

JUNE 1, 2019

Hi, I apologize to the people who read what I write for being so sporadic with my writings . I lost my mom and dad to cancer, Mom died from A.M.L. and Dad died from stomach cancer that spread to his brain. Though my parents both told me before they died that they were proud of me and the good man that I have become, but I don't forgive myself. I don't forgive myself for taking another human beings life and I don't forgive myself for being a failure as a son. I wasn't there for my parents when they died so how do I forgive that? I have been watching the Van Jones show on CNN every Sunday night at 9pm, called The redemption Project. I just completed 2 programs in the prison learning about victims of crime and what they go through, their families and the communities. I speak to Pennsylvania State Reps and Senators usually on a weekly basis, but what makes it hard is that the Republicans aren't willing to open up a dialogue with us.

I am very impressed and kind of awestruck at the people I meet who have it in their hearts to forgive. I recently read about a man who was shot in the back during a botched robbery attempt in Philadelphia. This man, Louis Berrios, has forgave his assailant. What he has said and done has inspired and impressed many.

Do we want to speak about "victim/offender dialogue" in order to further the healing process? Or do we just ignore it and incarcerate and continue to warehouse? I am never advocating that an offender should get off or a slap on the wrist but when is enough punishment enough? I am not the one to answer that question. So I leave it up to the readers. Are we not human beings that are capable of great things, and one of those things are CHANGE. I know that I've changed as a man, so if I can change, what about the next person? We are human, aren't we ALL capable of change? Sure it requires the will to change and not everyone wants to. They say they do but they don't follow through.

I recently began exchanging emails with a woman who is the mother is a lifer and had her own brother murdered. Everyone calls her Mrs. Dee Dee. Well let me share something she told me, "Everyone deserves a second chance. Most people always say they want closure. What is that exactly? To me, that would be that my younger brother, who was murdered, would come back to his family. But the reality is that, that will never happen. I know that I didn't, and I still don't want to live a life filled with anger & unforgiveness. I don't tell anyone else how to feel after losing a loved one but hating & bitterness are not the answer. We have all made mistakes in life, We ALL need to learn how to talk to each other and with each other without judging and lean to listen to each other. Everyone is someone else's child". What meant alot to me is that she said, "Please keep writing because it is healing for me to know that there are people in this world that believe in forgiveness and redemption".

I am convicted of murder, of intentionally taking a mans life. Though that is not completely true, I did NOT plan my crime, it still happened and I am guilty of taking a mans life, something that I can never fix. The guilt I live with every day is a reminder of why I desperately fight to change not just myself, but others who were like I once was. I cannot fix my crime, I cannot change my past but I CAN change who I was into who I am becoming. I am a reformed lifer, I am not my crime and I welcome all opinions on this matter and anything else that I have discussed in my years of writings. I thank my big sister Jen for being such a remarkable positive influence in my life. I would not be where I am today without her. Thank you Jen (& Ben for putting some trust in me). Having good people in your life, it inspires one to change.

You can send me comments on this blog, you can go to www.connectnetwork.com and sign up to email me directly, Robert Pezzeca #DX1148, SCI Dallas Prison. Take care and I look forward to your comments on this topic. God Bless.

Will I ever find Forgiveness? Redemption? I don't know.