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OCT 4, 15

DEAR MRS, WIKKIE HAILEY. MY NAME IS CHASE AND ALTHOUGH YOU DON'T KNOW ME. I HOPE YOU WILL TAKE TIME TO READ MY PLEAS... I AM 32 YEARS OLD WITH A PRISON SENTENCE OF 37 YEARS. LET ME START BY SAYING IF THERE WAS ANY ALTERNATIVE TO WRITING YOU. I WOULD BE DOING IT... I AM NOT A BAD GUY. I HAVE NO WAY IN YOUR SYSTEM OF THINGS, TO SHOW AND PROVE THAT TO THE. I HAVE A MANDATORY SENTENCE FOR MY FIRST TIME EVER GOING TO PRISON, I HAVE ASK FOR A PARDON AND WAS TOLD TO WRITE YOU WITH MY EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES. WRITING YOU MAKES ME VERY NERVOUS, BUT I AM ALSO SCARED THIS MAY BE MY ONLY CHANCE. I HAVE A LOVING FAMILY WHO ARE AS UPSET WITH HOW THINGS HAVE TURNED OUT FOR ME. WHEN I WAS MUCH YOUNGER MY MOTHER USED TO PASS ME AROUND BETWEEN HER SISTERS. THIS TURNED OUT TO BE A GOOD THING BECAUSE BY THE TIME I WAS 16 I WAS A METH ADDICT, BUT I HAD VALUES. I KNEW WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE LOVED... I STARTED OUT VERY YOUNG SPENDING MOST MY TIME WITH MY AUNT VICKIE. SHE IS WHO TAUGHT ME HOW TO READ AND WRITE. SHE COULDN'T HAVE CHILDREN BUT I FELT LIKE HER SON... I ALSO SPENT MY NIGHTS WITH MY

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AUNT BRENDEN, SHE ALWAYS MADE SURE I FELT PROTECTED. I CAN REMEMBER ^{WHEN MY} ~~MY~~ UNCLE WOULD SHOW UP DRINKIN TO GET ME TO GO WITH HIM. BRENDEN GOT BEAT UP BECAUSE SHE WOULD NOT ALLOW IT... MY AUNT BRENDEN IS A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER WHO WOULDN'T HARM A FLY. I ALSO LIVED WITH MY MOM AT THIS TIME. I THINK SHE REALLY TRIED HER BEST, BUT SHE HAD GOTTEN Raped BY 2 MEN. THAT EXCRUCATING EVENT CHANGED HER. SHE STILL TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE HONEST, AND MINDFUL, BUT SHE BECAME UNSTABLE THO. BECAUSE OF THAT THERE WERE LESS AND LESS RULES TO FOLLOW WHICH LATER LEAD TO MY DRUG USE... I USED DRUGS FOR OR UNTIL I WAS 21 BEFORE I DECIDED TO GET CLEAN. ONCE I DECIDE I NEEDED TO CHANGE I MOVED IN WITH MY GRANDMOTHER. SHE TOOK ME IN WITHOUT QUESTION. I WAS THERE ONLY A SHORT TIME BEFORE I GOT SHOT. BECAUSE OF THE SHOOTING MY RIGHT LEG WAS AMPUTATED, THAT SLOWED ME DOWN PHYSICALLY BUT IT DID NOT HELP WITH MY DRUG PROBLEM. I STILL WANTED TO GET CLEAN, BUT I RELAPSED FOR MANY MANY YEARS. THE LONGEST I COULD GO SOBER AT FIRST WAS LESS THAN A MONTH. I NEVER QUITE WANTING TO QUIT. I EVENTUALLY MOVED IN WITH MY AUNT JOYCE. WHO AT THAT TIME IN MY LIFE I NEEDED MOST. NEITHER OF ^{US} KNEW HOW MUCH MY LIFE WOULD CHANGE. BUT BY HER UNCONDITIONAL LOVE I WAS ABLE TO LOVE MYSELF. SHE TAUGHT

ME WHAT IT WAS TO FOLLOW RULES AGAIN, SHE GAVE ME A PLACE TO COME THAT NO-ONE COULD FOLLOW. I WAS ALLOWED TO GET CLEAN BECAUSE SOMEONE DID NOT UNDERSTAND AND THEY DID NOT JUDGE ME. I LEARNED THAT OTHERS LOVED ME, MY LOVE WAS BEING RECIPROCATED. I DID END UP AT A PLACE IN FLORENCE SC CALLED "THE OWLS NEST" THEY TAUGHT ME HOW TO STAY CLEAN FOR THE PEOPLE I LOVED... I ENDED UP IN A BEAUTIFUL STARTED HOME WITH A WIFE AND A NEW BORN BABY. A LITTLE BOY NAMED TRISTAN. I DON'T THINK MY MARRIAGE REALLY STOOD A CHANCE LOOKING BACK. BECAUSE I WAS MORE IN-LOVE WITH BEING MARRIED THAN WHO I WAS MARRIED TO. I WAS A GOOD FATHER AND HUSBAND BUT I ALLOWED MY ~~WIFE~~ TO POP PILLS AND SMOKE POT WHILE I MYSELF DRANK... THIS BEHAVIOR LEAD TO MY WIFE BRINGING IN METH TO OUR HOME. I STAYED CLEAN FOR A SHORT TIME BUT DID USE AFTER A TIME. BECAUSE OF THE DEFECT OF RELAPSE. I BECAME DISTANT TO MY FAMILY AND LEFT ALL TOGETHER AFTER A WHILE. THE NIGHT I GOT INTO TROUBLE I WAS WITH PEOPLE 10 YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME. WHAT I MEAN IS THEY WEREN'T MY NORMAL GROUP OF

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"FRIENDS," I AM NOT A MAN TO PLACE BLAME
BUT HAD I CHOSE BETTER COMPANY I KNOW
THAT I WOULD NEVER ENDED UP IN PRISON.
WITH THIS I ASK THAT YOU PLEASE GIVE MYSELF
THIS PARDON SO THAT THEY BE JUSTICE...

PB I THANK YOU FROM
MY HEART IN ADVANCE.

SINCERLY,

CHASE NILEY

DEAR MRS HALEY, THE REASON I
WAITED TO SEND YOU THIS LETTER IS
BECAUSE OF THE FLOOD TRAGEDY BUT,
NOW WITH ALL THAT IS GOING ON ACROSS
SEAS I FEEL I AM OUT OF TIME...

THANK YOU,