

Prison Articles and 2nd Chances

Hi, it was so great to get your comments in the mail for me to reply to but also to hear from you when you reached out. I want to invite all readers to listen to my podcast. I have never heard it nor have I read a transcript of it but its my story. It's honest, straight forward and blunt. I am not sure how to find it so google the podcast "What is Life?" with Rob Pezzeca, created by an amazing guy, Josh Vaughn. Some people have asked me about prison. Is it what you see on tv? Absolutely not. There is good & bad in every aspect of life, in here there is more bad confined to a small area so naturally there is violence but can we for once focus on the good people in here? Can we look at the good in prison and not the negative. Let me turn you on to an article written by reporter Carrie Pauling, www.northcentralpa.com/news/on-the-inside-prison-exchange-program-shows-a-different-side-of-incarceration/article_6255e98e-11ee-85bc-03c238f40f42.html Please look for this article, look at what our prisons Superintendent says, a Superintendent is the new age term for Warden. He runs this place and he believes in 2nd chances. He believes in rehabilitation. His name is Thomas McGinley and he understand positive change. So in prison, it is extremely boring. When you watch shows of people playing cards or watching tv, thats true. There's little to do in here. Educational opportunities are few. Once you obtain a GED, it is very hard to get any more schooling unless you have money for college courses but people like Warden McGinley helped bring in college classes in which are called Inside/Out. College kids are brought in to the prisons for educational chances with us. We learn together in a classroom setting. There are strict rules and so far, it has been a huge success. Jobs are few and honestly, you don't really get jobs in prison that can train you to do a job in the outside world. The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections is proud of their latest report Recidivism Report 2022. They are proud to report that 64.7% of everyone who goes home comes back within 3 yrs. This is because of 4 reasons. No real job training in the Pa DOC, little focus on education, paid slave wages so you cannot save money for your release and lets face it, some guys just don't care. In here the DOC has an insane program, if you were on drugs on the streets, they will give you drugs in prison. They have Suboxone line. Suboxone is a drug that they give you to get you high but it can't kill you. Thousands of inmates state wide are on it. They keep you high on suboxone line, paid for by Pa taxpayers, when they go home, they return to the heroin and now commit more crimes to get money for dope. Why not get them clean while in prison? Providing them with the drugs makes little sense to me. Honestly, to me, it seems ridiculous. What it does guarantee is that you will maintain your addiction while here. And if anyone says Suboxone is not addictive, I say BS. I have seen kids in here, young white junkies sell their bodies to the predators for suboxone strips. Here's another article for you to read, written by: Michael J. Lyons, a well

respected professor at St. Joe's University in Philly and a commuted lifer, Felix Rosado.

<http://public.imaginingamerica.org> There's Urgency Here, A Pedagogy of Discomfort in a Prison Basement Please check it out. I go back to my original statement, there are bad people in here, but there are also good. When I was with the Jaycees Organization in sci Huntingdon, each year we donated many thousands of dollars to worthy charities. And we didn't have to, we wanted to help people. We've all made mistakes, horrible choices, bad decisions but this is where we work on those and improve. We all don't need to die in here. Pa has an epidemic, 5,000+ men, women and children all sentenced to death by incarceration. What good does that do? Do we not have grace? Compassion? I don't have the answers but I have my opinion and I share them with you. You are welcome to reply on this platform or directly on my email at: robertpezzeca@gmail.com

My name is Rob, I am also a prison dad. I created the largest criminal justice reform event to ever take place in this prisons 30 yr history. You can read about it at: workers.org/2023/06/71737/ and also at: pennlive.com/opinion/2023/05/mercy-and-compassion-are-anecdotes-to-fear-and-hatred-opinion.html This article was written by our states former Lt. Governor, the Honorable Mark Singel. I share these with you in an attempt to open your eyes and inspire dialogue. But for today I must go. All replies are welcome. I even reply to hate mail. I took a mans life in the worst way but I can honestly tell you today, I am not my crime, I have grown to become so much more.

Last, I want to apologize for not writing on here as often as I should. But I thank the creators of this platform for continuing to allow me the honor of writing on it. I will try to do better and more writing. What helps is if the readers reach out. Tell me what you want to hear about? What interests you? Talk to me. Thats the purpose of this. God bless. Happy New Year. Prison Dad

PS: my podcast can be found at:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/what-is-life-robert-pezzeca/id1557603454?i=1000523123858>

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