

TAKIN THE GOOD WITH THE BAD
"Change In Spite of Oppression"

Chapter I

by Timothy J. Muise

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Introduction

This is the new series about MCI Shirley Medium, or ShirleyWorld as this oppressive gulag is not so affectionately known. I am going to use this new forum to not only expose the abuse and public safety nightmares of this prison but to also report to the readers examples of how the human spirit has risen above the madness and been part of the true miracle that is "one prisoner helping another". This is the only hope we have as 200 plus years of American corrections/prisons has fully displayed that the "jailer" is NOT in the business of helping the jailed. I hope that the message of hope is clear and that people can become confident that prison reform must be a top priority in our society.

"You can judge the level of any society
by looking at how it treats its prisoners."

Dostoevski

The Good

On Saturday, December 7, 2013, we were blessed to be able to hold our 6th Family & Friends Mass here for the Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Community! When I came here a couple of years ago I was told, in no uncertain terms, that these type of events would never happen here as "this is ShirleyWorld, they do things different here". Well I won't go into a diatribe about how God enabled us to "beat that demon" but I will enthusiastically say "We have come a long way, Baby!" If you could have seen the faces of the prisoners, family, friends and outside community members (our blessed volunteers), smiles beaming and tears of joy flowing, it would have certainly changed your view on the stereotypical prisoner. Husbands with wives. Fathers with Children. Mothers with sons. Friends and guests, old and new, rejoicing in the Spirit of the Lord no matter their faith, or lack thereof. We came together as one big happy family: a community in every sense of the word! This is the healing that is needed. This is the true spirit of one prisoner, one person, helping another! I was blessed to have some guests who were moved to tears by what we do here in this Catholic Community. They are going to take that "truth" out into the world. What could be more powerful?

A truly groundbreaking event has happened here. Through our outreach efforts we have befriended a longstanding member of the International Thomas Merton Society. Our new friend Jack has come in and was amazed at what he found: a true faith community. As a result we have formed, and recently were officially sanctioned as, the first ever prison chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society! MCI Shirley and its Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Community now host the 41st Chapter of the ITMS. It

was all done without any assistance from the prison administration. It is another shining example of one prisoner helping another prisoner to seek self-realisation. The men here who are now full members of the ITMS will be working toward becoming Thomas Merton Scholars! With all the negative goals men work toward in prison you would think that this miracle would be run up the flagpole of the DOC, but for the most part it is a non-event for them as they had no role in it. I ask that you readers out there please recognize the epic proportions of this event. We ARE the first EVER prison chapter of the ITMS and it WILL change lives! To get involved or if you have any questions please leave your info thru a comment here on the blog.

James Ridgeway, Director of Solitary Watch and senior Washington beat reporter for Mother Jones magazine, was recently awarded the National Council on Crime & Delinquency award for "Media for a Just Society" as a result of his article "The Other Death Sentence" which he wrote for Mother Jones Magazine. Jim flew out here to ShirleyWorld to meet with me before deciding to write this piece and I gave him the names of some men serving life-without-parole sentences who no longer posed any threat to society. Jim and I worked back and forth, through the mail, to try to put together an accurate picture of the foolishness of LWOP sentences. Much to my surprise Jim contacted the National Council on Crime & Delinquency and told them that he wanted the award to go to ME! I was shocked and humbled. The NCCD contacted the DOC and wanted to send me the plaque that comes with the award. Of course the DOC refused and never even told me about it. Again I am humbled and all the hard work was Jim's. He is a true humanitarian and friend. Any award I would ever win, deserving or not, would have to be credited to my family and friends who have blessed me with support and love, allowing me to change in prison "In Spite of Oppression!"

The Bad

I told you of the blessings of our 6th Family and Friends Mass. Now let me tell you how prison authorities did all in their power to ruin the day. We told our guests to be here by 8:15AM to be processed in as the event was scheduled to start at 9:00AM. Captain Shebert, the super con hater himself, did all he could to have his staff drag their feet processing the guests in. The service did not end up starting until 9:50AM and this greatly limited our ability to engage in healing fellowship at the conclusion. The service got over at 10:45AM and the guard, Sgt. Camelback, immediately ordered all guests to leave. The great thing was NO ONE listened! The spirit was alive and folks kept fellowshipping! The fellowship portion was on the agenda, and Capt. Shebert and the guards knew this, but they attempted to derail it. The sad part is that our Deacon, The Artful Dodger, is castrated to do anything about it. He is in a tough position (mostly beny over kissing guard ass) so we have to fight for ourselves. AND WE WILL!!!

The reports we have here are that Lt. Urine (formally Whirlwind)

has dialed up the mean while serving out her banishment up at ShirleyWorld Light (The Minimum). She is up to her eyeballs with anger and is taking every opportunity to leave her post for hospital trips, post reassignment as well as any chance to negatively impact our families or friends as the attempt to visit. her dark heart has grown even blacker under the avoider of the fault that lays so squarely on her shrugging shoulders. The problem with this increase in ire is that now she is visiting her public safety crushing attitude upon men who are just minutes away from the revolving door of the prison. These men, with fresh scars from Lt. Urine's abuse, will be hitting your streets and avenues any day now. It is a very dangerous situation! I will keep you posted as it is only a matter of time before she gets caught really abusing someone.

I had told you previously in "The Madness Journals" that I was the victim of attempted abuse by one of the real cowards here at the prison. I had told the investigator here, who was hired to whitewash all reports of abuse - no matter how legitimate - that I would not report about it until the "investigation" (what a joke) was concluded. Well it is over and of course their findings were in support of further abuse: but it is far from over as I am going to "do what I do" to ensure that the players are at a bare minimum forced to do some work. The nut shell description is that Lt. Shameless Peckerwood, the real backwoods coward I told you gave the Dirty Urine on his STATE POLICE drug test (I guess he did not study for the test) and in perfect DOC style was given lieutenant bars, tried to talk shit to me about crimes. He knows not what he speaks of, but I am well beyond that, I just ain't letting this fool speak to me without having to answer to someone else. I have a few freinds out there, and a couple of pending lawsuits against the DOC, and Peckerwoods abuse will fit in just nicely. My lawyer will be deposing Deputy Denied-Oh in the coming weeks and I may just ask him to depose Lt. Peckerwood as well. My role, from here on in, will be to be certain to report each and everytime this fool screws up. Sometimes you poke the wrong dog and find one who bites. Today I do my best to be non-violent: I am a man of peace. That does not mean that I would not protect myself from abuse. I am more than capable of that, I learned well on the docks and in the bars of Gloucester but I am saddened that some of the backwoods fools think they are immune from such things. I am not the one: the abusers need to pick someone else. I never draw first blood, but I do use the pen as a sword. It can cut deep. The truth has power and I will use the truth in my efforts. More to come on the fool story.



More To Come...