



# JAILHOUSE KEEPER

*The Foster Home Series*

*By ThinkJP.Com*

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I was working in the kitchen one afternoon when the phone rang. Jack answered and I could tell from his side of the conversation that we were being asked to take another foster person into our home.



He was asking about the background of the young man, his functioning capacity and I.Q. All the normal questions. As always, Jack told the case manager that he would talk things over with me and get back with them.



As he shared the conversation with me, I was shocked that the agency would ask us to take someone into our home straight from jail! In my mind anyone coming from jail *had* to be a criminal, and I just couldn't invite a "criminal" into my home.

Jack shared with me some of the history on this young man, and while my heart went out to him, I just didn't think this would be a very wise decision. Jack asked if we could tell them that we would at least go visit the young man in jail that evening, and of course I had no problem with that.





That evening after dinner, our sitter arrived as scheduled and we were off to visit the local jail.

The young man greeted us with a smile and one look told me this was NOT the environment for him. We chatted some and found him to be very honest and open about some of his problems. Our hearts went out to him and that very night he was released into our care.



The stories he shared with us about being physically, and emotionally abused by many of the males in his life was heart breaking. No young person should have to deal with the things this young man endured. We desperately wanted to help him find a better way of life and find peace within himself.



I can't say that everything was perfect for this young man once he came to live with us. We were there for him through his suicide attempts, running away, depression, and countless hours of counseling, etc.



One of the funniest stories was when he snuck out of his second story bedroom window and was caught in a nearby town for stealing a car, which they termed "Joy Riding".

Of course it would be his luck that the car he "borrowed" belonged to the local Police Chief.



Since he had very little experience driving, it wasn't hard for the policeman, on foot, to catch up to him. He was again released into our custody in the middle of the night.



Helping this young man to grow and mature into a "normal" law abiding citizen was challenging to say the least. However, after a time we realized that all he really needed was quality attention.



Late one night after rescuing him from another of his little escapades, Jack told him that he would actually give him a key to the house if he would just promise to use the front door the next time he chose to run away.

We told him that he could talk to us any time of the day or night and if he still wanted to run away after talking things through with us, we would happily take him wherever it was he wanted to go.



After that night, he never ran away again, but often sought the security of our open arms.







Years later, it was rewarding to see this young man of ours graduate from the local high school and begin attending a nearby community college. Shortly after that he moved into his own apartment.

We are still in touch with him, and we are very proud of him for doing so well on his own. It is a nice feeling to know that we had a part in helping him to become a responsible, law-abiding citizen.



Sometimes, we too get caught in a rut of doing those things that only hurt ourselves.



I have learned that when you have times that you feel like running away from it all, run to God. He is waiting with open arms to share His love with you.



*The End*