

# The Goal.

We can reduce reoffense by half, and more and save you millions in tax dollars doing it. Which will prevent more crime, and victimization than any laws or harsher punishments can, and we can not only see it happen in our life time, so that our childrens children arent left still trying to clean up our mistakes; we can do it in less than ten years.

If you want to know something, dont study it, get used to it. - Japanese Proverb -

I wont pretend to know more than you, though beyond the corruption in our P.O.C; due I believe in large part to a lack of belief in what theyre doing; Both inmates, and how we're giving them the opportunity to improve themselves while in prison has been made far more complicated than we actually are, when veiwed from the perspective that inmates are human beings, and United States Citizens (First). So I'll start with that, and with a few people alot smarter than myself.

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All morality, and or law, is of necessity  
shaped by context. To ignore the context of  
any decision is an injustice, and immoral.

- Ann Rice -

(Context.)

We are all basically people of untaught  
feelings, and not blank slates to be filled in  
by education.

- David Hume -

Discipline does not mean suppression, or control,  
nor is it an adjustment to a pattern, or, ideology.  
It means a mind that sees what is, and learns  
from what was.

- Jiddu Krishnamurti -

Principals are not taught from a place of  
principal, they're taught to a place of principals.

- Anonymous -

If you want a man to stay as he is treat him  
as he is; If you'd have him change treat him  
as you'd have him be.

- Lord Byron -

If the young are not initiated into the village they  
will burn it down just to feel its warmth.

- African Proverb -

It is through changing their condition that men change the state of their knowledge. It is as things come before them that counsel increases in men, and when men change their natures and become different it happens to them that they think things that are just as different.  
- Empedocles -

The more directives you issue to solve a problem the worse they get.  
- Robert's Second Rule -

Men are what their mothers make them.  
- R. W. Emerson -

The principals which regulates the existing social relations between the two sexes - the subordination of one sex to the other - is wrong in itself and now, (still) one of the chief hindrances to human improvement.  
- John Stewart Mill -

If you're not there as a rule you're wrong.  
- Anonymous -

Right is right even when everyone is against it, and wrong is wrong even when everyone is for it.  
- William Penn -

## Science/Proof.

Introduction of positive expectation for change is the first step in rewiring the brain, and results under enforced activity of those unwilling, due to their inability to be active show increase of brain functions, and after several months the brain is rewired. Inactivity becomes productivity; participation becomes their norms; Anti become Social. (Remove the lines of separation (expectations) and change happens)

- Baxter -

, and last, but not least.

Courage demands that we assert our morals even against forces that appear invincible.

- George Orwell -

When I read so many quotes by people who've put in words the roots and fruits of our principals, with the intent to leave us with the wisdoms they learned so we had a better chance of getting it right. Not just life, but in becoming our potential, without all the wasted time in suffering to learn it, and how little progress we've made, especially in our justice, and prison system, it's as disheartening as it is hopeful, and I always take my next step believing, not only in myself but in the worth and ability of all people, and that because of

them we've still got a chance to get it right.

Not many people believe in the worth, or abilities of people in prison. Even less believe in our D.O.C.'s ability to change people for the better. But the thing people in prison hate more than being in prison, is getting out worse, knowing they're going to reoffend and come back to prison, and not understanding why, or how to overcome it, and having no one care enough to show them how.

I've been in prison almost 25 years, and spent most of my teens in one youth facility or another. Always being told it's because I'm selfish, inconsiderate, don't feel anything, and/or just wrong and bad as a human being. Except I had started off trying to get away from that. From all the hurts that came with not believing what I felt mattered, trying on my own to figure out what and how to do right, and being taught by every authority figure that came into my life that it didn't matter what I thought, or felt, and I spent years hiding and pretending not to care about or feel anything; pretending I didn't hurt, trying to prove to myself, and everyone else I was what, "How I'd been treated said I was. That I was worthless, trying to make the outside look the way I felt on the inside, and before I could understand how I had become those worthless expectations, and

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everything I wasnt. And in the past 25 years of being in prison we've only come up with more and more restrictions, and punishments that reinforce that it doesnt matter what I feel, or care about; forgetting that putting people in prison doesnt mean they can shut off, or stop being human beings and, that neglected, punished, hurt people, neglect punish, and hurt people, Even those that arent the people who personally hurt them, and we only need ask ourselves what prisons are about to understand that.

But one of the punishments has been to take our contact visits for things unrelated to actions during visitation, and actions rooted in the beliefs we have no worth, in an environment that doesnt allow for change, and demands that we do whatever we have to to survive, and, visitations being the only thing we're otherwise allowed that reminds us that we're still human beings, and that hugg, kiss, and, or touch of the hand being the only affection we're allowed for years; often decades, and those affections being the best teacher of empathy, and, it being taken for the fear of, or actions of a few. While the majority after having their contact visits taken, lose hope, and, give up; often taking years for them to get back on track; if at all.

All in the name of giving the appearance of trying to address the problem of drugs being in our prisons, and, in making it a visitation issue, also saying that correctional staff are incompetent, and, or, not doing

their job: when nothing could be further from the truth, as our correctional staff's thoroughness during pre visitation inspection of visitors is often frustrating and even a deterrent for revisiting of loved ones, and, the vast majority of drugs known to be the consequence of our occasional correctional officers who bring them in; not believing in what they're doing, because of the way they're trained to think, paid, overworked and for the lack of results they see for the efforts demanded of them, but most of them do care about what they do. So the lack of results are as good at making them feel worthless, or, that it doesn't matter what they do, as these walls and punishments make us in prison feel, and, it matters, not only what we do but in what we're achieving. It's in what we're achieving that we find our purpose as human beings, and, for the lack of results correctional staff see, we're lucky there aren't more making the rest look bad, and, taking contact visitation is only making our prisons worse, because a deterrent can't be the taking of something that makes us human beings to begin with.

Another side to the increase of drugs being in our prisons is the knowledge that there is not enough, and often nothing for people to do in prison and they're forced to set idle in the same habits that lead them to prison, and what no one seems to have the courage to admit, is that prisons are less violent when there are things for people to do and look forward to, and, when there's

truth  
visitation  
when  
No purpose to living, drugs fill that void, and I've been in a prison when there was no activities, and no drugs, for two years, and, it was the most tense and violent two years of my life. Robberies, beatings, and stabbings, every week and not even in our sleep could we not worry about it, and at least when there are drugs causing the problems, that come with them, they're something to focus on that allow people to escape the suffering and insanity of an existence of being, and, doing nothing, and, our environment is over all less tense, even for the staff. But drugs and violence has it always been so bad.

A few years ago they took college and most trades out of prisons because someone made a complaint about it not being fair, or right that inmates were getting their educations paid for, while his daughter, also under privilage, but with good grades, and not a criminal, couldn't, and while his frustrations were justifide It was ignored that educational programs, especially college degrees and or laborous, technical trades reduce a persons chance of reoffending to less then 10 percent, on average, accross the board, no matter what crimes lead them to prison. Down from over 70 percent without, and the time reductions prisoners recieve for the completion of these type of educational opportunities save the tax payers more money then they cost to provide, not counting all the money being saved not having to house them for



additional crimes, and the better examples they take back to their communities, that we know has an effect on reducing crime.

Another consequence of having taken these educational programs out of our prisons, is that our Justice System relies heavily on our D.O.C.s ability to reduce reoffense to determine how long people are being sentenced to prison, and, as reoffense has increased, so has the length of time people are being sent to prison, and, a part of the increase has been to reduce the amount of possible time cuts made available for the completion of programs that help reduce reoffense, and, without enough programs and time cuts to get, and keep people active, and motivated, we're now having time cuts given out by prison staff, who're undermanned, overworked and incapable of being present in each individuals life in a way that they can truly know, or make a real difference in an inmates life, to the extent that it reduces their chances of reoffending. All in an attempt to find a solution to give people the time cuts they do have available, but not the programs to earn them, and, not to reduce crime, but the financial consequences of housing so many people in prison without the programs to reduce reoffense.

We're using deterrents, taking what ever our basic knowledge of what human beings need away, and has proven only to make our problems, and people worse,

and thinking about, even as I write it out, it disheartening. Because were americans; what I've grown up believing men to be a person and people of wisdom with the courage and humility to apply it, especially when it means having to acknowledge when we're wrong, or that what we're doing doesn't work, and not using it against the person who had the courage to acknowledge being wrong, because thats the only way we get it right, and raise the standards of whats acceptable, and whats not in how we treat one another, and in what we achieve as a collective unite people, and we're better, and smarter and alot of people, even now, have suffered to make us so, and we can do better... I can do better, but I / We need your help to do it.

Our environment dictates who most all of us are, and what we can achieve, and, most people especially, people who're in prison are not self motivated. We're spiritually, and mentally beat up, without any sense of purpose, or self worth, and if we're in prison then we're at the bottom of what we can be, and you're the example of what we can become and if you can change, if you can learn from your mistakes, I can... We will, and it'll start with understanding that all activities, and or educational programs that provoke, and promote both social, and educational development can not be restricted as punishment,

prevented, or even optional, they have to be mandatory, and we can't keep saying, "We can't make anyone do anything they don't want to do." We force them into cages, and no matter what labels we put on it trying to change our perspective so it's easier for us to morally accept, they're cages. So we can force people into doing programs, by giving them the ability to earn their way out; Instead of keeping people in prison for much longer than they've been sentenced, as punishment for conduct while in prison; most often, not remotely criminal, and would otherwise be seen as a basic human need for their social and mental development, in becoming responsible, independent human beings, that believe in their worth, that without makes no difference what they do in life; and, the millions being spent every year housing people in prisons for infractions while in prison, that doesn't protect your safety and security when they get out worse and more violent because of it; can be used to pay for more programs, more staffing, and better pay, and training of correctional staff, who're better people and more capable than the way they're trained to think, or even allowed to treat people; which is, even for the majority who don't understand it, as dehumanizing for them as it is to people in prison, and has as much effect on who people become while they're in prison as everything else.

Apart of which is knowing that the respect of

authority starts with the respect of women, who, when working in our male prisons have arguably the most difficult jobs in our country, and as we've improved on it, are still over looked for higher positions of responsibility and often falsely assumed or accused of conduct they're not guilty of, and meant to undermine and shame them into submission when they're not what their male counterparts and authority wants them to be, and being in prison doesn't make us blind, or stupid. You will never hide it when it's happening, and as it is, that's still an example being set; that says, women are less than they are and not to be trusted, or believed in; and if you don't like me saying it, deny it, or doubt that it's true, I'm talking about you, and we need to get it together, because they, and "We All", need, and deserve a better example.

I may die in prison, and for years I pretended it didn't hurt, and lived like it didn't matter who I was, or what I did. But I've learned otherwise, and no matter where I die, I'm not what prison says I'm suppose to be, nor is it all I want to be and, I and most of the people around me care about that, and overcoming our mistakes, and becoming our potentials as human beings. Even when we don't know how to show, or say it, because we've never been taught that what we think and feels matters, and if we're gonna change and our goal is truly to

make a better world, and I believe we are; then these are the things we're gonna have to do.

Thank you for your time, and consideration.

J. Spivey Jr.

It to believe in what I've had to say you need to know why I'm in prison.

When I was 18 I agreed to beat a man up during a home invasion robbery, I had first objected to, after then being told, "He's just an old child molester". I used only my hands, struck him 8 times, and with the last punch thrown he said, "Bunt hit me", and in his voice, intuitively, I heard, (No Guilt!) only a plea not to hurt him. Slapping me into realizing what I was doing and ashamed I ran as fast as I could; never thinking he would die. I also never had the courage to admit the shame of having done it or at 18 was I capable of understanding why, and none of what I've just acknowledge ever came out in court. (SHAME) and All of it rooted in the consequence of child sexual abuse. (context.)

People are not "what they do", We are "Why" we do.