

Breaking The Chains of Ignorance

Hello reader,

Do you take for granted the ability to understand these words? Try to imagine the life of those unfortunate men who lack the skills necessary to do the same. They are locked into a prison of the mind, trapped in their thoughts and ignorance. They are terribly limited in the scope with which they can share and receive information.

They experience fear, loneliness and frustration in the bleak recesses of their minds. Their options are so limited in life that it is no wonder a large proportion of them end up in prison. Once here they are doubly isolated from the world beyond these walls. The boredom and anger deep in their souls often causes them to act out destructively. They end up entrapping themselves further in this prison system with each passing year.

I am now on the frontline in the war against this tragic situation. My new position in the prison involves tutoring men at different levels of education. Their needs vary. One thing they all have in common is the lack of the individualized attention they needed to learn. That is where I come in. I have the privilege of helping these intrepid achievers gain a foothold on their dreams. The battle belongs to them. I am but a part of the support team.

We struggle together, working through many difficulties. I am there to encourage, correct and instruct them in their efforts. It is an honor to share in the lives of these men. They risk much to learn. The process involves a vulnerability that is threatening in prison. I value the trust it takes to work with me.

I am grateful to have such an opportunity to serve my fellow inmates. One of my rewards is to see their enthusiasm grow with each success. Another is to see their eyes light up with understanding. I get a charge when we

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read together and I can hear the excitement in someone's voice. These men have a chance to change their futures. I am happy to be a tutor in the literacy program. It is a way to shine light in the darkness.

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