

My name is GEORGE Coleman Benton  
- ~~is~~ inmate number # 365666  
And I am currently being housed  
at the Kinross Correctional  
Facility level (2) serving a (25) to  
(50) year sentence for 2<sup>ND</sup> Degree  
Murder, plus two years for the  
felony firearm. An invalid senten-  
- CE I have been doing for the  
pass (20) - years based on inaccurat  
- E information. Cases the Courts  
used as a juvenile that was  
dismissed to enhance my senten  
CE when I didn't have an adult  
record nor was I a habitual  
offender. Another painful wound  
by Michigan Sentencing enhance  
Scheme. I was born and raised  
in Detroit Michigan on March 2<sup>ND</sup>  
(1981) by my mother and father  
Alice Marie Howard and GEORGE  
Coleman Benton Sr. From birth  
until the age of eight. Growing  
up my father was working at  
- FORD Motor Company and my  
mother was going to Cosmetology  
school to do hair.

When the separation of their relationship was no longer way before my six birthday. Reasons knowing for the separation is still quiet in heart. Because of the (sensitivity) of a fust at such A young Age. My mother had died in (1989) at the age of 30 of cirrhosis of the liver. She was an Alcoholic so my grandmother my fathers mother adopted me and raised me. Because my father couldn't stomach the fust so drugs became his therapy of someone to lean on transitioning from A person who never used drugs/hardwork to a drug addict. Making prison his temporary home in and out for almost fifteen-years on installment plans. So by the age of eleven in a half close to (12) rebellious started seeing the Attraction of what was going on outside the family unit ("The Streets") Enjoying the same product to sell ("Crack Cocaine")

that destroyed the years of a father and son relationship.

We are best friends today when it's so sad to say. It took for him to get clean from drugs and for me to catch a murder case.

It was many positive influences where I was raised on the Eastside of Detroit ("State Fair")

A label the streets called or should I say still call ("Grimy") not to be trusted but the webst

- Ex's New World College Dictionary
- of Meaning states - Covered with or full of grime, very dirty.

The way you judge from the Eastside without even knowing the character of the person off one persons action way before

- E ME OR YOU was even born.

We had FC Centers for the youth as teens and it was actually people who cared about you and wanted nothing else but to

- SEE YOU SUCCEED. Then the fast from there youth intervene "the predator" - the manipulator smell the innocence of your youth

Preying on the pain that's inside.  
("the drug dealer") the bad role  
model who has the product in  
weight to sell starting you off  
at the lower level of business.  
A phrase called ("Niche and  
diming") Conditions of poverty  
tell lies that selling drugs and  
hustling is the ticket to becoming  
rich. When it leaves you with  
two fashion design outfits.  
The uniform of a prison inmate  
or a casual fit for a casket  
viewing. So being a hustler seem  
liked the only option because  
education seemed to time consum  
ing putting only one perception  
in your mind stay away from the  
police by running and not getting  
caught and don't say anything  
because it can cost you your life.  
Separating my mind from only  
the good part of it. Making more  
- of and loving the way it folds to  
the mindset of you can go to  
jail for the things you are doing.

being fully prepared for Any  
thing at 13. ("Death or Jail")  
I wanted ~~lay~~ next to mother  
in the casket. The day she died  
A part of me died. Making my  
first encounter with the law  
at Nolan Middle School at 13-yea-  
-rs old on November 29, 1994.  
Hopeless pain under the scars  
of trauma. Where my wrist touch  
the handcuffs to be arrested for  
carrying a concealed weapon ("CCW")  
I brought a gun to school for  
protection because at this time  
in my City. People was being robbed  
or even killed for a pair of Jordans  
or for a pair of Grant Hills And  
starter jackets that was popular  
by demand. Now I receive the gun  
because I stole it from my older  
cousin who fell asleep drunk who  
was suppose to BEEN watching  
me while my grandmother went  
on vacation. She wasn't gone A  
full day cutting her vacation short  
because she had to come and get  
me out of Juvenile because she

was my legal guardian. When I didn't even have the shoes nor the jacket people was getting robbed or killed for. So who was I protecting none. Only causing more pain and hardship called family tears to endure. Making the introduction of a cycle experiencing the hard knocks knocking on every prison door. Seeing the road of a four - new none wants to see. Because it wasn't no punishment for my wrong doing at home. My grandmot - her knew I was battling the pain inside of mother's death daily. That's why I got in trouble to ignor - E the reality of her being gone. And I am not using my mother's death as an excuse for being in prison. Because it's not I made a terrible decision to do what I did something I am truly remorseful for. I really needed "help" therap - y because I was the first one to know my mother had died. I answered the phone and the doctor asked to speak to my Auntie he didn't have to say any

thing to me I already knew  
And the absence of my father  
didn't make things better. My grand  
mother sheltered the reality protection  
- gave me by not letting anyone put  
a hand on me. Giving God her peti-  
- tions daily that he protect me  
from the grave yard at a early  
Age. She passed away in (2009)  
of Alzheimer's disease when the  
stress I provided was a part of  
the diagnose. I hurt daily from  
that I couldn't be that one she  
loved so much to be there for her,  
not even mentioning ("I couldn't  
say Goodbye") I am not saying  
my grandmother didn't raise me  
right because she didn't ~~and~~ I didn't  
have to result to the streets.  
My beautiful and lovable grand  
mother FIBBIE BERTON made sure  
I didn't NEED or want for any  
- thing. I made that choice to  
be in the streets because of prior  
Living Conditions when my moth  
(~~ER~~) was five teaching me to be  
independent at five years old.

BECAUSE WE didn't have any food in the house and the Addiction was taking it's toll. I am not saying my mother didn't MAKE sure we ate for that day because we did the refrigerator was just empty. So when it was time for me to come home from school.

I wouldn't go home I'll go to my great Aunt house who stayed like ten houses down from where we stayed at five years old because I knew she was going to have something to eat. Prison saved my life and changed my life.

Arriving At Riverside quarantine on May 13, 2001 because I was only 20-years old And I had to be 21-years of age to go to Jackson quarantine. I stayed there for

almost a month and got transferred to St Louis Corr. fac level (4) where I came out for three hours out of the day. The rest was in the room. So when the door's OPEN somebody got stabbed or a lock in the sock rememberable



scars. & I transferred from there  
in (2005) of September to Latsela  
- nd CORR. fac a level (2) And I  
have BEEN in a level (2) since  
then (15)-years with only five  
major tickets out of (20)-years.  
I transferred from there, in (2007)  
of October to Ryan CORR. fac.  
And I left there in (2009) because  
they was transitioning the facilit  
y for (C.S.C.) programing And I wen  
ft to Pine River CORR. fac A level  
one they had turned to A level  
two to house the inmates who  
came from Ryan and Mound  
CORR. fac. I left there in (2010)  
And transferred from there to  
Thumb CORR. fac where I was  
facilitating the youth from Ages  
(13) to (23). I stayed there from  
(2010) until (2015) And I transferre  
- d to Kinross CORR. fac where it  
was a stabbing everyday for  
my first 60-Days it's not like  
that now night and day compare  
- d to then.

Being incarcerated for me is  
patience. you are in school  
it's education you learn about  
yourself either you go learn from  
the multiple choice questions  
or you go continue to circle the  
wrong one and that only leads  
to/you not passing the test

("you failed") patience is the key  
not just with others but with your  
self most importantly. living in  
a cell have it's moments but once  
you realize your purpose it motiv  
ates you to enjoy God's plan.

Because that person you just  
watched passed it's not reason  
you are locked-up you are so  
man-up and be a man and take  
full responsibility. when the best  
way to doing time in prison is to  
occupy your time with daily roun  
-ins that's positive. Every facility  
I have been to living conditions is  
the same to me you just have  
to adapt to a new environment  
And who to stay away from.  
My current living conditions in

~~the~~ prison is peaceful because we know we can be the solution instead of the problem. Plus my spirit direct my steps from my lord & savior who's negative and who's positive. The food is ~~OK~~ because why complain when it's someone who don't have anything. The health care is mean and thirsty in prison for a five dollar co-pay. You can be dying and they want you to fill out a kite to get charged before you even see a nurse. Educational is good if you are trying to get a GED or few years to be release but those who have been locked up for (20)-years or more you have no programming coming and the pay for employment is prison slavery starting ~~at~~ you off at (74¢) and once you do 30 or 60-days it goes up (10¢) making it (84¢) and stays there if you don't have (C.M.T.) Certificate at something you can't get unless you have two-years or less left or you are at a facilit

that require every ~~poor~~ ~~fox~~  
to have ~~one~~ ~~for~~ Bloodspills "Rape"  
then it goes to a dollar and some  
change. # Racism in prison is  
daily in every facility in Michig  
an in the chow hall has a white  
side where most of all of the  
whites sit and then a black  
side with all the Blacks sit.

But the whites barley get  
shake down leaving where the  
Blacks is target daily. Especiall  
y on Chicken day stereotyping  
us with the saying ("You know  
Blacks love two things water mel  
on & Chicken") It's not one Black  
African American that work here  
that's bad. If had a officer  
say it to my face. I didn't know  
that was ~~him~~ your first name  
("George" Benton) if ~~it~~ didn't see  
your face I've hired you in the  
streets because I've thought  
you was ("white") Then you have  
85% of the people who are  
incarcerated at this facility  
are from down state white &

Black but the visitation of your family coming to visit you a five hour drive showing the color of hate. A white family could be on a visit two before I even come in the visiting room and the visiting room becomes crowded and I only been out there for an hour. Guess who's terminated my family after a five hour drive ("Racism"). The community and communication is limited in prison depending upon the atmosphere of the facility. Due to gangs certain people, certain religious groups but words travel faster than an airplane because you can't write inmate to inmate and more you will know a person got back in court before the order of the date is stamped. I survive in prison by being ("ME") not trying to be or act like someone else. I remain in character of GEORGE. Basically I don't care what people has to say about ME.

I'M A PEOPLE PERSON, I'M FUNNY,  
I'M CARING, I LOVE TO MAKE OTHERS  
LAUGH. I LOVE HELPING PEOPLE IN  
NEED. I LISTEN AND BE WILLING TO  
GIVE THE BEST ADVICE. I WOULD'VE  
MADE IT THESE (20) YEARS WITHOUT  
GOD BEING BY MY SIDE EVERY STEP  
OF THE WAY. STUDYING HIS WORDS  
KEEPING IT CLOSE TO MY HEART.

MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE IN  
PRISON BECAUSE THEY JUST WANT BE  
THEY SELF. FEELING LIKE THEY HAVE  
SOMETHING TO PROVE ALL THE TIME.  
WHEN THE PERSON THERE TRYING TO  
IMPRESS AFTER THE MATH IS CALLING  
HIM STUPID FOR WHAT HE JUST DID.

I FIND JOY IN PRISON WHEN I'M  
ABLE TO HELP SOMEONE WHO'S GOING  
THROUGH SOMETHING AND JUST NEED  
A EAR FOR SOMEONE TO LISTEN TO AND  
MOST IMPORTANTLY. I LOVE WRITING  
POETRY SOMETHING I HAVE BEEN  
DOING FOR THE PAST TEN-YEARS  
GETTING MY FIRST POEM PUBLISHED  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
IN (2015) CALLED ("WORDS WRITTEN ON  
TREE")

that's what I find Joy in  
writing And helping others.  
What my incarceration Means  
to me is A second Chance At life.  
To be A light to someone who was  
in darkness like me before Making  
- a that mistake of Coming to prison.  
Prison really Affects me because  
of those I lost during this journey.  
I didn't get A Chance to say  
Goodbye to. I am A live to there  
MEMORIES but not present to them  
being gone. Ideas And percept  
ion of Carceral system now? The  
process of dramatic ("Change")  
has to be on the way for the  
BETTER of life behind bars And  
A high Success rate in reformed  
individuals BEING release from  
prison BEING A help to society  
instead of A painful wound.  
Change is constant And don't  
nothing stays the same to the  
policy makers the scholars And  
the United States. The Main  
problem is Michigan don't

Reward there prisoners for doing Good we Are just doing hard time praying we get a parole no classes unless you close to going Home. Praying you don't get a flop once you reach your minimum because of ("T.I.S") disciplin - any credits or good time will change a lot. SEEing you have Michigan prisoners being Good just to be good without Any reward. So you think someone is going to committ An act of violence knowing his days from walking or should I say going home sooner is going to act out ("No") And I say that with extreme impression. you will see violence along with Assaults Down showing the Act of violence SEEing A History number recorded from Any other number they have seen before. Don't look at the Crime the person committed so many years look at who he is today And what he or she has accomplish throughout the time he or she has done.



It's hard to compare the word  
("Change") to Michigan prisons when  
nothing changes for the benefit  
of someone who really wants to better  
- or they self has to seek his own  
rehabilitation. Those who are doing  
time whether life or long indetermi-  
-nate sentences are left out.

There's no outlet to the important  
of technology to provide better  
solutions concerning your case with  
so many cases unpunished that can  
help but we are penalize like we  
can walk in the law library and  
Google anything and we truly under-  
-stand it's certain things that we  
doesn't suppose to be available  
to us for security purposes but the  
simple access is limited, with law  
library computers an inmate  
Apprisoner can only do so much, you  
literally have to become a lawyer,  
or even your own private investigator  
and the words ("~~pro-per~~") ("Pro-per")  
is not looked at by the courts  
As if it had a bar number.

The Judgement of Judges with the words that doesn't have to be said in any opinion. HERE go ~~Another~~ Jail house, prison lawyer who knows A little case law. So the impact on OUR confinement conditions ARE painful persistence BECAUSE you know they violated AND DONE something wrong concerning your case but they don't care. ~~My~~ ~~my~~ my Attorney said there was no deletitions, corrections, or Additions that needed to be added to the (P.S.I. &) Presentence Report when he NEVER WENT OVER the report with me nor did he investigate my Juvenile records. I had to discover the information on my own And 20-years I'm still fighting to get my sentence corrected ("Michigan") when I have 6-years, eleven months and 24-days left. When I can get time served once corrected.

I LOVE my family so much  
And the hurting part of  
this journey. I have love  
ones I don't even know.

I have all the facts to show  
my sentence is invalid and  
they continue to deny me "Michig-  
-ian" and please don't misquote  
what I'm saying for sympathy.  
BECAUSE EVERY DAY I have  
done in prison I deserved to  
do because of my wrong doing.  
But where's the justice for  
their wrong doing? Decarceration  
starts with laws being changed  
if not the word ("Change")  
doesn't exist in Michigan.

It's a bad + tough state of crime  
they chase money and money  
only. The world from ~~my~~ my  
perspective has changed. After  
being incarcerated by looking  
at technology how it has changed  
the way children and the lives  
of teenagers are being raised.  
The development to learn how to  
do anything with a snap of a finger  
✍️

Whether Good or bad Making  
Society in harms way for any  
tragedy. Something our eyes are  
seeing daily. Thank you so much  
for this opportunity to be a part  
of this And I'm truly sorry  
for any misspelled or misplaced  
words And the length of papers  
you had to read through being (20)  
- pages. For how many years I  
have been in prison And I hope  
I answered EVERY question correct  
ly. I pray you'll get the proper  
data that's NEEDED concerning this  
project for ("Change") And Thank  
you University of Michigan Carceral  
- project for EVEN (considerating  
the vision for A difference And  
seeing ~~through~~ it through.

BECAUSE it's sad when (75%) of  
African American Men spend  
MORE birthdays in prison than  
the candles BEEN on the cake  
in our home living room. BE BLESS  
And stay prayed-up concerning the  
pandemic AS WELL AS the protest  
- ing because prayer change things  
Sincerely George Benton Jr.