

THURSDAY-MARCH 4, 2010

Dear Ray,

Hi my friend, Bo Ler and fellow softball affectionades!! I earnestly apologize for taking so long to write. I've struggled mightily over the past months since we last saw each other. In fact, June 24TH, 2009 was going to be my last day on earth.

I had thought long and hard about everything and I made up my mind. I wasn't going to spend another year in captivity for a crime I hadn't committed. Then I was called down to the prison operations office. A Recreation officer asked me for advice in putting together the All-Star team. He then, out of the blue, asked me if I wanted to coach the team. I initially said no. He then said he wanted me to coach 3RD Base. I reluctantly agreed.

After thinking about it, I determined that I would go out & enjoy my last softball game, make my peace with God and later that night

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hang myself. Even after I found out it was your crew coming in, I had made my peace with dying.

The night of the 23rd, I had packed all of my personal property so the prison staff wouldn't have to pack it up. I wrote all of my loved ones and got a good night's sleep. The day of the game I had a very quiet & peaceful feeling. This was it, my last memories - forever.

Even as I stood on the field and was greeted by your team, it all was so surreal, I was taken aback somewhat because so many of your team remembered me, instantly! It made the moment so perfect. A perfect day to live. And a perfect day to die. Until I met a young man named Cotton - His daddy pursued me endlessly, speaking to me at every opportunity. He openly entrusted me with his son and embraced me wholeheartedly. That boy changed my outlook, he changed my fate - HE SAVED MY LIFE.....

Had it not been for his daddy opening his heart & his family to me, you would have eventually heard about my

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personal tragedy. That young man so touched my heart & soul & spirit with a power that only God could have imparted.

And what does this have to do with you and anything else, I really don't know Ray. But I can tell you had it not been for you and your teams passion for Christ & the Gospel, I wouldn't be here today.

You're a good man Ray. And I appreciate you very, very much. Please thank all of the men who chose to reach out and touch outcasts like me.

Most importantly, please thank the family members of these courageous men who sacrifice as much, if not more, than your team gives to prisoners just like me. Had Colton's mother not agreed to let him come into my lions den, I would not be here today.

Many thanks to you. Many thanks to your wife & family. And a depth of gratitude to the families of your men & ministry.

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Thank you Ray. Please say hello
and give my heartfelt thanks to your
crew. Hopefully I'll be your
homeplate umpire this year.

Take Care My Friend,

JD