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Greetings, Members of the Law and Justice Committee, staff, and the public.

My name is Joy Wellington and I live at Red Lodge, MT

I started out as a volunteer at MSP, following the inner leading I had for prison ministry. I learned that to become a volunteer I had to be associated with a group and the only group in my area was Ultreya. There were Ultreya requirements as well as Volunteer training at MSP before I could proceed, which took about a year. By September of 2009 I finally met with all requirements and began attending the once-a-month meetings that included 90 minutes with low-side inmates followed by 90 minutes with high side inmates.

This call I felt was meaningful to me and from the start I enjoyed my time, although I increasingly felt that something more was being required of me. I hoped to be able to mentor any who wanted spiritual growth and shortly after I started an inmate pulled me aside after a meeting wanting to know if I would consider becoming his spiritual mentor. I asked him what that meant to him and he shared that since he had been denied parole earlier in the year, he had been seriously struggling and confused, wanting to find a way to draw closer to God. I agreed, but new restrictions did not allow volunteers to write to inmates. This presented a problem and as I prayed about it, and as other serious concerns came to light, I decided to resign my volunteer position in order to protect my team. This made it possible to try to address my concerns with authorities, and to send books and write to Clive. It was a blessing to see how this man began to gain new hope in his Lord's deliverance, and faith that one day justice would come to him too, in spite of the court's apparent racial profiling, and the BOPP's unprofessional approach to those who worked so hard to earn parole. Some of the documentation of these concerns is included in the hand-out I've prepared and the rest can be viewed at [www.citizensforlive.org](http://www.citizensforlive.org).

In order to send books I was required to be put on his visitor's list and after getting approved we began visits. However, it seems that MSP frowns on former volunteers becoming visitors. I learned this by the almost immediate targeting with the apparent goal of terminating my visits. It seemed that this administration felt threatened by me as some kind of security risk. That targeting has continued and is well documented. I now believe the issue is that I was a former volunteer and the man I visit is black and Jamaican. Whatever the issue, and in spite of all the opposition and conflict, our relationship grew in amazing ways first as friends then as a couple who hope to spend our life together.

I am telling you this story to hopefully make you aware that the people imprisoned in this state matter to Almighty God. He is paying attention and is calling people in many places to take notice of those we designate as 'throw-aways'. It is time to take a serious look at how we manage our correctional system because it has ceased to be correctional. It is however,

dysfunctional, fueling the problems within society instead of being an instrument to fix them. At MSP you can find bullying by staff towards inmates and visitors, oppressive rules design to dehumanize that are continually revised to be ever more restrictive to the point one has to wonder if there isn't a hidden agenda designed to promote violence. People don't change by force in a sociopathic environment. They change by positive affirmations and respect with healthy accountability. The DOC is quick to shove down the throats of inmates that nothing is a right but everything is a privilege which they have the power to take away. That truth is universal before Almighty God, and a truth that those who are in charge of prisons fail to consider. It is my hope that you all consider this truth, and make a positive difference in the shameful statistics that now identify our nation as 'The Prison Nation of the World'!

#### Psalm 82 Amplified Version

God stands in the assembly of the representatives of God; in the midst of the magistrates or judges He gives judgment as among the gods. How long will you magistrates or judges judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked. Do justice to the weak (poor) and fatherless; maintain the rights of the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy; rescue them out of the hand of the wicked. The magistrates and judges know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in the darkness of complacent satisfaction; all the foundations of the earth (the fundamental principles upon which rests the administration of justice) are shaking. I said, You are gods since you judge on My behalf, as My representatives; indeed, all of you are children of the Most High but you shall die as men and fall as one of the princes. Arise, O God, judge the earth! For to You belong all the nations.

#### Isaiah 10: 1-3

Woe to those judges who issue unrighteous decrees, and to the magistrates who keep causing unjust and oppressive decisions to be recorded. To turn aside the needy from justice and to make plunder of the rightful claims of the poor of My people, that widows may be their spoil, and that they may make the fatherless their prey! And what will you do in the day of visitation of God's wrath, and in the desolation which shall come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you deposit for safekeeping your wealth and with whom leave your glory? ...

#### Ezekiel 16: 49

Behold, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: pride, overabundance of food, prosperous ease, and idleness were hers and her daughters'; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

#### Jeremiah 5: 28

They have grown fat and sleek. Yes, they surpass in deeds of wickedness; they do not judge and plead with justice the cause of the fatherless that they may prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy.

Clive Kinlock's statement of his BOPP hearing experience:

I went to the Parole Board with great expectations because I had worked hard to maintain my low custody level, and had completed all treatment requirements far beyond what was required of me. There was a great parole plan in place, whether living in the US, or if removed from the US back to my country of origin, Jamaica, where I lived as a child. Strong friend and family and staff support was in place along with several letters of recommendation of my character and work ethic, and several job offerings. My walk with the Lord has allowed me to grow spiritually and has opened my eyes to a more positive experience, motivating me to make positive changes in my thinking and in my life.

On the day of my hearing the weather was very severe, keeping many local supporters away. However my younger brother Andrew and his fiancé Mera flew in from Florida only to be very disappointed about the way the BOPP handled my hearing. Soon we discovered that the decision had been made 5 days prior to the hearing, making their presence in my behalf irrelevant, and completely disrespectful of all they had to endure to be there. \*See Andrew's statement)

I felt devastated by the lack of respect from the Board, that they disregarded me as irrelevant by making light of the deportation order, and the reputation I had accomplished in this most difficult environment of prison. They didn't bother to ask me any questions other than to identify myself. The two men at the hearing definitely had no interest in my parole, but Theresa O'Connor felt I had done significant time and requested parole. The men out voted her and after discussion denied me another hearing for *eight* more years. I felt stunned and completely shattered, especially since I felt my whole experience with the Montana judicial system was not about justice, but about racial profiling. I have completely taken responsibility for my crime and for what I did do, and even accepted the outcome for the charges that were imposed on me by the court that I did not do, but have paid for anyway by my 21 years as an inmate in the State of Montana.

My only hope, prayer, and wish now is that some justice is rendered in my case allowing me to salvage whatever life I may have left to become a law abiding citizen of society where success is my only option after this life-altering, traumatic experience, endured over 21 long, hard years in a Montana State prison.