

Mr. Rankin,

First, let me say thank you for taking an interest in my case and wanting to write about it.

My name is Justin Chapman. I am 34 years old. I was born in Macon, Georgia on June 8, 1979. My parents are Phillip Chapman and Ann Wade. My father's parents are the ones who raised my sister and me, and their names are Billy and Bernice Chapman. My mom's parents are Richard and Marguerite Truitt. My granddad Truitt was mayor of Forsyth, Georgia for 19 years. My granddad Chapman retired from GM after 30 years and still worked 2 to 3 jobs at a time just to take care of his family. I guess I was raised like most kids we were—middle class and my granddad Chapman worked his tail off to make sure we had what we needed and a lot of what we wanted. We moved around a lot, so I have lived all over Georgia, but when I was 9 years old we moved to Carrollton, Ga. So I guess you can say I was raised in West Ga. I went to Carrollton Jr. High then transferred to Temple High in Temple, Ga.

In June of 2006, my life changed. I was arrested and charged with crimes that I did not commit. In June of 2007, I was found guilty and sent to prison. While writing this, I am going on 7 years in Telfair State Prison. Prison life is lonely and hard. People here hurt one another over a \$0.39 soup. We are treated like cattle. We are the rejects of society, the throwaways. My life has been devalued.

But despite being convicted and sent away for something I didn't do, I've become a better man in prison. Prison life makes you bitter or better. I choose the latter. Since coming to prison I have earned my G.E.D. I have completed the faith and character based program, and now I am a mentor in the program. I teach a number of classes. I hold bible study 6 days a week and I teach a class of faith (Christian). I teach Vocabulary Enhancement, Career Center (Job training). I am the worship leader of Telfair. I lead the people into worship just like at a church. I sing in the choir; I preach to the prison population we have services on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. My goal in prison is to win as many souls for Jesus as I can and to preach and teach his word. In a nutshell to help as many as I can in whatever way, but the main way is spiritual. I also believe if Christ changes you nothing or no one can take that from you.

In closing I want to say I speak not just for myself but for those who are voiceless because no one is listening. I thank God for Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore law firm and the 2 lawyers John Rains and Michael Caplan who gave someone a chance and a voice.

Respectfully

Justin Wayne Chapman

Ps. Thank you again so much for wanting to write my story.