

Dear Outside World,

1/16/19

Right this moment as I sit inside the belly of the beast [prison cell] I am sick and tired of being sick and tired. I've been incarcerated now for 35 years, and 20 of those years were spent in solitary confinement, in a windowless cell 23 hours a day.

This time in prison has taken everything from me and turned it into nothing. I see nothing good and feel everything that is bad. This time has drained the life out of me and has stolen my love, compassion, humanity, forgiveness; and replaced it with loneliness and nothing to grasp. Empty now as a shell, I move shellless amongst myself. What did I do to deserve all this?

I came to prison in 1983 to serve a four (4) year sentence for petty theft, and with just three (3) months left before my release to freedom; I was forced to put my freedom on hold all because some bad prison guards decided to beat a prisoner while handcuff and shackled with a club. Why did I just stay out of it and go home?

Well, as a child, I grew up in a household where my father was very abusive towards my siblings and mother. I became the protector of the family and everytime my father would go on one of his violent rages, I would intervene on the behalf of

my siblings AND mother, and I would take the blunt of the beating. So on the cold morning of February 1, 1985, all I did was what I grew up doing, and that was helping someone who couldn't help themselves. How does the story end?

To be totally honest, I truly don't know how things will end. Right now, I'm doing my best to stay in a positive mental state and take it one day at a time. But each day and each step I take gets harder and harder. I haven't given up but at times it's hard to find the strength that is needed to keep on fighting; especially inside this belly of the beast that is very dark and negative. What do I need to make it?

Right now, I could use letters of support and encouragement. Just knowing that someone out there in the free world cares, could be the difference between life and death.

Strong But Human  
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All letters must be written on white lined paper only,  
and mailed in plain white envelopes only!

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