

HIGH RECITIVISM?

There was an article in "USA Today" on the 14th of April this year on the high recitivism rate of released prisoners by Kevin Johnson. In reading this article I could not help but feel that something was missing from the authors equation. In this state the prisoners that end up playing merry-go-round are the very "low risk, non-violent" offenders that are lauded as being suitable for release. The truth is that those of us that are serving longer terms and have a genuine remorse for our actions are the least likely to offend. Those "low risk, non-violent" offenders meet that criteria because there was no victim aside from themselves in the commission of their crime. They tend to be the drug users and alcoholics that committed a felony without injury to another or threat thereof. Prison has become a housing project rather than a penitentiary. People are housed at maximum capacity for the lowest cost instead of seeking to change for the better the character of the person. The State of California ~~has~~ for the last thirty years largely has failed to comply with court rulings toward health care and treatment of its inmates. The predominate "law and order" campaigns of elected officials to appear tough on crime have flooded the prisons to the point that overcrowding forced beds to be placed in gyms and building dayrooms. These are places that were never engineered to be lived in and lack adequate hygiene & facility resources. If you were to watch the comprehensive actions and decisions of the prison management it would be fairly easy to make a conclusion that there is an appearance of intent to create an atmosphere for unrest and violent behavior among the inmates. For if there can be made a case for more officers and greater pay there exists an incentive for less than ethical decisions by those in charge.

TIME TO CHOOSE

It's oft' time in the hearts of men
That anger swells and overwhelms
Our thoughts and actions dwell in sin
And there's no one 'round but ourselves

We swear that we are in control
And masters of what burns within
We deceive ourselves 'bout our soul
That it's not worth considerin'

Our lone soul it concerns us not
Until were at deaths open door
Then we realize what we've bought
That dooms us to forever more

Forever from the god of life
But knowing that He's there
Doomed to an eternal strife
In that pit that burns the air
And God will have the last voice
With judgement waiting for us all
And now it's here that we've no choice
As to if we rise or fall

So now it's time to choose
The things we're living for
By the self so much to lose
But with faith so much the more.

PATHWAYS

I have no glory on my own
I see the seeds that I have sown
The thorns and briars grew so tall
They blocked the view and caused my fall
The path of life was overgrown
With all the seeds that I had sown
Dark and weedy, twisting, end unseen
Of where it led I did not glean

A light, a light, had not I
Not one to find or one to buy
A walk in shadows did I plod
I would not use the light of God
I tried so hard but barely crawled
The strength of man I held in awe
In myself did I sit and rest
I thought I knew which way was best

The book it laid upon that shelf
Collecting dust who knows what else
A spark at times flew from the page
I would not heed I earned my wage
The sparks they grew into the light
My soul, it showed was darkened blight
His grace was offered if I turned
And if not, I'd surely burn

So.....

In this world of hurt and toil
I now walk on holy soil
To fight this flesh which wears quite thin
And live my life complete Him.

ARE YOU AT WAR WITH GOD?

1. Hey You! Are you listening? Hey You! I got some questions...
2. Hey! I've still got more questions. Yes, I do have more questions...
3. So life is full of questions. And yes I've got more questions...

1. Are you at war with God? Are you always fighting?
2. Now are you truly satisfied? Do you know where you're going?
3. So what do you know of Him? What are you rejecting?

1. What exists inside you? What do you find delighting?
2. Are you on auto-drive? Are your wounds always showing?
3. Are you full of misconceptions? What set you into hating?

1. Is it the alcohol? The sex, the drugs, the strife?
2. Have you ever known happiness? Do you sleep well at night?
3. Why do you believe the lie? What have you ever gained?

1. What truly motivates? Why do you live your life?
2. Do you have peace inside? Does your soul seem all right?
3. Has it all gone away? Does your hurt give you pain?

Chorus

So what are your answers? Do you even have some?

Do you know of the God above who gave you life?

He holds all the answers. He even planned a way for you to survive.

and Jesus is His name, yes, Jesus is His name

He became the sacrifice so you might have a life.

THESE ARE LYRICS STILL LOOKING FOR A
MELODY + HARMONY.