

FROM: 10157091

TO:

SUBJECT: #8 - Response to "Sashal", and an update

DATE: 11/24/2011 01:33:58 PM

"Sashal", thank you for your comment posted in reply to "#1 - About Myself". It helps to know there are people out there who are giving enough of their time to volunteer on behalf of the prison population. I don't know what department you volunteer for, but I've dealt with several of the chapel volunteers here, and they all seem to be very nice people.

Now for the update: I played bass guitar for a band here called "Small Town" for about 8 months. After several cancellations, we finally got to do a live performance on the rec yard last Labor Day weekend. I still have a long way to go, but I was impressed with how far we'd advanced, considering that we'd only come together as a group less than a year before.

I finally left because of scheduling conflicts with work and my computer hardware class. The compound is only open from 6:30 am to 8:15 pm. 8 hours of work and 3 hours of class, combined with time taken out for meals, didn't leave enough time for practice. I feel it's important that I had fun while I was in the band, and that I learned. Music and computers are two of my greatest interests, and I'm very happy to have had the opportunity to work with them both extensively. Since I have to be here anyway, that is.

In May of 2012, I will be released to halfway house. Halfway house is a transitional program to help inmates get used to being free again. Many people don't realize how different it is in here! I'm both excited and anxious. I don't know how the world is going to be for me when I get out there, so I'm trying to give myself all the advantages I can before I walk out that door. No one is going to hold my hand, and I feel like I have to be one step above everyone around me if I'm going to be successful in family, career and relationships. I want to be the best man I can be, which isn't something I can say I've always strived for.

Thanks to everyone who takes the time to read these blogs. You don't necessarily have to leave a comment, but understand that just by being here, you are supporting us.