

Some of our most impressive bursts of creativity come when we're alone, lost in our own thoughts. When we have the chance to reflect on both recent and past experiences free from the influence of friends, family, acquaintances, and even adversaries we begin to access something more authentic.

The thoughts we have in quiet, peaceful moments tend to be our truest. We can tune out the noise of the outside world, set aside the opinions of others, and simply think. In those moments, our minds are free to explore anything: the state of the world, our personal lives, the lives of those closest to us, and the full span of time the past, present, and future.

BY: JANE

The Lord is my Savior. My name is Carlton call me Carl. I speak about the Lord because without Him, I wouldn't be where I am today. He has brought me through many situations in life, and I am grateful.

I want to share a moment when He saved me. I was twelve years old, standing on a roof five floors up. I was trying to guess where the landing was on the other side. I started to run, preparing to jump when an inner voice told me to stop.

Thankfully, I listened.

If I hadn't, I would have jumped off the roof there was no landing on the other side. That was another moment when the Lord saved me.

BY: CARLTON WALKER



The Empty Chair

There's an empty chair at the family table that doesn't look empty it looks loud. It changes the entire room without moving.

People respond in different ways. Some avoid it, as if grief is contagious. Others fill the space with noise, hoping laughter can drown out the ache. Some go quiet, staring at their phones, pretending absence is just a gap.

But the chair remains.

The temptation is to either erase the person so everyone can "move on," or to romanticize them until they no longer feel real. Carrying the dead well is neither. It's telling the truth: they mattered, and it hurts.

Franciscan faith doesn't ask us to pretend. It asks us to stay present to God, to each other, and to what is real. Joy is still possible, but it becomes something sturdier not denial, but a love that can sit beside sorrow without flinching.

BY: RHYAN SCORPIO-RHYS



STREET VOICES

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Community Newsletter

This collection brings together faith, reflection, and lived experience through scripture, poetry, and personal writing. At its core is a message of trusting in God, staying aware, and continuing to grow through both challenges and quiet moments. The voices of Mike Gonzalez, John, Jae Webb, Jane, Denston Hinds, Caleb Thompson, Rhyan Scorpio-Rhys, and Carlton Walker each offer unique perspectives on life, growth, and belief in god. Complemented by artwork from Honesty and photography by Anders Sten, the collection gains added depth and expression.



As I gain and maintain in order to sustain,
My heart remains as light as a feather.
I make sure to remove any form of tether
That could hinder my performance in any
weather.

The goal isn't only to know, but also to do
better. Remain humble don't get too clever.
My ancestors and God remain by my side
forever.

I continuously think of ways to stay
grateful, Removing the many aspects that
can seem hateful. The ego may have once
been there to protect, But now is the time to
develop my own sense of respect.

BY: JOHN



*5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.*

PROVERBS 3:5-6 (NIV)



WEEKLY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

Be the first person to correctly answer all three trivia questions and win a gift card!

This Week's Trivia Questions

1. What percentage of the human body is made up of water?
2. What is the strongest land animal in the world?
3. In what year was New York City founded?

Answers to Last Week's Trivia Questions

1. What year was the first computer invented?
Commonly accepted Answer: 1830s.
2. Who is the most popular athlete in the world?
Answer: Cristiano Ronaldo
3. Which U.S. state has the smallest population?
Answer: Wyoming

FRANCISCAN 360 IS OPEN!

WHAT: Case Management, Computer Access, Mailing Address

WHERE: 144 W. 32nd Street

WHEN: Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 4pm
Scheduled appointments only on Friday from 9am - 4pm

WHO: All are welcome!

If you have any content to share for our newsletter please send content to streetvoicesnewsletter@gmail.com. We are in need of content such as a poem, lyrics, writing, thoughts, questions, image of your artwork or anything uplifting or informative. Anyone who contributes content for our newsletter will receive a \$10 gift card.

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The concrete is a cold companion, a gray expanse that knows my name better than the faces that flicker past like strobe lights in a city that never sleeps, yet never seems to wake up to the sight of me.

I am the ghost in the doorway, the shadow in the park, a collection of layers flannel, wool, and heavy silence staving off the bite of a wind that doesn't care for borders.

I watch the shoes: polished leather, scuffed sneakers, rushing toward destinations I can only imagine. They are clocks in motion, while I am still water at the edge of a fountain, reflecting a sky that looks the same for the rich and the forgotten.

There is an art to being invisible; you learn to shrink your soul until it fits in a cardboard box, until your voice becomes a whisper the wind carries away before it can reach a listening ear.

BY: JAE WEBB

Feeling Safe Today

Safety grows where awareness guides every careful step.

Bright minds notice hidden risks; quiet habits build strong shields around daily choices.

Steady focus keeps danger distant; clear plans prevent sudden harm.

Calm voices remind everyone to respect limits, follow guidance, and trust training.

Wisdom shared strengthens communities, and courage rises when people speak early, honest warnings.

Simple routines create safer paths; mindful actions protect friends, families, and neighbors.

Steady preparation reduces chaos; quick thinking supports better outcomes.

Small steps matter greatly consistency shapes reliable habits.

Thoughtful awareness builds lasting security. Every moment offers a chance to choose caution, value life, and guard the future through mindful living.

Safety remains a quiet strength, guiding each decision toward brighter tomorrows.

BY: MIKE GONZALEZ

I Secretly Admire You

**You're who God wants me to be.
There is no one on this earth like you
all the angels would agree.**

**The way you talk, the way you move,
I'm simply in love with you.**

**Even though you never notice me,
I still want the best for you.**

**I must admit, sometimes I'm flawed,
but I would try to make things right.**

**To see you win, to see you smile
you appear in my dreams at night.**

**If you needed me, I'd do my best;
I'd even sail the open sea.**

**I secretly admire you
I hope you'll make time for me.**

BY: DENSTON HINDS



Photograph by Anders Sten



Artwork by Honesty



The Bell That Would Not Be Silenced

The church stood at the edge of the square, its stone walls worn smooth by time and weather. Every morning, the bells rang not loudly, but steadily, like a heartbeat that refused to stop.

When the new government came, they called it progress. They called it equality. They promised a future where no one would go hungry and no one would stand above another. And for a while, people believed them.

But the church unsettled them.

It wasn't just a building it was memory. It was loyalty to something higher than the state. And that, they decided, could not be allowed.

So one gray morning, officials arrived with quiet authority. Orders were posted: the church would close, its land repurposed "for the people."

Father Mikhail read the notice twice, then folded it carefully and placed it inside his coat. He didn't argue. He simply nodded, as if acknowledging something he had always known was coming.

BY: CALEB THOMPSON

