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Subject: Ready to leave prison?

Hello world...

With under 2-years to go until parole it is finally beginning to feel real. This time incarcerated will finally end. Yet, I have learned there is a way to be "free" and at peace even if my body is hostage and suffering. It is in the Spirit (Phil 4:13) that I endure and know peace. It is only through Christ Jesus (Yeshua Ha Meshiach) as my Lord that I have strength and a clear mind (Romans 8). Prison got my attention and made me focus, but only God can make one free.

As I make preparations for parole (MSR in Illinois) I leave with nothing more than my "life" and "hope".

"I WAS ALMOST IN UTTER RUIN IN THE MIDST OF THE ASSEMBLY AND CONGREGATION" (Proverbs 5:14)

Only in God (Jesus) do we have real "hope" and that hope is strengthened (faith) as we begin to experience His coordinating and providing for daily and future needs. There are a handful of friends, Marines and family that have consistently communicated and visited and prayed and supported financially for me over these long, dark 12-years. If not for them I could have easily slipped into permanent despair. There were many days I begged for death. Many moments when I thought how much easier it would be just to go all out crazy, full blown criminal and just start doing serious damage. Of course the result of that is added charges and a new life sentence. That is what 80% of our prisons are driving. Just "be" a criminal! Give up! Give in to the impulse!

It is through the encouragement of fellow veterans, and many in our vet group (GrahamVets) that we push each other to maintain "dignity". It is through the effective Chapel programs (not prison programs) that hearts change and we find true joy and peace.

These programs are under supported, often sabotaged and pressured to fail. Even though proving time and again to be the most life changing.

So, I prepare for this final chapter in life and recognize how valuable the contact with family and friends has been to maintaining hope. D