



June 2010

Dear Family & Friends,

Allow me to introduce you to Sonya, she is fifteen years old, a leader of the Montalvo gang and is tough as nails. I easily understood why after hearing her story. Sonya, is one of her six brothers and sisters who live with her 21-year-old aunt because her mother is a heroin addict and her father is in prison for murder. She is beautiful young lady once you see past the anger and the tattoos. Last week, Sonya was suspended for threatening a student on campus, fighting seems to be her way of life.

Somehow and for some reason, God has placed Sonya right in the middle of my path. I didn't need another project nor do I have time for one. But, God's grace and sovereignty took hold of my heart. According to society, Sonya is marked for failure, the school thinks so, the courts thinks so, her Aunt thinks so and to be perfectly honest I thought so, too. Then, God reminded me of His grace in spite of failure, God's grace in my life in spite on my failure.

You see, Sonya and I are not the only failures. Sometime ago I read a book entitled, *The Incomplete Book of Failures*, written by Stephen Piles. Here are some of examples:

"Far too noisy, my dear Mozart. Far too many notes."

The Emperor of Ferdinand after the first performance of *The Marriage of Figaro*

"Flight by machines heavier than air is unpractical and insignificant . . .utterly impossible."

Simon Newcomb

"You will never amount to very much."

A Munich Schoolmaster to Albert Einstein, age ten.

Why does it seem that we magnify the failures in others as well as ourselves? Perhaps it is because, we so often look at the effects of sin rather than the wonder of God's grace. This summer, City Impact will be working with students with similar stories as Sonya. **We believe, God has destined them for eternal life.**

Would you like to help? Your extra gift this summer will be a worthwhile investment. We look forward to sharing the good news in the months to come.

Because of Him,

Betty Alvarez Ham
President