

To whom this may concern.

April 25, 2021

7:32pm

Reason: To aid someone that's helped me shape myself for the better.

My name is Teddrick Batiste and I have been on Texas Death Row almost 10 years. My second day at the Polunsky Unit, I recieved my first disciplinary case and was sent to the administrative segregation part of the unit. At that time, I was 23 years old and mad at the world for not understanding my personal beliefs and thought process. When my time was up to make my custody level and get out of administrative segregation, I was moved to B pod-50 cell. The following day, I was allowed to have recreation and found myself in the dayroom in front of an offender name Jones. At that time I was having a verbal debate with the staff that was soon to lead me back into a situation I had just gotten out of. As the officer walked off, leaving me to battle myself and loose to my pride. I heard Jones tell me, 'it aint worth it youngsta! It was then that I would have a conversation with a man that's been in my shoes, taken them off and put them back on, in his past. Jones is more relatable to me in more visual ways than I was willing to accept, as we come from the same broken society of young and thoughtless teenagers and young men. Through conversations with Jones, i've developed a better relationship with the mother of my son and to understand the things that interest my son better. just those simple things that i felt were not the most valuable things. It was Jones that put pictures to everything he told me, seeing that's the only way i would understand what he told me. I grew up around guys that gave me what they knew and shaped me the way they were shaped. As I communicated with Jones, he taught me that in order to heal myself

and have a vision. Just because I came from the struggle, don't mean I am the struggle. I've seen this man grow and humble himself in every situation presented in our grave conditions. I've heard him speak to one person and plant the better seed in multiple offenders. I have gotten knowledge, wisdom and understanding from this man. he helped me step away from all gang activity and understand my reason for the better purpose. This is a man on Death Row and since he's been here, I havent heard a person bring up or make up anything bad to say about him. TDCJ does not rehabilitate Death Row Offenders, but amongst the changed ones. I do not stand alone when i say that Jones is not the same person he was when he got sent to Death Row. I say that to mean, that the system is going to work how it's built to work and through all the things that bring a person down further. all the negative things we could condone in, all the poison, violence and things that come with the jacket of being on Death Row, I personally have seen jones decline anything with the intent to alter his state of mind at any leval or cloud him from being who he needs to be and not what he was. I was 2 cells down from Jones when he got the news of his date and I asked him how he felt? He told me, all he could do was stand on his word as a better person and no longer feel compelled to do things out of misunderstanding. He is still growing and how he had asked for forgiveness and lived out the reward of haven it by being a better person, even with no physical life in him, he would continue to grow. I thank Jones for alot of my sight today, my steps to a better person and my strength no matter what to let the negative things go and rebuild for the people that love me and needs my love. I thank jones for teaching me how to understand my appeal process. I speak these words hopen that someone will understand, because there

really are no words to describe the stability and growth these cells will help one come to. you just have to watch the person. Sometimes, we really don't understand the hurt in our wrong, until someone shows us. Jones also showed me that to some of us black teenagers, prison is our summer camp. He said that it's where we develop people skills, learn skills and also it separates you from your difference, it can pick on you and bring you down as well. but it's a place we get structure from. you just have to develop a reason for your vision.

I hope my actions described as words help in their best intent and whoever is reading this understands that at some point, we must love the broken ones raised by the broken ones. Peace be unto you.

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