

1/08/11

Dear Calvin,

I suppose the twelve days of Christmas are now past, but the spirit of gratitude is still with me, and in a very special way over the past two nights. Last night mail call brought me a beautiful assemblage of photos and news from home that my sister and mother prepared — a wonderful occasion for sharing and conversation with my (now ex) cellmate, who was transferred today. I have been enjoying the alone time to the fullest — it is a great opportunity to dust off my vocal chords, and I have been in song for much of the afternoon and evening. Tonight's mail call (5 letters — two from family) has again had me breaking out in tears of joy and spontaneous laughter, and since you provided me with some of the lyrics that have been loudly echoing in here today, I thought it appropriate to share with you a poem I wrote this evening at the request of a dear friend (Arnal Kennedy—poet and hippie kitchen dishwasher) to share “where [my] mind is at.”

Untitled.

**ANGELS ALL AROUND ME
IN THE DUNGEONS OF ATLANTA USP
GUIDING LIGHT, THE TRUTH OF LOVE
AND DAILY LEARNED HUMILITY
LISTEN, STILL, PRAY, STILL —
SILENCE CLAMOURS THROUGH THE NIGHT
WATCH, PATIENT, PRAY, STILL SILENT —
QUIETLY DESIRES FLEE**

**FOR BLESSINGS COME WHEN
LEAST EXPECTED**

**THROUGH MIND AND FLESH
IN CONSTANCY MAY SEEK
REPRIEVE THROUGH MATERIAL
THE SPIRIT BECKONS
THROUGH THE DIN
TO PEACE
SO SUBTLE
AND ETHEREAL
YET CONGRUENT, TANGIBLE
SIMPLE, AND SIMPLY INFINITESIMAL**

**THE FREEDOM OF CAPTIVITY
ANGELS WHISPER
IN A PENITENTIARY**

DAVID OMONDI JANUARY, 2011

I hope you are blessed by these words. Feel free to share.

Perhaps you picked up on my British education in some spelling — also, I'm not sure if the word "infinitesimal" actually exists in the English language, but in this context I intend to convey a peace that is present in minute details of life and being, yet vast and eternal. I don't know how best to describe that.

Nice to hear that you were able to spend some time with Chris pre-trial. I have been in prayer for Bob, Chris, and Nancy, especially yesterday. Looking forward to hearing more about those happenings. I have also had the Open Door in my prayers — and am continually thankful for you. The calendar you sent is in front of me on the desk where I write, days 1 through 6 cancelled out and the 27th circled (Jan-birthday). I suppose I should also circle the 15th (MLK), especially while in Atlanta. I wish I remembered his actual birthday.

As for me, I expect to be here at least through the weekend — they could still move me tonight, yet that seems unlikely — probably at some point next week or the following week to give me a full month of the USP experience. And I'm looking forward to my next destination — designated to McRae Correctional Institution, and INS facility, privately owned about 140 miles south of here I think. So they move me three hours north to sit me here for a month and move me back south again — go figure. Of course its not 100% certain that's where I'll be, but I am looking forward to being with so many internationals — have already made connections here with other inmates destined for McRae. Whatever happens, it'll be quite an education I'm sure.

Well, time is short and I really hope to get this out tonight so it makes it through the mail room inspectors and out to you by Saturday or Monday. Thanks again, and greetings to your community. I heard today that Ed and Murphy are in LA. Pleasant thought. Until next time!

Peace, love, and blessings,

David Omondi

PS. New Year's Greetings! May you all be blessed as you continue in the faithful service to the God of Love, Amen.