

Closing Statement for the BPH
October 15, 2021

First of all, I want to thank you for your unbiased consideration for parole suitability. I shared the Victim's Impact in my Insight Statement to you, so I won't repeat that here, but I do want to sincerely apologize for my choices and decisions that led me to commit these senseless murders and for the grave cost to the victims, plus for traumatizing their families, especially those who are represented here today.

These murders are haunting for us to recall, and humiliating for me as a changed man. Though Manson is deceased, for years it was said that people worry about him somehow getting to them like they worry about getting a disease. These murders took on a life of their own. The horror of these crimes made it easy to take them personally.

One newscaster said, "The murders ended the decades of love and changed the hearts of America." Truly, the barbaric fashion of which I carried out the slaughters shook the consciousness of America, not only California, even the World.

I don't know many people who haven't heard of the crimes. It brought home the belief that nobody is safe from slaughter if Hollywood stars are susceptible. They were deemed untouchable until then. The safety of people's mental security was rocked to the core. These crimes were strange and bizarre and these are the pictures that have affected the minds of the people. I so deeply apologize for the agony I have caused so many.

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I may be sentenced to die here. My lifetime measured against the public disbelief of the horrific brutality is of minimal importance. The community will be shaken if I am released. Nonetheless, the law states there must be a nexus to my current dangerousness.

By August '69, I had exchanged my wonderful family in Texas for a group of cult members, who had lost their way in life or had rebelled at home. Two years prior, while experiencing hurts, frustrations and failures, I had left my family as a disobedient-insecure-young man in rebellion against my parent's wishes that I not move to Los Angeles. I was fearing failure and rejection if I had stayed in Texas. In California, I made all the wrong choices, ending up with the wrong crowd, misusing sex, and medicating my emotional pain of guilt and shame with illegal drugs, while spiraling downward. I was passive, never communicating my needs to my parents.

Slowly, I came to believe that everything was my parent's fault, blaming them for mapping out my life, causing fears, resentments, and pent-up anger. To the contrary, I was deceived! I had become prideful and selfish, having turned from my parent's Christian values of right and wrong. At the same time, I chose to believe a delusional worldview (a lie, that the world as we knew it was coming to an end) through congesting hallucinogens and amphetamines in order to carry out Manson's manifesto of slaughter or whatever he required of me. Need for acceptance within the group drove me to do things that I wouldn't otherwise have done. Some have diagnosed it as a drug-induced, shared psychosis, but regardless, I made the foolish choices, one step after the other. Through my on-going participation in whatever deemed necessary, I became a murderer, and a wimp, by yielding my soul and body to a madman. The man who committed those crimes is not the man who came to California two years prior, nor the man who is sitting

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before you today. That man was a monster, who gave himself to a dark-evil world of death and destruction.

Today, I'm appalled by these horrific crimes, knowing that it was my poor judgment, insecurities, and drug use that caused an evil to grow in me that was horrible beyond belief. Am I that man today! No, I am not!

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In December '69, just four (4) months after the murders, I recorded eight (8) hours of tape with my Texas attorney, confessing my crimes, while other cult members were still following Manson. Also, I began recovery through resolving my unjust anger towards my parents, while in a Texas jail for nine (9) months fighting extradition. My California attorney made a diminished capacity defense, but I was found guilty, and put on death row in '71. After the death penalty was abolished in the summer of '72, I was sent to CMC, where I got a job with the Psychiatric Department, a hobby, and therapy, plus my parents, and I had our first family visit in January '73. That year, I received my only RVR for contraband food. On May 23, 1975, I received Christ as my Lord and Savior, filling the void in my heart. I began Yokefellow Group Therapy and began to teach a new Christian class, entering the ministry. In '77, I was denied a year at my first parole board hearing. My book "Will You Die For Me?" was released in '78, and my future wife read it, got saved, and we were married in '79. At last, I found acceptance, security, and significance in Christ alone.

In '80, we founded Abounding Love Ministries, and I was ordained in '81. In '82, we had our first child, and our second in '83. That year, I received my first three (3) year denial due to a BPH rule change. I took College classes, and at the board's request, I completed eighteen (18) Psychological groups, including Cognitive Behavioral Modification, Anger and Stress Management, Substance Abuse, Communication Skills, and more, while ministering in the chapel throughout the decade. In '89, we had our third child. That year, I attended my first A.A. group.

In '90, I was voted the most valuable participate in a nighty (90) hour Vital Issues Project, and in '92, I completed a six (6) month Marriage & Family Course. I was transferred to Mule Creek in April '93, after twenty-one years at CMC, plus in '93, my dad passed away. In '95, we had our fourth child, and I founded a Christian 12 Step LTAG group at Mule Creek. Family visits were taken away from Lifers by CDC in '96, and the film "Forgiven, the Charles Watson Story" produced by BIOLA students in '97, won an Angel award in Hollywood. The Abounding Love Ministries website was created in '97, and I received another three (3) year denial in '98.

After receiving a four (4) year denial in 2002, my mom passed away in December '02. A month later in January '03, my wife filed for divorce. With all that stress, life and ministry continued in prison and on the website. I completed "Manson's Right-Hand Man Speaks Out!" in '03, and over the next four (4) years, I held classes based on fifteen (15) different books, such as "Deadly Emotions" and "Overcoming Emotions That Destroy". In 2004, I wrote the book "Christianity For Fools", while overseeing the Christian 12 Step ministry. In 2006, I was denied five (5) years, but before the next hearing, I finished my B.S. in Business Management, became a facilitator in Victim's Impact, and was handpicked by the Assignment Lt. to be the "B" Facility Hazmat Janitor, working with custody to clean up after fights, attempted suicides, stabbings and even murders. This job lasted for nine (9) years, until I left Mule Creek.

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After receiving a five (5) year denial in 2011, I was asked to help facilitate a new Self-Awareness Recovery (SAR) group, and did so until I left Mule Creek. In 2013, I wrote a book called "Our Identity: Spirit, Soul and Body". Also in '13, I was stabbed 13x in front of my cell, making me more aware of my safety concerns at Mule Creek. After another five (5) year denial in 2016, I felt the need to leave Mule Creek, due to safety concerns. I was transferred to RJD in September '17, to find the same safety concerns, especially now that yards are NDPF, but I got a job, finished the LTOP program, and got into A.A., becoming a facilitator.

These are just highlights of how the Lord has used me in prison. In 2021, I continue by faith in God's grace, the website is thriving, and I'm ready to be found suitable for parole. Over the past half century, I've had my priorities in order, as a loving, caring, and compassionate individual. I've humbled myself to God, the importance of family, and the work of recovery -- serving others. Yet, I am so undeserving, however;

- I am a new man, that old man has passed away, the new-secure man has risen with Christ, Who loves and accepts me unconditionally.
- I am a spiritual man, having a holistic relationship with God (spirit, soul, and body), a constant contact for power and success.
- I am a fulfilled man, with my core filled with power, love and a sound mind; spiritual values, wholesome desires and valuable coping skills.
- I am a cautious-wise man, knowing the schemes, trickery and deceptions of those who would try to deceive me.
- I am a Christian 12 Step man, keeping my soul (mind, will and emotions) at peace with God, myself and others by practicing the steps daily.
- I am a family man, maintaining strong family ties with my children by communicating through letters, phone calls and quarterly family visits.
- I am a friendly man, maintaining a strong support system as my sponsor letters testify, many being sponsors and accountability partners.
- I am a serving man, reaching out to the world with compassion in person, through letters and with the help of others spreading the word.

Long ago, I learned that I couldn't change my past, but I could change my future, and how I affect others. That is why I do what I do, reaching out to others in hope they will recover too. The prophet Jeremiah wrote: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD, "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" (29:11, NLT).

If granted parole, I would continue to do what I have been doing for decades, that is, being true to my recovery testimony, and accountable to my sponsors, including my parole agent. I would be a benefit to the halfway house with my years of recovery work, and a blessing to my family and friends, while living a quiet and peaceable life.

Again, I thank you for your consideration for suitability. I will not let you down, nor those who have been such a blessing to my life. God Bless!

(Results: At my 17th parole hearing, I received a five (5) year denial.)