

"TAKIN' THE GOOD WITH THE BAD"
Change In Spite of Oppression
Chapter IV

THE GOOD

My dear friend here, Shawn F., shared with me some wonderful stories about the comments many Project Youth students share with him after they give their presentations to the various high school classes. Shawn has been affording these students a different, more accurate, perspective on who the prisoner is (not the stereotypical TV depiction) and these students really respond well. They see the humanity in the men here who share their stories with them in an attempt to stop someone from making the same mistakes we have made. A couple of bad choices early in life can lead to some very epic bad choices later; my life is proof of that. Many of the students who come in for the Project Youth sessions are from fairly affluent neighborhoods. They could well be the next state representatives and state senators here in our fine state. They will now be armed with a more humane perspective and such perspectives will advance our society. Shawn is a fine man who has truly rehabilitated himself in prison. He did it against great oppression.

During the recent cold snap many of the elderly and disabled prisoners here at the facility could not venture out into the weather to go to the chowhall for sustenance. Members of our Our Lady of Guadalupe Community went to the cells of some of these men and made sure they had food on these brutally cold days. We have so many aged men here, with canes and walkers, in wheelchairs and on their way to being in wheelchairs. These men must go outside at least three times a day, more if they take medication (and they ALL do!), and the prison gives them only "bo-bo" sneakers (the .99¢ slip on cotton throw-aways you see at K Mart) to brave the rain, snow and cold. The DOC "regulation" says they have to be provided "climate/weather appropriate clothing" and the DOC interprets that as bo-bo's and no gloves or thermal underwear. This gesture by the men of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Community is one of great import as men actually cooked some delicious "prisonmade" (as opposed to "homemade" meals) for these guys. On my unit we enjoyed "Mac & Cheese" one night and "Rice with Meat & Cheese" the next. One friend I ate with has myesthenia gravis and another has low blood pressure: both 70 years old. We ate, drank kool aid and avoided the cold!

I attended the Kwanza celebration here. What a wonderful event. I got to speak to my friend, State Representative Benjamin Swan, and he gave me the rundown on all he has done to get our message about the aging prisoner population out there. Thank You! Mr. Swan!! State Representative Gloria Fox actually called out for me to describe to her what we were currently doing here on the legislative front. I stood up and informed her of our efforts to garner support for the Compassionate/Medical release bill, Senate Bill No. 1139. Can you believe that after the event one of the organizers was approached by the Director of Treatment here and asked/told that the administration believed that we had planned for me to speak out there. Nothing could be further from the truth. It was an unplanned opportunity, sparked by Representative Fox, and I took the opportunity to talk about SB #1139 and the abuse we are trying to expose

over in the hospital unit here. Deputy denied-Oh was not at the event (she would have surely been fuming when I spoke up about her "Death Chamber") but the superintendent, director of security, director of treatment and about a dozen or so cops were: they heard the message LOUD & CLEAR and I was proud to be able to convey it with zeal. After the wonderful Kwanza celebration the State Representatives headed over to the Hospital upon our request. We are ALL so grateful for their diligence in attempting to aid the dying men over there.

THE BAD

One of the men here, lets call him "The Budha", was having a real problem with his cellmate. These things happen as two men are forced to live in a bathroom sized cell locked in for hours at a time. Now Budha has been around the Church here for the past couple of years: seeking a different path. Under his new life viewpoint he attempted to get a cell change in the most pro-social manner he could. He went to the guards and they sent him to the assignment officer. The sad news is that the assignment officer, lets call her "Nick Nolte", is a throw-back from a time we had all hoped would be left behind. She berated the Budha (she is more than twice his size - and twice as mean) threatened to toss him in solitary. He did his best to plead his case, but she just would not hear it. Her old school mentality was either fight the guy or live with it; this could produce a tragic end, but thank God Budha is living a new life and chose to do the right thing. As a result of Sgt. Nick Nolte's abusive operating procedures The Budha was forced to refuse to go into his cell. This resulted in him being taken to Solitary Confinement and spending Christmas day in solitary! The Budha also suffered a heart episode and has been on mediation since he fell victim to the prison Nick Nolte. She (Sgt. Nick Nolte) is everything that is wrong with corrections. She diminishes public safety. A man tries to do the right thing, tries to get a cell change the right way, but is abused and embarassed into going to the hole. I am proud of The Budha for how he handled it and disgusted with the Nick Nolte's of the system. Your streets are less safe because of her actions.

I vomited a little in my mouth when I read a letter a friend of mine had shown me. He worked very hard putting together a professional proposal for a "Hospice Care Facility" to be implemented at the Bay State Prison in Norfolk. Now I must go "on the record" that I am fully AGAINST any such hospice care facility as the only compassionate answer is to LET THE OLD AND DYING PRISONERS GO!!! WE NEED COMPASSIONATE RELEASE LEGISLATION! Now I did not get ill because I oppose the proposal I got sick, felt like puking, because in the letter, which was from the evil Deputy Denied-Oh herself, it stated that she (Denied-Oh) had been "invited" to be on the DOC's new "Paliative Care Committee"! This is typical DOC operating procedure; take the worst person in the world to be on a "care" committee and offer her just that position. They devil will now be asked how to care for those in hell! INSANE!!! This is just like George Bush putting oil men in charge of "natural resources", lumber men in charge of the forest service, and Haliburton in charge of affording military

support services (all of which he did!). They just gave the Captain of the Titanic a new ship! The Ship of Fools! God protect the men under the evil Deputy's care.

They have found a way for the superintendent here (The Boot) to show that they have made a difference in their efforts to control the rampant drug use here. The scourge of suboxone has destroyed so many of my friends but The Boot's minions have come up with a sure fire plan to show the big mucky-muck fools at DOC headquarters that they are making a difference; They are now only taking urine tests from men they know are clean. Rather than do what they were doing, which was test suspected drug users, they are now targeting non-users. What does this do? Well the high rate of dirty urine tests was what exposed the truth that this joint was full of drugs. Men actually had "drug habits" meaning that they had been taking the drugs for extended periods of time - becoming addicted. This is rare in a Massachusetts prison as there are usually not enough drugs to get addicted, but here at ShirleyWorld, the bastion of hopelessness, you can get fueled up each and everyday if you have the cash. In order to show that they are controlling the problem the powers-that-be here (The Boot's crack inner perimeter security team) devised a brilliant plan to manipulate the statistics and display that drug use has decreased; maybe they ain't as friggin stupid as I thought they were? They give urine tests to men they know don't use and all these "clean" tests are then used to show they have put a lid on the problem. All the while men here are nodding off in the chowhall, only feet from the cops (who are also nodding off sometimes) and maikng dozens of drug deals right in front of the numerous cameras and walkway pigs (guards). All purposely ignored. This new junkines will be coming to YOUR cities and towns to home invade your house, steal your car or purse, rob your banks and basically commit all the drug related crimes that go along with addiction. Never forget that 97% of the men in state prison are going to be released: ShirleyWorld puts YOUR life in danger!

More To Come...

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Worldbodymind.wordpress.com