

Beste,

Wat volgt is een boodschap van onze vriend David Lee Goff., terdoodveroordeelde #999015. Hij schreef ze in de nacht voor zijn executie op 25 april 2001, Huntsville, Texas. Ze zijn bestemd voor 'those on deathrow' maar ook een beetje voor iedereen die schrijft met een terdoodveroordeelde. Ze tonen zo mooi de kracht van 'schrijven'.

*To those on death row*

*Well, it seems that the time has come to say good-bye to those who I have come to know. The years have come and gone, almost in a blur. I have laughed with many of you and argued with you as well. There have been ups and downs and everything in-between. And yet I have found that there is something about striving with a group that makes you a part of that group and thus one. No matter the level of disagreements that I may have had with any of you, I see each of you a part of the same whole to which I belong.*

*It makes no matter if you are innocent, guilty or somewhere in-between. What matters is that you keep fighting for justice. Justice is about healing. About moving forward in understanding. It's about building. There is no justice in the death penalty for anyone. Keep fighting. No matter how tough the road gets for you and those around you. It was tough for me. I wanted to quit daily, but I was too stubborn, though I was in pain.*

*If I could give you a word that will sustain you I would, but I have no such words. All that I have is the truth of my conviction and that is to say do not stop living. I know that it's difficult (some say it's impossible) but you must. When you stop living you lose and they win. Justice becomes hollow. Fight and keep living even when you cannot see anything to live for. I did, even though I was in pain.*

*Black, White, Mexican...you are all the same to those outside the circle. I could say that all should do their best to get along, but what good would that do? Not much, I imagine. But believe me, it takes little effort to get along and a great deal not to. Everything, (and I mean everything) is meaningless in the face of what each of you are facing. And it will take the effort of all of you combined to bring about*

*change on some level. 'What can I do ?' you are likely wondering. I'll tell you.*

*You can write, and write and write and write some more. Those of you who can not write can get someone to write your words. (some of that getting along, I mentioned) Tell your stories, tell some stories, share moments in your mind and soul. Open your heart to the world that has not made up its mind that you deserve unjust treatment. There are some out there who are willing to listen. And when you have done that, think of anything else that you can do to keep the word out (because it's already out there). Pay attention to deadlines so that no one is left hanging in the wind by some attorney who has failed in his duty. Help one another with legal as well as personal needs. You can help save someone's life in the process.*

*Well that's about it from me. All of you take it easy and keep smiling and living, even if you don't feel much like doing either. I did, even when I was in pain.*

*David Lee Goff – 25th April 2001 – 2 a.m- Livingston /Tx*