

Interview with Brother Gregory McClain:

Last Battle with Cancer.

by Anthony McDuffie

On December 10th 2018, I interviewed Brother Gregory McClain during his final battle with cancer to document his life's narrative. I informed him that we intend to preserve his most valuable memories to humanize him. He agreed to the interview and I asked him the following questions:

What are you passionate about in life?

Brother Gregory: Being kind to others. Serving God and loving others.

What makes you laugh?

Brother Gregory: You! When you laugh, it makes me laugh. Seeing others laugh.

What makes you happy?

Brother Gregory: Giving to others. Knowing that others are content.

What is time to you?

Brother Gregory: Being in the moment because your next second is not promised. It is a matter; you don't know what the next second holds.

Incarceration Pains

by Anthony McDuffie

If I could of wrote this poem in blood, I would of wrote this poem in the blood of Jesus
for no matter how hard, we pray the system will never forgive us
they don't believe in forgiveness they just believe we are heathens
that's how they justified lynching and that's how they still justify killings of unarmed black and
brown children
no wonder why they incarcerated us by the masses
putting us on buses with no bus pass
hog chaining us by our hands and feet
Momma that 5-hour bus ride felt like weeks and they silenced our voices and told us we couldn't
speak.
Yeah momma you heard me right they said we couldn't speak or risk getting beat!
I felt incarceration pain when the title inmate replaced my name
the name you gave me at birth was all of a sudden in vain

What does family mean to you?

Brother Gregory: Family means the world to me.

If you can give a gift to a family member, what would it be?

Brother Gregory: Kindness. Showing kindness to others. Always know that they could get whatever they wanted from me.

If you can see anybody dead or alive, who would it be and what would you tell them?

Brother Gregory: It would be my mother, I would tell her thank you, and I love you.

What was your biggest challenge in life?

Brother Gregory: Providing for my family.

Last question. **How did you catch cancer Brother Gregory?**

Brother Gregory: I believe it was by design...

To witness Brother Gregory battle with cancer everyday was humbling. I watched him spend his last days on Earth. Most prisoners sentenced to life die by three deaths: death by loneliness, death by spiritlessness and death by incarceration.

I felt ashamed
prison became the new plantation
They told me prison or death is my final destination
my childhood peers suffer from plantation psychosis
drugs debased them
they behave like roaches
incarceration makes them lifeless
forgotten O.G's roam the yard like ghosts
I wish I just made this all up momma and it can all disappear like hocus-pocus
but this is post fiction
Brothers on trial right now facing convictions
Mothers afflicted
Daughters afflicted
My cellie right now wishing his daughters could visit-
Incarceration pain pours down my soul like tropical rain-
monsoons and typhoons of oppression-
Misguided youths following the wrong path down the wrong direction-
it leads to questions:
Why do we have to go to a parole board to show empathy when the same commissioners will not
even empathize with Brother Gregory?
He has stage 4 cancer dying in a cold cell lonely momma
With no friends
No family
No mail
I looked at him today and he stood stale
It gave me the chills to see his soul suffer in this cold hell....