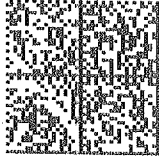


REGINALD THORPE # P-79002
SQSP 3N23L
SAN QUENTIN, CA. 94974

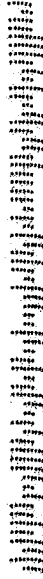


U.S. POSTAGE



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PRISON UNIVERSITY PROJECT
MOUNT TAMALPAIS COLLEGE
POST OFFICE ~~WIND~~ BOX 492
SAN QUENTIN, CA. 94964



DEAR PUP,

5-1-2020

AS OF TODAY, NO ONE "INSIDE"
SAN QUENTIN STATE PRISON HAS
TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19.
THEREFORE, THE ONLY WAY THAT
AN INMATE CAN CONTRACT
CORONAVIRUS IS IF STAFF
INTRODUCES IT INTO THE
INSTITUTION. A SERIOUS CONCERN
THAT I HAVE IS STAFF GOING
HOME TO FAMILY AND/OR FRIENDS
THAT THEY CAN NOT ACCOUNT
FOR THEIR WHEREABOUTS WHILE
THEY ARE AT WORK. ALL IT TAKES
IS ONE SELFISH DECISION, BY ONE
PERSON OUTSIDE THE INSTITUTION,
WHO IS IN CLOSE CONTACT OR
PROXIMITY OF A SQSP STAFF
MEMBER, AND HUNDREDS OF INMATES
IF NOT THOUSANDS, WILL BECOME
INFECTED WITH COVID-19. SYMPTOMS
MAY NOT SHOW FOR DAYS. THIS IS
ENOUGH TIME FOR THE VIRUS TO
SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRES.

ON T.V., THEY ARE SHOWING THESE PROTEST ABOUT SHELTERING-IN-PLACE ORDERS AROUND THE COUNTRY. ALSO, PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ECONOMY AND THEIR LIVELIHOOD GOING FORWARD. I AM NOT OUT THERE, SO I CAN NOT PASS JUDGEMENT OR SPEAK ON WHAT THEY DECIDE TO DO. HOWEVER, I WILL SHARE MY THOUGHTS.

DOCTORS AND NURSES ARE ON THE FRONTLINE FOR "ALL" OUR HEALTH AND SAFETY. IF THEY DECIDE NOT TO GO TO WORK BECAUSE PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO OBEY THE SHELTER-IN-PLACE ORDER, WHO IS GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THE PROTESTERS, THE PROTESTERS' FAMILY AND FRIENDS IF AND WHEN THEY GET SICK? SELF-PRESERVATION IS THE FIRST LAW OF NATURE. THESE ARE "UNUSUAL" TIMES NOT "UNNATURAL" TIMES.

2

THE FEAR OF BEING POOR, HOMELESS,

DESITUTE, DEPENDANT, HUNGRY, AND HOPELESS IS TRUMPING GUARENTEED HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR TODAY. I KNOW THIS FOR A FACT; I CAN NOT CHANGE WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY, NOR CAN I TELL SOMEONE WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TOMORROW. HOWEVER, THIS VERY MOMENT, "RIGHT NOW", IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TIME OF MY LIFE. WHAT I CHOSE TO SAY, CHOSE TO THINK, AND CHOSE TO DO WILL NOT ONLY AFFECT ME, BUT EVERYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. THIS PANDEMIC HAS ADDED STREGNTH TO ~~THIS~~^{THE} CONDUIT THAT CONNECTS US ALL.

IF ANY OF US ARE SICK OR DEAD DUE TO OUR SELFISH AMBITIONS, ~~OR~~ WE ARE NO GOOD TO THE ECONOMY. MOREOVER, OUR FEARS WILL NOT MATTER. AT ONE POINT, I TRUELY BELIEVED THAT

THIS PANDEMIC WOULD FORCE US TO CHANGE OUR PERCEPTION OF HOW WE SEE AND VALUE LIFE. MOREOVER, MAKE US A BETTER PEOPLE. TODAY, I AM NOT SO CONVINCED.

BEFORE I GO, I WILL LEAVE YOU ALL WITH THIS...

I HAVE BEEN SHELTERING -IN-PLACE FOR ALMOST 22 YEARS. AT TIMES, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO COPE WITH BEING LOCKED UP AND LOCKED DOWN. HOWEVER, I FOUND SOME KEY THINGS THAT HELPED ME SURVIVE AND PERSEVERE.

1) PRAYER AND/OR MEDITATION DAILY-REGULARLY.

2) EXERCISE IF POSSIBLE. TRY TO GET A GOOD, DRENCHING SWEAT.

4 3) READ OR STUDY MATERIAL. DO

PUZZLES, SOLVE PROBLEMS, AND TRY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS THAT HAVE AN ANSWER WITHOUT LOOKING. IF YOU DO LOOK AT THE ANSWER, FIGURE OUT HOW IT WAS SOLVED.

4) TALK TO SOMEONE, DO NOT BE ANTI-SOCIAL! NOT TALKING TO PEOPLE ABOUT MY FEELINGS & EMOTIONS LED TO DISTRUCTIVE ACTIONS/~~BEH~~ BEHAVIOR.

5) BE OF SERVICE HOWEVER POSSIBLE.

6) GO BACK TO NUMBER 1.

SINCERELY,
REGGIE

P.S.

IT IS OKAY TO SHARE THIS LETTER ON THE PUP WEBSITE OR IN E-MAIL MESSAGES.