

ME PART 3 of 4 "PERRIE TODAY"

Pg. 1

January 8, 2016

In July 2005 I walk into the correctional system arrogant, ignorant and determine to uphold a superficial gang reputation. At that time in my life elevating my self in the gang culture was my only career choice. A detrimental goal I have now come to realize, but unfortunately this is the norm in most poor urban minority communities. So my desire to achieve stardom in the gang culture was due to a lack of education and positive influences.

Today I can no longer pled ignorance. My incarceration caused me to sit back and evaluate my life in depth, and I must say, the power of education is indisputably authentic. The knowledge I have acquired over the past years often leaves me astonish at just how oblivious I was to how detrimental my actions were to my self and others. I have always thought I was an intelligent person, but in hindsight, my ignorance was monumental. The first person I remember looking up to was a gangmember who was in and out of prison, but my young mind was ready to do anything to elevate to his status in the gang. I now realize I was striving to be a failure. The detrimental way of thinking I use to have no longer lives in me. I no longer glorify gangs or any aspects of the street life. In fact, I believe it is counterproductive to the growth of african americans. Gangs continue to destroy our communities. Every week families in black communities are burying their family members because an uneducated person took his/her life to gain a superficial reputation in an adverse gang culture.

Our ancestors are looking over these mass funerals with shattered hearts! All the sacrifices they made for us, for us to discontinue their fight to engage in meaningless turf wars. I must admit I am

Pg. 2

genuinely disappointed that I once participated in this nonsense. There are so many injustices affecting african american in this country, for a large percentage of us to be focusing on dismantling each other, when we should be focusing on dismantling the defected educational system and ending mass incarceration.

With this knowledge, today my life is dedicated to educating myself and oneday using my knowledge to make a positive impact in the world. In the mean time, I truly hope my words inspire someone out there to change their life and fight a meaningful battle. #BlacklivesMatter!

Stay Prayed Up!

SINCERELY,
Perrie Thompson
PERRIE THOMPSON