

AN UNEXPECTED CHRISTMAS GIFT

DEC. 16, 2013: 9:30am: WATCHING A SHOW CALLED "THE DOCTORS"

I'VE HAVEN'T WRITTEN ANYTHING IN ABOUT 2 WEEKS & THIS MORNING I WANTED TO SHARE MY GOOD NEWS. FIRST I NEED TO SAY THAT IF ANYONE HAS SENT ME ANY RESPONSES OR COMMENTS WITHIN THE LAST 4-6 WEEKS, THEN PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR NOT RESPONDING BECAUSE I HAVE NOT GOTTEN THEM. I WANT TO SPEAK ABOUT FAMILY, FRIENDS AND EMOTIONAL/MENTAL SUPPORT. IN PRISON WHEN YOU'RE ALONE, WHEN YOU HAVE NO ONE, YOU WILL SPIRAL DOWN HILL. BEING IN HERE FOR LIFE CAN DESTROY YOUR IDENTITY. IT'S HARD FOR ME TO EXPLAIN. IMAGINE BEING IN YOUR HOUSE, ALONE, NEVER SPEAKING YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS AGAIN. I AM NOT GREAT WITH WORDS SO I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS. BUT LIFE IS SO MUCH EASIER, BETTER, HAPPIER, & LIVABLE WHEN YOU HAVE A SUPPORT SYSTEM. LAST MONTH WHEN MY DAUGHTERS SOCIAL WORKER, HANNAH, CAME TO VISIT ME. AFTER MY NERVOUSNESS WENT AWAY, WE SPOKE ABOUT MY FATHER. HANNAH ASKED ME IF THERE WAS ANYONE ON MY FATHERS SIDE OF THE FAMILY. I TOLD HER I HAD NO CLUE. I DID HOWEVER HAVE A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE OF MY FATHERS KILLING BY THE PHILADELPHIA POLICE. IT SAID "AT THE TIME DEATH ROBERT COSTANZO IS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE SANDRA AND 2 DAUGHTERS AGES 5 & 2". THATS ALL THE INFO I HAD. SO HANNAH TOLD ME TO SEND IT TO HER AND SHE'LL SEE WHAT SHE CAN DO. AND MY CHRISTMAS PRESENT, THE BEST PRESENT I HAVE EVER GOTTEN, ON TUESDAY DEC. 10, A WOMAN WROTE TO ME AND SAID HI, I'M YOUR SISTER JEN. THEN THE VERY NEXT DAY I GET A LETTER SAYING I'M YOUR STEP MOM SANDY. HANNAH FOUND MY FAMILY. I WAS BLOWN AWAY. I WROTE THEM BACK IMMEDIATELY. I WAS SO EXCITED. AND IT KILLS ME INSIDE THAT I CAN'T JUST DRIVE TO THEM AND MEET THEM. SO NOW THANK TO HANNAH, I HAVE ADDED SANDY, AND MY 2 SISTERS JEN AND ANN INTO MY LIFE. AND EVEN THOUGH MY LITTLE SISTERS ARE NOT SO LITTLE, JEN IS 30 NEXT MONTH AND ANN IS 27 IN MARCH, IT'S NEVER TOO LATE. HANNAH HAS DONE SO MUCH GOOD IN MY LIFE AND MY DAUGHTERS LIFE, SHE HAS TRULY MADE THE DIFFERENCE THIS YEAR. NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS WOULD I HAVE THOUGHT I WOULD EVER HAVE FOUND MY SISTERS. I WAS 15 WHEN I LEARNED OF THEIR EXISTENCE. SINCE THEN, I HAVE TRIED TO FIND THEM. I HAD NO IDEA HOW SO EVERY EFFORT FAILED. BUT IN THIS NEW INTERNET AGE, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER. IT WASN'T. NO ONE I KNEW COULD FIND THEM. BUT WHEN THEY WROTE ME, THEY SAID THEY HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR ME FOR MANY YEARS BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW MY LAST NAME. NOW WE ARE SEARCHING FOR MY BROTHER BOBBY SLINNEY, SON OF MARY. MY SISTERS AND SANDY WANT TO FIND HIM AS WELL SO HOPEFULLY THIS HAPPENS. HANNAH MET WITH MY FAMILY, THEY LIVE IN OHIO, AND I AM REALLY EXCITED TO HEAR HOW THIS WENT. FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, THERE ARE 4 BIRTHDAYS I WANT TO MENTION. MY FRIEND LATRICIA WILL BE 51 ON JAN. 16, MY OLDER BROTHER & SISTER DAWN & JERRY (TWINS) WILL BE 40 ON THE 27TH, AND FINALLY TO MY LITTLE SISTER (: JEN WHO WILL BE 30 ON THE 24TH,

I WANT TO WISH YOU'S ALL A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND THANK YOU'S ALL FOR BEING IN MY LIFE. JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE IS FAMILY, OR A BLOOD RELATIVE, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY WILL REMAIN IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU COME TO PRISON. MOST GUYS ARE ABANDONED BY THEIR FAMILIES, FOR WHATEVER THE REASON, AFTER TOO MUCH TIME IN HERE. I'VE BEEN IN THAT POSITION BEFORE AND BELIEVE ME, IT SUCKS. SO FINDING MY SISTERS AND HAVING THEM IN MY LIFE, AND KNOWING THAT SANDY, A WOMAN I HAVE NEVER MET OR KNOWN, WHO ALSO FEELS THE SAME, IT'S A GIFT FROM GOD & I AM SO GRATEFUL. THEY LIVE 30-60 MINUTES FROM MY DAUGHTER SO I AM SECRETLY PRAYING THAT THEY CAN BE A PART OF KRISTA'S LIFE ALSO. MY LITTLE GIRL NEEDS FAMILY CLOSE TO HER. SHE NEEDS A SUPPORT SYSTEM AND THIS IS WHAT HANNAH SPECIALIZES IN, SO THIS SUPPORT SYSTEM THAT SHE IS BUILDING, I AM PRAYING IT WORKS. I KNOW THIS WONT BE ON MY BLOG IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS BUT JAN 1 ST IS A NEW YEAR. I IMPLORE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU'S READING THIS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH SOMEONE THAT YOU LOST TOUCH WITH. SOMEONE THAT MEANT SOMETHING TO YOU. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE FAMILY. I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE PEOPLE, AND NOW I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE THEM COME INTO MY LIFE. AND THIS IS SUCH A BETTER FEELING. I HAVE MORE FAMILY NOW THAN I EVER IMAGINED. I HOPE EVERYONE ELSE IS AS BLESSED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. TAKE CARE, STAY SAFE AND GOD BLESS. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR. CIAO.