

CONTINUED FROM JANUARY 2003 —

So, Here I am AT CIMARRON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, IT'S A PRIVATE PRISON, I WAS PUT ON C-SOUTH AND I HEARD OF A PROGRAM ON DELTA SOUTH CALLED "NEW LIFE THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY", A BEHAVIOR + THINKING PROGRAM SO TO SPEAK. IT ALSO ADDRESSED DRUG PROBLEMS. I IMMEDIATELY ASKED MY CASE MANAGER TO CALL OVER THERE TO SEE IF I COULD GET INTO THE PROGRAM, THE NEXT DAY I WAS MOVED OVER THERE, THE PROGRAM CONSISTED OF 3 PHASES AND THE PROGRAM LASTED NO LESS THEN 5 MONTHS. I SETTLED RIGHT IN AND FELT AT EASE THERE, AS IT FELT KIND OF LIKE A FAMILY SETTING, HAD TO GO TO MORNING MEETINGS, LEARN A PHILOSOPHY (WHICH I STILL REMEMBER) + HAD CLASSES THROUGH OUT THE DAY MONDAY - FRIDAY. WE HAD A GOOD STAFF TEAM OVER THERE, AS THEY HELPED US WITH CLASSES + ALONG THE WAY; BUT MOSTLY THE INMATES RAN THE HOUSE AND HELPED ONE ANOTHER. WE WERE TAUGHT TO TAKE CHARGE OF OUR LIFE + TAKE OWNERSHIP. TO ACTUALLY THINK BEFORE WE ACTED ON ANY SITUATION. TO THINK FOR OUR SELVES AND TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES IN LIFE. WE WERE TO OWN OUR MISTAKES AND CHANGE THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT EVERY SITUATION. IT HELPED ME A LOT, BECAUSE I NEVER TOOK CHARGE OF MY OWN DECISIONS. NOW I KNOW THAT I DO HAVE A CHOICE ~~THE~~ TO MAKE MY OWN OUTCOME IN LIFE BECAUSE OF THE DECISIONS I MAKE. YOU ALWAYS HAVE THAT SPLIT SECOND IN ANY SITUATION TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE. ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOU MAKE THE OUTCOME OF YOUR LIFE, NO ONE ELSE.

WELL, I GRADUATED IN NOVEMBER AND MADE THE CHOICE TO STAY OVER THERE AS AN INTERN. AN INTERN WAS IN CHARGE OF THE HOUSE SO TO SPEAK, MONDAY - FRIDAY. WE RAN MORNING MEETINGS AND HELPED OUT ANYONE WHO CAME TO US WITH A PROBLEM OR JUST A QUESTION. I ENJOYED IT VERY MUCH, BECAUSE IT SEEMED MY WHOLE LIFE I WAS THE TO GO TO GUY FOR EVERYTHING, BUT THIS TIME THERE WAS NO PEER PRESSURE; IT WAS JUST HELPING ONE ANOTHER THROUGH EVERY DAY LIFE AND PRISON. I STAYED OVER THERE FOR 2 1/2

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YEARS BEFORE THE PROGRAM WAS SHUT DOWN AND MOVED TO ANOTHER FACILITY. I FELT SORTA SAD, BECAUSE FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE I WAS FEELING AS THOUGH I HAD ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING GOOD IN MY LIFE AND ALSO I BELIEVE I MADE A DIFFERENCE IN A FEW ~~OF~~ LIVES. THERE WAS 2 STAFF WHO WERE HARD ON EVERYONE TO A POINT, BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO SEE THE INMATES SUCCEED AND CHANGE THEIR LIFE AROUND FOR THE BETTER. THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR WAS ALWAYS HAPPY WHEN HE HEARD OF SOMEONE WHO GOT OUT AND SUCCEEDED, BECAUSE HE HIMSELF WAS ONCE LOCKED UP IN FEDERAL PRISON YEARS AGO. THE ONE SAYING I USE TO TELL OTHER INMATES WAS "WHEN YOU GET OUT, NEVER LOSE THE FACT OF WHERE YOU JUST CAME FROM (PRISON). AS SOON AS YOU DO, YOU'LL SLIP AND COME BACK TO PRISON!" I'LL MISS THE PROGRAM.

THIS PLACE ISN'T TO BAD, SO TO SPEAK, THE VISITING ISN'T ALL THAT GOOD BECAUSE YOU CAN'T WALK AROUND WITH YOUR VISITORS OR GO OUTSIDE, AS OTHER FACILITIES CAN. SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE NOW FOR ALMOST 9 YRS, THERE HAS ONLY BEEN 1 KILLING, AN INCIDENT THAT SHOULD'VE NEVER HAPPENED. THE STAFF WE USE TO HAVE HERE WERE MORE IN TUNE TO YOUR NEEDS, NOW IT TAKES SEVERAL PIECES OF PAPERWORK TO GET THINGS DONE. SO MUCH HAS CHANGED THESE PAST 3 YRS. OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS HAS SHUT DOWN MOST OF THE PROGRAMS AND THINGS TO DO, BECAUSE OF MONEY WOES. MOST INMATES NOW JUST SIT IDLE, BECAUSE THERE IS NO MORE REHABILITATION IN THE SYSTEM ANYMORE. WHICH IS A SHAME, BECAUSE WITHOUT PROGRAMS AND HELP OF SOME KIND; THE RECIDIVISM RATE IS REALLY HIGH.

IT'S NOW JANUARY 2007 AND WHILE I WAS WAITING AT MAIL CALL, I WAS SURPRISED TO RECEIVE A LETTER FROM A LADY IN PRIOR OKLAHOMA. I DIDN'T KNOW OF ANYONE IN PRIOR, SO I WAS ANXIOUS TO READ OF ITS CONTENTS. HER NAME WAS LINDA AND SHE CAME ACROSS MY NAME & PHOTO ON AN INMATE PEN-PAL SITE. I HAD FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT, BECAUSE I SENT OFF FOR IT 8 MONTHS PRIOR AND HADN'T RECEIVED ANY RESPONSES. SAID SHE THOUGHT I MIGHT NEED SOMEONE

TO HEAR FROM, SO SHE WROTE. IT WAS JUST A HALF PAGE LITTLE NOTE, WANTING TO KNOW IF I'D LIKE HER AS A PEN-PAL. SAID SHE WAS 38 YRS OLD (HOPE SHE DOESN'T KICK ME FOR SAYING THAT) AND HAD 2 BOYS & 1 GIRL. AS WITH ALL NEW PEOPLE I MEET, I'M ALWAYS A LITTLE SKEPTICAL & NERVOUS. MAINLY BECAUSE OF MY CRIME AND I'M LOCKED UP AND WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO WRITE ME. SO, I WROTE HER BACK AND JUST THANKED HER FOR TAKING THE TIME TO WRITE SOMEONE AS MYSELF AND WOULD LOVE TO BE PEN-PALS WITH HER. I TOLD HER OF MY CRIME AND SOME WHAT OF MY PAST LIFE, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO HIDE FROM ANYONE ABOUT MY LIFE, SO I DON'T SUGAR COAT IT. IT SEEMS NOW IN LIFE THAT PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO HEAR THE TRUTH, OR SHOULD I SAY; HEAR ABOUT HOW THINGS REALLY ARE. I SAY THINGS AS THEY ARE, AND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR THE TRUTH OR GET A DIRECT ANSWER FROM ME, DON'T ASK. DIDN'T KNOW IF I'D HEAR BACK FROM HER BECAUSE OF MY SITUATION, BUT I SENT THE LETTER ON, IN HOPES OF HAVING SOMEONE WHO HALF-WAY CARED ABOUT ME TO WRITE. WELL, SHE WROTE BACK AND TO THIS DAY (OCTOBER 2011) WE ARE STILL WRITING ONE ANOTHER AND HAVE SHARED EVERYTHING OF OUR PAST & MORE. IT MAKES MY DAY TO RECEIVE A LETTER FROM HER AND TO ALSO CALL HER NOW AND THEN & TO HEAR HER LAUGH. I HAVE EVEN GOTTEN A TATTOO IN HER HONOR. SHE IS CLOSE TO MY HEART AND I LOVE HER FOR WHAT SHE'S GIVEN ME, DREAMS, HOPE AND TRUE FEELINGS OF HONESTY & LOVE. I OWE HER SO MUCH. HOPEFULLY ONE DAY I'LL BE ABLE TO PAY HER BACK.

ANYWAYS, NOT A LOT HAS GONE ON FROM 2007 TO THIS DAY, NOVEMBER 6th, 2011. IT HAS GOTTEN PRETTY BORING AROUND HERE. I WORK ABOUT 4 HRS A DAY, WORKOUT EVERY OTHER DAY, STILL DRAW FROM TIME TO TIME & TRY TO WORK ON MY POETRY WHEN I'M IN THE MOOD. FROM THIS POINT ON, I'LL BE WRITING ABOUT EVERYDAY LIFE, WHAT I FEEL AS DAYS GO BY & THE DAY TO DAY KAOS OF PRISON LIFE. PLUS I'LL THROW IN A POEM & DRAWING

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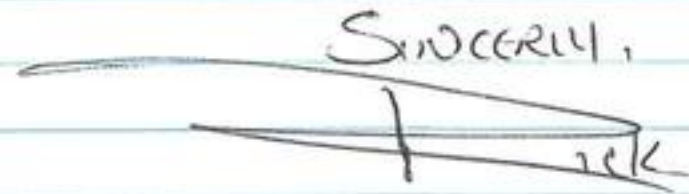
EVERY NOW AND THEN. SOME OF WHAT I'LL BE TALKING ABOUT ALSO IS ISSUES IN PRISON + LAW + POLICY CHANGES THAT AFFECT AN INMATES TIME.

WELL, I'VE COME A LONG WAY IN 25 1/2 YRS AND HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MANY THINGS AND HOPE TO FURTHER MY EDUCATION + GET MY DEGREE. I STILL HAVE MY UPS AND DOWNS, AS ANYONE DOES AND I'M SURE I'LL KEEP HAVING THEM. I HOPE THAT MY LIFE SO FAR HASN'T BEEN TOO BORING AND YOU'LL CONTINUE TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH MY WRITINGS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS STORY OR EPISODE OF MY SO-CALLED LIFE AND ALSO EVENTS AS THEY COME ALONG. HOPE ALL MY STORIES, DRAWINGS, POEMS AND IDLE CHAT TO COME WILL HAVE SOME KIND OF POSITIVE OUTCOME ON THEIR LIFE OR SOMEONE THEY KNOW. ALWAYS REMEMBER "YOU OWN THE OUTCOME OF YOUR LIFE IN ANY SITUATION, JUST BY THE CHOICES YOU MAKE".

THANK YOU.

SINCERELY,



P.S. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE PEOPLE IN MY LIFE AND HAVE COME INTO MY LIFE FOR ALL OF THEIR SUPPORT + LOVE. YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE.



SMILE
SOMEONE
CARES!?!?

