

THINK YOU'VE SEEN IT ALL?

Come, sit in the HFP office!

ON MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE

“Last week I had a scare: blurred eyes, hard breathing. I was coughing up blood. I wrote my provider a medical kite requesting treatment. As of today I have not seen a PA or a doctor. My friend Kirk was having the same problems for months. Finally he was unable to walk. They took him to the hospital and discovered he had bone cancer. He passed a few weeks later. My PA don't give a damn. I don't want this to happen to me.”

“They ran out of 14 gauge French catheters and the guards told me they didn't get a delivery so they were instructed to give only 2 to each person, and we were told to make do with them. Then when I was on the way out and I saw one of the head nurses next to the doctor who is taking care of me I asked WTH was going on, why I was only being given 2 cath for an entire week and why I was told “just wash them and re-use them” when they say right on the package DO NOT RE-USE? The doctor looked puzzled and suddenly the guards' and nurses' story changed and they mysteriously found a nearby closet full of 16 gauge cath and asked if I would use those instead. Funny little quirks they tend to pull when they think they can get away with something.”

“This started in July 2015....the infection has moved into my fingernails causing 3 fingers to get what they are calling fungus. This is causing my nails to split apart and as you can guess is painful. Now my pointer finger nail split so bad that the PA decided to remove it. The first time she tried I passed out due to the pain and blood. The second time she tried she tore it but did not remove it nor the bottom portion since it is in layers. When I seen the doctor about this she stated she will not get involved...that the PA started this so she can finish it.”

ON VISITATION PROBLEMS

“Went to visit my husband on Black Friday because I figured everyone would be shopping. WRONG. There were so many visitors that they terminated about 10 visits (the first time). They named off those being terminated and gave them 2 minutes to say their goodbyes and throw away all the uneaten food. Then about a half hour later they terminated 4 or 5 more which was the group we were in. Gave us a 5 minute warning which really turned into about 3 minutes and more uneaten food thrown away. We had to stand at the door for 15 minutes before they let us out. Some of the food could have been eaten if we had known we were going to have to stand at the door for so long. Some very nasty officers.”

“I make the 3 hour drive to WHV Correctional Facility 3 to 4 times a month. There are some wonderful staff there to help you get to see you loved one and there are some horrible staff as well. I have had to wait in the waiting room for as long as 3.5 hours just to go back and see my loved one. On that day I spent 9.5 hours between driving and waiting to get in, that does not leave much time to see a prisoner.”

From the desk of Doug:

“And that's the way it is...”

Walter Kronkite
signoff

I'm certainly not famous, like the popular broadcaster Walter Kronkite. But I am a newsman, and I do know how to put together a newscast. We keep hearing questions about what we're doing, who we're helping, what kind of problems we face, and what we are doing about them. So I've chosen some of our top recent stories to give you a taste of our work.



As you can see, this is an entirely different newsletter. It's cluttered and gritty! No color. Stark black and white, just like in prison. No cute pictures. We ask that you take a little more time to read each item. Then, we believe, you'll get the sense that members of your team here on the front lines removed their hands from their pockets and rolled up their sleeves!

We didn't doctor up these messages to make them look nice or sound good. This is exactly the stuff that comes to us every day, 7 days a week. Our staff and volunteers respond to every one personally and promptly! No recordings. No form letters. But also, there's no favoritism. No vetting. No priority based on color, faith, gender, or nature of the crime.

Notice that we didn't make an appeal for support this month, either. Until now. There's an envelope enclosed. Please consider a January investment in a life. We're on a record-setting pace and we must not slow down now.

With you behind us, and Jesus at our side, we cannot fail.

Come, sit in the HFP office!

All he can think of is good food!

“For the first two months I had my color TV what would you guess I watched? Sports? Sci-Fi? Movies? MTV? I was glued to one channel: the Food Network. I can only say that it is the single prevailing amenity that I equate with freedom. I long for the day I can try a Krispy Kreme donut and Hagen Daz ice cream (I’ve never had either). I could fill a page with the foods I look forward to trying. It has been decades since I have had an olive. My favorite fruit is grapefruit and I haven’t had one in 15 years. I love my girlfriend more than life itself. But if you asked me straight out what is important to me when I get out---if strapped to a polygraph---images of food might give her unintended competition.”

An appeal from overseas!

“Can you help me please? I live in the UK and I am trying to help an inmate who is in a MI state prison. He has been badly let down by people and I am 100% sure of his innocence. I believe a terrible injustice has been done to this man. Many of his court papers are missing: I need to obtain the remaining 190+ pages. Secondly, I also need the transcript for a second trial. There was also a hearing about the jury bullying (incredibly despite this clearly happening, the verdict was not overturned). I look forward to hearing from you and I pray God's abundant blessings on your important work.”

Prisoner budget can't cut it!

“I have a job, but I only earn approximately 8 dollars per month. A deodorant that costs less than 2 dollars in the streets, costs nearly twice that, and that is the same of almost all products. I have to buy email and postage stamps, shampoo, bath soap, foot powder, toothpaste, tooth-brushes, and a host of other things. I am given only 3 pair of socks, underwear, and two t-shirts. That is not enough to last a week, so we are forced to buy our own, or go without those items for several days a week. If I do not shower every day, I stink, and that creates friction with other prisoners. They do not want to be living with stinky prisoners. The only hygiene item they give us, is three small bars of lye soap per week. I cannot use that on my hair or skin. It's only good for washing my hands after using the john.”

On death and dying

“I just received word from the prison staff today that my biological sister called to let them know that my mother passed away. I don't know how to get in touch with any of them. I haven't talked to my sister since I was locked up in 2001. I barely know either of them, but I did have plans to get to know my mother when I finally got out. I know she cared about me, but for some reason she was always quite distant. We had talked a bit through letters when I first came to prison, but she was never very consistent. I would hear from her a few months and then not again for a few years. Well, I don't really know how to take the news. I'm truly all alone now.”

Native American Worship Struggles

“I find that my religious services are all I have, yet the department has stripped us of the manner in which we pray... I do not impose, yet I often find that without persistent pressure we do not get the things we deserve. It's said in prison that the squeaky wheel gets the grease. If we do not speak out they pass us by and we are left to fade like old paint on the wall. I ain't got much left to fade. My paint's all flaked off!”

Why we do what we do!

“Just a quick note to wish you a blessed and joyous holiday season and let you know that during this time of Thanksgiving, you have been in my thoughts and gratitude for all that you are doing to help me regain my freedom. You restored hope where there was none and gave me the strength to keep on fighting when I believed all was lost. Bless you for that. I know that God has angels on this earth to do his work for him and you are surely among them. It will, of course, take a band of angels to secure my freedom, but by the grace of God it will happen. Thank you for setting this miracle in motion. May this holiday season bring you many blessings!
Fondly, Ms. N.”

UNTOLD STORY: PRISONERS DOING GOOD THINGS!

“I did want you to know that the Chance For Life Organization at the Cotton Facility did a month-long drive and raised money for the Gayle M. Jacob Cancer Center here in Jackson. We were able to raise over \$1,100.00 to help cancer patients. It was our way to give back to the community.”