

Dear Blog-site,

11-23-'10/TUE

I'm not sure how to approach the public about my life. So, I'll start with an introduction of myself. My name is John. Most call me \$lugger- due to my problem-resolution "issues". And, of course, the fact that I'm born & raised in Louisville, KY. Guess it goes hand-in-hand.

I was referred to this site by a "potential" friend of mine... still not sure of his/her intentions. So, we'll play it by ear. I'm a thoughtful/respectful person. So, I feel obliged to consider this persons' thoughtfulness.

I'm guessing this site may have my vitals posted along with "the all-so popular" mug-shot. If not, I'm 24yrs old & currently incarcerated in S.O.C.F (The 'Luke'), a maximum-security prison. I've relocated 3 times & finally trapped myself in the worst prison in Ohio because of my 'problem-resolution issues'. Guess you'll have 'that' when surrounded/secluded with criminal-minded individuals.

Some of us become so stagnated in the atmosphere, that we fail to realize that we're making no progress. The environment we're forced into is far from rehabilitation. Rehabilitation

starts with willingness. How can 80% of these guys change when <sup>they</sup> can't think for the future? Let alone, be honest, willing, have a sense of self-respect for themselves? Sometimes I have <sup>to</sup> step outside of myself because I do the same thing constantly. I'm just blessed to be able to see it. I'm an honest person. No lie! ☺

I become so 'fed-up' with the everyday stress this place causes, that sometimes I can't 'force' optimism. Guess that's why it's called 'hard time.' I like challenges. That's exactly what life is. The way I perceive this, is if one can overcome the moral & physical challenges of a place like this... it'll make life 'that' much easier in society. 'Normality' almost sounds surreal once one becomes stagnated, mentally, in this penitentiary environment. We start to believe 'this' is normal. It's almost sickening.

Here I stand. Never will I fall again. I've been to the 'bottoms' in life. THAT is sickening... but strength. My life has so many trials that failure isn't an option. In every negative, there is something positive if you dig deep enough, depending on your perception of life. Optimism is a 'must' in a place like this if you want to

stay sane. Somehow, I've managed... even though the odds are against me. An environment like this will do one of two things... build character, or demoralize you. The choice is left to our discretion, minus the dissolved environment.

What do I do in here? I try to keep my circle limited ; only associate with others when needed. Those I 'do' embrace, I give my love/loyalty to. A business oriented person, such as myself, associates with others regularly. That forces me to stay in the 'mix' of things. You'll have your ups & downs. It's all about strategy in here. Sometimes you need to use muscle because swallowing your pride & biting your tongue, ; 'using your head' just doesn't suffice. And I refuse to be disrespected on any level. Respect is something I take very seriously. I'll give any person my utmost, unless I have reason to do so otherwise. I expect nothing less.

Through all of the headache's in here... I still smile. I close my eyes & take some deep breaths & think of all the little things I took for granted when I was free. Those are the things that mean the most.

5 yrs in on 7! Almost there. To all

of those reading this, don't worry about me. I'm an intelligent & strong man who refuses to let this place break me. I have a little wisdom in life, nevertheless, not wise enough. I take heed to any type of knowledge or advice that may be given. Feel free. As long as it doesn't jeopardize my integrity, I'll gladly accept. To all of you...

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Take Care,

PS. - Feel free to ask  
any questions.

John McCallister  
-AKA-

- \$lugGER-