

10/22/2017

William David Linley

1D No. M08788

Graham Correctional Center

12078 Illinois Route 185

Hillsboro, Illinois 62049-3620

Hello World,

Just viewed an episode of 60-Minutes that is worth seeing. First, the Oprah ~~episode~~ ^{segment} on "Pelican Bay - The Shoe" super max prison. Revelation = It doesn't work!

I realised very quickly in my own prison experience that our (America) prisons were doing much more harm for our country.

From a military view - our prisons are prime recruiting territory for our current enemy seeking world dominance. When you "throw away" an entire segment of society and destroy hope for the future and cripple their family and children's prospects for a fair chance at the "American Dream".

"Greed" is an American curse that continues to consume us since our foundation. But the American spirit is better and stronger than Greed. It is greed that drives the prison growth and bloated court system.

Anyway, the 60-minute episode gives a good argument on the need to rethink

how we use prisons, and the importance to restore citizens to be law-abiding, not simply thrown away like trash.

The first segment was about an under cover F.B.I. operation to expose an al-Qaeda (daesh) plot in the U.S. The agent is a True American Patriot, American Muslim and American Hero. He released a book recently, "American Radical inside al quada" - Can anyone send me a copy? It goes into the threat we are facing from the poison of daesh and may even help me to see any weeds growing in here. Know your enemy and all that...

On another topic - If you have family or friends in prison, please don't turn your back on them. There are 14-hours a day for a person to occupy time... they will do something or go crazy. The majority of people in prison are "stuck on stupid". If you abandon them, especially the younger guys (18-24) - they will feel compelled to gravitate toward the criminal minds. It is a poison too.

"LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SINS..."
You may think it's 'tough love' to ignore a person in prison so they can 'figure themselves out'. Very few seek out positive outlets. Real love, acceptance and hope give a

person encouragement to 'do good' and become a 'better person'. You do not condone criminal behavior or bad choices?

By staying involved you provide a beacon of hope. A person will do something with 14-hours a day ... your heart felt letter, even one per month, can inspire a person to read a book, not porn; take a class. instead spending 8-hours gambling on the card table; do some exercise, not hang out on the basketball court with the gangs; go to church, instead of learning new methods to make (cook) crack and meth or watch a documentary instead of reality shows.

Our veterans group is making good progress. We were permitted to live in the same housing unit. It is proving to be a good thing. We've had one "Field Day" so far. On a nice warm, sunny day 25-men spent the day scrubbing the old cigarette soot off the walls, polishing brass and stripping the concrete floors. At least 5-non vets jumped in to help. It's the first time in 6-years I am able to use the phone while the "dayroom" (common area) is full of people. No yelling-slaming dominoes and stupidity as is common in prison.

Until next time,

Tom D. Cribby