

Justice Watch Newsletter

Fall 2003

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“Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: You don't give up.”

*Anne Lamott, writer,
as printed in Oprah Magazine*

SCRIPTURE: We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6: 6-10

THE DONKEY

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally he decided the animal was old and the well needed to be covered up anyway. It just wasn't worth it to retrieve the animal, so he invited his neighbors to help him. Grabbing their shovels, they pushed dirt into the well.

At first, the donkey cried horribly. Then to everyone's amazement, he quieted down. The farmer looked down the well and was astonished at what he saw. With every shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He shook it off and took a step up. As the men continued to shovel dirt on him, he climbed further up and out. Soon, everyone watched as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off!

Moral: Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off, and step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up!

(submitted to N-Side Voice, published for SCI-Dallas Inmates, by Edwin DeJesus)

A HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA! SEND JUSTICE WATCH A \$3.00 DONATION FOR A FRIEND OR RELATIVE FOR 3 ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER.

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For those about to be paroled and to re-enter society:

CONGRATULATIONS!

Today is your day.
You're off to Great Places!
You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.
You're on your own.

And you know what you know.
And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go.

from Dr. Seuss!



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YOU ARE INVITED! Help support Garden Street House, and reach out for Restorative Justice. Join us for:

**JUSTICE WATCH'S ANNUAL GATHERING OF FRIENDS,
 WITH A TERRIFIC SPEAKER, A GREAT DINNER, DOOR PRIZES!
 OUR FUNDRAISER FOR THE YEAR!**

WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 6-8 PM.

WHERE: ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, WEST END, 745 EZZARD CHARLES DRIVE, CINCINNATI.
 (HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE, FREE PARKING)

SPEAKER: MARIANNA BROWN BETTMAN, former Judge of the First District Court of Appeals, presently Visiting Professor of Law at University of Cincinnati College of Law.

FOR RESERVATIONS: CALL JUSTICE WATCH, 241-0490. ADVANCE RESERVATION TICKETS: \$12.00 PER PERSON, AT THE DOOR TICKETS: \$15.00 PER PERSON.

Children under 12 are free, no one will be turned away. Please come! Bring a donation!

NEWSLETTER NEWS—IT'S FREE, ON OUR WEB SITE! DOWNLOAD ALL OR PART OF IT!

Get it on-line! Send your email address and we'll notify you when the next issue is ready! Using the web-site? Let us know! We'll take your name off the printed mailing list. If you want to continue to receive a mailed copy, please send \$3.00 for 3 issues per year. Thanks to all who share information and concerns. We regret we can't print all of it. We do our best!

Thanks to 25 supporters and 112 prisoners who donated for the Newsletter, a total of \$910.00 this year, plus many postage stamps. Thanks to the many "Indigent, but Interested" who asked to stay on our list if possible. We were able to keep all those on for this issue. Donors will receive 2 more issues. We're still fund-raising—haven't given up on keeping the Newsletter alive! Due to fund shortages, in spite of donations, we've pared the mail list from over 4,000 to under 2,000 names. **SHARE YOURS! PLEASE UPDATE ADDRESS CHANGES!** Include prison name, your name and number, old AND new address. **BEING PAROLED?** Tell us! We'll rejoice with you. **PLEASE** update prison library resource lists to our correct address, 1120 Garden Street. (NOT 932 Dayton St.)

NOTICE: We can't do legal work! We operate Garden Street Transitional House, publish the Newsletter and do other local advocacy. Don't waste money sending individual cases to us. We carry info on some incidents, to inform the public, but cannot help with legal work or change prison conditions for you.

OOPS! SOME MISUNDERSTOOD!

WE DON'T PUT PRISONER'S PICTURES ON OUR WEB-SITE. (WE CHECK OUR MAILING LIST VIA STATE'S LISTS OF PRISONERS—ABOUT 1/3 ARE MOVED BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS!) MANY STATES POST PRISONER'S PICTURES AND PRISON LOCATIONS ON THE WEB. WE GET TIRED OF SEEING "GROUCHY FACES." WE ASKED YOU TO SMILE FOR PRISON PICTURES. (EASIER SAID THAN DONE UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS, WE KNOW!)

Thanks to those who sent good pictures—of the real you! You look GREAT!

"If we talk to each other, we are sure to share a smile! People without knowledge of other's beliefs are easily led far astray from their own religious teachings, for Satan is at his best in the minds of those willing to be misled through a lack of personal knowledge. People become enemies when they refuse to get to know each other. To know others is to know their humanity." (from CA prisoner, A. Henderson).

Our Newsletter seeks understanding and acceptance of all in order to achieve Restorative Justice. We thank Mr. Henderson, a follower of the Holy Qur'an, for stating this position so well!

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED ON "THE JOURNEY OF HOPE!" You gave us all hope for reconciliation and healing in place of hate and vengeance! **OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO CINCINNATI CITY COUNCILMAN JOHN CRANLEY** for his local support for the Moratorium on the Death Penalty in Ohio, and for his help on the Journey of Hope. We appreciate your efforts!

GARDEN STREET TRANSITIONAL HOUSE & OTHER OHIO NEWS

Garden Street Transitional House's Staff is complete again. We welcome Interim Director Michael Howard, and our new Administrative Assistant Sarah Green-Moore. House Managers are David Chandler and Earl Wood. We are grateful for their good work, and to all others who help us.

Director Michael Howard reports that he has been contacted by the Adult Parole Authority regarding new OH Senate Bill 5 and House Bill 327, which prohibit sex offenders from residing within a certain distance from a school. Where before we were able to accept sex offenders who had been paroled into Garden Street House, on a case-by-case basis, this new law may end that policy.

There are very few half-way houses for those being paroled who have served many years and had many treatment programs. One man writes: "I am scared. I don't want to stay in prison. I've got 30 certificates from intense programs and I feel I'm ready to go out and make a life for myself. I have no place to go. The new policy is that after 60 days of a parole being given, if there is no parole plan, DOC is dropping guys with nowhere else to go at a homeless shelter and a hotel. Then they have 5 days to find and contact the sheriff's office (as sex-offenders) and a parole officer. That certainly gives me an incentive to want to get out...living on the street! I've never been labeled "Predator", but in the wake of current sex crimes, most all are now labeled, so essentially everyone is treated like a predator, the only difference being that there are varying lengths of years that registration is required. Am I missing any options? What can I do if paroled? The streets of Cincinnati are not where I want to go. I need some support in one way or another. I just want to have a life, a job, a place to live and not cause anyone any trouble. I find this a very sad and scary situation—to be afraid of everyone and even of a parole that I've worked so hard to earn. Thanks Justice Watch for listening."

MAC DAY INFO!

Community Shares presents Maurice McCrackin Peace and Justice Awards on Sunday, December 7, 2003, 3 PM at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, 103 Wm. H. Taft Road. Rev. McCrackin was one of the original founders of Justice Watch. He visited prisoners and became friends with many of their families. Mac worked for Restorative Justice in many ways. We urge our supporters to attend MAC Day.

PRISON VOLUNTEERS

"Crafts with Conviction" (CwC) is a program in 24 Ohio prisons and 8 juvenile facilities. OH prisoners produced over \$1.4 million worth of school supplies from truckloads of donated poster board, paper, wood and fabric. These are distributed through Crayons to Computer's, Cincinnati's free store for teachers in designated schools.

One prisoner is quoted as saying, "Before the program my attitude was there was nothing to do. I didn't care what was going on...putting a label on a cover says we're proud of this product. It's a way of giving back to society. Another prisoner said, "Every time I get one of these (thank-you) letters, the sun shines on my side as far as I'm concerned. The kids out there are our future."

STILL SEEKING JUSTICE

The WJM Innocence Coalition, Inc. is raising money for expenses and fees for Rubin (Hurricane) Carter of the *Association In Defence of the Wrongly Convicted* (AIDWYC) of Toronto, Canada, to review William J Mayo's case. A press conference in Atlanta GA will feature Carter as the main speaker.

After Mayo was on The John Walsh TV Show, the Georgia DOC banned all further interviews for him. At a Justice Forum at Ft. Valley College earlier, DOC Facilities Director James Doctor said, "it doesn't serve the GA DOC for someone to be incarcerated who doesn't belong there. The DOC doesn't have the power to open the gates or decide innocence or guilt but they can grant interviews." Mayo's supporters want to know why GDOC is now denying interviews!

Checks sent to help this innocent Cincinnati man may be made out to Justice for WJM Campaign. Mail to WJM Innocence Coalition, c/o Kimberly Todd, President; 1100-J Riverwood Lane, Roswell GA 30075. The coalition is a non-profit charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible. See the full story on line at: WWW.FREEMAYO.COM.

DID YOU EVER WONDER?

If athletes get athlete's foot, do astronauts get mistletoe?

Why do they call it "chili" if it's hot?

If space is a vacuum, who changes the bags?

\$\$\$\$\$\$

JUDAISM SAYS: What is harmful to you, do not to your fellow men. That is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary."

Talmud, Shabbat, 312

PRISON LABOR--LOW WAGES OR NO WAGES???

In response to concerns from customers and environmental advocates, Dell Computer announced that it would no longer rely on prisons to supply workers for its computer recycling program. Dell cancelled its contract with Unicor, a branch of the Federal Bureau of Prisons that employs prisoners for electronics recycling and other industries. A CA environmental group, the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, criticized Dell's reliance on prison labor, saying the inmates who work at the prison recycling operation were not protected by the Fair Labor Standards Act and were paid from 20 cents to \$1.26 an hour.

JUST SO YOU KNOW WHO HAS SOME MONEY!!!

President Bush's required annual financial disclosure form reported he had assets between \$8.8 million and \$21.9 million last year. VP Dick Cheney had assets between \$19.1 million and \$86.4 million. Assets are listed in monetary ranges, not exact amounts.

Ohio Rep. Rob Portman reported a net worth of \$3.15 million to \$9.85 million last year. Rep. Paul Gillmor said he had \$5.4 million to \$26.4 million. Senator George Voinovich reported a net worth of \$354,000 to \$1.26 million while Senator Mike DeWine had \$1 million to \$5.1 million. Rep. John Boehner reported \$1.6-3.4 million, Rep. David Hobson reported \$500,000 to \$4.9 million, Rep. Patrick Tiberi, \$435,012-\$1.1 million, Rep. Steve Chabot, \$434,000 to \$1.2 million. Meanwhile: The Congressional Budget Office is predicting this year's deficit will exceed \$300 billion, which would mark an all time high. This doesn't take into account the newest round of tax cuts.(Enquirer, 06/17)

IN GOD WE TRUST

By Catherine C. Rothwell (VA)

In God we trust what does that mean?
 In God we trust is the symbol of the just.
 In God we trust is the symbol of the Land.
 In God we trust is the symbol of the man
 who executes justice throughout the land.
 In God we trust what does that mean?
 Does it stand for Mean Joe Green?
 By those who swore to seek the lost,
 That swore to do it at any cost?
 But when they step-up in the pew
 all they want is a dollar or two.
 He's the God that in they trust
 those who swore to tell the truth
 What's the truth? Who can tell,
 give me a dollar I'll never tell.
 A dollar for hire, a dollar for sell,
 a dollar that I'll swear to tell
 A dollar to hurt your next of kin,
 a dollar to hurt your best of friend.
 A dollar can buy you lots of friends,
 just as long as your money stands.
 I'll tell you that dollar it has lots of power.
 In God we trust, what does that mean?
 OH, I know, that mean Joe Green.

**FAMILIES AGAINST MANDATORY MINIMUMS
 OHIO Chapter**

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UNTOLD STORIES

by Nancy Graulich in Linkages, 10/03

In a September 2, 03 Washington Post article by Vernon Loeb there were some statistics that I had not seen reported in other news sources. "Although Central Command keeps a running total of the wounded, it releases the number only when asked, making the combat injuries of US troops in Iraq on of the untold stories of the war. With no fanfare and almost no public notice, giant C-17 transport jets arrive virtually every night at Andrews Air Force base outside Washington, on medical evacuation missions. Since the war began, more than 6,000 service members have been flown back to the US. That includes the 1,124 wounded in action, 301 who received non-hostile injuries in vehicle accidents, etc, and thousands who became physically or mentally ill."

MEDICAL & SUPREME COURT INFORMATION

CHRISTIANITY SAYS: "So, in everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you--this sums up the Law and the Prophets." *Matthew 7:12*

MEDICAL (AND MONEY) NEWS

Steven Stanley, Belmont CI, has filed a federal lawsuit, claiming prison officials denied him medical treatment. The lawsuit accuses the state of "deliberate indifference to serious medical need." A 3 month investigation by the Columbus Dispatch and WBNA-10 TV detailed problems with the Ohio prisons health-care. Example: In June, officials at Loraine CI warned that prisoners were running out of medication. Records show delays of up to a week in obtaining psychotropic medicine for the mentally ill. Within the past 3 years the state has paid five wrongful-death claims filed by relatives of deceased inmates and more lawsuits are pending.

NEVER, EVER BORROW MONEY FROM OTHER PRISONERS! Ohio now takes all money sent to you from home, plus ½ of any state-pay, for court costs, fines, or restitution. You can't pay back any loans! When the loan sharks come after you, if you defend yourself, you will be sent to the Hole. Your security clearance may be upped. If you also have a heart condition and are sent to a hospital after the fight, within hours after surgery, you may be put outside, shackled, barefoot, and coatless, to wait for transportation to another prison. **WE REPEAT! NEVER BORROW!** (info from Ohio's Richland CI)

In New Mexico, if you have bad, oozing sores and need help, you may, after many request see a doctor. Then she may tell you, "Oh maybe you're allergic to chocolate!" **ANYONE IN PRISONS BEING SERVED CHOCOLATE? DOUBT IT!**

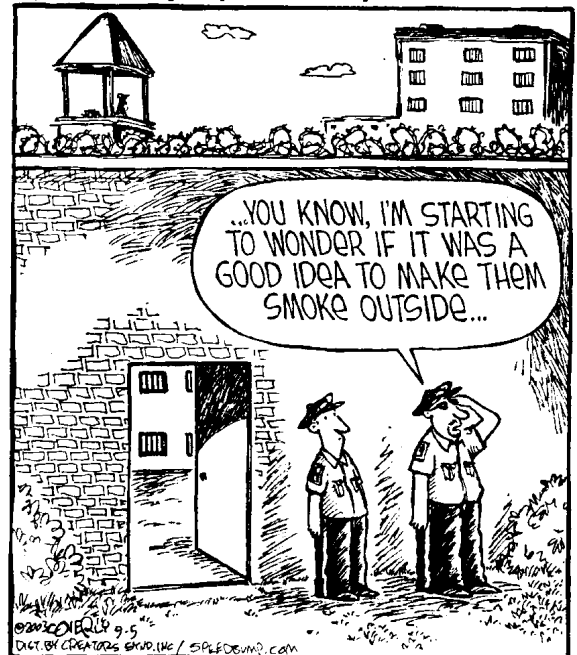
Jean Daugherty, of Women's Services, Sponsor's Inc., and the Oregon Social Learning Ctr. Surveyed 172 women on probation or parole in Lane Cty, OR. 85% reported domestic abuse experiences of at least one type. Physical violence included pushing, punching, kicking, choking, hitting and forced sex. Many linked their criminal activities to their mates. 56 committed a crime to please a partner. 45% committed a crime to get drugs for him. 40% admitted to a crime actually committed by a partner. Threats by a mate led 29% of the respondents to commit a crime. 22% chose to go to jail to avoid violence by a partner. The study's results are similar to others reported by women in prison and girls in the juvenile justice system. Anyone you know?

SUPREME COURT RULINGS, 10/06/03

The Supreme Court let stand a SC murder conviction in the case of a mother whose baby was stillborn, perhaps due to her cocaine use. The woman, of low intelligence, was helped with her personal needs by her mother, until the mother was killed in an accident. She "quickly spiraled downward, becoming homeless, addicted to cocaine and marijuana--and pregnant" her lawyers said. Her sentence was 12 years in prison. (The SC Supreme Court upheld in 1997 the state's practice of regarding a fetus as a person in the prosecution of pregnant women who used drugs.)

SC has a new law (ex post facto) which may hold a person beyond his Max-Out date by a civil procedure. The law will civilly commit a person as a "sexual predator" to hold him indefinitely for treatment by the Dept. of Mental Health, in a DOC facility. **AFTER** completing a prison sentence, the State wants a person confined for treatment never offered during the prison sentence! Treatment is a good thing. Waiting until after a person has completed his sentence is highly questionable. An outright violation of civil rights? (RM, SC prisoner)

Speed Bump / by Dave Coverly



SEROTONIN SYNDROME

INFORMATION FROM PRISONERS

A FL prisoner reports being put on Prozac after a doctor decided he had "manic-depression". At the time, the man's twin brother has just died and the man had signs of kidney disease, and severe hypertension. He was given sample packets. He took 2 pills and went for a nap. When he woke up he was in jail and doesn't remember stealing cars in his pj's, and slippers, while under the Prozac influence. (His doctor told him later he should have only taken 1 pill). The doctor did write a letter to the Judge saying "...suffered an adverse reaction to Prozac" but his attorney advised a Plea-bargain deal because of his lack of memory of the facts--said there was no way to win the case, just cop a plea. The case is under appeal, but he will finish his sentence before the appeal is heard.

Another FL prisoner tells of being convicted of sexual battery when he was put on Halcion, a sleeping pill which caused psychotic episodes. He says Jerry Springer did a show on the crimes of people convicted due to prescription drugs. Did anyone else see that show?

A Florida prison housing psychologically and physically impaired men is said to have guards who continually harass and stress the inmates. Examples: Continual discipline reports for such things as having a shoe untied or a shirt tail out at back of pants. They pull men out of line to stand on a sewer drain in middle of the compound just to humiliate them, or to clean butt cans and pick up trash. If a person refuses, he is placed in confinement for 60 days. One write-up makes a person ineligible for any transfer or privileges. Extreme paranoia, aggression and anger are the result of continual harassment.

A TX first time offender pled not guilty by reason of insanity to an attempted murder charge, in 1989. His psychiatric diagnosis, since 1979, is "Bipolar Disorder". He had a permanent medical discharge from the US Marines and is considered permanently disabled by Vets Admin. And Social Security. He was hospitalized several times, overdosed five times. He was on Xanax, but began using alcohol to relieve the side effects of Xanax, (aggressiveness) then the Doctors ordered a larger dose of the medicine. He did not win on his insanity plea but was put in prison.

A TX prisoner says he is being used as a "test case" while the Doctors try to "stabilize" him. He's been given Prozac, Trazodone, Elivel, Sinaquan and other medications. The doctor says all the side effects are normal. He doesn't "feel" normal at all. He's been put into Segregation and given drugs while he sits isolated from every part of life.

BEWARE of mixing drugs that cause drowsiness or sedation with herbs that cause the same effect, such as kava and valerian. The result can be excessive drowsiness, dizziness and loss of muscle coordination. In severe cases, blood circulation and breathing malfunctions can cause coma a death. Be aware of add-on interactions when you combine many of the herbal supplements with depressant drugs such as Alcohol, Anti-anxiety agents (Xanax, Valium, Antivan etc.), Anti-cholinergics (Donnatal, Cogentin, Bentlyl, Artane), Anti-depressants (Elavil, Paxil, Desyrel), Antipsychotic Agents (Thorazine, Haldol, Zyraxa, Risperdal), Narcotic analgesics (Tylenol with codeine, Demerol, Darvocet-N) and MANY OTHERS! (Enquirer reporter, Richard Harkness, rharkn@aol.com)

The Justice Department imprisoned 760 illegal immigrants and deported most of them after 9/11. None was charged as a terrorist. A recent report found most immigrants faced "a pattern of physical and verbal abuse" from guards and "unduly harsh" detention policies. Immigration officials sometimes did not notify prisoners of the charges against them for more than a month. "Immigrants weren't the enemy, but the war on terror quickly became a war on immigrants," said Anthony Romero, director of the ACLU. (Enquirer, 06/03)

FOR THE VICTIMS

HINDUISM SAYS: "This is the turn of duty; do naught unto others which could cause you pain if done to you."

Mahabharata, 5, 1517

TIPS ON GRIEVING DURING THE HOLIDAYS OR OTHER SPECIAL DAYS

Allow yourself to express your feelings; get enough rest, plan to be with people you enjoy; include memories of your loved one in your celebrations and conversations.

Reach out beyond the grief and extend yourself to others whenever you are able, and accept that everyone is doing the best they can do, and show appreciation for those who stand by you. Accept their help, but kindly let them know what you can do for yourself. "IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT EXPERIENCING SOME JOY AT THE HOLIDAYS DOESN'T MEAN YOU DON'T MISS YOUR LOVED ONE. IT IS NOT A BETRAYAL." (from MADDVOCATE, Summer 2003)

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE POLICE LEAVE, A Guide to the First Days of Traumatic Loss, written by Bill Jenkins, WBJ Press, \$12.95. This book is for all victims and loved ones of traumatic and unexpected loss, whether murder, suicide, accidental death or other trauma. It is the voice of the victim offering comfort, courage and hope in the face of helplessness. It offers both practical steps for surviving devastating news and honest insight to help families adjust to difficult times. The book is ideal for law enforcement, emergency room professionals and anyone involved in death notifications. It is a resource that every survivor, counselor, clergy, funeral director, caregiver and health professional should have. (from a review by Werchan Miller, National Assistant Director of Victim Services)

A Texas law stiffened punishment for those with two prior felony convictions with minimum sentences of 25 years, maximum up to life in prison. A 46 year old man was sentenced to life in prison for his seventh DWI conviction. A 35 year old man driving with a BAC of .23% was charged with the murder of a 5 year old child. It was his third offense and prosecutors pursued a felony murder charge. He was sentenced to 55 years in prison.

In Kentucky, the company that owns a T.G.I. Friday's franchise restaurant agreed to pay \$21 million to settle a lawsuit filed by the parents of two teens killed by a drunk driver with a BAC of .25%. The driver, killed in the crash, had been drinking alcohol at Friday's for nearly 8 hours.

In Florida a drunk driver pleaded no contest to felony motor vehicle homicide in the death of his friend. He was sentenced to spend Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day, the anniversary of the crash, the victim's birthday and his own birthday in jail for the next 5 years. The victim's family requested those specific jail dates to remind him of their loss. He also was ordered to alcohol counseling and to perform 300 hours of community service.

EQUAL PROTECTION

There are reports of a recent influx of foreign nationals taken into custody but the Justice Dept will not release information on who is being held. The State Department is working to convince them of the importance of respecting the consular notification rights of those arrested, even if they are SUSPECTED OF being terrorists."

A 40 page guide for consular officials on the U.S. death penalty is titled: Equal Protection: Consular Assistance & Criminal Justice Procedures in the USA. It is also available in Spanish as Proteccion sin Distincion: La Ayuda Estado Unidos de America. Visit web either web-site:

www.internationaljusticeproject.org/pdfs/VCCRguide.pdf VCCRguide.pdf

www.internationaljusticeproject.org/pdfs/20030120-VCCRproject-Spanishversion.pdf

ANSWER: Who said the Favorite Quote on the outside of our Newsletter? Pope John II, at the Assisi World Religious Leaders Conference, 01/02, and quoted in the Interfaith Justice & Peace Center news titled Linkages. (6832 Convent Blvd. Sylvania OH 43560-2891)

LEGAL NEWS

A 3 year old law requiring federal prisoners and parolees to provide DNA samples for an FBI database was declared unconstitutional 10/17/03 by a federal appeals court. It ruled that requiring blood samples amounts to an illegal invasion of privacy, if they are taken without legal suspicion that the person was involved in other crimes. It violates Fourth Amendment rights against illegal searches. (Cincinnati Enquirer, 10/03/03)

QUESTIONS FROM JURORS

The Ohio Supreme Court issued a unanimous ruling that says Judges may allow jurors to submit written questions for witnesses. But the justices also laid out guidelines for trial judges to ensure defendants' rights aren't violated. "We learn by asking questions. So, if we expect jurors to resolve the facts they need all the facts," said Tom Munsterman, director of the Center for Jury Studies at the National Center for State Courts. Judges should require written questions from Jurors, and they are to abstain from discussing the questions until they are read in court. The justices also said judges should give attorneys on both sides opportunities to object to questions without jurors present and to ask follow-up questions. Finally, judges should instruct jurors not to be influenced by the court's refusal to allow certain questions.

REASONABLE SENTENCING??

A CA man reports he was sentenced at age 16 as accessory to murder. He was sitting in a car when his friends (gang) robbed and murdered a person near-by. He was advised to accept a 15-life sentence, and has been in 23 years. He's done everything asked of him in prison and conveyed all the remorse he feels for the loss of human life. He sends a plea for a chance to live.

SLOPPY, FRAUDULENT CRIME LAB TESTS DISCOVERED

As concerns about wrongful convictions mount in the USA, critics are focusing on the quality of forensic science used to prosecute crimes. The quality of this science, particularly the analysis of hairs and fibers found at a crime scene, is often poor, and safeguards are absent. James Bednar, head of Oklahoma's Indigent Defense System says, "For 25 years we have used bad science to convict people, and we have stretched the truth."

"Criminal forensics labs are a generation behind food, drug, medical and industrial laboratories in their quality assurance systems. Without proper controls it's a crapshoot as to how well they are performing," said Janine Arvizu, a N.M. consultant. Only one state, NY, requires accreditation by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors for their staff. In many cases, labs are managed by law-enforcement officials who have no experience with science, said Wm. Thompson, professor of criminology at U of California, Irvine. The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers recently formed a forensic fraud task force to investigate the scope of problems. While forensic science has never been exact (contrary to what you see on TV), DNA analysis is also increasingly noticing its flaws.

Of great concern, many lawyers say, are people convicted of felonies based on this science whose cases don't get the intense scrutiny or appeals assistance of death penalty cases. OK Gov. Frank Keating has ordered review of nearly 1,700 cases worked on by chemist Joyce Gilchirst. Five agencies, including the OK City Police, the OK State Bureau of Investigation and the FBI began investigations. In IL, Pamela Fish, head of the IL State Police crime lab's biochemistry section in Chicago, played a central role in wrongful convictions.

The FBI's crime lab was found 4 years ago to have serious problems. Forensics "experts" did shoddy analyses and failed to document test results in numerous cases, according to an 18-month investigation by the Justice Department's inspector general.

(As reported Friday, 06/29/01 in the Cincinnati Enquirer, page E2, by-line of Judith Graham of the Chicago Tribune:

This is the extent of our coverage of this, but many have requested info about this topic as reported in previous newsletters).

TECHNICALITIES

A MO law leaves out the year between under 17 (illegal) and over 18, (legal). A young man videotaped his "lover" in a single sex act that was legal if the tapee was over 18, but not if he was under 17. After 9 years in prison the man found out that since the person he taped was over 17, but not yet 18, he should not have been convicted. *BUT —he is still in prison.*

DEATH PENALTY UPDATES

On the occasion of Paul Hill's murder, in the name of God, in the name of the Law, for the sake of vengeance:

"Sometimes the insanity of this whole thing just comes to a head. This is one of those days.

Paul Hill sees abortion doctors as murderers. So what does he do? In the name of God he murders them.

The state of Florida sees Hill as a murderer. So what does it do in the name of 16 million people? It murders him.

Hill's supporters see the state's officials as murderers. So, in the name of God, what do they do? They send the governor and other state officials bullets threatening to murder them.

If ever there was a night to prove the maxim that `violence simply begets violence', this was the night. If ever there was a night of vindication for Ghandhi's observation that `an eye for an eye simply leaves the whole world blind' was observably true, it's this night in Florida. The stupidity of it all...the destructiveness." (internet message from Harry Coverston, Orlando)

The death penalty is a matter of grave importance. The majority of our citizens sanction executions but have no real knowledge of the subject and never consider the issue. A new book, LIFE ON DEATH ROW, presents a thought-provoking look at the inside of capital punishment and the actuality of its effects on real people. It covers many aspects of the death penalty system from a prisoner's point of view. The author, Robert W. Murray, is a nationally published writer and, as a prisoner on death row in Arizona, he is uniquely situated to share personal experiences. LIFE ON DEATH ROW may be ordered from 1st Books Library for \$19.50 plus \$5.75 S&H, or on the net at <http://www.1stbooks.com>

October 6, 2003, the US Supreme Court has let stand a ruling by a federal appeals court allowing Arkansas officials to force a convicted murderer to take drugs that would make him sane enough to be executed. In 1986 the court ruled that executing the insane was prohibited by the 8th Amendment's edict against cruel & unusual punishment. Scholars in medical ethics have said the issue of medicating patients to improve their mental state to execute them might present obstacles for doctors. What do you think?

Early on, Attorney General John Ashcroft tried to overturn Oregon's physician-assisted suicide act. A reason patients opt for suicide is that they can no longer bear intractable pain. At least 32 physicians in the US have been prosecuted for giving "excessive" amounts of opiates. Some patients have taken too many at once, and died of an overdose. Dr. Frank Fisher (CA) and Dr. Robert Weitzel (UT) were charged with murder when their patients died. When the courts were presented with testimony from pain management specialists, the cases collapsed. However, Dr. James Graves (FL) was convicted of manslaughter in a similar case and sentenced to 63 years imprisonment. (Justica, newsletter of JUDICIAL PROCESS COMMISSION, INC.)

LINCOLN'S VIRTUES

Abraham Lincoln had, in addition to the general attitude around him, a personal reason for bitterness toward Indians. His paternal grandfather, also named Abraham, had been killed by Indians, as the famous grandson himself would tell it, "not in battle, but by stealth, when he was laboring to open a farm in the forest" in Kentucky. That event was an important cause of the poverty of Thomas Lincoln, who "was but six years of age" when his father was killed, and hence a cause also of the poverty of his son Abraham, because by the then prevailing law of primogeniture all of his father's property passed to the older brother. As a result of this episode, it was said, Abraham's uncle Mordecai was a fierce Indian-hater.

But Abraham did not share in this prejudice. He would show his disengagement from it most notably many years later the time we are now considering, when as president of the US he declined to allow the mass execution of 303 Sioux, strongly urged upon him by inflamed associates and fellow Republicans after raids and killings in the Middle West. He personally went through the records one by one and reduced the number to be hanged from 303 all the way down to 38 whom he found to have committed genuine atrocities.

ADVOCACY ADDRESSES

CONFUCIANISM SAYS: "Surely it is the maxim of loving-kindness: Do not unto other that you would not have them unto you."
Analects, 15, 23

In response to our Kairos news, Darryl Young sent us his picture with his Kairos-Horizon Faith Base Program graduation certificate. His favorite saying follows: Thanks for sharing good thoughts Darryl!

Watch your thoughts, they become your words,
Watch your words, they become your feelings,
Watch your feelings, they become your actions,
Watch your actions, they become your habits,
Watch your habits, they form your character,
Your character becomes your life style and
Your life style controls your destiny.

ADVOCACY ADDRESSES DISCLAIMER: We pass these on to you, but have not checked out all of them. Please be patient when you write to them. Most are volunteer based, short of help and dollars. They will respond if they can.

WE'RE SOOOO SORRY! We gave an old address for Prison Legal News! Several of you notified us, including the editor of PLN. Thanks! Did you know you can order some books there too? Try it! **CORRECT ADDRESS:** PRISON LEGAL NEWS, 2400 NW 80TH ST. #148, SEATTLE, WA, 98117; Or contact: www.prisonlegalnews.org or call 206-781-6524 (Thanks PW)

Prisoner Attorney Connection, PO Box 3916, Greenville SC 29608; toll free # 866-495-2678. They will assist any person, in any state. They have an excellent reputation in the Texas prison system. (Sounds too good to be true and it does cost \$40.00 for helping with a Parole Package, but it is worth checking out. Send for info!) Highly recommended by Michael Lathum, TX

The Prisoner's Pen, c/o Mary Ann Hardy, PO Box 202, Vestal NY 13851. Those wishing to share God's love with other prisoners may send comments, testimony, art, and poems.

"Brothaman" newsletter/Black People's Survival Guide Request from: Mrs. Rosalyn D. Washington, 165 N. McKnight Rd #208, St. Paul, MN 55119.

Kairos Prison Ministry of Ohio, 5285 Crookshank Rd, Cincinnati OH 45238-3305, publishes Prisoner to Prisoner, a bi-monthly daily devotional booklet, written by prisoners, for prisoners. Suggested donation is \$2.00 each.

***We send our condolences to those Kairos workers and inmates touched by the life of James Looney, a wonderful man who spent years serving inmates via the Kairos Ministry. James passed away in August 2003, in Ohio.

AFROCENTRIC EDUCATION

"I am interested in corresponding with anyone that studies or teaches any subject from an Afriocentric perspective. I have taught 8 such subjects and am willing to teach through correspondence. I CAN receive mail directly from prisoners. Write: Ernest Montgomery 139447, 3-114-b, Macomb Corr Facility, 34625 25-Mile Rd, New Haven, MI 48048."

The social consciousness Development Group is an effort to establish the powerful political action coalition of voting family members and friends of incarcerated persons. The coordinator is William J. Turk, 113058, B1-32, Staton Corr Facility, PO Box 56, Elmore AL 36025-0056.

FAMM--Families Against Mandatory Minimums, 1612 K St NW, Suite 700, Washington DC 20006. FAMM's lobbying efforts were instrumental in getting mandatory sentences dropped in Michigan which is releasing up to 1,250 prisoners serving long term sentences for drug offenses. For a FAMM chapter in your area, write to above address.

ADVOCACY ADDRESSES

ZOROASTRIANISM SAYS: "That nature alone is good which refrains from doing unto another whatsoever is not good for itself."
Dadistan-i-dinik, 94, 5

TX prisoners: Write to the following to file mail complaints: Mail Systems Coordinating Panel, PO Box 99, Huntsville TX 77340; the House Committee on Corrections, PO Box 2910, Austin TX 78768; The Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, PO Box 12068, Austin TX, 78711; and the TX Department of Criminal Justice, PO Box 13401, Capital Station, Austin TX 78711.

Prisoner Services, PO Box 664, Englishtown, NJ 07726-0664. Provides prisoners with many services (typing, e-mail, photocopying, pen-pals, legal resources) publish prisoners' art, and writings. They have a newsletter. Check out: www.prisonerservices.com (Recommended by S.A. Franklin, NJ)

Ask The November Coalition, 795 S Cedar, Colville WA 99114 for a petition for relief from drug war injustice. Groups seeking the revival of federal parole and a big increase in goodtime eligibility of prisoners in federal custody.

Boston Prison Book Program, 110 Arlington St., Boston MA 02116; 617-423-3298. Volunteers connect with book programs for many reasons. One notes that making books available is essential for a civilized society. "We can't lock people away and not rehabilitate them." Volunteers are needed to help funding this, and inside volunteers are also needed. Those who are given books should pass them on to others when they are read-it's the humane thing to do.

Obtain the first issue of PRISON HEALTH NEWS by writing to: Laura McTighe, Philadelphia FIGHT, 1233 Locust Street, 5th Floor, Philadelphia PA 19107.

The Coalition for Prisoners' Rights Newsletter, PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM, 87504-1911. Free to prisoners.

The American Friends Service Committee is looking for testimonies from women in isolation and/or death row units and from native American/Alaskan prisoners in such units. Write: Bonnie Kerness, Assn. Director, AFSC-Criminal Justice Program, 972 Broad St. 6th floor, Newark NJ 07102.

The rest are thanks to Patrick Noble, Federal prisoner:

Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents, PO Box 41-286, Eagle Rock, CA 90041

The American Legion, 1608 K Street NW, Washington DC 20006-2847. Helps veterans find employment, housing, etc!

CURE for VETS, PO Box 4063, Clifton Park, NY 12065

Disabled American Veterans, PO Box 13201, Cincinnati OH 45250-0301

CURE-FEDERAL PRISON CHAPTER, PO Box 153, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Life-Long CURE, 211 Watson Blvd., Observatory Hill, PA 14214, For Lifers and their loved ones!

The Justice Project, Prison Families Anonymous, 551 Livingston Street, Westbury NY 11590

Re-Entry Ministries Inc., PO Box 100461, Birmingham AL 35210

OFFERS TO HELP FIND PEN-PALS: *Chaplain Bill's Prison Ministry, PO Box 508-172, Cleveland OH 44108

*Joy Writers, PO Box 668, Cartersville, GA 30120 *Jane Lewis Prison Ministry, 3871 Black Hwy, Adrian MI 49221-9587

*Eagle Man, 1734 West 32nd Street, Marion, IN 46953 *Mission Possible, PO Box 836, Inverness FL 32651

NEWS FROM PRISONERS

TAOISM SAYS: "Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain and your neighbor's loss as your own loss."

T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien

Last Newsletter we asked why so many ex-prisoners go back to prison when the conditions there are so bad. Horace Harriot of PA responded with this answer:

"Abuse of people is illegal, not just uncomfortable. Prisoners are sent to prison as punishment, not FOR punishment. The deprivation of liberty is the punishment. The prison staff is responsible for preparing prisoners for their re-entry into society, as most incarcerated people WILL one day be released. Their job is not to abuse people who are in prison, especially since many people in there have already endured significant abuse in their lives; or have been socially, psychologically, or physically damaged in some way before they committed their crime(s).

Recidivism is caused by lack of education (thus, lack of options.) It is a fact that inmates who earn a diploma have a recidivism rate of 10% compared with 60% for other inmates. Yet, the Departments of Corrections have continuously reduced the opportunities for inmates to educate themselves and/or be educated, while they build more prisons.

In the past slaves were abused viciously on plantations; yet, when they were set free, they returned to work for the plantation owners. They didn't return because they liked the abuse. They returned because they had no education, they had no self-esteem, they had limited rights, and thus, they had no options. If the emphasis can be switched from abuse (where it shouldn't be) to rehabilitation (where it should be), the recidivism rates will be lower."

Harriot's next article may well be about the Prison-Industrial-Complex and why prisoners are valued just as much as Slaves were in pre-civil war days!

New Texas Law on Ad-Seg: Thanks to D Hoffman (TX)

DURATION OF PLACEMENT IN ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 501, Government Code, is amended by adding Sec. 501.114 (a) requires prison to transfer from Admin. Seg. to Gen. Population an inmate who has been in Ad-Seg for 5 or more consecutive years, (but) (b) the procedure must permit an inmate who would otherwise be transferred to Population to decline the transfer. (c) Procedures adopted under this are not required to prohibit the DOC from returning an inmate to Ad-Seg because of Disciplinary or safety issues related to the inmate. SECTION 2 says an inmate who on or before 09/01/04 has been in Ad-Seg for 5 or more consecutive years must be transferred to General Population by 09/01/05.

NOTE: In a letter to TX prisoner Martinez, Sen. Robert Duncan said, "...the bill was referred to the Corrections Committee in the House, and no action was taken to continue the bill through legislative process...the bill died and will not become law this year. It may be considered next Legislative Session, to begin 01/05."

ARIZONA prisoners, and others write regarding prison rape, sexual slavery and violence in prisons. The issue of prisoners being raped by other prisoners, and by prison staff is one that is so horrible that few have addressed it in any manner of helpfulness. What would work to stop sexual violence against prisoners? Suggestions?

"It is society's responsibility to protect the health of it's prisoners. When a man is taken from the courthouse in a van to confinement this is our act. We have tolled the bell for him. And whether we like it or not, we have made him our collective responsibility, we are free to do something about him; he is not. Prison rape not only threatens the lives of those who fall prey to their aggressor's, but it is devastating to the human spirit. Shame, depression and a shattering loss of self-esteem accompany the perpetual terror the victim endures. Unable to fend for himself without the protection of prison officials, the victim finds himself at the mercy of ruthless inmates (and guards). Although formally sentenced to a term of incarceration, many inmate's discover that their punishment degenerates into a reign of terror unmitigated by the protection supposedly afforded by prison officials..." (Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, as quoted by an AZ prisoner)

NEWS FROM PRISONERS

In the July, 03 issue of Discover Magazine there was an article, 'CAN WE TRUST RESEARCH DONE WITH LAB MICE?' In it, numerous doctors, professors and scientists express very real concerns that housing lab mice and rats in "shoebox-size enclosures containing food, water, bedding and nothing else" significantly alters not only their behavior, but physical make-up, in adverse ways.

For 1 1/2 years I have lived in a super-max housing unit. Prison cells in general are not designed for comfort, but these cells are even more sparse and isolated than normal. The sensory deprivation is akin to the conditions described in the laboratory cages for mice.

Daily I observe the inane, repetitive behavior described in the article, but I'm observing HUMAN BEINGS, not mice and rats. These purposeless activities include: chronic pacing from one end of the cell to the other (5 steps each way), compulsive pounding on walls and yelling nonsensical words or sounds repeatedly, self-inflicted wounds to receive the attentions of guards and nursing staff, and other unnatural behaviors.

This is not a mental health facility, but a prison designed to house 'extremely violent' or 'troublesome' inmates. It really scares me that our society believes that housing a human being in conditions that PROMOTE abhorrent behavior is an answer to behavioral problems.

Consider the following: Professor Hanno Wurbel, from the University of Geissen, Germany, says, "the environment was impinging on them in a way that drives them nuts."; Dr. Emma Hockly, of King's College in London says, "Humans have a very complex environment. If the mice are sitting around twiddling their thumbs like they're in prison, you probably don't have a very good model." Professor Barbara Koning, at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, "What are we doing if we ignore the evolutionary history of a species and just keep them in a clean cage with nothing else. Do you see how all of these statements correlate to the prison environment to which I refer?"

Research findings of Dr. Mark Rosenzweig, University of California Berkley, in the 1950's showed "that an animal's living environment does effect the development of its brain." He also stated "even dim light in the lab at night speeds up tumor growth by inhibiting production of the hormone melatonin." Many inmates in super-maxes spend endless days in their cells with nothing to stimulate their minds. How does one expect a person's attitude, behavior and outlook on life to improve by placing that person in such an environment? The lights in these cells stay on 24/7. The night light that is on from 10 PM until 5 AM is bright enough to read and write by.

The scholars are striving to improve the living conditions of lab mice and rats. Should not a conscious society be doing the same for it's fellow men and women?

(Edited from article by Kenneth French, NC prisoner)

From the ohio-prisoneract@yahoogroups.com--A few days at FCCII at Jackson Pike, August, 2003: (Where is Jackson Pike?) "This was how it was: Deplorable. A mentally ill female got lice. 11 other women in the dorm were begging guards to get her treatment. They finally gave them a piece of tape and told them to pull a nit out of her hair and put it on the tape so the doctor could verify it was lice. She was taken to solitary, and the women were told it was the worst case of lice ever seen by the male nurse there. They were given a "small" bottle of lice shampoo for 12 women. Linens were never laundered, hadn't been washed for 6 weeks. The food had bugs in it. Guards kicked trays of food across the floor like they were feeding a pack of wild dogs. When meds were passed out, there were times that they ran out of a certain kind of medication, so the inmates would just go without, no matter the outcome. This is complete subhuman treatment. I hope that someone will listen and help those that have made mistakes actually get some rehabilitation, not undergo the treatment as if they are discarded human souls."

From OR: Are there any rules on cell size? A 5 1/2' by 7 1/2' cell for two men? Isn't that cruel and unusual?

From NJ: "Is there any way to reduce the cost of phone calls to my family in FL? Each call costs \$25.00." Help?

FROM POLAND! Poland's worst air disaster occurred today when a small 2 person Cessna 152 plane crashed into a cemetery early this afternoon. Polish search and rescue workers have recovered 450 bodies so far and expect that number to climb as digging continues into the night. (Those Polish cemeteries are bad air disasters!)

NEWS FROM PRISONERS

ISLAM SAYS: "No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself." *Sunnah*

Nine OH prisons (13,700 inmates) lost power in the big black-out in August. The city provided buses to move people from Cleveland jails without generators to MCI and OSP (with generators). At the Cuyahoga County Jail, (1,900 inmates) guard emergency electric pagers didn't work. The windowless cells became so hot that some inmates passed out. The 70 guards working that night had to dial phones and find keyholes by feel. Guard Mark Belle put an asthmatic prisoner over his shoulder and carried him down five flights of stairs to get him medical attention. (There are *some* good guards!) (Columbus Dispatch)

JUST IN! The Indiana Court of Appeals ruled in McGee vs. Indiana, 790 N.E.2d 1067. Decision says that out-of-state diplomas CAN qualify a prisoner for time cuts. McGee had been denied an educational time cut for earning a diploma from IL, although he met all other requirements, paid for correspondence classes himself and had a diploma issued from that accredited public high school. IN legislators pass laws allowing inmates to earn educational time-cuts for diplomas, degrees, and programs, but DOC routinely complicates or prevents obtaining these by creating arbitrary policies denying the accomplishments. With this ruling, out-of-state diplomas must be accepted as long as the "standards of instruction for earning it are substantially similar to those of IN. The American School of Lansing, IL cost McGee \$400, whereas taking the same senior year classes via Indiana U would have cost \$2,000. American School is accredited by the same Assn. as all Midwestern public schools so its credits are transferable and diploma's as valid as any. It has a \$40 per month pay option. (McGee, IN)

From Washington CC, (FL) said to be an institution for the mentally ill or handicapped: complaints of the total disrespect, and inhumane actions by officers. Example: Write-ups given if one requests bathroom permission after lights out. In retaliation for a grievance filed against the officer the inmate is handcuffed and shackled and eye glasses are confiscated. Pepper spray has been used when inmates refused to call an officer, "Daddy", or refusing to do sexual favors for the officer. Walking space is limited to 18 inches of a yellow line. If an inmate steps outside the line while being forced to clean butt cans and pick up trash they are made to scrub the line, or stand on the sewage drain in the middle of the compound. Refuse and you are placed in confinement for 60 days.

Anyone caught writing about conditions there will be put in a locked cell (controlled management) for 6 months to 3 years with no contact outside (phone, visits, and limited mail). Prisoner receive write-ups for things as minor as an untied shoelace or a shirt tail hanging out, talking "too much", staying in the shower "too long", as judged by a guard, or not finishing eating in 2 minutes.

HELP C.A.V.C. and F.A.C.T.S. amend California's costly, extreme and unjust "3-Strikes" law. They seek a law that imprisons the truly dangerous, violent, habitual criminals, not a law that puts non-violent offenders in a maximum security prison for the rest of their lives. Call them at (714) 780-8901, (213) 746-4844, or www.amend3strikes.org. The prison system is the fastest growing department in CA. It is larger than transportation and health care. Since implementation of the "3-Strikes" law, CA has built 21 prisons and 1 university.

From Cameron, MO (AKA Mizzery)--Mizzery has a 60-70% Black prison population, yet only 12% of the general population is Black.

From AR: the ADC has a policy that prevents inmates from mailing letters written in any language but English, without permission from the Warden, in order for the Warden to ascertain the necessity for the use of a "foreign" language (i.e. the person being written to is unable to read/speak English). This is a security measure to minimize the opportunity to send an encrypted message of any sort. However, at EARU all Hispanic inmates are prevented from mailing ANY letters in Spanish, even their families, despite the loop hole for the Warden who could give special permission. Couldn't a Spanish speaking interpreter read the mail before it is sent?

From IL we learn that there are no Spanish speaking para-legals for the non-English speaking population, and there is much discrimination against the Hispanics incarcerated there.

ORIGINALS

JESUS DIJO: "Hagan ustedes con los demas como quieren que los demas hagan con ustedes." (San Lucas 6: 31)

ENVY

To the man, tired to the bone and having less than 10 dollars in his pocket, coming home from work to a house that needs paint, a yard that needs mowing, and is full of kids' toys and screaming children....

To the man who drives an old pickup that can't last much longer--one he still owes several payments on, who comes home to a wife dressed in old blue jeans, who's a little overweight, in a bad mood, wearing no makeup, and having uncombed hair and bad breath...

To the man whose dinner will consist of chicken noodle soup and hot dogs; from the prison cell from which I'm writing this, I say, "God, how I envy you!"

(By Ken Monse'Brotten, printed in the N-Side Voice, SCI-Dallas, 12/01/01 issue.)

DON'T LOOK BACK

By Antonio Rodriquez, from Cuba, NY prisoner

"Give to the past a past, the problems are finished when you begin your responsibility. Open the door and the future will be in your hands--with understanding, wisdom and knowledge. Don't look back, it's not worth it. Think of the consequences."

"Da le al pasado un pasado. Las problemas terminan quando comienza el deber. Abre las puertas y el futuro estas en tus manos--con entendimientos, sabidurias y conocimientos. No mire hacia atras, no te conviene. Piensa en las consecuencias."

Id, amigas, por el mundo, anunciandoel amor, mensajeras de la vida, de la paz y el perdon.
Go, my friends, to the world, proclaiming love to all, messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.

Sois la Semilla--You Are the Seed--by Cesareo Gabarain,
transl. Raquel Gutierrez-Achon and Skinner Chavez-Melo,
UCC New Century Hymnal

BLESSED HOPE

By James Bauhaus, OK prisoner

IN PRISON, HOPE BUILDS A LITTLE AT A TIME,
LIKE WHEN, AFTER WAITING, THE MOON BEGINS TO SHINE.
HOPE INCREASES IN FULLNESS AS WE AWAIT THE MAIL,
HOPE RESIDES EVEN IN A QUIETLY WHISPERED TALE,
HOPE BUILDS TWICE EACH MONTH IN THE CANTEEN LINE.

HOPE IS LESS IN THE RECEIVING THAN IN THE WAITING.
TIME IS THE CULPRIT, IT JUST KEEPS BAITING.
YOU HOPE, YOU WISH AND YOU DESIRE,
ANTICIPATION SETS YOUR MIND AFIRE!
WHEN PROMISE ISN'T FULFILLED, NERVES START GRATING.

THEN HOPE BEGINS ANOTHER ROUND,
THOUGHTS OF TEMPORARY SURCEASE ABOUND!
SUDDENLY, EACH AND ALL BECOME A WINNER!
FROM NOWHERE, REAL FRIED CHICKEN FOR DINNER!
SUBTLE HOPE, ONCE UNREELED, IS THUS REWOUND.

BY WORDS ALONE

By Desi Sykes, NJ prisoner

Over, under and around;
through these old walls,
brick by brick I shout.
Wishing to be heard,
wanting to feel and be felt.
Why has life forsaken me?
Am I not allowed its beauty?
Nothing do I own,
is all that I ever bear.
I am not noticed;
only these words I dare.
Such small and tiny things;
Words that I share.



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FAVORITE QUOTES

"Government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force! Like fire it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master: *George Washington*"

It is sometimes the responsibility of a patriot to protect the country from the government."

Thomas Paine

(above quotes sent to us by Gene Gash, PA prisoner)

..."Forgiveness is not a proposal that can be immediately understood or easily accepted. In many ways it is a paradoxical message. Forgiveness in fact always involves an apparent short-term loss for a real long-term gain. Violence is the exact opposite; opting as it does for an apparent short-term gain, it involves a real and permanent loss.

Forgiveness may seem like weakness, but it demands great spiritual strength and moral courage...It may seem to diminish us, but in fact it leads us to a fuller and richer humanity.

...Violence never again! War never again! Terrorism never again! In the name of God, may every religion bring upon the earth justice and peace, forgiveness, life and love!"

Who said this? See inside, at bottom of page 7!