

A DATE WITH MY DAUGHTER

APRIL 14, 2014: 6:20am: LISTENING TO: *The Sound of my daughters voice in my mind!!*

GOODMORNING EVERYONE. I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT MY DATE WITH MY DAUGHTER YESTERDAY. I'VE BEEN IN PRISON MOST OF HER LIFE AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T KNOW, I DIDN'T KNOW SHE EXISTED UNTIL AFTER I CAME TO PRISON. MY DAUGHTER DOESN'T HAVE AN EASY LIFE, BUT SHE IS VERY SMART BUT ALSO HAS SUCH LOW SELF ESTEEM THAT SHE THINKS IT'S OKAY TO LET MALES HURT HER. NO MAN SHOULD EVER HIT A WOMAN, I DON'T CARE IF THEY ARE 15 OR 50. IT'S STILL WRONG. SHE IS FRAGILE AND SHE SEEMS TO BE IN PAIN AND AFRAID OF BEING HURT AGAIN BUT WE UNDERSTAND PAIN. I SPENT AN HOUR ON THE PHONE WITH MY LITTLE GIRL AND I TELL YOU, MY HEART MELTED EVERY TIME SHE LAUGHED OR GIGGLED. I HAD TEARS IN MY EYES WHEN I HEARD HER SAY, I LOVE YOU DAD. IT'S BEEN 9 YEARS SINCE I'VE HEARD THOSE WORDS AND THOUGH I AM A FAILURE AS A FATHER, I WILL NEVER GIVE UP ON MY BABY AND I WILL STRIVE TO DO EVERY THING THAT I CAN FOR HER. ON GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18th, KRISTA WILL GET TO HAVE A DAY LONG VISIT WITH MY MOM AND BROTHER JJ. THIS WILL BE HER FIRST TIME MEETING HER UNCLE AND ONLY HER 2ND TIME MEETING HER GRANDMOM. MY MOM & BROTHER ARE FLYING TO CLEVELAND. THIS IS ALL THANK TO HER SOCIAL WORKER HANNAH. SHE WORKS FOR A PLACE THAT HELPS KIDS CALLED THE VILLAGE NETWORK AND HANNAH CONVINCED HER BOSSES TO PAY FOR THIS TRIP. MY KID REALLY NEEDS TO KNOW HER FAMILY AND TO BE HUGGED. A HUG GOES A LONG WAY. SHE REALLY DOESN'T HAVE ANYONE NEARBY IN HER LIFE THAT LOVES HER, WE ALL LIVE FAR AWAY. HANNAH RECOGNIZED HOW IMPORTANT THIS TRIP IS AND NOW IT'S FINALLY HAPPENING. I HAVE A NEW PHOTO OF HANNAH AND MY DAUGHTER AND THEIR SMILES COULD LIGHT UP A ROOM. MY DAUGHTER HAS GROWN ATTACHED TO THIS WOMAN AND I DON'T KNOW THAT KRISTA WOULD HAVE EVER GOTTEN THE HELP SHE NEEDED WITHOUT HANNAH. I'M A BIT ATTACHED TO HER MYSELF. SHE GIVES ME MORE UPDATES AND INFO ABOUT MY DAUGHTER THEN ANY SOCIAL WORKER EVER HAS. SHE INVOLVES ME IN KRISTA'S LIFE WHEN EVERY OTHER SOCIAL WORKER SHUT ME OUT AND TOLD ME NOTHING. I AM CLOSER TO MY DAUGHTER THEN I HAVE EVER BEEN NOW THANK TO HANNAH. I DO THANK GOD EVERY DAY FOR HER. I LET KRISTA DO ALOT OF THE TALKING. WE GOT TO TALK FOR 60 MINUTES AND IT COST ME \$13.20 FOR THAT PHONE CALL. BEST 13 BUCKS I EVER SPENT IN MY LIFE. SHE TOLD ME STORIES, SOME OF HER FEARS, AND I COULD TELL BY HER VOICE THAT SHE WAS HAPPY AT THAT MOMENT. THE STAFF MEMBER WHO ANSWERED THE PHONE TOLD ME THAT SHE HAS BEEN WAITING FOR MY CALL FOR A FEW WEEKS NOW AND WAS VERY EXCITED. I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE 2005 BUT THATS SOMETHING TO WORK ON NOW. THIS PHONE CALL WAS LIKE A DATE WITH MY DAUGHTER. I BARELY SLEPT THE NIGHT BEFORE, I WAS VERY NERVOUS AND I WAS AFRAID THAT I WOULD SAY ALL OF THE WRONG THINGS. IT IS NOW A DAY FOR ME TO REMEMBER AND HOLD CLOSE TO MY HEART. I TRIED EXPLAINING TO HER THAT I WILL NEVER BE FREE, I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO GO ANYWHERE WITH HER AND SHE SOUNDED UPSET THAT BUT I WONT LIE TO HER. I'LL LIMIT THE TRUTH BUT I WONT LIE. SHE ONCE AGAIN ASKED ME ABOUT WHY I AM IN HERE BUT THATS

NOT FOR US TO DISCUSS RIGHT NOW. I SIMPLY TOLD HER THE PHONES RECORD OUR CONVERSATIONS, & IT DOES BUT FOR MY FIRST TIME TALKING TO MY LITTLE GIRL, I DON'T WANT TO DWELL ON THE PAST, I WANT TO FOCUS ON THE FUTURE. I HAVE NO PROBLEM EXPLAINING EVERYTHING TO HER, BUT I WANT TO DO THAT WHEN SHE IS A LITTLE OLDER, HAS HER LIFE TOGETHER, & FACE TO FACE. SHE IS A VERY GOOD GIRL, THE STAFF I SPOKE TO DESCRIBED HER AS VERY SMART, BEAUTIFUL, FUNNY, & SUCH A SWEET SWEET GIRL. BUT SHE ALSO SAID SHE DWELLS ON THE NEGATIVES & THE PAST WAY TOO MUCH. SO SHOWING HER THE POSITIVES & A GOOD FUTURE IS MY GOAL. SHE CAN BE THE FIRST TO GO TO COLLEGE. HAVE A REAL CAREER, A GOOD LIFE. I'M VERY PROUD OF MY LITTLE GIRL & I'LL NEVER ABANDON HER. I NEED TO SEE HER THOUGH, I NEED TO HOLD HER, HUG HER, KISS HER, & SHOW HER THAT I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE FOR HER, I'M NOT HER MOTHER, I WILL NOT ABANDON HER. I'VE ONLY MET HER ONCE IN MY LIFE & SPOKE TO HER ON THE PHONE ONCE BUT I LOVE HER LIKE I HAVE KNOWN HER SINCE SHE WAS BORN. I THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN THERE FOR MY DAUGHTER, TO HELP HER, TEACH HER, & GUIDE HER IN TO BEING A BETTER PERSON & HELPING HER GROW FOR THE FUTURE. ALL THE STAFF AT THE PLACE SHE IS IN, HER SOCIAL WORKERS HANNAH & TANYA & ALL THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES WHO HELP US MAKE PROGRESS. MY DAUGHTER IS NOT A LOST CAUSE. SHE IS A TROUBLED CHILD WHO IS HURTING. SHE CAN BE BETTER, SHE WILL BE BETTER, SHE WILL GROW UP TO HAVE A WONDERFUL LIFE. PLEASE HELP MY CHILD. THANK YOU FOR NOT GIVING UP ON KRISTA, SHE IS NOT A LOST CAUSE. I SAY THAT AGAIN BECAUSE WE GIVE UP EASILY IN LIFE & I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO GIVE UP ON KRISTA. IN PRISON, THIS PHONE CALL MEANT THE WORLD TO ME. IN THE WORLD, MOST PEOPLE WOULD TAKE A SIMPLE PHONE CALL FOR GRANTED. I DON'T BECAUSE I DON'T ALWAYS HAVE THE EXTRA MONEY TO CALL ANYONE. BUT THIS CALL WAS THANK TO MY FRIEND AJ, WITHOUT HIS HELP, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD TO CALL KRISTA FOR AN HOUR. I DOUBT HE IS READING THIS BUT IF HE IS, THANK YOU MY FRIEND. YOU ARE MORE OF A BROTHER TO ME THEN I EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE. HANNAH SENT ME NEW PHOTO'S, THAT I ABSOLUTELY LOVE, OF MY KRISTA BUT THE ONES I AM DESPERATE FOR ARE OF THIS VISIT WITH MY MOM & BROTHER THIS FRIDAY. MY SISTERS JENN & ANN WILL HOPEFULLY BE ABLE TO BE THERE AS WELL. I'M NOT SURE HOW EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT BUT PHOTO'S OF THIS GOOD FRIDAY ARE WHAT I WANT MOST. SEEING MY DAUGHTER INTERACTING WITH HER FAMILY, THE SMILES ON HER BEAUTIFUL FACE, FEELING THE LOVE FROM OUR FAMILY, THIS IS WHAT I AM MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO. I'LL HAVE MY BROTHER POST PHOTO'S ON MY FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ANYONE WHO WANT TO SEE. IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT YOU GET A GREAT DAY IN PRISON & I'VE HAD 2 THIS MONTH (MY FAMILY CAME TO VISIT ME ON APRIL 7th). WELL I THANK YOU'S ALL FOR READING & I'M ALWAYS OPEN TO TOPICS TO DISCUSS, SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT READERS WANT TO HEAR ABOUT, SO IF ANYONE HAS ANY IDEAS, LET ME KNOW. I DON'T WANT MY WRITINGS TO GET TOO BORING. KRISTA SAID ONE THING THAT I TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO HER, SHE IS WORRIED THAT PEOPLE WILL JUDGE HER FOR HER PAST. I TOLD HER, YOU ARE 16, YOU HAVE NO PAST. ALL KIDS MAKE MISTAKES & YOU LEARN FROM THEM & MOVE ON. YOU GROW INTO A BETTER PERSON WHEN YOU LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES. I HAVE GROWN INTO A BETTER MAN THEN I HAVE EVER BEEN IN MY LIFE. I HAVE LEARNED & I HAVE CHANGED. I PRAY THAT I AM NOT JUDGED FOR MY PAST. I DON'T EXPECT IT TO EVER BE FORGOTTEN OR FORGIVEN BUT I DO HOPE THAT I AM ONE DAY GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE. TAKE CARE, STAY SAFE & GOD BLESS. HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE. CIAO.