to the electric chair. A lot of people do feel George had a lot to do with getting Billy where he is now. I want to see Billy talking and helping others find God. I feel in my heart he is reborn. I know he is a true Christian.

Maybe I don't understand the law but I don't believe Billy's case is any different from boys who get life sentences. Its no different from these boys who get to come home. I wish Billy could go home because there are people

who need him. I have worked with little children for 17 years and I know Billy's little boy needs him.

We are praying for Billy, I don't believe the Lord has brought him this far just to let him go. If Jesus has forgiven Billy, why can't we. If He can do it, why can't we. I'm going to continue to pray for Billy and my family will continue to pray. We will pray this young man will be able to go on living his new life.

Yours Truly,


Mrs. Sara Farmer

Post Office Box 885
Wrens, Georgia 30833

March 31, 1984

Dear Sir:

Fredger Stapleton was my Great-Uncle but I don't feel like we need to make Billy pay with his life for that crime. My family doesn't want that. If God has forgiven him, then we can't touch that.

Some time ago we received some letters from Billy. You can tell Billy is sincerely a changed man. I was very inspired by his letters. He must have found himself in finding the Lord. His life has changed and he is bringing more people to the Lord. And he wants to preach the Word.

The big question in everybodys mind is what George Curtis had to do with it and you known George Curtis did have to do with it. But this is what Billy said in his letter: "The responsibility is mine and God would not allow me to lie on him or seek to have him here. See, if he doesn't repent and accept Jesus he will surely have to answer to God for his part and no one will protect him there. Please tell him for me that I love him, he may not believe it or fully understand it, but by the love of Jesus Christ I really do."

These are the words of a changed man.

I have heard from my mother that the Lord spoke to a pastor from Rome, Georgia and he said to go to Louisville and there you will find a boy in jail for murder and he is ready to be saved. And that is the night Billy Moore was baptized in the county jail.

I cannot have any hard feelings against Billy Moore. I wish I could meet him. That was my uncle he killed but he has a connection with the Lord I strive for myself.

I've seen and heard of terrible killers, much worse than Billy ever would be. I'm talking about the worst kind of things here in Wrens too. But what was there in this killing that got this man death? All individuals make mistakes and Billy has made a mistake. But the Lord said, Vengeance is mine.

Billy said in his letter "I am not the same man who committed the crime ten years ago - now God calls me his son and nothing can harm me except God allows it, then it shall be for my good!"

We do not want Billy Moore executed.


Loretta Farmer Jordan

104 Grace Street
Wrens, GA

March 30th, 1984

Dear Sir,

My name is Mary Jordan and I am related to Fredger Stapleton through my grandfather. I feel strongly about saying what I can and what I know of Billy Moore and what happened ten years ago.

I met Billy when my cousin George Curtis brought him home from Fort Gordon. We'd known soldiers to come out before, but Billy was real special. I can honestly say I have never met a nicer person and would say so still. He was a good man. Always respectful, and so kind. Whatever you needed he'd help out--- would carry me to the grocery store when I needed to go and would listen to anyone's problems, including mine. I never thought twice about him staying around our houses, he was very trusted. I'd even trust him with my little girls, something I wouldn't do with other soldiers.

When George brought him around, I felt leary because I knew my cousin George all my life. George wasn't especially close to anybody in my family but I think I was his favorite cousin while we were growing up. I don't mean George any harm, but I thought Billy was in danger with George and I told him, he didn't need to be in the street with George Curtis.

When I heard what happened at Uncle Fredger's and that Billy had been arrested, I just couldn't believe it. Unlike George, Billy wouldn't harm a hair on a dog's back--that's how gentle he was. All I could think of was how Billy brought his little son dressed so nice and how he'd bring candy for my kids and lent my brother money even though Billy himself was in the hole.

I feel deeply that Billy should not be executed. I and many others I know really think he should not have been sentenced to

406 Williams Street
Wrens, Georgia

April 5, 1984

Dear Sir,

I am a great niece of my Uncle Fredger Stapleton. I know Billy Moore has been on death row for ten years. I understand there's a chance his sentence can be reconsidered and I am writing, strongly hoping this is true.

I have never met Billy Moore, but I have read his letters to my mother and my sister and I know he was more than sorry and has been ever since. If he ever wasn't good, I feel he's really changed into someone special.

Those letters touched me in a way I can't really put down on paper. But I know I want to feel like that one day. He has a kind of inner peace I want to have.

You have to wonder if someone has really changed when they say they have. But it's not like Billy came to Momma with his letters after he got death. He was writing them even before he got sentenced while in the Louisville jail. And he has continued them ever since saying he was so very sorry and that the Lord would guide us all. I believed it then and I believe it now: Billy has changed.

If God has forgiven him and if we the family feel he should be forgiven then I feel there is no way he should be

executed. It seems just like Billy to forgive George Curtis for running out and turning on him, knowing he would bear it all.

I believe it would be an inspiration if Billy came to Wrens. He is sorry. He is changed with the Lord and now changes others. Billy Moore deserves a second chance.

Sincerely,

Sandra Farmer
Sandra Farmer

104 Sterling St.
Wrens, Georgia

April 4, 1984

Fredger Stapleton was my first cousin. I do not think Billy Moore should be executed. I met Billy in the Louisville jail when we were there together. We talked about what happened. He didn't even know Fredger--It was a set up thing. But Billy won't tell nobody. He just won't tell it.

But you know he couldn't of done it himself. But he's gonna take the rap. It's not right for him to be punished if the other will go free. I don't think that's right.

I don't really want to say it. I know the details. Billy was a nice fellow. Talked nice. I gave him some cigarettes. He just got pulled into this thing.

I been drinking and gotten pulled into things myself. He ought not be punished. He ought to go on and be freed.

I don't know, but it's over now. He ought not to be killed.

X
John Willie Hunt

Post Office Box 73
Wrens, GA

April 1, 1984

Dear Sir,

I don't believe Billy Moore should be executed even if he was responsible for what happened with Uncle Fred. I'm a close relative of Uncle Fred but I think William Moore has been punished too much. In fact if this boy got out and he wanted to come to my house he'd be welcome. I'm not scared of him now that we've learned of him these last few years.

Billy came into a little town like Wrens and it was a strange town to him. You can't ask anybody to believe he just came to an old man's house and knew he kept \$20,000 and knew where he kept that money. I'm not saying Billy didn't have a hand in it, but I think he got a bum rap because he was a stranger with no people. I don't know but maybe the law thought we wanted him dead when that's the last thing we want.

I heard Billy is reborn and a preacher. His conscience has worked him over a thousand times and I'm quite sure he'd never go near that trouble again. All of us have sinned one way or another. I have five children and who knows what they'll come into contact with in their lives. I would not want them judged like Billy has been judged.

The boy took everything on himself. There isn't but one conclusion to draw from this. That shows you what kind of person he is. He had to be a different kind of person. The average person if they thought he was going to go to jail, he would have told them right there and then. And then to be under a death sentence and still take it on himself, you know he had to be a special person.

Billy was just a stranger in the wrong place at the wrong time. Now we feel like we know him, and if he came to Wrens he's be welcome in our homes.

Mary Ann Neely.

Mary Ann Neely

204 Waynesboro Hwy.
Wrens, GA
April 1, 1984

Dear Sir,

My name is Sara Wynn. I was born and raised in Wrens and presently operate a beauty shop in town. It is important for me to say that I and many of us believe Billy Moore should not die in the electric chair. I had been thinking that he had served his time and was free. When I heard some time ago he was sitting down on death row, I said NO, that just can't be. And when I heard there was never a trial all I could think was, the truth will never be known now.

I truly believe Billy Moore should not die. I could see Mr. Stapleton's house from mine and I actually grew up with his nephew, George Curtis. This is a small town and people watch each other closely, looking out for one another. As soon as it happened, I can remember folks saying George must of planned the whole thing. That belief has only gotten stronger and stronger over these years. All you have to do is mention this and even today folks get riled up about it and say Billy Moore shoudn't have been dealt with like that by his lawyers, and for sure shouldn't die.

I believe with all my heart that If Billy killed, George Curtis had a big hand in it. He was just like that. Would throw a stone and hide

his hand. Always had a slight, cruel grin on his face. He was arrogant and unbelievably brutal. George was older than me and did so many things my Momma stopped me from playing with him.. Things like pushing me up to doing stuff that hurt other people and their feelings. I didn't know they were mean but he did it for fun. I'd get whapped for it.

I can remember he would take the hearts out of animals and count the number of times it beat before the animal died. I'll never forget it. When I heard George stabbed a little boy his age for no reason, it surprised me none because I can remember being with him when we were older and he hit Clance Mayo over the head with a bottle--no argument, nothing. Just got up and did it.

Other folks here know all of this. That's why they know George had more than a lot to do with his uncle's death. His Momma knew too. That's why everybody says she didn't go to the funeral. George was super smart, super smart and the devil himself.

This is all to say we feel so much went on before and after Billy Moore ever came here, that he just couldn't have done this alone. No way. And we just feel Billy 's case was never known. How can we in Wrens see him go to the chair? We can't. Billy has a son the age of my little girl. I really wish I could see Billy Moore. I really do.

Please don't let Billy Moore be executed without getting
out all of the truth. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Truly,

Sara Wynn
Sara Wynn

March 28, 1984

Dear Judge McMillan,

My name is Elizabeth Birt. I would be so glad to see Billy Moore have another chance at life. I was born and raised in Jefferson County. Worked here as a nurse for eighteen years. I live here in Wrens with my 13 children and 27 grandchildren nearby. I also have 4 great grand kids.

I first knew Billy Moore when he came down from Fort Gordon for visits. Then I thought of him as just a sweet person. He was a young man with respect. Many young men have no respect for God or church or family. But Billy was a boy with respect even then.

I really got to know Billy when he and my son Clarence were in prison at Louisville. I learned to love him then as a son and he called me Ma Birt. I wouldn't carry something to one that I wouldn't carry to the other. We would go every Sunday and Billy was such a loving young man.

I know Billy went through great changes these last years. God has given him the gift of reaching others. There were so many things he could explain and teach even then. He had been in touch with God somewhere even before he got there.

Billy and my son loved each other like brothers. My son never was too interested in the Bible, but since spending the time with Billy he is interested. Billy has changed his life. Now thank God Clancy is out and working raising a family.

I sure would say Billy has giftsteaching other people to love God. Now he needs the chance to do that.

When Billy was at Louisville I was so proud to carry him anything. He only asked for a Bible though.

When Billy left Louisville I cried so much. We wrote letters and my daughter had to take a letter from me once I cried so much. In the letters he always asked about the family especially Clancy "his brother" and the children. He asked us to pray for him. Thats all he asked for.

We don't believe Billy ever meant to do this thing. He must have fallen in with the wrong crowd but now all he needs is the chance. All Billy needs is the chance to help others as he has the gift and he will do that. Please give it to him.

Sincerely Yours,

Mrs. Elizabeth Birt

Mrs. Elizabeth Birt

April 2, 1984

Dear Sir,

I am a retired welder and I have lived in Wrens all my life. I don't feel Billy Moore should be executed. Everybody feels that way.

I had occasion to be at the Louisville jail when this boy was brought in. He had a wonderful personality. He had his Bible there and he was reading the Bible. He was a very polite and intelligent fellow.

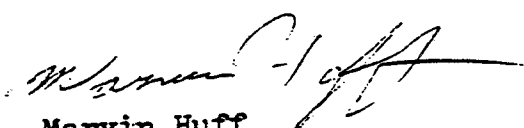
This man should not take all the burden on himself. But he just won't talk. Something nobody understand is: why does George Curtis the nephew of Fredger Stapleton go to Canada or some other place far away every time something comes up with this case. I knew George personally. He was plain sneaky. George was behind it and he was the head leader. Everybody knows that.

If the lawyer had had a trial there could have been a public hearing and people could have said what they

thought. Now nobody is satisfied with the case. We'd like to see him out then walking free. He's been punished too much as it is.

I'll say on a stack of Bibles the lawyers have not given this boy a fair deal.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marvin Huff", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marvin Huff
102 Cemetary Street
Wrens, Georgia

APPENDIX B

Christ Temple
Rapture Preparation Center
1516 FLANNERY STREET
ROME, GEORGIA 30161

"Obey Acts 2:38 Before It's Too Late"

District Elder
Nealon Guthrie
(Minister)
204 Surrey Trail
Res. 295-7228

Church Phone 232-2339

April 10, 1984

To the Honorable Judge McMillian
or
To Whom It May Concern:

Dear Sirs:

I count it a privilege, also an high honor to convey a few thoughts or express myself on paper in the behalf of Mr. William Neal Moore. I am very grateful, that you showed compassion and concern in spite of your busy schedule, to hear our humble plea.

As a minister of the gospel of Christ, it gives me great joy to help lift up the fallen, encourage the discouraged, and to help mend broken and confused lives. I am aware that in our society that we must have laws to live by, or else we would have chaos, however many of our problems today cannot be solved by laws, or legislation, for only God can change the morals of a person. It is for this reason I write this letter, and may you prayerfully consider these few lines, and take them to heart. I am speaking for hundreds of people across the United States, who feel that Mr. William Neal Moore, be spared the death sentence, not because of what happend in the past, or what he was, but what he is now, and the potential that he has to become even greater. Futher in this letter I will be more specific in details.

My name is Elder Nealon Guthrie, my wife and I have been in the ministry for over thirty-five years. I am an ordained minister, the organization we are associated with is the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World Inc., with headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. I presently serve as a state supervisor over a portion of the State of Georgia, also I have served as a director over eleven Southern States. I am also a director on Foreign Missions, a former board member on Aeon Bible College. My wife and I have helped in building several churches including the church I presently pastor, and have been for over twenty-six (26) years, which is known as the Christ Temple Holiness Church, 1516 Flannery Street, Rome, Ga. (30161.) I have worked in the United States Post Office, and have been active in many civic activies.

I introduce myself as such, so you would be fully aware that my wife and I are not a novice when it comes to dealing with people. In all of our traveling across the country, meeting thousands of people never have we met such a man as Mr. William Neal Moore.

I was contacted by the Elder Ernest Hardy, of Columbus, Ohio, to try to contact Mr. William Neal Moore, before September 13, 1974. Mr. Moore had wanted to talk with a Pentecostal Minister. After contacting the proper authority at the Louisville County Jail, I was able to visit the prisoner. On September 6, 1974, my wife and I traveled from Rome, Georgia to Louisville, Georgia to meet someone we had never seen before. Mr. Moore impressed us the moment we laid eyes on him. After spiritual counseling, he was very obedient and cooperative and was baptized (in the bath-tub). From that point a mutual friendship was built up. I have made two visits to the family in Columbus, Ohio. My wife and I talked with his mother who has been an invalid in the wheel chair for years. There was an absence of the father in the home for a number of years and this incurred a problem.

From the day that my wife and I met Mr. Moore, a mutual friendship began to develop. We became his foster parents, and he became a part of our family. We keep a close contact with Mr. Moore, visiting him frequently, from the County Jail in Louisville, Ga., to Reidsville, and now Jackson.

We were present at his first hearing in Louisville, where your honor you presided. We heard the state present its case and also the defense lawyer Mr. Pierce, pleaded for mercy. After the hearing and you had disqualified yourself, and wanted another judge to hear the case. You spoke to my wife and I, and expressed your personal concern about the out-come of this case.

We have seen the change in Mr. Moore's life. His complete life-style has changed along with his attitude. He has never shown any bitter resentment or animosity, expressed any hostile feelings toward law enforcement officers, the court, the judge, or toward society. He blames no-one for his confinement in prison. He has helped other inmates make moral changes, some are even out of prison now and have found their place in society. He has been an inspiration to many even on death row. Yes, your honor Mr. Moore, has put life and hope in the lives of many men. I can speak from experience, for my wife and I visited "Death Row", on numerous occasions and seen Mr. Moore diligently express Christ, and the love of God.

Many times my wife and I went to inspire and encourage him, but when we left he had lifted me higher, and inspired my faith. Such expressions as, "My life is in the hands of the Lord," "All things work for good to those who love God", "I thank God for prison for it was here I met the Saviour."

Your honor, Mr. Moore has made an re-evaluation of life, his priorities has changed, through the grace of God and spiritual rehabilitaiton. His records will show in spite of all the violence even in prison, he has been a model prisoner, and has used his past experience to help warn other young people of the evils and consequences of crime. He was a victim of circumstances that he should have never allowed himself to become involved. The person who helped plot the crime, has deserted him, left the state, and Mr. Moore is left to bear the full blame of the entire crime.

However, my reason for writing this letter is not to question his innoce or guilt, but that you please spare his life, and our prayer is the God of mercy, love and manifold wisdom will move upon you. Your honor you will see fit to avert the ultimate penalty.

Many ministers and people across this nation are praying and concerned about this young man. I trust that you, your Honor will do all in your power to help him prove to society and others that Jesus Christ can change a man's life.

I am not being paid on pressured into writing these few lines, it is a deep feeling of love my wife and I have not only for "Billy", but for people as a whole. It is so rewarding to see people young and old whose lives were broken, twisted, and confused and to see them go "straight", you cannot evaluate this work in terms of dollars and cents.

As a father of two natural son and we have many foster children, but someone took an intrest and concern about my son who was on the wrong road of life at an early age, but someone gave him another chance. He became a respectable employee, and later a Supervisor of Braniff-Airlines and is currently pastors a church in College Park, Georgia.

I and my wife and others feel confident that Mr. Moore can be profitable now, and become an asset to a sick and confused society. I know others have written beautiful letters, but I write this letter out of anguish of my soul, and spirit, because he is my son in the gospel.

If you deem it expedient my wife would love to talk with you face to face, once before we did talk over the phone, and we were supposed to have set an appointment, however at that time you mentioned it was out of your hands, and the Supreme Court was going to make an ruling.

If I can be of futher assistance, please do not hesitate to call upon me, our service is available to help who-ever and where-ever I can.

May I close this letter with these words from Paul's letter to Philemon, I Chapter 10-11 verse "I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds, which in times past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and me."

I Remain A Christian Laborer,

Elder Nealon Guthrie
Nealon Guthrie
District Elder Nealon Guthrie

NG/d1

PLEASE SEE APPENDIX-F FOR ADDENDA TO THE PRECEDING LETTER

43 Monticello Way
Fairburn, Georgia 30213
April 6, 1984

Judge McMillan
Superior Court of Georgia

Dear Sir:

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Sidney J. Cook. I am a pilot with Republic Airlines with over 25 years of service. Let me tell you of what I know of Billy Moore.

I first met Billy about five years ago when Harold Thompson, who heads a prison ministry, arranged for several men including myself to visit on death row at Reidsville Prison. Billy invited me into his cell. We sat on the floor and talked. From the start I sensed a peace about this man moreso than anything I had seen before in a man. I asked him to tell me about his crime. He did. As we sat on the floor of his cell tears of remorse rolled down his cheeks. I wept silently with him. At first I was embarrassed. Then I remembered that Jesus wept at the terribleness of death. A bond of christian love flowed between us.

I wrote Billy, and he wrote me. My wife read his letters. She wrote Billy also. We have both visited Billy several times at Jackson Prison. There is always that peace with him. I went to the prison to minister to him. He has ministered to me more than I to him. We have prayed about many things together. His prayer requests have never been selfish, but rather he has been more concerned about others. I still have most of his letters. I would be happy to share them with you should you so desire.

Last summer Melba and I decided to have his twelve-year-old son,

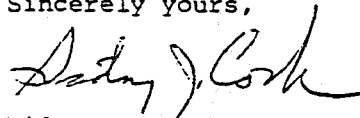
Billy III, in our home for a week so that he could visit several times with his Dad. We had the opportunity to observe their visit. It was an encouragement to me to see how wise Billy was in his communication with his son. There was some serious talk, and there was the fun that there should be between a boy and his Dad. I remember they sat in chairs and wrestled with each other.

Who is Billy Moore? He is man who made a terrible mistake - a mistake that caused a tragic death with all of death's terrible consequences. He is a man who realizes these consequences. He is a sensitive man interested in others. He is a man I would not hesitate to trust my life or the lives of my wife or children to. He is a father, fulfilling that role to the best of his ability. He is a man who has spent years on death row, not with an anger or distress, but with an overpowering peace. He is not the same man who committed that terrible crime years ago - he is a new man I think in the mold of the Apostle Paul.

I am a believer in capital punishment. In Billy's case I don't see what it would serve in his execution. I know the mantle of justice weighs heavily upon your shoulders. I am praying that God will give you great wisdom.

Thank you for letting me share my thoughts with you.

Sincerely yours,


Sidney J. Cook

I have known William Neal Moore, Sr. (Billy) for four years. I first had occasion to meet him when I was working as a paralegal for a private law firm.

I have been the Resource Development Coordinator for the past 2 1/2 years for a nonprofit agency. Much of my work involves fund-raising with the Atlanta Bar Association. My husband teaches economics at Kennesaw College in Kennesaw, Georgia.

I have been corresponding with Billy since I left the paralegal work and still visit him a few times a year. Our relationship has developed from that of legal counsel/client into mutual friendship because we share some common interests, particularly Christianity, theology and an interest in psychology. Both Billy and myself are also interested in art. What I am writing in this ensuing report is based upon my conversations and contact with Billy over the years.

Billy is a very appreciative person. He was deeply grateful to us for working on his case and expressed it by sending our office thank you letters and Christmas cards. He wanted to be able to pay for our services. His sincere appreciation has been very gratifying for those working on his case and is reflective of the goodness in him.

Billy's mother is an invalid and lives in Ohio. He has worked hard to maintain a good relationship with his parents by writing and calling them regularly. His family does not have much money and it's very difficult for them to visit. Billy also has a young son with whom he keeps in regular contact.

Billy has a remarkably positive attitude. While in prison he has studied hard and received his degree in Christian Theology. Billy did very well in his studies and his report card is attached. He is also very good in art, and occupies his time painting or drawing.

Billy's behavior record is spotless at both the Reidsville State Prison and the Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Center. I'm sure prison officials could verify this. He never got into any fights or trouble. He seems to be respected by the other inmates, and treats them with friendliness and respect. Our office represented another client who was in Billy's cellblock. This other client was very emotionally unstable - he was severely depressed, he frequently felt suicidal, he seemed unable to distinguish reality at times - he reported his "spirit leaving his body." This other client was very small and thin and was easily bullied by other prisoners. Billy befriended him, and helped him a great deal.

Also, evidence of Billy's positive attitude and behavior is that he exercises regularly. This is not meant in the sense of "pumping iron" or anything excessive. It is based upon sensible calisthenics. Billy also continually tries to learn. He and one of his cellmates practice several new vocabulary words each week. Billy is also interested in other normal things such as sports, food, a good joke, etc. Billy's manner has always been very pleasant and sincerely kind.

Billy's positive attitude is rooted in his deep spiritual convictions. After he was first in jail in Louisville, through the prayers and counselling of local ministers, he underwent a conversion to Christianity. Since then he has been very devout. He writes and visits several Christian ministers from Louisville, Atlanta and Norcross, Georgia, as well as the ministers who regularly serve the prison. Billy also participates in services when possible and in a prison prayer group. Every letter Billy has ever written to me has begun with a salutation such as "May grace, joy and peace be yours from our ever gracious Lord." This is just one small example of his faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Billy frequently cites examples from the Old and New Testament. He has tried very hard to live in a way that is reflective of his love of God and he has succeeded.

I can honestly say that Billy helped me personally in two ways. First and foremost - was my own conversion to Christianity. After seeing for myself what a powerful force God was in his life and after many prayers and discussions I began to accept Christ, go to Church and to try to live accordingly. Also, I went through a very difficult time with my father a few years ago and we were not getting along as well as I would have liked. Today we have a much closer relationship, and I feel this was in part due to some conversations with Billy where he constantly encouraged me to do what was necessary to rebuild that relationship. Billy is a very insightful and sensitive person, which is one reason why he gets along so well with others.

Perhaps some of his insights on the parent-child relationship come from the fact that Billy is a father. He has a young son (now around 11, I think). I happened to be at the prison seeing another client the day Billy and his son visited for the first time since Billy was incarcerated. (His son was still a baby at that time.) His son, Billy, Jr., was about 7 years old. Billy Jr. was sitting on his father's lap with his arms around him for a very long time. I asked Billy, Sr. later what they had talked about. Billy told me they talked a lot about Christianity and its importance. He also warned his son not to make the same mistakes he had, and got on him about the usual things fathers get after their sons about - making sure he listens to his grandmother and behaves himself, and does well in school. He also let him know how much he loves him.

Bill Sr. has clearly demonstrated his very deep and caring feelings for his son. He writes both his son and his former mother-in-law, who takes care of Billy Jr., lengthy letters every week, and calls them as often as is permitted by the prison.

When I asked Billy about his former crime and behavior, he was forthrightly honest about it and expressed extreme remorse over it. He mentioned that even though he knows Christ has forgiven him, it still torments him and he has had many dreams about it. It will stay with him for all of his life.

Billy has also examined his conscience and looked at his life prior to his crime, and realized some of the factors which contributed to his terrible situation. He takes full responsibility for his actions but now has a better understanding of the person he once was - and through that understanding is today a different, good and stronger person.

Prior to his incarceration Billy was an enlisted soldier. He and his wife were married very early, their senior year in high school, and soon thereafter had their son. Billy was stationed in Germany; his wife and son remained in the U.S. and their separation coupled with financial problems caused marital problems between Billy and his wife. He had her and Billy Jr. flown to Germany so they could be reunited but eventually the marriage fell apart. Billy's wife had a drug problem and because of it, Billy was taking care of their son. By this time, Billy and son were relocated to Georgia. Billy's wife was still directly receiving Billy's military checks - so Billy did not have any financial support. It was around this time I believe that Billy became involved with some bad people in an effort to make money - and eventually this was the time when the crime occurred. I think it was admirable that he did confess his crime to the court. Billy and his wife were divorced several years ago.

Billy has looked at his past with deep regret. He has struggled and become a very mature and responsible person. If given the chance, I am confident Billy will continue his progress and continue to be very helpful to his fellow prisoners.

In conclusion, I 'd like to add something I feel very strongly about. It is extremely difficult to find the words to describe a person to someone else. Words and phrases don't seem appropriate somehow. Normally we don't have to think about people in articulatable form - we simply know them and talk to them. It would be very difficult for anyone to describe their spouse or parent or a colleague on paper. So if this report sounds stilted or if Billy ends up sounding in places like a Boy Scout rather than a real person I hope you will overlook it.

It's particularly difficult to do this thinking it might have an effect on whether he lives or dies. It might be best to simply meet and talk with Billy so you can judge for yourself. His progress will speak for itself.

Thank you for this opportunity to even present this to you. Even though it was very difficult I'm glad to be given the chance to do even this little. If you would like me to give you anymore information or testify, please let me know because I would be happy to do so. Thank you.

Lisa F. Rittiner

Lisa F. Rittiner
1180 Monroe Drive, NE #1
Atlanta, GA 30306

April 5, 1984

*Witness to and
I was not before me
This 5th day of April, 1984*

*Lisa F. Rittiner
Notary Public*

Notary Public, Georgia, State at Large
My Commission Expires Dec. 22, 1985

FULL GOSPEL CHURCH

KINGSTON, GEORGIA
PASTOR: C.E. WILKEY
336-5615

April 9, 1984



To the honorable Judge McMillan:

This letter is in regard to William (Billy) Moore, a death row inmate at Jackson State prison.

I am a licensed, ordained minister of the gospel and have been ministering full-time for eighteen years. During this time, I have been actively engaged in prison work over a many county area. I can truthfully say before God and you, that I have never met a man of the quality of Billy Moore. I feel that God has truly changed this man's life in such a manner that I would welcome him as a member of my congregation today without question or hesitation.

Regardless of Billy's mistake in life—I deeply feel that he is a real person and genuinely regrets having made it.

Bro. Moore has gained the respect of all the other inmates with whom he has come in contact. The guards also have respect for the changed man he now is. I truly feel that the lives in which Billy Moore will and can touch by him being allowed to live, will help in the rehabilitation of others and also a great work in the kingdom of God accomplished.

We need more true, converted people like Billy Moore, not only in the prisons across the land, but on our streets, to work with people. I feel he is more sincere than any other man that I have worked with over the years. I humbly submit this letter in truth, knowing that I must stand before God with these words.

Your attention and consideration in this case will be greatly appreciated I pray that the wisdom of God be with you in making this decision and also that His richest blessings be with you in your life and work.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. C.E. Wilkey

Rev. C.E. Wilkey

HILLSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1879 COLUMBIA DRIVE DECATUR, GEORGIA 30032 PHONE: 289-3092

PAUL SMITH
GEORGE McMASTER
Pastors

April 7, 1984

The Honorable Judge McMillian
c/o Julia Boaz
NAACP Legal Defense Fund
99 Hudson Street
New York, New York 10013

Dear Honorable Judge McMillian,

I am writing on behalf of Billy Moore, whom I have come to know over the past year and a half through my pastoral visits to Jackson, Georgia. Even as I write this letter, I have a feeling of awesomeness, knowing that a child of God's life may well be hanging in the balance.

As a pastor, I have prayed with Billy and I have heard the sound of the genuine springing forth from his very being. Here is a young man who has touched the lives of many others in prison, by his simple testimony of love for Jesus Christ. Billy is a person who looks you squarely in the eyes when he is talking with you, or reading from Scripture. His faith in Christ has been demonstrated over and over again during my visits to Jackson as he is greeted by fellow inmates who depend upon his wisdom, his insights, his faith, and his caring. Billy has truly been a priest and a prophet to the inmates at Jackson. Further, he has touched the life of my congregation through his letters and cards.

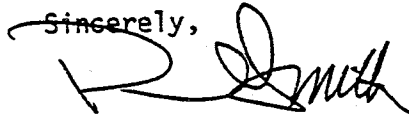
It is clear to me that God has touched Billy and has used him in a very special way through the unfortunate circumstances which led him to Jackson. Billy has touched my life in ways I did not know were possible. As a result, I have grown in my faith and in my understanding of how God is able to use even the 'least of these' for His purposes.

I believe Billy should continue to live so he may be further used by God to minister to those who have come to respect his leadership. He should live, as a forgiven child of the Covenant so he may continue to give in service to others there in Jackson, who believe in him.

The Honorable Judge McMillian
Page Two
April 7, 1984

I appeal to you as one who has been in Billy's presence, and who believes with heart, mind and soul, that to terminate Billy's life would be a tragic loss to humanity and particularly to those whose very faith journeys have started with Billy. I ask your prayerful consideration for his life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "S".

Paul Smith

PS:mt



THE LANDMARK CHURCH

3887 Holcomb Bridge Road, Norcross, Georgia 30092, (404) 449-5956 • Fred Kelly, Pastor

April 4, 1984

Judge Walter McMillan
State Superior Court
State Of Georgia

Dear Judge McMillan,

This letter is in reference to Mr. William Moore, better known as Billy Moore, who is presently under death sentence at the state facility in Jackson, Georgia. I have known Billy Moore about five years in the capacity as pastor and friend. During that period I have visited with him more times than I can remember, and I feel that from these visits I have been able to draw certain accurate conclusions as to the man that Billy Moore has become. I was introduced to him by Chaplain Bazemore at the State prison in Reidsville, while Billy was a prisoner there. While visiting some other inmates, I spoke to the chaplain and asked if there was anyone else that he might like me to see. He immediately thought of Billy and said, "Here's a man that you would enjoy talking to." Chaplain Bazemore felt at that time that Billy Moore had made a remarkable change in his way of thinking, because of his Christian commitment.

I am still in touch with Chaplain Bazemore, and he and I are friends. I feel sure that he would be eager to supply some information concerning Billy. I have been in Chaplain Bazemore's debt since that introduction because Billy Moore has become to me much more than just a parishoner behind bars. He has become an excellent friend as well. His outlook on life, an unflagging interest in others, has proven on more than one occasion to be just what I needed to see life in a clearer perspective. This is a man who has been very helpful to me as a Christian brother, and as a friend, and of course, who has allowed me to help him as a pastor and a counselor.

It is my conviction that Billy Moore does not deserve the death penalty because he has become a man whose life is important to many people. Life is always important, of course. But when viewed as a privilege, as opposed to an exclusive right, many times it seems life has been squandered by those to whom it was given. But Billy has redeemed himself by becoming a model prisoner and by demonstrating the possibility of rehabilitation in a prison setting. He should be a model for the entire State of Georgia, I believe, to demonstrate what can happen to a man when he is incarcerated in our system. He has studied and become an educated person. He has become knowledgeable about the Bible as well as many other subjects, and of course, like most inmates in his position, he's done a lot of legal study as well. Billy writes a wonderful letter, and always includes scripture and encouraging comments, and is forever seeking to do some thing that brings about pleasure to the person he's writing. I don't

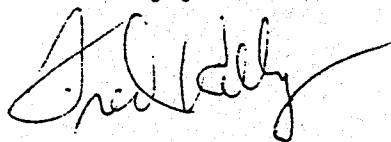
MINISTERING IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Judge Walter McMillan
April 4, 1984
Page 2

know how many things he has made for my wife and my son and myself. The kind of items that prisoners make. Perhaps you have seen the wallets made from cigarette packages (he does not smoke) and the shawls and vests made out of yarn, and all the kinds of things that are intrinsically not worth much, but demonstrate the love of the maker because of the many hours that it has taken to put them together. Billy Moore is a man who needs to be looked at closely. His case deserves special attention. He is the epitome of what we hope the prison system will accomplish, and while I know it was not the prison system per se, but rather an encounter with Jesus Christ that did the accomplishing, still, his life has been changed while incarcerated. If he had been executed, it would never have happened, and all of the blessings that have accrued to myself and others like me would never have taken place. I urge you, sir, to consider clemency in Billy's case, and to give him an opportunity to live, and to prosper, because as he does well, I will do well also.

Many thanks for your kind consideration of this appeal.

Sincerely yours,



Fred Kelly, Pastor
The Landmark Church

FK:jsb

LAW OFFICES
OF
JOHN A. PICKENS
465 BOULEVARD, S.E. SUITE 208
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30312
TELEPHONE (404) 622-4079

April 6, 1984

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: Billy Neal Moore

I am writing on behalf of Billy Neal Moore to ask and plead that his life be spared. I have come to know Billy by my representing him on a medical problem he has with his knee and I have been trying to get the State to perform a minor operative procedure to give him some relief. I have been working on this matter for the past fifteen months and have known Billy for that period of time.

From the first time I met Billy, there was something special about him - something that said to me "How can this young man be so bad that the State would kill him" It didn't seem possible then and as I have gotten to know him better, I am convinced that he should not be killed. Billy is a nice-looking young man; polite; articulate in speech, but soft spoken; a caring and concerned man for others; forgiving and loving of all; and a Christian in every sense of the word. If Billy were allowed to live, I know he would be an asset and benefit to every person he came in contact with be it inside prison or outside prison if he were ever released.

As a disciple of Jesus Christ myself, I plead for Billy's life. To me, the essence of the Christian life is the recognition that every one of us can change for the better and can repent and ask for forgiveness of our sins. I know for a fact that Billy Neal Moore has changed for the better and has repented and asked for forgiveness - and I believe God has forgiven him. Let us not now interrupt the good things God is now doing through the life of this man.

With this said, I simply pray for continued life for Billy.

Sincerely,
John A. Pickens

April 9, 1984

Judge McMillan
Superior Court Judge
Jefferson County, Georgia

Dear Judge McMillan:

I am writing on behalf of William Neal Moore who has been sentenced to death and is currently residing on death row at the Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Center in Jackson, Georgia. I have known Billy since 1976 and have visited him in my capacity as a minister of the Christin gospel.

My ministry has taken me to men and women on death row around the South. In the past 10 years I have literally visited several hundred condemned prisoners in our region. I think this gives me a somewhat unique perspective in which I may talk about Billy Moore.

There is no doubt that Billy Moore is guilty of murder. He will be the first to not only admit to that tragic reality but to express his remorse over his actions. The question then becomes what is our response to this act. It is in hopes of effecting your decision that I share my perspective as a Christian minister about Billy Moore with you.

In my ten years of visiting on death row I have seldom experienced the genuine transformation in a person that I have seen in Billy Moore. The apostle Paul used the Greek word metanoia to describe the total changing of a person under the influence of the power of the Christian gospel. It is this exact experience that Billy Moore has received and is a powerful witness to and that I would like to bring to your attention.

In my visiting Billy at the Georgia State Prison in Reidsville, I initially became aware of his deep commitment to Jesus Christ through discussions with the chaplain and with my visiting with him. There could be no doubt that his baptism in Reidsville was a turning point for Billy and this has been revealed numerous times over the years. Billy has participated and led Bible studies of small groups of death row prisoners at Reidsville and also, whenever possible, in Jackson. He is generally regarded with a great deal of respect not only by his fellow death row prisoners but by guards and administrative officials who come in contact with him. Those of us who have visited him from the outside I dare say are uniform in our opinion of the exceptional character Billy Moore now displays for all to see.

I do not write to urge you that Billy Moore go unpunished. Indeed he has been punished for 8 years for his crime. I am writing to urge you that his punishment not be death in the Georgia electric chair. To destroy a person who has undergone such fundamental transformation and become a loving, powerful witness to the Christian faith would be an exercise which would deprive those in prison, and those of us in society outside, of a valuable and contributing person to our lives.

Judge McMillan, as someone who has know and visited Billy for years I would urge you to grant compassion and mercy to Billy Moore so that we do not lose the man who has become a valuable witness to the Christian faith, a good friend, and a fine human being.

I am appending one of Billy's latest letters to me so that you might receive a glimpse into the person who I have sought to describe in my letter to you. You will be in my prayers as you wrestle with this momentous decision.

I am,

Faithfully yours,


The Rev. Joseph B. Ingle

PLEASE SEE APPENDIX F FOR ADDENDA TO THE PRECEDING LETTER

43 Monticello Way, Route 4
Fairburn, Georgia 30213
April 6, 1984

Judge McMillan
Superior Court of Georgia

Dear Sir:

Thank you for letting me share with you some of the things I know about Billy Moore. Our family's friendship with Billy began several years ago as a result of my husband's meeting him while visiting inmates on death row at Reidsville. My husband was so impressed with Billy that they began corresponding. As I read Billy's letters I, too, was impressed that one so young and in such circumstances could convey such a sense of calm assurance. I began writing too, and eventually, along with my husband, made a visit to see Billy (by this time at Jackson). He was all that I expected him to be and more. We had a wonderful visit. We talked about our families, especially our children, sang songs, and prayed together. I came away thankful that we were friends.

We continued to correspond and my admiration for this gentle man increased with every letter from him. He has never asked for sympathy nor favors from us, but rather has involved himself with those things that concern us as a family, offering support and warm counsel. When our son was preparing to enter college, Billy wrote him a long letter urging him to take advantage of his opportunities rather than "following the crowd". Our son appreciated his advice. We all do.

I must try to tell you about Billy's son and the special relationship they share. It is so important. Billy, III lives with his grandmother in Columbus, Ohio, but Billy has managed to establish himself as an authority figure in that child's mind and involves himself in every detail of his life, offering praise when appropriate and rebuke when needed. We had the opportunity to observe this last summer when Billy, III spent a week with us in order to get in a couple of visits with his Dad. I was honestly afraid that their meeting might be somewhat strained after so long a separation, but instead it was very relaxed and spontaneous. I sat and watched as they made the most of their short time together. I wish I could adequately describe the effect they have on one another. I cannot. I can only say that Billy was able to bring out the best in this boy that I had perceived all week to be a very "typical" twelve year old. It was a most encouraging experience for me, one I will never forget.

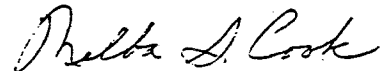
Billy Moore is a quiet, humble man who spends his days there in prison, reading, studying and corresponding with family and friends, not in watching

continued

television nor in gossip. He is an example to his fellow inmates as he leads a group in Bible study and prayer. He lives peaceably with all men and encourages them to live peaceably. He has much to offer when he shares himself.

Please understand that I am not an opponent of capital punishment, and I pray for you and others who must regularly make difficult decisions. However, I believe that Billy's life has been spared for very special reasons. I also believe that his execution would be a tragic loss. It is quite obvious that he is not the same man he was at the time of sentencing, but rather a man who hates what is evil and loves what is good. I personally would be happy for him to stay in my home. His life outside of prison would be a blessing to many, many people. I am convinced that his future life would be spent in ministry to others. His son needs him. We all do. Mercy is at this point most needful and most appropriate.

Sincerely,



Melba S. Cook

MSC/pd

131 Ash Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117
April 9, 1984

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing concerning William Moore, an inmate at the prison in Jackson Georgia.

We met him about five years ago while he was at Reidsville. Being a minister, I became interested in him and visited with him. He gave his life to Christ. While talking with him, I could tell of the change Christ had brought in his life. We correspond with him almost weekly. His letters are inspirational.

We are requesting that you give serious consideration to removing him from death row. Since the Lord has come into his life and has made such a change in him, we feel that his life should be spared.

If there should be a possibility of his release from prison, we believe that he would not be a threat to society but rather contribute to it.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration this matter.

Sincerely,

Bishop and Mrs William Tumlin

April 2, 1984

To: The Honorable Judge Walter C. McMillan Jr:

Sir, first let me thank you for taking the time out of what must be a busy schedule for you, to ask you (if I may) to consider this letter on behalf of William Neal Moore.

I am writing to you on his behalf, not because I am a fellow-inmate; not because I am similar situated; but, because I wish to proclaim a truth I feel you should know concerning William.

So, if you will bear with me, I shall endeavor to put on this paper both, what I have witnessed and what is in my heart -- given the leading and guidance of the holy spirit.

The year was 1977. The month was February. The date -- the 11th. It was Friday -- shortly after noon. William Neal Moore, was delivered from a County jail to Reidsville Georgia State Prison. (I was there).

I was there, to welcome the new comer among us -- the living, but dead.

He entered the cell-block where I, too, was a resident. There had been eight of us in this particular area. William, made the ninth.

I watched him proceed toward the cell which had been assigned him. I observed . . . as he calmly and neatly put away his things -- the few personal items he had -- as well, as the state issued.

When he had put his belongings in order (which didn't take very long), he introduce himself to his new family. I think I was the first to whom he spoke.

There were something peculiarly strange about this character. What was it? Was it because he showed (as a new comer) no signs of fear -- neither in his countenance, nor his his actions -- concerning his predicament? Certainly, this was not the experience of most. Normally, one would be scared to death. But, William was not. In fact, he radiated a peace, a serene, a calmness that passed understanding. He seemed to know something that we did not. What was it? What did he know, that we didn't? Where had he gotten the confidence? Again, who was the source? One thing is certain, he was undisturbed by his situation.

And this automatically aroused suspicion. Especially, among a few who felt they had a reason to be paranoid. So, they begin to murmur one to another saying . . . is he (referring to William) a plant? (Meaning informer). They were really suspicious of him.

I even had one of them to ask me, "do you think he's a G.B.I. agent or something?" I laughed. But, such suspicion is not uncommon among inmates. And in this Case, even I, could understand their suspicion.

William, simply did not have the appearance of a criminal. And he wasn't. He had had little or no experience with prisons & jails. And all of this could be recognized by the others and, myself.

There was no mistake. William, was different.

Yes, we knew that he was suppose to have killed somebody. And personally, I have never heard him deny that, he hadn't. But, we knew, too, that, he was not a murderer.

And we were all soon to find out that, William, is not the kind of person who could murder anyone. (A truth that will be better perceived as I proceed on-ward).

Before I digressed, William, was about to introduce himself to me.

"Hi, he said, "I am William Neal Moore." "And I am a Christian." "Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ . . ."

The dialogue continued. But, that which had aroused the suspicion of everyone had been revealed. William, was a Christian. And he'd had to spell it out for us. Which answered many questions. It's no wonder he acted strangely. All Christians do, to non-Christians.

He was a follower of Christ. And that was the source of his strength; his courage; his confidence. He feared not what man could do to him.

Circumstances had brought him to Reidsville -- and God would use him among the condemned. To bring hope amid despair. To make known that, death, did not have to be the end. But, instead, it could be the gateway to a new beginning. Yes, he was being used of God. And has touched many lives among the "death row" sect, including my own. Truly, he has been a positive influence in my life. And I can say without hesitance, many others. That is, inside . . . and . . . out.

There can be no question about his love for God. He spends all of his time serving Him.

He is a lamp that shined in a dark place.

I can't help but to think how much more of a benefit he would be without -- that is, restriction. He has sure done a good work here -- within.

"Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy."

In closing, may I leave you with this story that I read sometime ago -- and, am reminded of in the above Scripture.

It is said that, "Napoleon was moved by a mother's plea for a pardon on behalf of her son. However, the emperor said it was the second offense; and justice demanded death. "I do not ask for justice," implored the mother, "I plead for mercy."

But, said the emperor, "he does not deserve mercy."

"Sir," cried the mother, "it would not be mercy if he deserved it, and mercy is all I ask for."

The compassion and clarity of logic prompted Napoleon to respond, "Well, then, I will have mercy."

The pardon was granted on the basis of mercy, not justice.

May the God of heaven & earth, who has had mercy upon us all, bless you.

Sincerely --

In Him,

James Lee Spencer

P.S.

I have sought only to proclaim a truth -- nothing more.

Feb. 2, 1986

To: The Honorable Judge Walter C. McMillen Jr.

Sir, first let me thank you for taking the time out of what must be a busy schedule for you, to ask you (if I may) to consider this letter on behalf of: William Neal Moore.

I am writing to you on his behalf, not because, I am a fellow-inmate; not because, I am similarly situated; but, because I wish to proclaim a truth that I feel you should know concerning, William.

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Page - Two -

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Page - 100 -

he was undisturbed by his situation.

And this automatically aroused suspicion. Especially, among a few who felt they had a reason to be paranoid. So, they began to murmur one to another saying... is he (referring to William) a plant? (meaning, informer). They were really suspicious of him!

I even had one of them to ask me, "do you think he's a C.B.I. agent or something?" I laughed. But, such suspicion is not uncommon among inmates. And in this case, even I, could understand their suspicion.

William, simply did not have the appearance of a Criminal. And he wasn't. He had had little or no experience with prisons & jails. And all of this could be recognized by the others and, myself.

There was no mistake. William, was different.

Yes, we knew that he was suppose to have killed somebody. And personally, I have never heard him deny that, he hadn't. But, we knew, too, that, he was not a murderer.

Page - Four -

And we were all soon to find out that, William, is not the kind of person who could murder any one. (A truth that will be better perceived as I proceed onward).

Before I digressed, William, was about to introduce himself to me.

"Hi, he said, 'I am, William Paul Moore.' 'And I am a Christian.' 'Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ...'"

The dialogue continued. But, that which had aroused the suspicion of everyone had been revealed. William, was a Christian. And he had to spell it out for us which answered many questions. No wonder he acted strangely. All Christians do, to non-Christians!

He was a follower of Christ. And that was the source of his strength; his courage; his confidence. He feared not what man could do to him.

Circumstances had brought him to Reidville and he would see him among the condemned. To bring hope amid despair. To make known that death, did not have to be the end. But, instead, it could be the gateway

Page Three

To a new beginning. Yes, he was being used of God. And has touched many lives among the "death row" sect, including my own. Truly, he has been a positive influence in my life. And I can say without hesitance, many others. That is, inside... and... out!

There can be no question about his love for God. He spends all of his time serving Him.

He is a lamp that shined in a dark place.

I can't help but to think, how much more of a benefit he would be without - that is, restriction. He has sure done a good work here - within.

Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.

In closing, may I leave ^{you} with this story that I read sometime ago - and, am reminded of ~~it~~ in the above scripture.

It is said that "Napoleon was moved by a mother's plea for a pardon on behalf of her son. However, the emperor said it was the second offense; and justice demanded death. "I do not ask for justice,"

Page Six

implored the mother, "I plead for mercy."

But, said the emperor, "he does not deserve mercy."

"Sir," cried the mother, "it would not be mercy if he deserved it, and mercy is all I ask for."

The compassion and clarity of logic prompted Napoleon to respond, "Well, then, I will have mercy."

The pardon was granted on the basis of mercy, not justice.

May the God of heaven & earth, who has had mercy upon us all, bless you.

Sincerely —

In Him,

James Lee Spencer

P.S.

I have sought only to proclaim a truth — nothing more.

"The King's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the
Rivers of Water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."

29 March 1984

Proverbs 21:1

The Honorable Walter C. McMillan Jr.

Superior Court Judge

Dear Judge McMillan,

I trust this letter will reach you in the very best of health and I'm truly grateful in having the opportunity to address these few lines to you.

Sir, I am writing on behalf of a very dear Brother and friend whose case you presently have under consideration. His name is William Neal Moore. I don't know if you'd consider this a letter of character, but in having known and lived around Mr. Moore for the past four (4) years my intent is to share with you what I think of him as a man, as a friend, as a brother in Christ and basically what or all that I know of him.

Your Honor, I really feel confident in the fact that God is going to spare Mr. Moore's life. You are thoroughly familiar with the legal aspects of his case that led to his being here, but your Honor Sir, William Neal Moore is not the same man he was ten (10) years ago. He is a Born Again Christian and have been very instrumental in helping me to grow and mature in my own faith. To have known him all this time or even briefly one can easily see the sincerity and assurance of his Christian convictions. Judge McMillan, he radiates life and have a tremendous love for all people. He and I are friends and have spent countless hours in Bible study together.

Judge McMillan, there would be nothing at all accomplished in seeking to have William Moore executed. He deserves a lesser

sentence and would be a benefit greatly needed in our society. To speak with him I believe you'd readily assess and conclude as much. Ten years ago the obvious would have borne witness to this statement, but this William Neal Moore of recent years don't have the desire nor heart to commit or engage in violence and to cause detriment to any one. He has and still are a pillar of inspiration to many of us here such as being an example in faithfulness as Christians, setting/living according to pure moral standards, obeying authority, a lover of truth and so much more. He's a trustworthy friend and brother and I do love him.

Sir, I hope you don't feel as though I'm trying to put forth a favorable view of William Moore because of the nature/status of his case. I believe the truth is enough justification in itself. Yes, I do realize a life has been taken and hurt caused to loved ones, but execution is not the answer in this particular case. Furthermore, I don't believe you are a hard man and I really feel you're sincerely seeking that which is right to do. God has already decided what must be done and I'm sure He will lead you accordingly.

Most Honorable Sir, you shall continue to be uplifted in prayer and I/we love you. To Him be the glory. I remain respectfully yours in the love, grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Humbly Yours,

Nathan Brown
EF119835 D-42
P.O. Box 3877, G.D.&C.C.
Jackson, Ga. 30233

"The King's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the
rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."

29 MARCH 1984

PROVERBS 21:1

THE HONORABLE WALTER C. McMILLAN JR
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

DEAR JUDGE McMILLAN,

I trust this letter will reach you in the very
best of health and I'm truly grateful in having
the opportunity to address these few lines to you.

SIR, I AM WRITING ON BEHALF OF A VERY DEAR
BROTHER AND FRIEND WHOSE CASE YOU PRESENTLY HAVE
UNDER CONSIDERATION. HIS NAME IS WILLIAM NEAL
MOORE. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'D CONSIDER THIS A LETTER
OF CHARACTER, BUT IN HAVING KNOWN AND LIVED AROUND
MR. MOORE FOR THE PAST FOUR (4) YEARS MY INTENT IS
TO SHARE WITH YOU WHAT I THINK OF HIM AS A MAN,
AS A FRIEND, AS A BROTHER IN CHRIST AND BASICALLY
WHAT OR ALL THAT I KNOW OF HIM.

YOUR HONOR, I REALLY FEEL CONFIDENT IN THE
FACT THAT GOD IS GOING TO SPARE MR. MOORE'S LIFE. YOU
ARE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF HIS
CASE THAT LED TO HIS BEING HERE, BUT YOUR HONOR SIR,
WILLIAM NEAL MOORE IS NOT THE SAME MAN HE WAS TEN (10)

YEARS AGO. HE IS A BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN AND HAVE BEEN VERY INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING ME TO GROW AND MATURE IN MY OWN FAITH. TO HAVE KNOWN HIM ALL THIS TIME OR EVEN BRIEFLY ONE CAN EASILY SEE THE SINCERITY AND ASSURANCE OF HIS CHRISTIAN CONVICTIONS. JUDGE McMILLAN, HE RADIATES LOVE AND HAVE A TREMENDOUS LOVE FOR ALL PEOPLE. HE AND I ARE FRIENDS AND HAVE SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS IN BIBLE STUDY TOGETHER.

Judge McMillan, there would be nothing at all accomplished in seeking to have William Moore executed. He deserves a lesser sentence and would be a benefit greatly needed in our society. To speak with him I believe you'd readily assess and conclude as much. Ten years ago the obnoxious would have borne witness to this statement, but this William Neal Moore of recent years don't have the desire nor heart to commit or engage in violence and to cause detriment to any one. He has and still are a pillar of inspiration to many of us here such as being an example in faithfulness as Christians, setting/living according to pure moral standards, obeying authority, a lover of truth and so much more. He's a trustworthy friend and brother and I do love him.

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Most Honorable Sir, you shall continue to be uplifted in prayer and I/we love you. To Him be the glory. I remain respectfully yours in the love, grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Humbly Yours,

~~Nathan Brown~~

NATHAN BROWN

EF119835 D-42

P.O. Box 3877, G.D. & C.C.
JACKSON, GA. 30233

April 3, 1984 P.M.

Jack Edward Alderman
145 Montgomery Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Walter C. McMillan, Jr.
Judge of Superior Court

Your Honor,

It is my earnest hope and fervent prayer that you will recognize the sincerity that propels this plea and be moved to act in accordance. I am sure that you have received a number of statements attesting to the character of William Neal Moore, Sr. Though this is my purpose my association is unique. I ask of your patience, I wish to explain.

Billy and I met on Georgia's Death Row when it was housed at Reidsville. It was five years ago tomorrow; it's a date I'll not soon forget.

He proffered a strong hand and a warm smile. I sensed a depth that few could understand. He possesses conviction.

Billy influences those he touches, he is a true reflector of God. I am led to compare with another man guilty of murder. What would've happened to Israel had Moses been executed ...

Yes, sir, I am biased, for I've an advantage; I know the individual. He has done more to himself with remorse than any sentence imposed. He pays for the mistake daily. I beg of you to apply the mercy that grows in your heart. He deserves the chance, please give it to him.

Billy is the brother my parents did not bear, the friend fate has so generously provided. I need Billy Moore, as do others. He can benefit the world, if you'll grant him compassion.

It would best serve justice.

Volumes could not contain the kindnesses expressed by this man. He's embraced humility, without thought to self. He's a servant of the Lord, he ministers through example.

Spare him, Your Honor; use your power to lessen his sentence. It is in the interest of humanity, it is a point in fairness.

Sit with Billy, this man elected to die. Talk with him, you'll never be the same.

I open to you my love for Billy. May you know the honor and honesty of this gentleman.

Look to the Heavens, Judge McMillan, that's his source.

Please save Billy, please.

Sincerely petitioned,

Jack E. Alderman

April 3, 1984 P.M.

Jack Edward Alderman
415 Montgomery Street
Savannah, GA 31401

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Judge of Superior Court

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Look to the Heavens, Judge McMillan, that's his source.

Please save Billy, please.

Sincerely petitioned,

Jack E. Alderman

April 2, 1984

To The Honorable Judge Walter C. McMillan Jr.

Dear Judge McMillan:

In the sweet, precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior I write today and pray God's presence has been manifested unto you in a great way. He is El Shaddai, our God who is more than enough. Praise His Holy Name.

Greetings honorable Judge, my name is Warren McCleskey, and I am a death row inmate at the Diagnostic & Classification Center in Jackson, Georgia. I am writing to you on behalf of William Neal Moore to express a truth that would otherwise go unknown to you lacking any initiative to bring to your attention.

First, I would just like to say, that I realize the fact that my being a death row inmate makes what I have to say to a honorable Judge less credible. However, I want to emphasize that it is not my intention to try and impress you, nor to exalt William Moore, but merely to express a truth. There is one thing I've learned about the truth, it never varies, therefore what can be attest of William Moore will stand on its on merit, and it will never change because it is truth.

My first encounter with William Moore was Dec. 22, 1980. At that time I saw something in him that I had never seen in anyone before. After a couple of days I sought to find out why was this individual so different from the rest of the inmates that I saw. I approached Mr. Moore and I inquired, as to why he was so happy and at peace on death row. Mr. Moore told me, "that it wasn't

him that was happy and at peace, but Christ that lives within him." Of course I thought to myself that he wasn't dealing with a full deck at that time. Through other conversations with Mr. Moore he gave me his testimony of how he came to know Jesus Christ, and how Christ gave him a new heart, and as a result he became a new creature. He explained to me that when you got Christ, you have no desire to want to do the old things you used to do. I admit the way he explained the super natural transformation sounded to good to be true. William Moore saw that I wanted to change, so he began to come to my cell everyday to minister to me, and share with me all that Jesus had done for the world. It wasn't long after that when a desire came upon my heart to want to know all I could about Jesus. Finally Mr. Moore prayed the sinner's prayer with me, and at that moment I accepted Jesus Christ and became born-again. I have been witnessing and serving the Lord going on four years now, praise the Lord. God used William Moore as a vessel to inspire me to repentance and to the acceptance of Jesus Christ.

During the years I've known brother Moore he has always been a God fearing man who strives to keep himself humble. When I say, "he strives to be humble," I mean that he never takes credit for any good thats done through him. He always acknowledge that its not he that lives, but Christ Jesus living within him. Since my presence here at Jackson I've had the privilege to see many lives touched and changed for the better by the influence of brother Moore. I'm confident that brother Moore will continue to

be a great influence on those around him, because its not him thats doing it, but the life of Jesus Christ being manifested through him. God is the source of all life, therefore He knows the heart of every man, and He can see the begining and the end. There is nothing that can change William Moore from the way he is now, because he is deeply in love with the Lord, and want only to do God's will. It matters not where William Moore is, for he will serve the Lord where ever he's at, whether in bonds or free.

Judge McMillan, I believe you would agree that the only true Rehabilitation is when one receives a new heart, because only then will one cease from having a desire to do wrong. But there is only one way for anyone to receive a new heart, and that is acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing this letter expressing what I know to be the truth about brother Moore. Certainly he doesn't need any witnesses to attest to his new Character, for God will attest for him. Please know Sir, that this letter was most difficult to write, because my intentions were not to exalt William Moore, nor was it to impress you in anyway, but merely set forth a truth. As to whether I stayed on course with my intentions I'm not sure, but I am certain of one thing, a truth has been expressed.

Sir, I thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter. I pray that God will confirm every word upon your heart. May God bless and keep you and your family.

Love In Christ,
Warren McCleskey

The first encounter with William Niese was
in May, 1980. At that time I was promoting in
from that I had never seen in anyone before. After
a couple of days I thought to find out why the
indication is different from the rest of the immediate
I fear. I appeared 700. Niese and I engaged
to talk. He was as happy and at ease as I had
Mrs. Niese told me, "that it wasn't him that was
happy and at ease, but that that was another
by chance or thought it might that he wasn't doing

cause it is truth.
I don't see to be next, and it will never change. He
thought what can be that of William Niese with
they who found about the truth, it never leaves,
Niese, but really to speak a truth. There is one
criticism to try and impress you, see in that William
However, I want to emphasize that it is not my
what I have to say to a feminist judge has come.
The fact that my judge is that not female makes
truth, I want you to be to pay, that I judge
to you looking any criticism to bring to your attention.
to appear a truth that would otherwise be unknown.
I am writing to you asking of William Niese
(Assignment + Classification Center in Jackson, Miss.)
Theology, and I am in their administration at the
Dorothy Fennell judge, my name is William
since the Holy name.

He is the father, would who is there then enough.
presence has been manifested with you in a way that
and that and I would like to write to you that
and the court, previous name of your court
(Dear Judge 73 Miller)

To the Honorable Judge Walter E. 73 Miller Jr.
April 2, 1984

with a full sick at that time. Through other Christians with Mr. Moore he gave me his testimony of how he came to know Jesus Christ, and how Christ gave him a new heart, and as a result he became a new creature. He explained to me that when you get Christ, you have no desire to want to want to do the old things you used to do. I admit the way he explained the supernatural transformation sounded to good to be true. William Moore saw that I wanted to change, so he began to come to my cell everyday to minister to me, and share with me all that Jesus had done for the world. It wasn't long after that when a desire came upon my heart to want to know all I could about Jesus. Finally Mr. Moore prayed the sinner's prayer with me, and at that moment I accepted Jesus Christ and became born-again. I have been witnessing and serving the Lord going on few years now, praise the Lord. God used William Moore as a vessel to inspire me to repentance and to the acceptance of Jesus Christ.

During the years I've known brother Moore he has always been a God-fearing man who strives to keep himself humble. When I say, "he strives to be humble," I mean that he never takes credit for any good that's done through him. He always acknowledges that it's not he that lives, but Christ Jesus living within him. Since my presence here at Jackson Hill had the privilege to see many lives touched and changed for the better by the influence of brother Moore. I'm confident that brother Moore will continue to be a great influence on those around him, because it's not him that's doing it, but the life of Jesus Christ being manifested through him. God is the source of all life, therefore He knows the heart of every man, and He can see the beginning and the end. There is nothing that can change William Moore from the way he is now, because he is deeply in love with

with the Lord, and want only to do God's will. It
matters not what William Moore is, for he will leave
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Judge W^m Miller, I believe you would agree
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you in anyway, but merely set forth the truth. As
to whether I stayed on course with my intentions
I'm not sure, but I am certain of one thing, a
truth has been expressed.

Sir, I thank you very much for taking the
time to read this letter. I pray that God will con-
firm every word upon your heart. May God bless
and keep you and your family.

Yours In Christ,
Warren W^m Eckley

April 3, 1984

Dear Sir,

Billy Moore is my pen-pal, I found his name in the Christian Life Magazine last May. It was through the hand of God that I chose to write to him, believe me I have been "Blessed just being his pen-pal. To me, Billy Moore is "SPECIAL", do you know why? Because he is a child of God and I know that he is needed to do God's work. Many souls will be saved through him. He is kind and warm, and a loving person, and I know that God loves him and needs him to do His work.

I wish that I can share Billy's beautiful letters with you and then you would understand the "SPECIAL" person that God honored me to write to. Billy Moore has helped me he has given me confidence and guidance through my trials and tribulations. He has given me hope to look towards a brighter tomorrow, and his prayers meant so much to me, that I felt stronger and I was able to overcome the sadness of my divorce. I could have never done it without him. He is a good man, his letters are filled with the love of Jesus, I know that Billy will be a magnificent Preacher for God, to lead us all to Him.

Dear Sir,

Please let me share his first letter that I received from him on May 25, 1983

"May God Our Holy Father and Savior Jesus Christ Bless you In Grace, Mercy and Love."

Dearest Bea,

Greetings in the Holy name of Christ Jesus Our Savior and God! Praise the Lord for you, being led to write to me -- the

Lord has been my God since September 6, 1974 and He has been great to me through my trials and tribulations, it's not been easy, never the less Christ has always been very near to my heart.

Bea Jesus loves us both just the same because He died for you as He died for me. I am happy that you found my name in the Christian Life magazine, that is good because its in there for the reason to find some good Christian friends to write to and establish a solid foundation in Christ to build on for the kingdom of God. Answer soon!

Yours In Christ

Love,

Billy

Dear Sir,

All his letters to me were very encouraging. He is a good man, he is kind and loving and his prayers for me have turned my life around. He has taught me to read my Bible to read the Scriptures as Jesus showed me the way through Billy Moore. He put me on my feet through his letters, we were strangers and now he is my dearest and most loved Brother in Our Lord. My heart aches were tremendous and I can only thank Billy Moore through the kindness of his letters and his prayers, that gave me a new chance on life, I can face life again. God Brought us together for a reason, please don't take Billy away from us, we need him, there are so many lost souls out there, that can be saved by God through him. Yes! he is "special" to our Lord and he is "special" to me and to all his pen-pals.

I ask you, In the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, please let him live, we need him. I could have never made it without him -- his letters gave me strength, I felt his Faith and love as I read his letters, he pulled me through with his prayers, that is why God led me to write to him, He knew that Bill Moore was the one person to see me through and to give me a second chance to overcome the tragedy of divorce.

Billy calls me "Mom," I am 60 years of age I have a lot to be thankful for, if he wasn't on that list of pen-pals I doubt that I could have survived the sadness that tore me apart from my divorce.

Please don't take Billy Moore away from us, we need him, for the first time in 19 years I can face the world and smile again all because of his love, kindness and his prayers, he saved my life. We need him!

God Bless You, In His Love.

In Jesus Christ

Mrs. Beatrice Altamore.

April 3, 1984

Dear Sir,

Billy Moore is my pen-pal. I found his name in the Christian Life Magazine last May. It was through the hand of God that I chose to write to him, believe me I have been blessed just being his pen-pal. To me Billy Moore is "SPECIFIC". Do you know why? Because he is a child of God and I know that he is needed to do God's work. Many souls will be saved through him. He is kind and warm and a loving person, and I know that God loves them and needs him to do His work.

I wish that I can share Billy's beautiful letters with you and then you would understand the "SPECIAL" person that God honored me to write to. Billy Moore has helped me he has given me confidence and guidance through my trials and tribulations.

He has given me hope to look towards a brighter tomorrow, and his prayers meant so much to me, that I felt stronger and I was able to overcome the sadness of my divorce. I could have never done it without him. He is a good man, his letters are filled with the love of Jesus, I know that Billy will be a magnificent preacher for God, to lead us all to Him.

Dear Sir,

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"May God Our Holy Father and Savior Jesus Christ Bless you In Peace, Mercy and Love."

Dearest Dad,

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my God. since September 6, 1974 and
He has been great to me through my
trials and tribulations, it's not been
easy, never, the less Christ has al-
ways been very near to my heart.

Dear Jesus, loves us both just
the same because He died for you as
He died for me. I am happy that you
found my name in the Christian
Life magazine, that is good because
it's in there for the person to find
some good Christian friends to write
to and establish a solid foundation
in Christ to build on for the Kingdom
of God. Answer soon.

Yours In Christ
Love,

Billy

Dear Sir,

All his letters to me were
very encouraging. He is a good man, he
is kind and loving and his prayers for
me have turned my life around. He
has taught me to read my Bible to

read the signature as "Gus, Frank
me the way through Billy Mearns.
He put me on my feet through his
letters, we were strangers and now
he is my doctor and my best friend.
Brothers in our work, my best ones,
were Frank and I am only that
Billy Mearns. Through the kindness of
his letters and his presence, that
gave me a new chance for life, I
can live life again. God brought me
together for a reason. Please don't
take Billy away from me, we need
him, there are so many lost souls
out there, that can be saved by
God through him. Yes! In response
to our faith and to our spirit to me
and to all his son - Peter.
I ask you in the name of Jesus, Lord,
your spirit please put him here,
we need him. I could have never
made it without him - his letters
gave me strength, I lost his faith and
love as I read his letters, to provide

me through with his prayers, that is why I had led me to write to him. He knew that Billy Moore was the one person to see me through and to give me a second chance to overcome the tragedy of divorce.

Billy calls me "Mom", I am 60 years of age. I have a lot to be thankful for, if he wasn't on that list of angels, I doubt that I could have overruined the sadness that tore me apart from my divorce.

Please don't take Billy Moore away from us, we need him, for the first time in 19 years I can face the world and smile again all because of his love, kindness and his prayers, he saved my life. We need him!

God Bless You, In His Love.

In Jesus, Christ.

Mrs. Gertrude Altomare

20886 Royal Street
Haywood, CA

April 9, 1984

Dear Sir,

I am writing concerning the possible future of William Moore over which I am deeply distressed. There must be little time for you to read such letters, but I must write about Bill and help him in any way possible. I have never met Bill, the outer physical man. But I have written constantly to him for six years and letter after letter reveals the most important part of him - his inner self. The man I have come to know in Bill is the most sincere, humble and loving man I've ever known.

He has shown me in so many ways that he is as rehabilitated as a man can be. His true love for God and his genuine concern and love for others demonstrates a true change of heart about life and people. To think he can still be killed is so devastating, I can't bear it.

He has brought so much encouragement to my life. When I was having trouble with my self image as a teenager he would write telling me to develop my spirit and my faith and to think of my physical worries, like being fat, in terms of God too - just think of your self as a temple for the Lord and keep yourself healthy for Him. Later when I was having marital trouble his many letters were full of

genuine concern for my marriage. He wrote words that helped me so much. My doubts faded and because of his encouragement my resolve was reborn. He has brought so much of this kind of encouragement to my life; there just isn't room in a letter to write it all.

Bill shares his love in Christ with my husband too, sending us literature and things he makes. At Christmas he went out of his way to make and send gifts, gifts he made in his cell on death row.

He shows his love for Christ through the deep friendship he shares with us and so many others. He talks of helping nearby churches and everyone he can reach. That man does more from his cell on death row than many people do outside of a confined environment. Bill Moore has been nothing but an inspiration to my life.

It would be a true waste of a beautiful life to execute Bill. God changes people. Bill has proven to me that the Lord can remake a man in every aspect of his life. Bill can prove to countless others the same truth and he does so every day in his prison life. For their sake, for ours, don't execute him.

I could go on and on about Bill Moore, but I know you wouldn't have the time to read it. We share a common bond in our love for Christ and a love for other people's souls. I just appeal to you to truly reconsider Bill's case, his

terrific inspiration to my life and to others' lives, his deep love for his son and especially his tremendous love for God. Bill Moore should not die. I thank you for your time and pray God will be with you.

Sincerely,

Kim Ramirez

2085 E. Royal St
Hayward, Ca

April 9, 1984

Dear Sir,
I am writing concerning the possible future of William Moore over which I am deeply distressed. There must be little time for you to read such letters, but I must write about Bill and help him in any way possible. I have never met Bill the outer physical man. But I have written constantly to him for six years and letter after letter reveals the most important part of him - his inner self. The man I have come to know in Bill is the most sincere, humble and loving man I've ever known.

He has shown me in so many ways that he is as rehabilitated as a man can be. His true love for God and his genuine concern and love for others demonstrates a true change of heart about life and people. To think he can still be killed is so devastating, I can't bear it.

He has brought so much encouragement to my life. When I was having trouble with my self image as a teenager he would write telling me to think of my physical worries, like being fat, in terms of God too - just think of your self as a temple for the Lord and keep yourself healthy for Him.

Later, when I was having marital trouble his many letters were full of a genuine concern for my marriage. He wrote words that helped me so much. My doubts faded because of his encouragement. My resolve was reborn. He has brought so much of this kind of encouragement to my life; there just isn't room in a letter to write it all.

Bill shares his love in Christ with my husband too, sending us literature and things he makes. At Christmas he went out of his way to make and send gifts, gifts he made in his cell on death row.

He shows his love for Christ through the deep friendship he shares with us and so many others. He talks of helping nearby churches and everyone he can reach. That man does more from his cell on death row than many people do outside of a confined environment. Bill Moore has been nothing but an inspiration to my life.

It would be a true waste if a beautiful life is executed. Bill. God changes people. Bill has proven to me that the Lord can ~~change~~ remake a man in every aspect of his life. Bill can prove to countless others the same truth, and he does so every day in his prison life.

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Bill Moore should not die. I thank you
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Sincerely,

Kim Ramirez

2715 Martin, Apt. A
Laredo, Texas 78040
April 4, 1984

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing this letter to tell about William Moore.

My daughter Susan and I share an apartment and the things which we each consider best and closest to our hearts. So I knew of Susan's penpalling with Billy and had shared his letters to her. I had even begun to write Billy a few letters on my own (not being a person who enjoys writing letters, believe me!). I had been so uplifted by Billy's letters to Susan, and we had both come to regard Billy as one of our family, a very special part of our lives. In the months we had corresponded with Billy, we had both found him to be an inspiration and a source of deep learning and faith in God. We had learned so much from his letters of the joy that God can bring through faith in the Resurrected Lord Jesus Christ.

In January, Susan and I went to Georgia and had a chance to go to Jackson and visit and minister to several of the inmates there on Death Row. Billy was one of the men we got to visit. From the first moments together in the visiting room, it was joy. There was a glow about Billy that was pure Spirit of God. It was more than the immaculate cleanliness of his clothing, the neatness of his appearance, his clean tennis shoes, and the pride and dignity of the way he carried himself. It was the flow of God, the quiet words of the Bible as Billy shared with us, the compassionate way he had of touching my shoulder or holding my hand as we talked over problem areas or discussed particularly special scriptures, and the love he gave without reserve or embarrassment. As we went on visiting the other men, we had the opportunity to mention how we came to be interested in penpalling with prisoners and how we happened to come to Georgia to visit and minister because of our acquaintance with Billy Moore. There wasn't a man we talked to who didn't express the same confidence and respect for Billy that we already had ourselves. They considered him genuine, a true witness to God in the life of a man. It was a truly lovely time of fellowship and communion.

I have come to look upon Billy Moore as a son, one of whom I could be exceedingly proud because of the fine character of his life. It is a human thing to live badly and to make mistakes which we sincerely, bitterly regret later. It is a much more lasting and divine thing to change our lives and to be strong enough to live for Christ in whatever circumstances we are in. Billy's mistake was most grave, or he wouldn't be on Death Row with decisions facing you which will affect his very life; however, Billy Moore TODAY is a man who would be no danger to any person. His only concern for his fellow man now is to fulfill the commandment left by his Lord to "love one another, as I have loved you...", and he lives that commandment to the best of any born-again child-of-God's ability. He owes a love-debt to the Master who saved him, and his only desire is to have the opportunity to live out his life paying that debt.

The Billy Moore I met with, shared the Gospel with, prayed with, and know is a man I could trust COMPLETELY with my life, my home, my finances, my family. I would have no fear to have him in my home, my neighborhood, or my community, as I know that I KNOW that anyone who is around Billy for any length of time will be blessed, see God at work, and be a better person for just knowing him.

Thank you for taking time for reading and considering my letter. I have felt privileged in being able to place before you what I know of a most wonderful, dedicated, sincere, Christian man. Billy Moore entered your correctional institution one person, but he is changed, and with that change came a miracle, a new man.

Respectfully yours,

Flora B. Burn

Dear Judge

First I'll introduce myself. My name is Gloria Beckham. I am a 38 year old mother of an eleven year old son. Last but not least I am a christian friend of Billy Moore.

This letter is written to express my views on why I think Billy is worthy of life.

To start, Billy has and still is an inspiration to me and my son. Although he is behind bar, he doesn't show himself as an prisoner. Rather, he shows a positive side of life. He speaks only of the good life God has to offer us. You see, Billy is a teacher of Christ. That's how I came to know this christian man, because he had very little to say about worldly things only what God will do if we follow him. I believe Billy loves the Lord and have confess his sins. He knows what he done was wrong but, since he been behind bars he is a changed man in all respect.

Even though Billy is behind bars he has inspired people both in prison and out. There was a time when my son was having some minor problems in school, I wrote Billy asking him to write my son about his youth and how his misconduct ended him in serious trouble. He did write him and even sent him a childs Bible. My son was so inspired that he reads that Bible constantly. Although Billy has bigger problems of his own he finds time to aid a small boy with growing pain. I could go on and on about the good in Billy and how he is always willing to help others. All I have said in this letter is that Billy Moore has proven his will to live a productive life. I also feel his life in the pass years is proof

he should live. Billy has suffered and paid for his wrong and he know that he indeed was wrong. Now he should be able to have a future.

Thank you

Gloria Beckham

Dear Judge

First I'll introduce myself. My name is Glenn Beckham. I am a 38 year old mother of an eleven year old son. Last but not least I am a Christian friend of Billy Moore.

This letter is written to express my views on why I think Billy is worthy of life.

To start, Billy has and still is an inspiration to me and my son. Although he is behind bars, he doesn't show himself as a prisoner. Rather, he shows a positive side of life. He speaks only of the good life God has to offer us. You see, Billy is a teacher of Christ. That's how I came to know this Christian man, because he

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Thank you

Gloria Beckham

April 4, 1984

Dear Sir:

Re: William Moore

This is with reference to the above named prisoner incarcerated in Jackson, Georgia. I am convinced & feel that he should not receive a death sentence.

I am a 46 year old mother of two sons, ages 17 & 21. I am a college graduate, and a full time medical assistant, so I think I am capable of keen perception, and observation, and able to judge character quite shrewdly.

In September of 1982, after being separated from my husband for nine months, I decided to communicate with a prisoner for a pen-pal. I wrote to Merlin Carrothers' organization. He is the author of the Christian Praise books. I was sent three names of inmates & wrote to all three. They all responded, and two of them were completely unsuitable. Billy Moore's letter was special - eloquent, human, understanding, considerate, religiously & psychologically uplifting, etc. We began to correspond weekly & he became like another member of our family - going through all our trials & tribulations of divorce, & many other things. He was always concerned & worried about my problems & needs.

I understand that prisoners were allowed to make one phone call a month, & Billy called me one night last year. He was warm, kind, compassionate & sympathetic, & joked to cheer "me" up. He is always thinking of the other person. He is one of the most beautiful human beings I have even had the pleasure of "meeting."

My sons have gotten equally interested in his care as I am. They constantly ask "if there is mail from Billy," & how his case is proceeding. They feel as I do that his life, should be spared, & that he definitely would be an asset to society.

If God forgives can we not do the same? Billy has helped his fellow inmates immeasurably in a religious & psychological sense. He gives out uplifting tracts, & has even sent some to me for my benefit.

I have shared his letters to many professional & religious leaders here in Staten Island who are astounded at his knowledge of the Bible & Scriptures. He not only knows & loves it - he lives it.

I pray for him daily, & I feel that he should be allowed to reside with his son who has not seen much of him for the last twelve years. He loves Billy, Jr. very much & the father/son relationship needs to be nurtured for both their benefits. His life must be spared at least for his son's sake.

I am willing to contribute anything necessary to further his cause.

He begins all his letters with "Praise the Lord" & "May God's Grace, Mercy and Peace from Our Holy Father And Savior Jesus Christ Bless You In Love."

Constance Rice, Esq. called me on the evening of 4/3/84 which happened to be my birthday. Believe me, her call to help Billy was an additional gift from the Almighty!

I am sure the Fortune Society could be an additional help in his re-adjustment to society. I am sure that a man of his caliber would not in any way be a burden to society.

Additionally, my father recently died on 2-12-84, & Billy has sent me letters of condolence to try to alleviate my grief & mourning. "you should rejoice because he has not to endure all the pain & sickness anymore - would you rather see him as you did dying in pain (my father severely suffered for four months with cancer of the pelvic area) or knowing the fact that he is with the Lord. Why are you still grieving his BLESSING" (excerpt from letter of 3-19-84). This from a man who was in the midst of his own problems, legal & otherwise. I don't know many men faced with their own imminent death who would have the courage & concern to take time out for another human being.

In conclusion, I respectfully bow to your esteemed knowledge, wisdom and understanding. I hope & pray that you do not disappoint God, Billy, me & everyone involved with your ruling. May the Lord guide your mind and intellect in making this decision

Respectfully,

Maria Bacchino Gerardi

April 4, 1954.

Dear Sir: Re: William Moore

This is with reference to the above named person incarcerated in Jackson, Georgia. I am convinced & feel that he should not receive a death sentence.

I am a 46 year old mother of two sons, aged 17 & 21. I am a college graduate, and a full-time medical assistant, so I think I am capable of keen perception and observation, and able to judge character quite precisely.

In September of 1952, after being separated from my husband for nine months, I decided to communicate with a prisoner for a few days. I wrote to Merlin Carothers' organization. He is the author of the Christian Voice books. I am past these names of inmates & wrote to all three. They all responded, and two of them were completely unsuitable.

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that you do not disappoint God, Billy,
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sound and intellect in making this
decision.

Respectfully;
Maria Bocchino Berardi

P. O. Box 94
Laredo, Texas 78042-0094
April 3, 1984

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing this letter on behalf of William Moore and in the prayerful hopes that I can be of help to share what I know of Billy with you.

I met William Moore through CHRISTIAN LIFE magazine. His name was in the section labelled "Prisoners Wanting Penpals". Well, penpalling has always been one of my favorite pastimes, and I had decided it would be a good experience to write to prisoners and to share with them some of the joy and miracles which the Lord had blessed me with. I had selected several names already when I saw Billy's name. I was drawn to his name, but frankly nervous about writing a prisoner on Death Row. To be honest, I was thinking very selfishly. Here I was going to start a relationship with a person who could become a good friend (if only through the mails), and I stood a chance of any day losing that friend. I didn't think I wanted to put myself in that position to be hurt. As it ended up, I kept feeling the leading of the Lord to write to Billy. Finally, I made up my mind to obey, and I wrote. I have never regretted that decision, and I never shall.

From the very first letter in June of 1983, I have been blessed in knowing Billy. His letters have lifted me up in faith and in love of God, and I feel I have grown to see people and God in a new, special way. I have never asked Billy about his past - why he's on Death Row, where he's been, what kind of a person he was when he went to prison - even though he has offered to share with me anything I wish to know. I haven't asked because I don't need to know what Billy WAS. I know what Billy IS now, and that is sufficient to me. Over the months which we have corresponded, I have learned the patient, faithful, God-loving way in which Billy's mind operates, and I have come to depend upon his judgment and stability in the Word of God to counsel me through some personal tough times. The William Moore I know is not related to the William Moore who was put into prison about ten years ago. THAT former man might have been capable of anything, but Billy Moore is truly the "New Creature" promised in II Corinthians 5:17 to the man who is "in Christ Jesus". Billy is a special light, an ambassador of God in a difficult place, and dedicated to the born-again life of a saved Child of God.

I know that Billy has a son of whom he is most proud and about whom he is most concerned. I know Billy is very devoted to his mother and has an abiding respect for the family and the role of the family in forming a child into a person for the sake of love and dignity. I KNOW Billy is my friend, and beyond all barriers of race or color, a brother of whom I can be justly proud, in prison or out of it.

In early January, my mother and I were in Georgia, and we had the opportunity to go to the prison and spend time visiting with Billy. We were truly blessed. We went to minister to him, and we were the ones who were ministered to. We spent two wonderful hours praying, sharing the Bible, and getting to know each other. It was an unforgettable time. The peace of God was there in that visiting room, and we shared in it. Billy is a magnet, full of the Spirit of God. There was no consciousness of time or place while we shared together.

Billy studies the Bible intensely, teaches Bible study groups wherever he is, and takes advantage of all available material to grow spiritually himself and to help others to grow also.

I admit I was stunned when I got word through Billy that he was back on Death Row, but his unflinching faith in God's victory, protection, provision, and love have lifted me above self-centered worry and encouraged me to look to my Redemption with the same steadfastness with which Billy looks heavenward for his life.

I appreciate this opportunity to share the wonderful person I have

S. Burr, Page 2

I hope that this letter has been of assistance to you in getting some picture of the Billy Moore who is to come before you. In my possession are 26 of the most inspirational letters I have read in many years. They have been sources of comfort and joy to me, and I want to take this opportunity to include samples from these letters with my letter to illustrate some of what I have been privileged to share with Billy Moore.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my letter.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burr

(Miss) Susan Burr

Ms. Maggie Woods
110-A Chambers St.
Rome, GA 30161

April 5, 1984

The Honorable Walter C McMillan Jr.,
Chief Judge, Washington Co. Courthouse
P.O. Box-1015
Sandersville, GA 31082

Dear Judge McMillan:

I am writing to you in retrospect to the letter that I had previously received from you, urging my continuous help to My friend, William Neal Moore. Thank you for your reply.

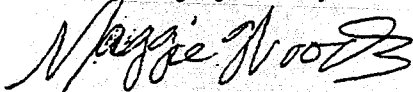
William has been a tremendous blessing in my life, during the years that I've known him. He always say encouraging words and enlightening words, whenever I visit him. William is a very wonderful and special person to me.

William is an honest, sincere and kind Christain man of God, one that can be a help to the community and church families, and all those around him, because he is a teacher of the Gospel, God has made the change in his life.

Please consider him, Please spare his life, because he will continue to be a help to people, and the Lord Jesus Christ loves him, and he has forgiven him, and I love him too.

Thank you for taking time from your busy shedule to read my letter. May God bless you for your kindness concerning William.

Sincerely yours,



Ms. Maggie Woods

4-6-84

Greetings Judge McMillian;

I am a friend of William Moore's and I received a letter in the mail today which really made my heart sad.

I have known William for 4 years and have been writing to him ever since.

I don't know anything about his past. But I do know he is a child of God and all his past has been forgiven and washed away by the blood of God.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.

And it hurts me to know this about his execution being brought back up.

For God has bless this man with such an understanding love for his fellow men.

William is the only true friend I have in this world who will hear my problems and write me a letter back that helps me through the hard times I go through.

He always inspires me when he write's and is always their. He is a faithfull friend indeed. I believe that William is someone who deserves to live. And is also someone who help's others to live and gives them hope. For he is a man who is used of God to do the will of God. And if he is put to death then how can he help those who really need Him?

I believe since William has been in prision all the time

he has spent their that he has learned his lesson and deserves to live unto God is finished with him on this earth. He could surely live on the outside of those prision door's and win more souls' for the kingdom of God. And help people who need help before they mess their lives up.

For William is a true child of God and live's his full life in the fullness of God's will.

I am not against capital punishment when it is needed. But why should we put judgment on this man? For God has already judged him.

I hope and pray Judge McMilliam that you will have mercy upon William's life and give him a chance to help other's.

May God Bless you and give unto you the peace that passes all understand in this case.

God Be With You.

Thank you for listening.

Melinda
Parker

4-6-84

Greetings Judge McMillion;
I am a friend of William Moore's
and I received a letter in the
mail today which really made
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