

Sound Mind Group

(Struggle Within The Struggle)



~~BY~~  
Ployd Smith



Sound Mind 8.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND  
REHABILITATION

OTRR314 INMATE NON-PRIORITY PASS

INMATE'S NAME <b>SMITH</b>	CDC# <b>K72700</b>	HOUSING AREA/BED <b>4-EB-09</b>
ISSUED BY <b>D. SPURGEON</b>	ISSUE DATE <b>4/09/18</b>	APPT. TIME <b>10 AM</b>
APPT. LOCATION <b>CHSB 2ND FL, RM 4</b>	APPT. DATE <b>4/10/18</b>	
TYPE / REASON <b>Condemned Spirituality group</b>		
ARRIVAL TIME:	RECORDED BY: <b>CD</b>	
DEPART TO:	DEPART TIME:	RECORDED BY:

After an 18 year struggle, our very first session was to start Tuesday April 27, 2018, but prison officials began to squabble with each other about who was responsible for escorting inmates to a "gay group".

Medical officers refused, due to it not being a medical issue, The Mental Health officers also refused due to it not being a Mental Health Department group, and Custody unit officers refused to escort the "gays" due to being under staffed, so our first group was cancelled.

The above document reflects that our second session was to take place on 4.10.18, and again, no staff would escort inmates to group, so this session was also cancelled.

After a stern talk with Custody administrators, and Sgt. Campbell, the group was assured to be escorted the following bi-weekly sessions, I had no idea what would happen next.

20f8

Sound Mind 9.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION

OTRR314 INMATE NON-PRIORITY PASS

INMATE'S NAME SMITH	CDC# K72700	HOUSING AREA/BED 4-EB-09
ISSUED BY D. SPURGEON	ISSUE DATE 4/23/18	APPT. DATE 4/24/18
APPT. LOCATION CHSB 2ND FL, RM 4	APPT. TIME 10 AM	
TYPE / REASON Condemned Spirituality group		
ARRIVAL TIME:	RECORDED BY:	
DEPART TO:	DEPART TIME:	RECORDED BY:



On April 24, 2018, four inmates met for the historical first session of the group. Short of the 10 people on the original submitted list, none of my 9 people showed up.

The Jewish Rabbi was the group facilitator, and the group consisted of:

1. Floyd - Founder of group, (black)
2. Randy - an Elderly (white) gay person whom I've never seen before.
3. Skyler - a Transgender (white) new arrival?
4. Johnny - The most hated gang drop out in the entire state (mexican)

I was given a very vague answer as to why none of the inmates that was on my original list wasn't in group.

In session I asked Johnny why he was in this group, due to the fact that by just the mere fact that his name was announced over the unit P.A. System, He not only placed the lives of everyone else in the group in greater physical danger, but now nobody will want to come to this group because he is in it, and bringing his usual gang related prison divisive manipulative antics into this new environment, as The Sound mind is designed to move us forward, not stuck in trouble.



Johnny responded with his usual gamer craft,

"I want to come out as gay". (Thats vintage Johnny.)

I explained to Johnny and the rest of the group, that this is not the regular Mental Health program groups that he is use to weazing his way into, and this is not a group to sit around and talk about how gay we are, this is a group that is providing a service for everybody, everybody else, this is a command center.

I asked Johnny if he knew who created the group, Johnny and each person all said NO, they had no idea.

I asked Rabbi Paul to tell them who started the group, Rabbi Paul said:

" You did".

I told Johnny that he has an equal opportunity to participate in this program with all other inmates in the prison, and to secure the integrity of the program, I refused to go into detail about the direction of the Sound Mind Streamer in front of Johnny, due to his well known history within the prison that I am not at liberty to talk about in this forum, due to the propensity of gang violence.

Johnny being in the group explained why custody staff had a Fort Knox like security escort of more than 8 officers, plus a unit Sergeant surrounding us on the short walk to group, it was an attempt to set up inmate on inmate rival gang violence to shut the group down on its first day, stress test over, that part didn't work.



However, unbeknownst to me, As it turned out, prison officials put Johnny in the group to prevent other inmates from wanting to attend the gay group, and it worked.

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INMATE'S NAME <b>SMITH</b>	CDC# <b>K72700</b>	HOUSING AREA/BED <b>4-EB-09</b>
ISSUED BY <b>D. SPURGEON</b>	ISSUE DATE <b>5/07/18</b>	
APPT. LOCATION <b>CHSB 2ND FL, RM 4</b>	APPT. DATE <b>5/08/18</b>	APPT. TIME <b>10:10 AM</b>
TYPE / REASON <b>CONDENMED SPIRITUALITY GROUP</b>		
ARRIVAL TIME:		RECORDED BY:
DEPART TO:	DEPART TIME:	RECORDED BY:

On May 8, 2018, I sat alone in the 10 cage group room with facilitator Rabbi Paul, who kept trying to convince me to turn the group into the regular model of sitting around talking about how gay we are.

We both revealed to each other that other inmates refused to attend the group if Johnny was in the group, and if their names would be called over the P.A. System for an LGBTQ spirituality group, especially along with Johnny's name, they was OUT of the group. Some of the very people that encouraged me to fight for the group for 18 years said:

1. "I had legal work to do, so I couldn't come to group"
2. "I had very important business to take care of on the yard"
3. "When you guys get further along I'll come"
4. "NO"
5. "I can't BRO, but I admire what you're doing"
6. I won't repeat the other excuses, too revealing for this format, but, you get it by now.



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INMATE'S NAME	CDC#	HOUSING AREA/BED
SMITH	K72700	4-EB-09
ISSUED BY D. SPURGEON	ISSUE DATE 5/21/18	<i>[Signature]</i>
APPT. LOCATION CHSB 2NDFL, RM4	APPT. DATE 5/22/18	APPT. TIME 10:10 AM
TYPE / REASON <i>Condemned Spirituality group</i>		
ARRIVAL TIME:		RECORDED BY:
DEPART TO:	DEPART TIME:	RECORDED BY:

Again, on May 22, 2018, I sat alone in group, Rabbi Paul brought in a special guest named Billie Mizell, she's obviously "Family" and she said she facilitates The LGBTQ group for the mainline general population.

The 3 of us volleyed topics associated with status, purpose, curriculum, direction and a brief debate on Empathy, movies, DVDs and relatable content.

I presented 9 different copies of The Write or Die Time Project as a body of work associated with my Creative Writing program developed Inmate Byron, so to provide the need for urban perspective engagement of The New Condemned population.

Billie gave me a stack of papers associated with the program directives for her group, and it was clear that Rabbi Paul had found someone that had a broad understanding and experience that connected to The Sound Mind Vision in ways he could not, that's what true leaders do.



On June 5, 2018, I sat alone in group room, NO Rabbi Paul, no guest, Just me, working on refining The Sound Mind Streamer.

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INMATE'S NAME <b>SMITH</b>	CDC# <b>K72700</b>	HOUSING AREA/BED <b>4-EB-09</b>
ISSUED BY <b>D. SPURGEON</b>	ISSUE DATE <b>6/11/18</b>	APPT. TIME <b>10:10 AM</b>
APPT. LOCATION <b>CITSB 2ND FL, Rm 4</b>	APPT. DATE <b>6/12/18</b>	
TYPE / REASON <b>Condemned Spirituality group</b>		
ARRIVAL TIME:	RECORDED BY:	
DEPART TO:	DEPART TIME:	RECORDED BY:

On June 12, 2018, I sat alone in group, Rabbi Paul, and Billie came, we talked about:

- a) Unifying The Condemned Group with Mainline Group with Billie as the connective facilitator since mainline inmates and Condemned inmates are not allowed direct communication.
- b) Billie said she would submit The movie doc titled **BROTHER OUTSIDER = Bayard Rustin Story** to the SQ Media Center for our first official feature presentation.
- c). Both Rabbi Paul and Billie, after considerable debate, convinced me to not use LGBTQ with the name Sound Mind program until "We get our feet in the door". I had no choice but to trust the counsel of my facilitators. I not only agreed under protest, but also expressed my disappointment of having a Jewish Rabbi, and an LGBTQ person make this request.

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INMATE'S NAME	CDC#	HOUSING AREA/BED
SMITH	K72700	4-EY-09
ISSUED BY D. SPURGEON	ISSUE DATE 6/25/18	APPT. TIME 9A
APPT. LOCATION CHSB 2NDFL, RM4	APPT. DATE 6/26/18	10:10 AM
TYPE / REASON <i>Condemned Spirituality group</i>		
ARRIVAL TIME:		RECORDED BY:
DEPART TO:	DEPART TIME:	RECORDED BY:

On June 26, 2018, I sat alone in group again, after brief dialogue, Rabbi Paul and Billie said they will do a unit walk through together and ask each person on my list if they would attend the next session date.

Today is July 18, 2018, the day of the walk through, I was told that 2 of my original 10 people ran back into the Closet, no hard feelings.



I out of the remaining 8 people said he didn't want to walk all the way over to the hospital for group, so he, in a struggle of his own, refused to participate in the Sound Mind Group.

Sure, some will show up, I want our Rabbi friend and our Fam Billie to view the reality of the need for the Sound Mind as valuable to a closeted community on death row, people in the closet also have spirits that need to be lifted, I respect the safety of a closet on Deathrow where everybody has a body count.

Out of nearly 800 people on The Row, I'm the only Black person living out of the closet, Sound Mind required.