

## CHRISTMAS? OR JUST ANOTHER DAY IN PRISON?

12-25-14: 11:00am: LISTENING TO: LAND OF CONFUSION BY: GENESIS

MERRY CHRISTMAS, BUON NATALE, FELIZ NAVIDAD. WHATEVER YOUR WORDS FOR CHRISTMAS ARE, I WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY ONE. TODAY, IN THIS NEW PRISON, IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL LIKE CHRISTMAS. THERE IS NOTHING. NOT EVEN 1 SINGLE DECORATION HANGING UP ANYWHERE. NO CHURCH, NOTHING. CHRISTMAS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF MY FAVORITE TIMES OF THE YEAR. EVEN WELL BEFORE I WAS CATHOLIC. BUT THE MEMORIES CONTINUE TO FADE. IN HERE TODAY CHRISTMAS IS A DAY OF VIOLENCE. WE WILL PROBABLY BE LOCKED DOWN SOON. THERE HAS BEEN A FEW FIGHTS HERE & A STABBING. AND EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM HAVE BEEN OVER THE TELEPHONE. WE HAVE A NEW PRISON PHONE COMPANY CALLED SECURUS. THEY PURCHASE PHONE TIME, THEY BUY 4 MINUTES FOR 1¢. THEY SELL IT BACK TO US PRISONERS FOR 6¢ PER MINUTE. SO FOR EVERY PENNY THEY SPEND, THEY MAKE 23¢ PROFIT. BUT THEY DON'T WORK IN SMALL FIGURES, THEY PURCHASE MILLIONS OF MINUTES AT A TIME. MY \$2 CALCULATOR DOESN'T ADD THAT HIGH. BUT ON MY BLOCK THERE ARE ABOUT 50 GUYS & 1 TELEPHONE. SO MOST GUYS WONT BE ABLE TO CALL THEIR FAMILIES TODAY ON CHRISTMAS. I ONLY EVER CALLED MY NONNA (GRANDMOM) ON CHRISTMAS DAY. I ALWAYS CALL MY MOM TOMORROW BECAUSE THATS MY MOMS BIRTHDAY. HOPEFULLY THE PRISON WILL ADD MORE PHONES SOON!

ALOT OF THESE GUYS THINK THAT THEY'LL BE SEEN AS "SOFT" OR "WEAK", IF THEY SHOW EACH OTHER COMMON COURTESY OR BASIC HUMAN DECENCY. THEY ARE YOUNG & HAVE NO ONE TO TEACH THEM. I KNOW THAT IN HERE, WE CAN OVERCOME ALL OBSTACLES IF AS PRISONERS WE COULD COME TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD, OR GOALS, INSTEAD OF HATING EACH OTHER FOR WHERE WE GREW UP AT OR THE COLOR OF OUR SKIN. MY SISTERS ALL HAVE MIXED CHILDREN. I LOVE ALL OF MY NIECES & NEPHEWS, OUT OF THE ONES THAT I DO KNOW, 6 OUT OF 8 ARE MIXED, & I'D HATE TO SEE THOSE KIDS GROW UP IN WORLD LIKE THIS. EVERY TIME WE BRING UP RACE, WE JUST MAKE IT INTO A RACIST DEBATE OR SITUATION. THERE'S TOO MUCH HATRED IN THIS WORLD TO EVER MAKE IT PERFECT BUT WE CAN TRY. I CHOOSE NOT TO CARE WHERE YOU ARE FROM OR THE COLOR OF YOUR SKIN. I DO BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD IN EVERY RACE, EVERY COLOR, EVERY RELIGION. I DIDN'T ALWAYS FEEL THIS WAY BUT WHAT MATTERS MOST IS HOW I'VE GROWN, HOW I'VE CHANGED & HOW I FEEL TODAY.

I WAS JUST LOOKING AT THE VERSION OF THE TV GUIDE CHANNEL WE GET HERE, JUST A SIMPLE GRID THAT GOES ROUND & ROUND NON-STOP. BUT I SEE THAT TBS & NOW TNT BOTH ARE PLAYING THE MOVIE "A CHRISTMAS STORY" FOR 24 HOURS & THAT IT'S FROM 1983. 31 YEARS OLD & I HAVE NEVER SEEN IT. I STILL HAVEN'T SEEN E.T. EITHER SO MAYBE ONE DAY I'LL GET AROUND TO IT. I DON'T SIT AROUND & WATCH TV ALL DAY. I TRY TO STAY AS BUSY AS POSSIBLE. I'M CURRENTLY HOUNDING THE EMPLOYMENT STAFF TRYING TO GET A JOB, ANY JOB, BUT I'M TOLD THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT 400 JOBS HERE FOR 1,300 PRISONERS SO THE WAITING LISTS ARE VERY LONG. WE'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS. I MIGHT ONLY GET PAID 19¢ AN HOUR BUT FOR EVERY HOUR I WORK, THATS 3 MORE MINUTES I GET TO SPEND ON THE PHONE WITH MY MOM. THE THOUGHT OF LOSING HER MAKES ME WANT TO SPEND EVERY SECOND I CAN WITH HER. SADLY, NO WORD FROM MY DAUGHTER AT MY BIRTHDAY OR CHRISTMAS. WELL BY THE TIME THIS IS POSTED, THE HOLIDAYS WILL BE OVER SO I HOPE EVERYONE HAD A MERRY CHRISTMAS & I PRAY THE NEW YEAR IS BETTER FOR US ALL. TAKE CARE & GOD BLESS. CIAO.