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From : NATHAN REID, ID: [REDACTED]
To : todd reid, CustomerID: [REDACTED]
Date : 5/22/2021 5:38:07 PM EST, Letter ID: 1166666640
Location : DRF
Housing : 900116TOPB

How Is There Still Hope!

Written By: Nathan Reid # [REDACTED]
Carson City Corr. Facility
10274 Boyer Rd.
Carson City, MI 48811

I pause before my pen touches the paper. My thoughts wander. Should what I am about be written. I ask myself, why put this on paper at all. Will this story or even the knowledge I am about to tell actually inspire someone? Perhaps. But perhaps not. What we take for granted, the knowing of certain things can either help us or hinder us.

There is very little I have not read and studied from the libraries within these walls in the past 22 years. I have gathered over the last few years a story in my head, always intending to put my knowledge on paper. I will put down what I know from my own experiences. Perhaps to provide some answers for some poor fool, in times to come, who might find himself or even herself in a certain ordeal that will and can change the persons life in an instant with one right or wrong choice.

In the early morning hours of June 15, 1999, I (Nathan Gene Reid), received a phone call from Patrick McLemore (co-defendant). Patrick asked me to meet him down the street from my mother's house because he had something important to tell me. I met him and he told me that "he went to the man's house that he cut grass for and broke into the man's house to steal some money and possibly a few guns and while there the old man woke up and they got into a fight and he killed the man." Immediately I think to myself, "I know this kid is a known thief and as I have been told, he's not a person you want in your inner circle, and I know I wouldn't just hang out with someone who would do such a thing as he just told me. Do I believe him or not?" So I told him I would maybe see him later, and I walked away to go back home to sleep..

Later on in the evening hours of June 15, I went to visit my friend Phillip Donnelly at his parent's house to see what he was doing and some friends of ours showed up at the house as well. While there Patrick visited and I pulled Phil to the side to have a conversation with him in his bedroom, and while in the bedroom I started to tell Phil what Patrick had told me that morning, but I was immediately interrupted by Patrick as he came into the bedroom yelling at me to "stay out of his business." I told Patrick to tell Phil exactly what he told me because Phil lives right across the street from the man he supposedly robbed and killed and I wanted to judge what Phil had to say about this news. Patrick then tells Phil and makes the bold statement, that he is going to hell for killing the man in the yellow house." Patrick continues to state that he had gone into the man's house to steal guns and money, but while there, he did not know that the old man was home and the old man woke up and they got into a fight, and that he hit the man with a wrench and then drops a tv on his head when he still appeared to be alive. Patrick states that he left the residence, stealing the man's car, a vcr, a gun, and some money. Finally he stated to Phil that he was covered in blood and tried to wash it off.

Around 12:00 a.m. of June 16, 1999, Phil asked us all to leave and I headed to my mother's house with Patrick and Jeremy Bitterman to get my mother's car to drive around in. Patrick asked me to drive to the street behind Genesee Christian School so he could pick something up. Patrick got out of the car and returned with a vcr, which he said we could go to the eastside of Flint to sell for money to buy some alcohol.

Around 4:30 a.m., after driving around for hours in my mother's car I drove back to her house Patrick then left Jeremy and myself to go home and asked us to meet him at his parent's house in about 20 minutes. Jeremy and I left on foot walking throughout the neighborhood. Around 5 a.m. Jeremy and I went to Patrick's parents house and Patrick asked us if we still wanted to party since we had alcohol. Patrick stated that he had keys to a car which we could drive around in. Patrick took us to Genesee Christian School, where behind the school was a car parked and Patrick took keys from his pants pocket and opened the car and started the car. As I was intoxicated (which is no excuse), I thought I would not get into any trouble or get caught in the car. So Jeremy and I got into the car with Patrick and we drove around into the early morning hours and at one point in time asked me to drive the car because he was to drunk to drive and even asked me to help him spray paint the car. Around 7 a.m. we drove the car back to the City of Burton and stashed th car in a field across the street from my mother's house. Finally, we walked to Patrick's parents house and went to sleep. (Every thing I have just said is public record and is within the police report.)

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From : NATHAN REID, ID: [REDACTED]
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On June 17, 1999, I was arrested around 2 p.m. and was brought to the City of Burton Police Depart. for interrogation. I was told tht Patrick had been arrested some hours before and he told the police that I am the one who committed these crimes that he himself committed. I was brought to the Genesee County Jail for holding and processing to see a judge and was charged with murder amongst other charges.

On November 30, 1999, after many months of court appearances I was forced and coerced by my state appointed attorney into taking a No-Contest plea bargain (which is just a simple way of saying your guilty and your also not guilty of some things) to 2nd degree murder amongst other charges. I took this plea out of fear that I was going to prison for the rest of my life and because I felt in my gut that my attorney was not representing me correctly (which I came to find out that he was not).

I would like to express to all of you reading this, that there are no excuses for my actions, irrational behavior, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol as I played a part in this crime. I am guilty of not calling the Burton Police Depart. and not reporting that I was told a crime had been committed. I am also guilty of aiding and abetting these crimes after they were committed by getting into a stolen car, driving the car, and helping spray the car. I take full responsibility for my actions and behavior and know that from this destructive behavior, that these choices I made when I was 19 years old have led to heavy consequences which have cost me half my life in prison and possibly more. I will never make these mistakes again, and furthermore surround myself with people who are involved in any sort of criminal activity.

There are also no words to describe how sorry I am for getting involved in this crime after it was committed. I apologize to the vicims family, my family, the community, and the citizens of this world for every part I played in this crime.

Please think before you do. Actually take the time to make a decision that can either make you a better person or land you in a position like myself.

To paint a better picture of where things went wrong for me, at the age of 15 years old my life started to change dramatically. I was a very active sports player and I was working for my father's construction company, but I started to surround myself with peple who I thought were popular but actually had negative attributes, and I thought they would make me popular. These people influenced me to act out and have a no care attitude and this led to my destructive behavior as a teenager. I started to steal money from my parents to support these negative traits I picked up so I could party and have fun with these people. My attitude was out of control. I did not care about myself or anyone else.

My parents and family were constantly there for me, trying to get my attention, to get me to wake up and realize what I was not only doing to myself, but how these negative and destructive choices were affecting them as well. The fact remains that I wronged many people and I cannot release myself from the damage done, but know that I have made many steps in a positive direction in my life to never make these mistakes again.

Know that this person who I was so long ago does not even exist anymore. I have learned from the many educational/rehabilitational programs and courses that I have taken over the past 21 years and 5 months, that I was longing for attention, I just wanted someone to just see me, to talk to me, to be by my side, to belong, and I had it all along if I would have just opened up my eyes. I have learned that my actions carry consequences and what I do not only affects me, but my family and my community in all.

Throughout this journey I came across a man who is also serving time in prison for aiding and abetting and he inspired and impacted my life in such a profound way by teaching me that the Keys to Freedom within Education. I have made it my goal to learn and grow as much as possible. Even within such constricted spaces, we as prisoners can be educated and find freedom.

You remember when you were a little kid and your parents would tell you that you can do anything or be anyone you want when you grow up, well the same attitude you had then is still in you. Whatever interests you, whatever intrigues you, whatever makes you smile and giddy about life and makes you think "I can do that or I want to learn that", well you can.

I have attached a copy of my educational portfolio for you all to see. That a man, a prisoner who has served almost 22 years in prison now, has achieved all of this and you can too. And just to point out whats not attached is all of my work history, volunteer activities and even my extracurricular activities like leaning how to play the guitar, and the 3 languages I have learned as well.

If I, you can too. With just the simple act of opening up yourself to the possibility that you can, you will achieve. With this in Mind - Dream, Inspire, and Make a Difference in the World.

"Cherish your visions; cherish your ideas; cherish the music that stirs in your heart, the beauty that forms in your mind, the loveliness that draps your purest thoughts, for out of them will grow all delightful conditions, all heavenly environment; of these, if you will remain true to them, your world will at last be built." James Allen

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