

Be a Good-Finder

Several years ago, Franklin Holmes, a volunteer chaplain working in prisons in Tennessee, Georgia and Florida, came up with a unique idea.

He developed and taught a program in the prisons about the importance of looking for the good in every situation. Incredibly enough, the men and women came up with more than 30 things they liked about the place where they were incarcerated.

They didn't like being confined, of course, but they were – and they understood that this was the best way to make their stay more tolerable and even beneficial.

Here's a partial list of what they liked:

1. The self-help programs, church programs and Bible studies offered them.
2. Going outside and working.
3. The store and library in the prison.
4. The yard, some of the food and the gym.
5. Being able to go into the chapel and enjoy the peace and quiet.
6. The state movies on the weekends and some of the officers.
7. Getting incentive slips and being able to stay straight.
8. Having time to see where they went wrong and being able to use their time wisely.
9. Not being looked down on in their dorms all the time.
10. Being able to work on their attitudes and develop their faith
11. Being able to work on their goals and relationships.
12. "Doing their time" instead of "their time doing them."
13. Their job assignments, which include freedom and flexibility.
14. Their (prison) location in the mountains and foothills.
15. The library selections and the availability of the local newspaper.
16. The availability of counseling, contact visitation and packages from home.
17. New clothing and available alterations.
18. Access to medical and dental services.
19. The training, visitation and incentive program.
20. Access to an updated law library.

Think about it. These men and women found 38 things they liked about the place where they were imprisoned. Those are some of their views about life from behind the walls.

Surely, we can find many things to like about who we are, what we do, where we live, the people we live with, the opportunities life presents. Count some of your blessings today!

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things (Philippians 4:8 ESV).