

## VISITING DAY IN PRISON

APRIL 7, 2014: 10:25am: LISTENING TO: *my Thoughts + Heart*

I SIT HERE WITH ANTICIPATION AND EXCITEMENT, WAITING FOR MY FAMILY TO ARRIVE FOR A VISIT. I HAVEN'T SEEN MY MOM IN OVER 18 MONTHS SO I AM PRETTY EXCITED TO SEE HER. MY BROTHER JJ IS BRINGING UP OUR MOM, HIS GIRLFRIEND RACHEL AND THEIR 2 YEAR OLD, MY NIECE, BABY LUCY. I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW SHE HAS GROWN. THEN JUST 3 DAYS AGO I LEARN THAT MY MOM AND BROTHER WILL BE FLYING TO CLEVELAND TO MEET AND SPEND A DAY WITH MY DAUGHTER KRISTA. MY MOM HAS BEEN HAVING ALOT OF SEIZURES LATELY SO SHE WAS AFRAID TO FLY BUT SHE IS DOING BETTER AND READY TO GO. SO ON APRIL 17 THEY WILL BE FLYING TO OHIO FOR THIS. MY NEW LITTLE SISTERS IN OHIO WILL ALSO BE MEETING UP WITH MY MOM & BROTHER SO THEY CAN MEET MY DAUGHTER AS WELL. AND I TELL YOU, IN PRISON, THERE ISN'T MUCH HOPE. AND AS TIME GOES ON, YOU CONTINUE TO LOSE HOPE UNTIL IT'S GONE. BUT I THANK GOD EVERY DAY IN MY PRAYERS FOR BRINGING HANNAH INTO MY DAUGHTERS LIFE AND THEN INTO MINE. SHE MADE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE. I AM A GROWN MAN, 37 1/2 YEARS OLD IN PRISON FOR TAKING ANOTHER MANS LIFE WHEN I WAS JUST A 21 YEAR OLD KID. AND WHEN HANNAH TOLD ME SHE FOUND MY SISTERS, I CRIED. I DON'T REMEMBER EVER HAVING A HAPPY OR JOYFUL CRY. THEY WERE ALWAYS OVER PAIN OR DEATH. I AM SO EXCITED FOR MY FAMILY TO MEET KRISTA. MY MOM DID BUT THAT WAS JUST 1 TIME IN 2005. THATS THE PHOTO ON MY PROFILE PAGE. THE FIRST TIME WE MET. BUT ON GOOD FRIDAY, WHILE I AM AT CATHOLIC MASS, MY FAMILY WILL BE TOGETHER, MEETING MY DAUGHTER. WE NEED THIS JUST AS MUCH AS SHE DOES. AND THIS IS ALL THANX TO HANNAH. SHE KNOWS WHO SHE IS AND SHE IS A BLESSING FROM GOD THAT I NEVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE. TANYA IS KRISTA'S SOCIAL WORKER THROUGH CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES BUT SHE IS ALSO THE VERY 1ST SOCIAL WORKER FROM THAT AGENCY WHO HAS GIVEN A DAMN ABOUT KRISTA. HANNAH WORKS FOR A PRIVATE COMPANY. BUT UNTIL TANYA, EVERY OTHER SOCIAL WORKER HAD JUST SHUFFLED KRISTA AROUND AND DID THE PAPER WORK. HANNAH & TANYA HAVE MADE A CONNECTION WITH HER, SHOWED HER THAT THEY CARE AND WANT TO HELP HER. AND THEY HAVE PROVED THAT. I WOULDN'T HAVE KRISTA IN MY LIFE IF IT WEREN'T FOR THEM AND MY FAMILY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FLY TO OHIO TO SEE KRISTA IF IT WEREN'T FOR HANNAH AND HER HELP. I WILL ALWAYS BE INDEBTED TO HER FOR HER HELP & KINDNESS. SHE WILL GO ON TO HELP ALOT OF KIDS & FAMILIES LONG AFTER MINE. I SIT HERE WAITING FOR MY FAMILY, KNOWING THAT IT WILL BE A WONDERFUL DAY. DYING TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT THIS TRIP TO SEE KRISTA. I KNOW THEY ARE AS EXCITED AS I AM. I DON'T HAVE MUCH IN HERE. I DON'T GET VISITS VERY OFTEN, I COME FROM A POOR FAMILY, AND DRIVING 3-4 HOURS, EACH WAY, FOR A VISIT, IT IS EXPENSIVE. I STAY IN TOUCH THROUGH LETTERS AND I AM VERY CLOSE TO MY MOM. I GET THE OCCASIONAL PHONE CALL WHEN I HAVE THE EXTRA MONEY TO AFFORD IT. BUT OTHER THAN THAT, I AM COMPLETELY SECLUDED. GOTTA GO VISIT IS HERE.

I'M BACK. IT'S 3:05pm AND MY FAMILY JUST LEFT. SO BITTER SWEET A VISIT IT. I GOT

TO PLAY WITH LUCY, SHE IS ONE ENERGETIC LITTLE GIRL. I GOT TO TAKE SOME PHOTO'S WITH HER AND MY FAMILY, I STUFFED MY FACE WITH VENDING MACHINE SANDWICHES, I HUGGED MY MOM ALOT AND IT KILLED ME INSIDE WHEN THEY LEFT AND MY MOM CRIED. I HATE HURTING HER AND ALL I SEEM TO DO IS CAUSE HER PAIN. THEY ARE VERY EXCITED TO FLY TO CLEVELAND TO SEE MY DAUGHTER NEXT WEEK. WE ALL NEED THIS. I CAN'T SEE KRISTA BUT JUST KNOWING SHE IS WITH OUR FAMILY AND FEELING THE LOVE WE HAVE FOR HER AND A HUG GOES A LONG WAY AND FOR A 16 YEAR OLD WHO DOESN'T GET MANY HUGS, SHE'S GONNA LOVE THIS VISIT. I PLAN TO SURPRISE HER AND CALL ON MY BROTHERS CELL PHONE WHILE THEY ARE VISITING WITH KRISTA SO I CAN TALK TO HER. VISITING DAY IN HERE IS SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO. YOU CAN'T SLEEP VERY WELL THE NIGHT BEFORE AND FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS YOU'RE SAD BECAUSE THEY'RE GONE BUT YOU ARE ALSO ON A NATURAL HIGH. ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT MY VISIT TODAY WAS CHASING BABY LUCY AROUND. SHE'S 2 AND SO CURIOUS ABOUT EVERYTHING AND I LOVED THAT. I KNOW THIS VISIT MEANT AS MUCH TO MY FAMILY AS IT DID TO ME. MY BROTHER IS A GOOD MAN AND AN EVEN BETTER FATHER, RACHEL IS A WONDERFUL MOM, AND MY MOM I AN AMAZING MOM AND I LOVE YOU'S ALL. I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT TIME I GET TO SEE THEM. I HOPE TO GOD I GET TO SEE MY DAUGHTER THIS YEAR.

I TRY TO EXPLAIN ABOUT VISITS IN HERE BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT THEY ARE. I'VE WATCHED GROWN MEN JUMP, FROM THE 3rd (TOP) TIER, TO THEIR DEATHS. MAYBE THEY WOULDN'T HAVE KILLED THEMSELVES IF THEY COULD OF HAD A VISIT WITH THEIR FAMILY. I'VE CONSIDERED SUICIDE MANY TIMES IN MY 16 YEARS IN PRISON. BUT IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT I CAN GO THROUGH WITH. IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE IN PRISON, MAYBE YOU'LL CONSIDER GOING TO VISIT THEM. WE HAVE NO CONTACT WITH ANYONE UNLESS THEY WANT TO HAVE CONTACT WITH US. WE CAN'T GO VISIT ANYONE, WE CAN'T PICK UP A PHONE AND CALL ANYONE WE WANT TO (IF WE COULD I WOULD HAVE ALREADY CALLED MY DAUGHTER). OUTSIDE CONTACT WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS IS SO IMPORTANT IN HERE. I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT WORDS TO ACTUALLY EXPLAIN IT. BUT IT'S LIKE THIS, AFTER JUSTINE WAS KILLED, I WAS GOING TO KILL MYSELF, I COULDN'T IMAGINE A FUTURE WITHOUT HER. BUT THEN I GOT A LETTER FROM MY MOM. SHE SAID THAT SHE & MY GRANDMOM WERE GOING TO COME UP AND SEE ME IN A WEEK. THAT NEWS SAVED ME. I DON'T GET VISITS VERY OFTEN, I'M 3-4 HOURS FROM MY FAMILY AND IT'S AN EXPENSIVE TRIP, BUT ATLEAST ONCE A YEAR THEY DO COME AND IT MEANS THE WORLD TO ME. I THINK I'VE BORED YOU'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY. I TOOK A PHOTO WITH BABY LUCY AND IT WILL BE POSTED ON MY FACEBOOK PAGE SO FEEL FREE TO GO PEEK AT IT. IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE REALLY SMILED IN A LONG TIME. I ADORE THIS LITTLE GIRL. IF YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE IN PRISON, TRY MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR A VISIT. A SIMPLE VISIT CAN DO WONDERS FOR A PERSON IN HERE. MY NEXT DREAM IS SEEING MY DAUGHTER. TAKE CARE, STAY SAFE, ENJOY THE WARMER SPRING WEATHER AND GO GIVE SOMEONE A HUG. TILL NEXT TIME, CIAO.