

JUNE 13, 2013: "OUTTA SIGHT, OUTTA MIND". THATS WHAT WE DEAL WITH IN PRISON ON A DAILY BASIS. AFTER AWHILE OF NOT BEING AROUND, YOU'RE FORGOTTEN. I HAD A FRIEND, MARIA, AND AFTER JUST 1 YEAR OF KNOWING HER, SHE BAILED ON ME. THE PRESSURES OF HAVING A LOVED ONE IN PRISON CAN BE VERY OVERWHELMING. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR, YOU MAKE A FEW SACRIFICES. JUST THE OTHER DAY I RECEIVED A GREETING CARD FROM A WOMAN I HAVE NEVER MET. LISA, SHE IS A FRIEND OF MY FAMILY'S BUT I'VE NEVER MET HER. AND SHE RECENTLY GOT OUT OF PRISON & WANTED TO SEND ME A CARD TO TELL ME TO KEEP MY HEAD UP & NEVER GIVE UP HOPE. SHE TOLD ME THAT SHE KNOWS MY FAMILY, & SHE DOES KNOW THEM, & THAT THEY ALL LOVE ME. THE SECOND PART THOUGH, I DOUBT THAT. MY FAMILY HAS GROWN SO FAR FROM ME THAT HOW CAN THEY STILL CARE? I'VE BEEN IN PRISON FOR 15 YEARS NOW. I ASK WHY MY OWN DAUGHTER DOESN'T CONTACT ME, BUT INSIDE I KNOW THE ANSWER. SHE HASN'T SEEN ME SINCE SHE WAS 7. SHE USED TO WRITE BUT BEING BOUNCED FROM FOSTER HOME TO FOSTER HOME, I CAN'T EXPECT HER TO WANT ME IN HER LIFE. THEY POSTED A MEMO ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN HERE SAYING THEY ARE OFFERING A NEW CLASS CALLED "INSIDE-OUT DADS; LEARN TO BE A BETTER FATHER". AND AS I READ IT, I SAID I'LL TAKE THIS CLASS, IF IT CAN HELP AT ALL WITH HELPING MY CHILD, I'LL DO IT. THEN AT THE BOTTOM IT SAYS IT'S ONLY FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE A FEW YEARS LEFT ON THEIR SENTENCE. SO AS A LIFER, I'M NOT ABLE TO TAKE THIS CLASS. I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO HELP MY DAUGHTER, BUT NO WORD FROM HER IN 6 MONTHS, I HOPE THAT SHE HAS JUST FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME & THAT NOTHING ELSE IS WRONG. BUT THATS WHAT HAPPENS IN PRISON. FAMILY TIES ARE EITHER STRENGTHENED OR THEY'RE SEVERED. PEOPLE TEND TO FORGET ABOUT BASIC HUMAN COMPASSION. WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I DIDN'T HAVE THAT. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT. BUT PRISON HAS TAUGHT IT TO ME. JUST A FEW HOURS AGO, 2 LITTLE BIRDS FLEW INTO THE PRISON THROUGH A RARELY OPENED WINDOW. HAPPENS OFTEN & EVERY TIME THE SAME THING HAPPENS, THEY GET LUCKY & FIND A WAY OUT OR THEY DIE. BUT I DON'T FORGET ABOUT THEM. I CUT UP AN APPLE & CRUSHED UP THE REMAINDER OF MY SALTINE CRACKERS FOR THEM & THREW THEM INTO AN AREA WHERE NO PRISONERS WALK SO THE BIRDS CAN BE LEFT ALONE & FEEL SAFE WHILE THEY EAT. I'VE PUT WATER OUT FOR THEM IN THE PAST BUT THEY NEVER DRINK IT. I'VE YET TO UNDERSTAND WHY. BUT AS LONG AS I'M STILL HERE, THESE LITTLE BABY BIRDS WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN. BEING FORGOTTEN REALLY SUCKS. I SEE SO MANY MEN IN HERE WHO WERE ONCE BAD PEOPLE, BUT NOW, THEY'RE JUST FORGOTTEN OLD MEN WHO ARE JUST WASTING AWAY UNTIL THE DAY THEY DIE IN HERE. THIS IS MY FATE. I'VE DONE NOTHING TO DESERVE A BETTER LIFE. I'M UNABLE TO HELP ANYONE FROM IN HERE, I'M UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING TO REDEEM MYSELF FROM WHERE I SIT. SO I TO FIGURE OUT WHAT I CAN DO FROM IN HERE FOR SOMEONE ELSE. I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY. I MAKE 21c AN HOUR WORKING. DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY IDEAS? AS A HUMAN BEING, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE LIKE ME, WHO HAS TAKEN A LIFE, WHAT CAN SOMEONE IN PRISON DO IN ORDER TO "ATTEMPT" TO REDEEM OURSELVES? I DON'T WANT TO BE FORGOTTEN, I DON'T THINK ANYONE DOES. EVERY DAY I LOOK AT PICTURES OF MY JUSTINE, & I REMEMBER HER EVEN THOUGH SHE HAS BEEN GONE OVER 10 YEARS, I WILL NOT LET HER BE FORGOTTEN. MAYBE I HAVE A MULTIPLE MESSAGES IN THIS WEEKS POST. DEAD OR ALIVE, NONE OF US WANT TO BE FORGOTTEN. SO EVEN IF YOU HAVE NO ONE IN PRISON MAYBE YOU HAVE SOMEONE THATS FAR & YOU DON'T TALK ENOUGH. PICK UP THE PHONE, GIVE 'EM A CALL, WRITE A LETTER. DON'T LET THEM FEEL FORGOTTEN. THAT OLD SAYING WE HAVE IN HERE, "OUTTA SIGHT, OUTTA MIND", DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU & THE ONES YOU LOVE. CIAO.