

A Tale of TWO LIVES

by Dr. Yvonne Lewis

A Broken Man

Martin Stroud, the prosecutor in the Glen's case, is a broken man. When you watch an interview with him, you can see the pain in his eyes as he remorsefully acknowledges his role in putting Glen away.

In 1983, a local jeweler had been robbed and murdered. Since Glen had done some work for the victim, and had been guilty of stealing from him, Martin zeroed in on him and made him the primary suspect in the case. He admits to being arrogant and narcissistic in handling the case, and has said there were leads he should have followed up on, but didn't. He also adds that the cards were stacked against Glen from the beginning. The public defenders assigned to him had never even practiced defense law! One had had a civil law practice, and the other worked with wills and estates.

Martin had no physical evidence to connect Glen to the crime, and the lead witness in the case admitted being

A recent segment on CBS's *60 Minutes* program had a profound impact on me. It featured Glen Ford, a black man who spent nearly 30 years on death row in Louisiana's notorious Angola State Penitentiary.

Inmates on death row live in a 5-by-7-foot cell in summer temperatures that climb to 104° F. They are let out of their cells for one hour per day, and then returned to solitary confinement. Glen became one of the country's longest serving inmates, until evidence surfaced of his innocence. He was one of 149 inmates freed from death row since the United States re-instituted capital punishment.



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HE SAID, NO, BUT THAT HE WAS TRYING.**

coerced by police to make up her testimony. Additionally, there were no African Americans on the jury—Martin had seen to that!

After Glen was found guilty, Martin went on to have a successful law practice and was living comfortably, until a man named Jake Robinson confessed to the murder. Martin said he became literally sick when he discovered that he'd put the wrong man in prison. From then on, his life spiraled downward. He's a visibly broken man.

It Could Have Been Different

Last year, Glen Ford was exonerated and released from Angola and Martin said he went to him and asked forgiveness. During his interview with *60 Minutes*, Glen was asked if he could ever forgive Martin, and he said, no, but that he was trying.

What a wasted life! What brokenness in both men! I wish I could tell you that the pieces of Glen's life were put back together, and that he is living his last years in peace. But unfortunately, that is not the case. Shortly after being released, Glen was told by his doctors that he had stage 4 lung cancer, and had only a few months to live. Three weeks after the *60 Minutes* interview, he passed away.

This is a tale of two lives ruined

by hatred and bigotry—and one was unsalvageable. As I watched the program, I wondered if either of these men knew the Lord. How different their lives could have been had they been walking with Jesus!

Dare to Dream offers hope and resources to the offender and ex-offender on programs like *The New Journey*. We also have testimonies about life's twists and turns on *Urban Report*. Our prayer is to offer resources to those in need, and the Ultimate Resource is Jesus! ☺



The New Journey focuses on offenders and ex-offenders, and is hosted by an ex-offender. Their testimonies proclaim that there is hope after prison!



Urban Report is Dare to Dream's flagship program, featuring testimonies and a wide variety of topics.