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# My Gift

Greeting and Blessing Prison University Project Staff, Committed Volunteers, and Compassionate Donors. Your precious letters containing tons of pertinent information, along with a care package was received with open arms and my biggest smile. You gave <sup>me</sup> a life restoring gift that will never stop giving.

Upon receiving this bundle of joy, "my gift," I was extremely ill. So much so until everyone including myself was waiting for the doctor to declare my days were limited. As sick as I was the doctors still refused to send me to the outside hospital, because they were afraid the trip would result in my sudden demise. I stayed exhausted and my energy level was rapidly deteriorating, and I hated returning to my cold cell daily.

So naturally after another miserable day at the prison hospital I became over whelmed with joy, shock, and most of all, surprised by my gift. It had been placed near the center of my bunk, where I could not miss it. My heart was beating uncontrollably as I stood in the middle of my cell staring at my life changing gift. Its the nicest thing any one had done for me in months. I felt so special and loved that I sat on the edge of my bunk and massaged my new found gift in the same manner a first time father would his new born.

Its a wonder none of this disappeared as I cried a river. Most assuredly my gift took my mind off of my pain and suffering if only for a season. I was too tired to walk to the rear of the cell where the shelf is located and most definitely was not going to put my gift on the floor, so I slept with my surprise. My gift brought so much unexplainable joy to my fragile heart until I just prayed to get well enough to consume the eatable.

Each day as I returned to my bunk or tried to get comfortable, I had to massage my gift. I believe each time I touched or thought about my gift, My pain became less and the return of my strength mystified the entire medical staff. I am not

one hundred percent but thanks to you, I am better.

Please forgive me for not knowing or using the correct words of gratitude. Words that would spell out exactly how grateful and appreciative I truly am. Because of your heart warming and cheerful gift, I am smiling more these days as well as mobile without the assistance of anyone or apparatus.

Now, all I ask is that you do not shy away when you see me walking on campus at Mt. Tamalpais College, but do say hello even if half my face is buried in a book. I will be easy recognizable because I will be the one wearing the grotesque smile and its your fault putting that humongous smile on this face. You restored me back to life with my gift.

Many thanks forever and a day

James Vick

aka: Mr. Vick

P.S.

I would be honored if you used something I wrote to bring a sparkle of joy into anyone's life. This could be the beginning of the gift that will never stop giving.

J.V.