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New Programs in Prison
A Good-Good Thing!

First off I want to say to Paul, I apologize for the delay in writing again. I am very happy to say I have a number of great excuses! See Paul (And all who are reading this. Still don't understand it all that much but it is great to write and think of people reading it!) after writing about "A Good Day in Prison" I finally had some good luck in the Job department!

See, as I said before in other posting I am on a really nice yard. A so called "Honor Yard" or what CDCR wants to call a "Progressive Programming Facility" or "PPF". (Although called an Honor Yard for a decade or more the Officers refused to call it that because they refuse to have the word "Honor" and inmates connected or said in the same sentences! No Shit, I am serious here! Talk about childish! Wow!) Whatever it is called it is a good thing that is going on. Yes, there are numerous inmates who are idiots and who "Play the Game" and live the "Prison Politics". I know, I used to be one but mostly out of fear and and the need for safety. That is just being honest with myself and You. But... not all are idiots and a lot of guys like me who have been down for decades and decades want to program and do their time in a positive way and learn and maybe even help others to learn or just plain old help others. CDCR has made this very hard as do most prisons. Not so much out of hate but the reality of running prisons. It is hard to find and separate the guys who want to program from the idiots because when we are all together those who are wishing to just program, work and be left out of the Prison Politics "MUST" play the game or we become the victims. This is reality in most prisons. When your "Turn" comes up you go on the mission or you are the next mission for someone else. That is reality. Barbaric and as Neanderthal as it gets but reality is prison and a reality the staff and prison officials have to deal with. Of course it has become a self serving Monster that is perpetuated by all of us now. It is the never ending snow ball effect. Until recently due to the recession and serious budget shortfalls and a Public that wants to know why California is spending more on housing prisoners than Education for their kids.

So the PPF program has been pointed out by State and Federal Senators and others and CDCR saw it was time to find ways to change how things are done. So they made this place Official

and began calling it "PPF" and creating a number of other yards and calling them "Enhanced Program Facility"(s) or EPF. (They are still working on getting them going. It still remains to be seen if CDCR and the Officers' and their Union (The HUGE and Powerful CCPOA) if they want them to work. We'll see.) But this yard has been going and working which has brought me so much happiness and hope! Yea, I am surprised as well!

Yes, Paul, I do know a little bit about how most guys blame the world about why they are in prison. It is always someone else's fault! I have my moments so I try not to focus on them too much! I do get it though. I have my moments and wish I didn't! Sometimes life in prison can get so depressing and so hard to deal with. You are also correct about how communication does help with what happens after Lock-Up. Not just the violent and other assorted shit but the sadness and the loneliness and the depression that comes with it all. The fear and ~~the~~ not just of other inmates but "Life" in general or Lack of Life. So I can understand that some get lost in the world of blame without ever looking in the mirror. Honestly it bothers me and annoys me at other times ~~and~~ makes me sad at others and sometimes I just want to scream, "Shut the Fuck Up! Look in the mirror and see why you are here". See, I get it, I worked many years as the Lead Clerk in a Prison law Library and not just saying it but I was good. But guys didn't like coming to me because I was always "Real" with them. I gave out no roses and rainbows. But during that time I also saw that "Justice" is so far from blind it lost it decades ago. Justice is for those with money. If you are a Black from say "Watts" or "Compton" and charged with Murder you have a 90+ percent chance of being convicted. A White guy from Beverly Hills or Malibu, less than 50 percent. That is Justice American style. But... I said I was honest and to be honest during 31+ years I have met less than a few dozen truly "Innocent" men. Not a bad percentage even though one is too much. My point though Paul is that I ask you and others to please try and look past all the blame and what I call "Crying". Some, not many but some have reason to blame and it is why I learned from my Supervisor who was an actual Attorney whom told me, don't let all those who are guilty and lie cloud your desire to help the ones who deserve it and need it. Shit! I go very sidetracked there! I am in a good mood and when in a good mood I truly love to write! So, to my original theme!

The new Program is called "PAWS" as in Dogs Paws. Some inmates and our Facility Captain, Capt. Wood got with a group called "KARMA RESCUE" (They can be found at Karmarescue.com) and they set up this program that saves what would otherwise be put to sleep dogs. (Note that the CCPOA and its Officer Members are AGAINST this program! Not all obviously because Capt. Wood is for it and got it going along with an Associate Warden whose name I can't spell) So, what specially selected inmates get to do is help train a rescued Dog. These guys were all screened

to make sure the inmates didn't have any violence against Animals, Women or Children. The same goes for this whole Building because we are all around the Dogs each day as they live here for three months I think. Not sure. There are three guys for each dog because it is a Volunteer program so each guy still has to keep up his regular job as well. They train them simple commands so their new owners will get a very good dog! Check out the Web site for more info.

For me it came because they took an Old Administrative Segregation building and made it into another General Population Block. It meant a lot and I mean a LOT of work cleaning, painting and working to get it presentable and livable for us and most important, the Dogs! So I got me a job and I have worked my ass off and it has been worth it. See, so seldom does a guy in prison get to take something ugly like an old Ad-Seg Block or any block for that matter and clean it and paint it and make it nice. I have been a Clerk of some type for most of the last twenty years but I have truly enjoyed the physical labor put into making this building nice. I have been surrounded by ugly and nasty buildings and cells for a lifetime now so it is truly amazing to do this and I sure am enjoying it! Plus, I am happy to be working! But just as important... I get to play with the Dogs! Yea, as I have been told by some "free People", they are Dogs, granted it is a Good Thing being done but they just don't get it! For 31+ years the only Dog I saw was sniffing for Dope, Phones or looking to attack me! Something so simple as playing with a dog, petting it and just hugging it while hanging out in the Day room or on a break from working is AMAZING!

That for ME is Special and a very Good-Good Thing!

Well, I have rambled long enough! Hope I haven't bored you too much! Paul, if you are still there, Thank You for writing. It really is nice to know someone is actually reading what I write and your comments are greatly appreciated. If you get bored I would love to hear from you either through this or you could write me direct if you would like. I always answer and truly enjoy mail! If not, I will always respond to what is written here as well or maybe you choose not to at all in which case Thank you for your time! I am always how I have appeared here on the Blog. So if you do you can write me to the address at the top of this. Or anyone else for that matter! I finally figured this Old typewriter out so I hope to be writing more often now. Until then... All of you reading this, SMILE!