

FAMILY, FRIENDS, & CORRUPTION IN THE PA D.O.C. (The System is failing)

MONDAY MARCH 30, 2015: 9:00am: LISTENING TO: FAILURE BY: BREAKING BENJAMIN

GOODMORNING. FIRST I WANT TO WISH MY LITTLE SISTER ANN A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TODAY. SHE IS 29. I'VE ONLY KNOWN HER FOR A LITTLE OVER A YEAR BUT I LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE WITH HAVING HER & HER CHILDREN, MY 3 NEPHEWS, JOSH, ISAIAH, & DOMINIC, IN MY LIFE. I JUST HEARD THE NEW BREAKING BENJAMIN SONG CALLED FAILURE & FOR ANYONE WHO IS A FAN, IT'S A GOOD SONG. THE NEW CD COMES OUT IN JUNE. DISAPPOINTED THAT ONE OF MY FAVORITE GROUPS ISN'T A GROUP ANYMORE. I WAS TOLD THAT DISTURBED BROKE UP.

YESTERDAY I CALLED MY BEST FRIEND AJ. HE'S BEEN OUT OF PRISON NOW FOR ABOUT 5 YEARS & I NEVER TIRE OF HIS STORY. CAME TO PRISON AT 16, RELEASED AT 33 YEARS OLD. 17 YEARS FOR BEING WITH SOMEONE WHO COMMITTED A MURDER. AJ WENT HOME, WORKED HARD, & NOW I LOOK AT HIM, BOUGHT HIS OWN HOME, HAS A GOOD GIRL, A GOOD JOB, & MOVING FORWARD IN LIFE. I'M VERY PROUD OF HIM. HE SHOWED THAT NO MATTER WHAT YOU ARE IN PRISON FOR, NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU DO, YOU CAN GO HOME & BECOME A SUCCESS STORY. AJ WILL BE 38 THIS YEAR & I HOPE NEXT YEAR HE CAN AFFORD TO GET MARRIED. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS WEDDING PHOTO'S. THERE ARE ALOT OF SUCCESS STORIES OF MEN & WOMEN WHO ARE RELEASED FROM PRISON & MAKE GOOD LIVES, THEY PROVIDE FOR THEIR FAMILIES, THEY TAKE CARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO WANT TO HEAR THEM. ALL THEY SEEM TO WANT TO HEAR ARE THE BAD STORIES, OF HOW PEOPLE ARE LOCKED BACK UP OR DETAILS OF THE CRIMES. WHY DON'T WE START BRINGING EACH OTHER UP INSTEAD OF PUTTING EACH OTHER DOWN? WHY DON'T WE ENCOURAGE INSTEAD OF PUT DOWN OR BELITTLE EACH OTHER.

I'VE KNOWN A GUY FOR ABOUT 10 YEARS. HE HAD A 5-10, FIRST TIME OFFENDER, FOR HAVING A GUN IN THE BAD LANDS SECTION OF NORTH PHILLY. HE HAD A JOB, TOOK CARE OF HIS KID, BUT LIVED IN A CRAPPY NEIGHBORHOOD SO HE BOUGHT AN ILLEGAL GUN. WAS ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF AN ILLEGAL FIREARM. HE MESSED UP, SURE. BUT 5-10 YEARS, NEVER BEEN IN TROUBLE IN HIS SHORT 21 YEAR OLD LIFE, BUT HE'S 2 YEARS FROM MAXING OUT THE 10 YEAR SENTENCE. WHEN HE CAME UP FOR PAROLE AT HIS 5 YEAR MINIMUM, THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY WHO HAD HIS CASE, WROTE A LETTER TO THE PAROLE BOARD & SAID IN HIS OPINION A MAN WITH AN ILLEGAL GUN WAS A DANGER TO SOCIETY. SO HERE HE CONTINUES TO SIT. EACH YEAR THE PAROLE DEPT. SAYS YOU ARE DENIED PAROLE BECAUSE THE D.A.'S OFFICE FEELS YOU ARE A DANGER TO SOCIETY. HE'LL MAX OUT THE 10 YEARS. BUT WHAT PEOPLE FAIL TO REALIZE IS THAT HE WAS NEVER IN TROUBLE IN HIS LIFE. HE WAS A GOOD & RESPONSIBLE FATHER. NOW, WHO KNOWS WHEN HE GETS OUT. 10 YEARS IN HERE CHANGES YOU, YOU EITHER BECOME BETTER, OR WORSE. BUT IT COST OVER \$300,000 TO INCARCERATE A MAN WHO IS A SOFT AS A PUPPY DOG FOR A B.S. CRIME. THE

COURTS ARE CLOGGED, THE PRISONS ARE STUFFED TO CAPACITY & THE PAROLE BOARD IS A JOKE. ONE THING THAT GOVERNOR WOLF NEEDS TO DO IS ABOLISH THE PAROLE BOARD. THEY DON'T KNOW US. THEY SEE A FILE & THEY GO OFF OF THAT. IF ANYONE SHOULD BE MAKING A PAROLE RECOMMENDATION, IT SHOULD BE THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW US, SEE US, INTERACT WITH US ON A DAILY BASIS. PENNSYLVANIA IS BEHIND IN THE TIMES & GETTING RID OF THE PAROLE BOARD IS THE FIRST STEP IN FIXING A MAJOR PART OF THE INCARCERATION PROBLEM.

I UNDERSTAND SOCIETY ENTRUSTS OTHERS WITH THE DECISIONS ON WHETHER TO LET SOME OF US OUT ON PAROLE BUT WHEN YOU HAVE HATEFUL OR VINDICTIVE PEOPLE IN CHARGE, THE SYSTEM FAILS. I RECENTLY TRIED TO GET A BETTER PAYING JOB. I EXPLAINED TO THE GUARD THAT I MAKE 76¢ A DAY WORKING. I NEED MORE. I TOLD HIM MY MOM IS FIGHTING CANCER & I NEED TO BE ABLE TO CALL HER AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE. I WILL DO WHATEVER JOBS THEY NEED DONE, I AM NOT LAZY & I HAVE NO PROBLEMS WORKING OVERTIME IF NEEDED. I WAS TOLD THAT I LOOK LIKE ANOTHER MILITANT WANNA BE NAZI & THEY DON'T DO FAVORS FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME. MY POINT IS THAT BY HAVING IDIOTS IN CHARGE, MAKING THE DECISIONS, THE SYSTEM FAILS. WHEN I WAS AT SCI MAHANOY FROM 1999-2002, PHILLY FOX UNDERCOVER BROKE A HUGE INVESTIGATION STORY. THE HEAD PSYCH FROM THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPT. WAS BUSTED TELLING HIS STAFF THAT NO BLACK ^{PRISONER} FROM PHILLY GET A FAVORABLE PAROLE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PSYCH DEPT. FOR PAROLE. ALL BLACKS FROM PHILADELPHIA GET AUTOMATIC DENIAL. GO AHEAD & GOOGLE IT. I DON'T REMEMBER THE NAMES BUT IT HAPPENED BETWEEN 2000-2002 & WAS ON THE NEWS. SO THE STORY CAN BE FOUND. YOU HAD IDIOTS IN CHARGE & HUNDREDS OF DESERVING PRISONERS WERE DENIED PAROLE, SOME FORCED TO MAX OUT THEIR SENTENCES SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY WERE BLACK & SCI MAHANOY HAD IDIOTS IN CHARGE. I'M NOT SURE IF THERE IS A WAY TO FIND THIS OUT ON THE INTERNET BUT DO YOU PA CITIZENS REALIZE HOW MANY PRISON GUARDS ARE HIRED & FIRED EVERY YEAR FOR SMUGGLING IN CONTRABAND IN ORDER TO SELL IT AT OUTRAGEOUS PRICES TO PRISONERS? EVERY THING FROM CELL PHONES TO DRUGS, TO PORN MAGAZINES TO CIGARETTES IN THE PRISONS THAT ARE NON-SMOKING. A CELL PHONE CAN COST OVER \$1,000. \$100+ FOR A \$10 PORN MAGAZINE. SO LETS NOT PUT ALL OF OUR EGGS IN 1 BASKET & JUDGE EVERYONE. LETS GIVE PEOPLE A CHANCE. THATS WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT. 2nd CHANCES.

WELL I THINK I'LL LEAVE WITH THAT. NOTHING IS PERFECT BUT WE CAN CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO DO BETTER, BE BETTER. DON'T GIVE UP ON US JUST YET. GIVE US A CHANCE. TAKE CARE, STAY SAFE, ENJOY THE SPRING & GOD BLESS. CIAO.