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It has been several months since my last blog posting, and it's been a world-wind affair, or so it seems. It has been full of highs and lows, bad to almost unbearable; good to amazingly (wonderfully) good. How is that possible? Probably, only in a prison setting, prison is like being transported to another dimension. If you have never been incarcerated, then even if I could explain, or define what prison really is you still wouldn't understand. However, I shall catch you up on what I've been doing these past few months.

I was transferred from a maximum secure prison to a medium secure prison. Which is a very good move. In order to even be considered for parole, you must transition down in the WDOC (Wisconsin Department of Corrections). So you go from Max to Med to Min secure prisons. I was not feeling this place, the new prison, when I first transferred here, in June, of this year. Now a few months later, it is not so unbearable anymore. Besides, again, in order to be considered for parole, this was a necessary move.

Since I've been here I finished my paralegal course, with a 98% average, and hopefully I will be taking my advanced paralegal course soon. I really needed some time off! I just finished my Restorative Justice Program, which was very draining, heartbreaken, and painful, but it was also very enlightening, transformational, uplifting, and life changing. Restorative Justice is a program that forces us (Prisoners') to see how our crimes not only affects us, our families, and the Criminal Justice System, but the victims, our communities, and society as a whole. As prisoners we don't understand or see the rippling effects that our crimes plays in every aspect of societal statistics, and behavior. Restorative Justice also begins you face to face with actual victims, who are either actual victims, or someone that they love(d) was a victim.

But I will tell you that once you meet these amazing women, these survivors, you no longer see them as victims, as being weak, and scared. These beautiful women stand strong in the face of adversity, and they win everyday.

I have always believed, and I still believe that whatever good or bad fortune may come our way, we can always give it meaning and transform it into something of value.

Hermann Hesse

these women have transformed the bad into something of value. These women could only see

I am determined to leave prison a better person than when I entered-with hope, determination, compassion, and integrity.

I will fill each day of my incarceration with love, joy, and creative growth.

I will not allow my faith, inner strength, gentle spirit, or loving generosity to be damaged by this or any other hostile environment.

I am not a prisoner, but temporarily contained, worthwhile human being waiting for my release, with lots to offer the world.

When I read that,it just hit me! This is me, and this is my personal Affirmation to myself. I've said this many times to myself, about myself, just not as eloquently. So kudos to Mr. Jerry Gilles.

Until next time. My God bless and keep you all safe and healthy during this Holiday Season's. And please have a blessed Christmas, and very Happy and Productive New Year's.

Teze