

The Lakeside

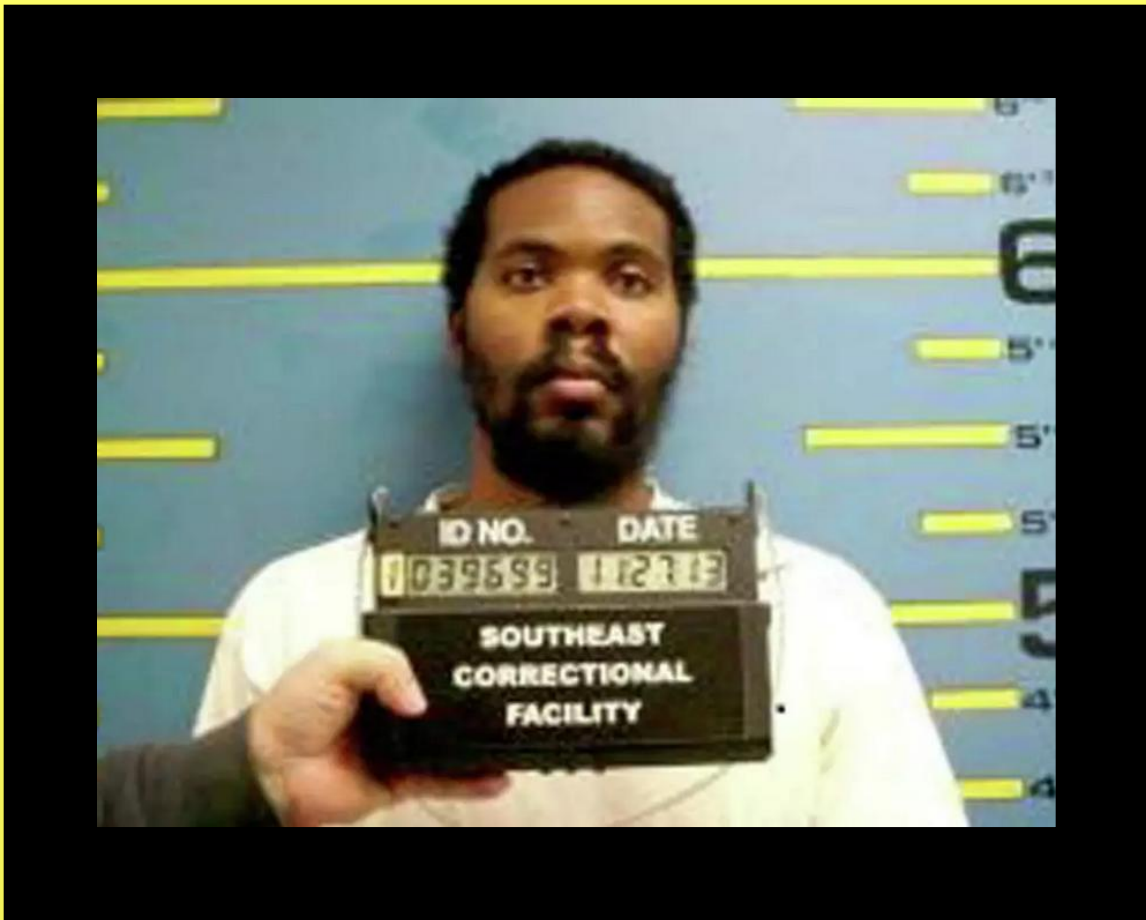


Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday March 16, 2026 - III John 1: 4

**4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking
in the truth**

Read III John 1 for meditation and inspiration.



MYSTERIOUS AND MAGICAL MERCY FINDS CORNEALIOUS "MIKE" ANDERSON

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

Often, we see only what we want to see or, more to the point, we see what we expect to see. Too often, this is the ugly, dirty and pain-filled world around us.

This compelling epitaph is engraved on the tombstone of poet Robert Frost: "I had a lover's quarrel with the world." Frost himself chose that. What re really means is

that he had a lover's quarrel with God. And, whether we realize it or not, the same is true of us all. We quarrel with the world and God because of the evil we encounter in our lives. Why is there so much war and hatred? Why so much sickness and sorrow? Why so much anxiety and insecurity? Why so much loneliness and emptiness? Why death? Why did God make such an imperfect world?

We lament that the world is not perfect, forgetting that if it were, there might not be a place for our loved ones or us in it. We all fall short of perfection. It was into this world that we were called. It was in this world that our loved ones were called. Consequently, whenever we quarrel with God's world, remember it's a lover's quarrel with Him. Never forget to love this world because it is a gift of Grace; it is a gift from God. It can become a place where we see the magic of Mercy and the mystery of Grace if we look with eyes of faith.

In 1999, Cornelious “Mike” Anderson was convicted of robbing a Burger King in Missouri and sentenced to 13 years in prison. After posting bail during his appeals process, he waited for the order to report to prison — but it never came. Due to a clerical error, authorities believed he was already in custody. For the next 13 years, Anderson lived openly under his real name, started a business, married, raised children, and had no further run-ins with the law.

In 2013, when his “release date” arrived, officials realized he had never served his sentence. Anderson was arrested and sent to prison, but the case drew national attention because of his law-abiding life during the error. After just three weeks, a judge ruled he should be released, stating that he had effectively rehabilitated himself while free. The story became a striking example of how the justice system can fail — and how mercy can sometimes prevail.

This is a sign of just how God can be understood in Jesus who paid our debt for us, no clerical error but God’s Mercy displayed on Calvary’s Cross so that we might live and live eternally.

In the abounding of God’s Merciful Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger



**AI DEEPPAKES ARE IMPERSONATING PASTORS TO TRY TO SCAM
THEIR CONGREGATIONS**

Though we do not readily make our church member directory available except by request from a member, we have already experienced a few attempted scams on several of our members. Someone posing as our pastor Roger asks for money through gift cards or other means. BE ADVISED THAT PASTOR ROGER WILL NEVER, NEVER, NEVER ASK FOR MONEY THROUGH INTERNET MESSAGE OR TEXT OR EMAIL. **NEVER!**

Religious communities like Lakeside Presbyterian Church around the US are getting hit with AI depictions of their leaders sharing incendiary sermons or comments reported to be their own real feelings and ideas and asking for donations. Please do not fall for this or any other scam on members of our church and report this to us so we can alert our congregation to this activity and help them guard against this cruel hoax.