

Date: Mon, May 13, 2019 06:42 PM

Subject: The Redemption Project episode #3.

On Oct. 20, 1997. Loeshe Lacy is shot 7 times by gunmen Christopher Smith who was trying to murder the driver. He is given 20 years to life for 1st degree murder. I saw 2 things in that episode that truly stood out to me, Mr. Smith was paroled his 2nd time seeing the parole board. His victims father, Don Lacy, a community activist & leader in his section of Oakland, Ca, met the man who murdered his daughter. He listened to him, he asked him questions, he hugged him, cried with him, and in the end, Don Lacy came to Christopher Smiths parole board hearing & asked the parole board to release this changed man. He is no longer the child who committed that crime. There is nothing that can excuse killing someone but when is enough punishment enough? Do we kill everyone? Lock up for life? When is it enough? I will be the first to admit that forgiveness is NOT easy but what Don Lacy showed me last night, I was so very impressed & inspired. I would like to one day meet my victims family, they deserve at the very least an apology from me. I'd like to show them that I am not an evil man. I am so much more than my crime. But how do I show society, our lawmakers, that I am no longer this troubled kid, I am a good, responsible man who is seeking a second chance at life. Tell me, how do I show this? I've helped countless charities & organizations raise money to help people in need, I am a leader in prison, I am a very productive man. I've helped to create not 1 but 2 non profits that help people. 1 in prison (LIFE Association at SCI Smithfield) the other in Michigan, www.compassionplace.wixsite.com/info I took a life, there is no excusing that but why am I condemned to die in prison of cancer, disease, old age? If you're a politician, give us 1 day of your life. So many have met me, come to sci Dallas, meet US. Redemption is here, forgiveness is here, healing is here. We are not our crimes. Let us show you that. God Bless. Rob Pezzeca, Lifer

Date: Mon, May 20, 2019 at 7:24 PM
Subject: The Redemption Project episode 4

66% of inmates released return within 3 years. We need to ask ourselves why? How many of us are Dual Victims? So many prisoners have been victims themselves. But let's focus on the people who have been victimized by us. Van Jones said this was the 1st victim offender dialogue in the state of Alaska. I've now met 4 Pa inmates who have done this. Why isn't our victims advocate office in Harrisburg pushing this program even more? I see that alot of victims families do want to meet & hear from the person who took the or loved ones life. But don't ever allow me to make you believe that there is ever a valid excuse to kill someone, there isn't. I really want to understand the victims. They are such a huge part of this process. Joshua Beebe murdered Christopher Seaman was given a 60 yr sentence. But the victims continue to go on. As you listen to Terria's (the mom) story, she has been a victim since she was 4 yrs old. But what would make a mother want to meet & talk to the man who murdered her son? I'll tell you, the need to know what happened & to try to understand why. On October 25, 2001, a man murdered my fiancée, I would like to talk to him to find out about the final moments of her life & to ask WHY? Why did he do it? I think it would be a positive process for the Victims Advocates office to offer this to victims. But in Pa, the DOC is concerned about 1 thing, Warehousing bodies. Not correcting or rehabilitating. The Warden of this Alaska prison said We are changing the way we run prisons here because its about correcting NOT warehousing. In Pa state prisons, almost all programs for lifers have been eliminated. Its like the Secretary Wetzel have given up on us & decided to warehouse us. People say you need to take responsibility for your actions. But how do I do that? I took a life, I can never return that in which I took. But I've done so much to try to give back to society, I've changed. We lifers do change. Come see me, see the change.

Until next time.
Rob, Rehabilitated Lifer

Date: Wed, Jun 5, 2019 at 6:55 PM

Subject: Fwd: June 2, 2019: The Redemption Project with Van Jones. Episode #5

April 14, 1997 Tom Morgan (former sheriffs deputy) is shot by Jason Samuel in Bakersfield, Ca. The very 1st thing I heard Jason say was after his crime he needed to reevaluate his core values. Tom asks is Jason capable of empathy? But I'm here to tell you, we are all human beings, WE ARE ALL capable of great changes. Yes its true that one must want to change but so many do. Let me tell you, it took alot of tragedies in my life to change. I can also refer to it as trauma. I learned that trauma is a life changing event. Can be good or bad. After alot of bad trauma, I'm a changed man. But I also learned that hurt people hurt other people. We've all been a victim at one point in our life but so many of us deal with it in the wrong ways. Tom said you can't maintain that level of hate, it'll eventually destroy you. As I watch this show, Pa State Prisons don't have support groups like I see here so it makes me ask the question, Why? Why don't we work on changing? Why have almost ALL therapeutic/self-help programs for lifers been removed from Pa state prisons? Pa isn't concerned about rehabilitation, it only cares about warehousing. Watching Jason break down, cry, & show Tom his pain for causing him so much pain was very moving. Jason owned up, took responsibility for his crime, made the changes to be a better man, what else can we do? I'm all ears, I welcome any & all comments. To hug the man who shot her husband shows his change. In closing, I would like to publicly thank Van Jones for bringing this program, this issue, to a public spotlight. The people who have gotten to know me over the years, who have seen the things I've done, they don't see me for my crime. Most cannot believe I took a life. They see the good man that I've become. Maybe one day my victims family will want to speak to me, see who I have become. Take care, more next week.

Sincerely, Rob, reformed lifer seeking redemption & a 2nd chance

Date: Tue, Jun 11, 2019 at 12:21 PM
Subject: Redemption Project, Episode 6

Gunner Johnson, victim of violent crime DEC. 1994. Gunnar is shot & robbed & his friend Pat is killed by their own friend Christian Branscombe. Let me touch briefly on Life Without Parole sentences. Most men & women who have taken a life do not want to be known or remembered for that crime. Most want to grow, become better people, someone to be proud of. How does one right this wrong? Is it possible? Gunner himself hurt people, committed violent crimes & is now a free man. But I need to point out that Christian is a dog trainer who trains dogs for military vets, so many prisons, including mine, have this program. This teaches you how to love, care for & be responsible for another living creature. Christian said what would it take to forgive the man who molested him. As a child victim myself, I've never forgiven the man who assaulted me. I don't know how. I've never received counseling or therapy, Back in the 80's no one cared about helping victims. Gunner is like thousands of Pa prisoners, he was hurt & became addicted to opiates. Gunner is in the process of forgiving Christian, even fighting for his release. There's too much hate, anger, pain, its time for healing. Men, women, people in prison for murder, most want to erase those crimes. None of us want to go to sleep every night knowing we are responsible for taking a life. I'm haven't had an full nights sleep since the night before my crime over 20 yrs ago. Most lifers want to be good people, we want to help, look at the 200+ juvenile lifers who were released from Pa state prisons, most are out there living productive lives. If you are in the Pa legislature, we ask you to support HB135/SB135, second chances for lifers. Take the time to get to know just 1 changed, reformed lifer, I promise you won't regret it. To be hugged by Senator Lisa Boscola & have her tell me I am not my crime meant so much to me. Gunner has forgiven Christian, its time for change in Pa. Until next week. Rob Pezzeca, #DX1148 Reformed Lifer

Sent: Tue, Jun 18, 2019 03:55 PM
Subject: Redemption Project Episode 7

How does one choose to forgive? If an offender can't earn forgiveness how does forgiveness & healing begin? If you've been watching the Redemption Project show like I am, you have to admit that you're learning about violent crimes & how victims, their families AND the offender ALL ache for forgiveness, understanding, closure. We all have questions. My fiancée Justine McDonald, was murdered Oct. 25, 2001. Almost 18 years later, I still don't know or understand why. I don't understand why her killer has never been charged. I ache inside every day knowing the most precious woman I have ever known was robbed of her life at 21 yrs old. But if given the chance, I would pay to sit with her killer to ask the questions I am aching to know. I wonder, does the family of my victim feel this way? Can I offer them some sort of closure? Can I give them solace? I want to focus on victims, when a victim becomes an offender, does anyone care that this person was once a victim? Does anyone care that I was once a victim? Many prisoners were once victims of crime. I am not trying to negate the debt we owe, or the things we are responsible for, what I'm trying to say is that when I was a child victim, no one cared but me & my family. When a victim turns into an offender, does anyone ask WHY? Why did this happen? What could have been done to prevent it? There is so much good in prisoners who have been deemed irredeemable. I was a child, a victim of sexual assault by an adult who was supposed to love me, protect me. I grew to become a very immature young man who killed a man who exposed himself to me & sexually propositioned me. But as I watch this show & see the family members of victims hug the person who killed their loved one, I can't help but to be inspired. My name is Rob Pezzeca #DX1148 I am a victim, I am an offender, I've taken a life, but I am not my crime. I am so much more. We lifers are so much more. Come meet us & see why. I welcome all comments.

Rob Pezzeca, Reformed Lifer