

DEAR RON -

AFTER READING YOUR LETTER, AND ANSWERING IT LAST NIGHT, I GOT TO THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING. YOU MENTIONED PEOPLE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ME - THANK YOU FOR THAT - AND I KNOW HOW DEDICATED DAS'RS ARE. THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING THEY CAN DO TO HELP ME; OUR WHOLE COUNTRY, IN FACT.

I'VE MENTIONED BEFORE, I AM IN A CHRISTIAN PROGRAM HERE AT LAKE BUTLER. IT ORIGINATED BY BILL GOTHARD AND IT INVOLVES ABOUT 70 MEN. THE PROGRAM HAS JUST BEEN EXPANDED TO A FULL YEAR. WHEN IT BEGAN IT WAS A SIX-MONTH PROGRAM. IT INVOLVES BIBLE STUDY, SCRIPTURE MEMORY, AND TEACHING BASIC LIFE PRINCIPLES. (GOOGLE WWW.IBLP.ORG) YOU'LL FIND DETAILS ON THE WEB. OUR PROGRAM (PRISON MINISTRY) IS P.A.L. (PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LIFE). THE KEY POINT, HERE, IS RECIDIVISM RATE. NATIONALLY, ONCE A MAN OR WOMAN IS SENT TO PRISON, THERE IS AN 83% CHANCE THEY WILL RETURN. THOSE WHO SUCCEED IN THE P.A.L. PROGRAM (J.O.Y. FOR WOMEN, "JOURNEY OF YEARS") ARE SHOWING RECIDIVISM RATES BETWEEN 5% AND 14%! THAT'S A HUGE SAVINGS FOR TAXPAYERS, EVEN MORE - SO MANY LIVES (AND SOULS) ARE BEING SAVED!

CAN YOU HELP ME CRAFT A MESSAGE TO OUR DAS CONTACTS THAT WILL:

1. LET THEM KNOW ABOUT PAL & JOY AND THE GREAT IMPACT THEY HAVE ON OUR PRISON POPULATION (THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD!)
2. INSPIRE THEM TO WRITE (AND EMAIL) THEIR OFFICIALS ABOUT WHAT A DIFFERENCE PAL IS MAKING.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PRISON PROGRAMS THAT ARE BASED ON CHRISTIAN THEMES, BUT THIS ONE IS ACTUALLY MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

WE HAVE NO SMOKING (NONE!), NO DRUGS, NO FIGHTS, NO MURDERS, NO STEALING.

RON - I'VE BEEN SO BLESSED TO BE IN THIS DORM. PRISON IS EVERYTHING YOU SEE IN THE MOVIES AND ON TV, BUT MUCH WORSE! IT'S LIVE - 24 HOURS A DAY - FOR YEARS!

THERE IS NO ATTEMPT TO "REHABILITATE" IN FACT, PRISON IS A VERY EFFECTIVE "DE-SOCIALIZATION" PROCESS. IN THE 'NORMAL' PRISON, ANY REDEEMING SOCIAL SKILLS AND CHARACTER TRAITS ONE MIGHT HAVE UPON ENTRY, ARE QUICKLY STRIPPED AWAY - REPLACED BY RAW, BRUTISH SURVIVAL SKILLS AND A BROAD RANGE OF SOCIOPATHIC TENDENCIES. THEN, WHEN THEIR SENTENCES ARE UP, THEY ARE RELEASED LIKE A PLAGUE UPON SOCIETY.

THINK ABOUT IT. DO YOU THINK THIS MIGHT BE SOMETHING YOU COULD HELP ME CHANGE?

YOUR BROTHER IN CHRIST,

J. M. W.

P.S. SEND ME NICK'S ADDRESS.

(I would like to see you)

Send me your address