



JOHNNY MAHAFFEY SAYS:  
"I'm Glad I Have Kids!"

03.08.14

Seriously, my kids are what get me through the day; and I can't imagine a world without them.

Here's a cascade poem I wrote today:

*My writer daughter,  
she makes me so proud--  
my love for her heart*

*that soars the clouds.  
Ellie-Fiona,  
my writer daughter,*

*with stories and poems  
to flow like water.  
She makes me so proud,*

*looking beyond circumstance;  
for meaningful thoughts from  
my love for her heart.*

I think I'll call that one, "Angelellie"--it suits it.

One of the prisons here in S.C. just had its first father daughter dance, and one day this one may too--I hope it does, because that would be very good for the kids, and their fathers. I was told by one of the wardens, that at the other prison, one of the kids--that had the mother's permission--wanted to attend, but couldn't procure a ride, and hitchhiked. I wouldn't want any of my kids to go that far, but still, it's a touching story.

Being a parent is a gift, one many of us squander; myself included. I just hope I can do right by them over time, I'll keep working and perhaps something good will come of it all. I've now founded the "Correctional Writer's Initiative, CWI," (the name could change, it's still in its early stages) and instead of teaching English 101 to pre-GED students as I did in the past, I'm now teaching a Creative Writing course at a college level to high school/GED diploma holders. This gives other inmates incentive to get a GED! My class helps to teach these guys to better articulate themselves, perhaps helping to even bridge gaps between themselves and their own children.

Those lucky enough to have them.