

THE NEXT CHAPTER OF MY LIFE IN PRISON

DECEMBER 4, 2014: 8:20am: LISTENING TO: NOTHING (NO RADIO RECEPTION HERE)

BUONGIORNO EVERYONE. YESTERDAY I WAS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER PRISON. I MUST HAVE MY ADDRESS CHANGED ON MY PROFILE PAGE. I WAS MOVED TO SCI SMITHFIELD. SO FAR THIS TRIP HAS CAUSED ALOT OF MIXED FEELINGS FOR ME. I AM HAVING MY FIRST HOT CUP OF COFFEE IN 24 HOURS. THERE IS NO HOT WATER IN THE CELLS. I HAVE TO SIGN UP FOR WHATEVER I WANT THE NIGHT BEFORE, & I HAVE TO USE AN AVAILABLE TIME SLOT. THERE IS ONLY 1 PHONE ON THE BLOCK SO THERE WILL BE ALOT OF FIGHTS OVER USING THE PHONE WHEN THE NEW PHONE RATES KICK IN STARTING DEC. 10. I WILL SPEND A FEW DAYS WRITING THIS. I HAVE TO LEARN THE LAYOUT OF THE PRISON & THE 1 THING I WAS PLEASED TO LEARN IS THEY HAVE THE "PRISON PUPS TRAINING PROGRAM" HERE. I WILL SEND A SLIP TO SEE IF I AM ELIGIBLE TO BE A PART OF THIS OR NOT. I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE A PUPPY OF MY OWN TO TRAIN, TAKE CARE OF, & THEN THIS DOG WOULD GO TO SOMEONE IN NEED. I'M NOT SURE IF LIFERS ARE ABLE TO DO THIS BUT I WILL CERTAINLY SEND A SLIP IN & ASK. I SIT HERE & THINK OF MYSELF TODAY NOT KNOWING WHERE MY LIFE WILL TAKE ME BUT I HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS GOD'S PLAN FOR ME. I MUST BELIEVE THAT BEING UPROOTED FROM WHERE I WAS COMFORTABLE, WHERE I WAS A LEADER IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH & COMMUNITY, WHERE I WAS THE PERSON WHO RAN THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY ORGANIZATION, I HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT GOD PLACED THIS ON MY PATH FOR A GOOD PURPOSE. MAYBE I AM TO MENTOR SOMEONE LIKE MY FRIEND PAUL DID FOR ME? I DON'T KNOW BUT I WILL USE THIS TO MAKE THIS A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ME. I HAVE A WINDOW IN MY CELL THAT DOES NOT OPEN. IT'S 6 INCHES WIDE BY 36 INCHES HIGH. I CANNOT SEE ANYTHING BECAUSE THERE IS A WALL OUTSIDE PREVENTING ANYONE FROM SEEING ANYTHING. ON A GOOD NOTE, WE HAVE A NEW PRISON PHONE COMPANY CALLED SECURUS & THEY GAVE US THE CHEAPEST PHONE RATES EVER. I JUST CALLED MY MOM, ON HER CELL PHONE, & IT ONLY COST ME 89¢ FOR THE 15 MINUTE CALL. THE ONLY BAD THING IS THERE IS ONLY 1 TELEPHONE ON THE BLOCK SO IT WILL BE DIFFICULT GETTING A PHONE. I STARTED WRITING THIS BUT STOPPED TO CALL MOM, THATS HOW I KNOW THE NEW PHONE RATES ALREADY STARTED. WE WERE TOLD 12-10, BUT TODAY IS THE 4th & THEY HAVE BEGUN. WELL I'LL RETURN WHEN I HAVE MORE TO SHARE.

12/5/14: BUONGIORNO (GOOD MORNING) EVERYONE. I SIT HERE ONCE AGAIN IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS. I WAS WOKEN UP AT 4am. I AM ON A TEMPORARY BLOCK, & THIS BLOCK IS CONNECTED TO THE RHU (THE HOLE) & GUYS IN THE HOLE WERE YELLING & SCREAMING, CALLING FOR THE GUARD, BANGING ON DOORS ALL NIGHT SO I GOT LITTLE SLEEP. BUT I UNDERSTAND THEM BECAUSE WHEN YOU ARE LOCKED IN A 6x10 FOOT CELL, WITH NOTHING, AFTER AWHILE IT STARTS TO PLAY WITH YOUR MIND. YOU BECOME VERY BORED, YOU GET AGITATED EASILY, & YOU ACT IN WAYS THAT YOU NORMALLY NEVER WOULD. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, OR THE HOLE, IS DESIGNED TO BREAK YOU MENTALLY. THE PENNSYLVANIA D.O.C. HAD A STANDING PRACTICE OF WAREHOUSING THE MENTALLY ILL PRISONERS IN THE HOLE FOR YEARS. THEY'RE MENTALLY ILL HUMAN BEINGS, SURE THEY ACT DIFFERENTLY THEN OTHER PEOPLE, SO WHEN THEY DO, THEY WOULD GIVE THEM MISCONDUCTS & BURY THEM FOR YEARS AT A TIME IN THE HOLE. THIS JUSTIFIES THE STATE ASKING FOR FEDERAL FUNDING TO HELP DEAL WITH SO MANY PEOPLE BEING LOCKED IN THE HOLE. LETS BE REAL FOR A MOMENT. SURE WE ARE IN PRISON FOR CRIMES, BUT IF YOU COMMIT ANY INFRACTION OF THE RULES IN HERE, YOU CAN BE PLACED IN THE

HOLE. THE MINIMUM STAY IS 1 MONTH. I HAVE MET MEN WHO HAVE BEEN IN THE HOLE FOR 10+ YEARS. A NORMAL PERSON, THEY CAN BE BROKEN MENTALLY. THEY CAN THEN BECOME ONE OF THE MENTALLY ILL PRISONERS WHO SHOULD REALLY BE IN A HOSPITAL. THIS IS PRISON, THERE IS VIOLENCE, THERE ARE FIGHTS, PEOPLE NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR PROTECTING YOURSELF AT ALL TIMES. BUT AT THIS VERY MOMENT, I AM LISTENING TO MY RADIO WITH NO HEADPHONES ON. IT'S VERY QUIET, BUT IF A GUARD WANTS TO, HE CAN PUT ME IN THE HOLE FOR 30 DAYS. I LOOK AT THE WAY THE PRISON SYSTEM HAS BEEN DESIGNED & IT'S SUCH A HUGE MONEY MAKER NOW. WHEN I WAS AT HUNTINGDON PRISON, I WAS TOLD BY OTHER STAFF THAT A FEW GUARDS WERE REPRIMANDED INFORMALLY FOR STEALING FROM THE KITCHEN. THEY WOULD HAVE BOXES OF FOOD BROUGHT OUT THE BACK EXIT OF THE KITCHEN & PUT IN A VAN. IT HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR YEARS. BUT THE PRISON STOPPED IT, AFTER YEARS OF THIS GOING ON. DID THEY GET FIRED? NO. NOT EVEN SUSPENDED. THEY WERE MOVED TO A SHITTY WORK DETAIL, WALKING AROUND THE OUTSIDE FENCE PERIMETER, A JOB MOST GUARDS HATE. IF I BRING BACK 1 PIECE OF BREAD FROM THE CHOW HALL, I COULD GO TO THE HOLE FOR A MONTH. SOCIETY WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHATS CREATED WHEN YOU LOCK PEOPLE IN THE HOLE FOR MONTHS, YEARS. YOU TRY TO MAKE THE BEST OF PRISON. YOU TRY TO SUCCEED, YOU TRY TO DO BETTER, BE BETTER, AT SOMETHING. MOST OF US DO NOT WANT TO BE WHO WE WERE WHEN WE CAME HERE. I WAS NOT THE GREATEST PERSON AROUND. I WASN'T INTO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, I LOVED WORKING, I LOVED LEARNING, I LOVED THAT PAY CHECK I BROUGHT HOME EVERY WEEK. I LOVED LOOKING INTO MY JUSTINE'S EYES WHEN I WOULD COME HOME, DIRTY, TIRED, HUNGRY, & SHE WOULD BE THERE WITH HUGS & KISSES, & DINNER STAYING WARM IN THE OVEN. I WAS ONLY 21. MY HEART ACHES FOR HER EVERY DAY, THE ACHE INSIDE OF MISSING HER CONTINUES TO BUILD, 13+ YEARS AFTER SHE WAS KILLED. IT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN MY HAND THAT TOOK HER LIFE BUT IT SURE DOES FEEL LIKE IT.

I ASK MYSELF THE SAME QUESTION EVERY DAY, WOULD SHE STILL BE ALIVE IF WE HAD NEVER MET? I'D BET ON YES. SO THE GUILT CONTINUES TO EAT ME ALIVE INSIDE. I HAVE A CONSCIENCE, I HAVE A HEART, I HAVE A SOUL. I DIDN'T ALWAYS HAVE THESE THINGS. THEY WERE THERE BUT I DIDN'T KNOW. I HAVEN'T HAD A VISIT IN A VERY LONG TIME. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MY FAMILY. MOST OF THEM FORGOT MY 38th BIRTHDAY SO MAYBE THEY NO LONGER WISH TO SEE ME. CAN LOVE FADE & GO AWAY AS TIME GOES BY? FAMILY SHOULD ALWAYS STICK TOGETHER NO MATTER WHAT & IF MY NONNA (GRANDMOM) COULD ONLY SEE MY FAMILY NOW, SHE WOULD SCREAM IN DISAPPOINTMENT. WELL HERE I AM AT SMITHFIELD, WHERE I'LL STAY UNTIL I CAN ONE DAY BE SENT CLOSER TO MY MOM. SHE IS WHAT MATTERS RIGHT NOW. IT'S VERY COLD IN HERE TODAY SO I'LL GO NOW, GET BACK UNDER MY BLANKET & REMEMBER MY LIFE BEFORE I THREW IT AWAY. I STILL ASK MYSELF, WHY DID I PICK UP THAT HAMMER? I'VE FOUGHT PEOPLE BEFORE MY VICTIMS SIZE, WHY DIDN'T I JUST USE MY HANDS TO FIGHT? WHY DID I PICK UP THE HAMMER? I'D BE LYING IF I TOLD YOU I KNEW THE ANSWER. WAS IT ANGER, FEAR, CONFUSION, I JUST *Don't know*.

I WANT TO WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS & HOPE THAT 2015 IS BETTER FOR US ALL. TAKE CARE, STAY SAFE & GOD BLESS. CIAO.

BUON NATALE