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Not every prison event is 100% stories of success.

Jeff was looking forward to his two children coming for a visit and spending the day with him at One Day With God last weekend.

I was looking forward about being with the men as they played and prayed with their children.

Just before the Praise and Worship, which is just before the children enter the prison, Joe McDonald asked me be a mentor with Jeff and pay special attention to him because his children weren't coming. Thanks Joe! You ruined my Praise and Worship. All I could think about was a father looking forward to his children coming for a very rare visit. My heart was heavy can I tell you.

We all went outside waiting for the children and when they were all there Jeff's was missing. I told him I was assigned to him and he seemed pleased that the ministry thought enough of him to have someone be with him.

We sat at a table for about an hour together while he made a sign that would be in his photograph (normally taken with the children) that he would send to them. He sat facing the door where he could see the "Sally Port" or entrance to where we were. Every time there was the least movement at the gate his head jerked up hoping it was he children. They never came.

The sadder thing is that it happens every year. Every year he prepares but they never come.

His situation is a part of the sin and bad decisions that get men like Jeff sent to prison. The hurt is not only to the victim of crimes but of family and friends. Separation is a part of the pain of incarceration.

If you have children close to you give them a hug...right now!

Blessings,

Rod