

FROM THE OLD MAN.

My real name is RICHARD E. REEVES. BUT I AM ALWAYS CALLED THE OLD MAN. THIS IS BECAUSE I'M THE OLDEST ARTIST IN THE VISION OF HOPE PROGRAM. BUT NOT ALL THAT OLD, AT LEAST I THINK SO.

YO HANNIS<sup>SE</sup> ASKED ME TO WRITE DOWN HOW AND WHY I BECAME PART OF THIS PROGRAM.

BACK ABOUT A YEAR OR SO AGO. I WAS SITTING OUT IN OUR DAYNOON DOING SOME ART WORK FOR MYSELF. AT THAT TIME I WAS SPENDING AS MANY HOURS AS I COULD ON ART. FOR MYSELF

THAT IS BETWEEN BEING SICK ON HAVE<sup>NT</sup> A HEART ATTACK ON THREE. AS YOU CAN SEE MY HEALTH WAS NOT THE BEST AT THAT POINT <sup>IN</sup> TIME. I HAD GIVEN UP MOST OF MY HOPE OF BEING AROUND MUCH LONGER. NOW DID I REALLY CARE IF I WAS!

THEN YO HANNIS CAME BY ONE AFTERNOON AND ASK ME ABOUT MY ART AND MY BACK GROUND IN ~~ART~~ ART.

SO I TOLD HIM HOW I FIRST SAT AND WATCHED AN OLD CELLIE OF MINE FOR 2 YEARS BEFORE I WOULD PICK UP A PENCIL ~~ON MY OWN~~. STARTED OUT <sup>BT</sup> DRAWING BUILDINGS AND BRIDGES. ~~THAT~~ BOTH THINGS I KNEW HOW TO BUILD, AND ENJOYED DOING.

OTHER OLD CELLIE SHOW<sup>ED</sup> ME SOME PICTURES OF ABSTRACTS AND OLD STYLES OF DRAWINGS AND ~~ARTS~~ ARTS.

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And I fell I love with those styles of ART.  
AS I improved in my ART. I WAS ASKED TO  
BECOME PART OF THE FIRST SREI ART PROGRAM.  
WHOS GOAL WAS TO DO ART FOR THE INSTITUTION.  
~~WHILE~~ WHILE IN THIS PROGRAM I FOUND SOME  
WATERCOLOR PAINTS. AND FELL IN LOVE WITH THE  
MEDIUM. I WAS IN THIS PROGRAM FOR 4 YEARS.  
UNTIL I HAD A FALLING OUT WITH A COUPLE OF  
THE OTHER ARTISTS.

IN 2007 I ENTERED A NATIONAL PRISON  
ART COMPETITION HELD IN NEW YORK CITY.  
MANAGED TO FINISH IN THE TOP 30 OUT OF OVER  
5000 WHO ENTERED. AND HAD MY ART THEN HANG  
IN ROCKEFELLER CENTER OVER THAT HOLIDAY SEASON.

I STILL FEEL VERY HUMBLE BY THIS.

ENOUGH ON THIS.

AFTER TALKING WITH YOHANNAS FOR A COUPLE OF  
DIFFERENT TIMES. HE ASK ME TO THINK ABOUT  
JOINING HIS ART PROGRAM TO HELP THE KIDS  
IN UGANDA OUT BY ~~doing~~ doing AND HAVING ~~my~~ my  
ART, ~~and~~ and OTHERS SOLD TO RAISE MONEY FOR THEM.  
WELL LIKE 99% OF ALL OTHERS WHO FIRST JOIN  
PROGRAM. I THOUGHT WHAT IS IN IT FOR ME  
WHAT CAN I GET OUT OF THIS FOR ME.

3.

So I joined the program to get what I could out of it,

Found out at THAT TIME I HAD TO FIND MY OWN water color paper <sup>and supplies</sup> FOR THE PROGRAM HAD NONE.

The only ~~paint~~ water color paints they had was. An old dinged up student grade paint's 24 colors and 24 water color THAT were for grade school kids. ~~Not~~ ~~no~~ PLUS ALL OF THE PAINT BRUSHES were old had paints dinged up in them. I mean really really BAD shape.

Did what I could to scavenge what I could of paint + brushes.

Started my first piece of ANT, worked on it.

Between being sick and not up to going to do ANT all the times we were allowed to.

Finished one picture just in time for PATH to come and pick up the ANT ~~we~~ ~~at~~ the group had ready. (Not my best ANT if you could see it)

ON THAT DAY THE PATH <sup>group came</sup> ~~people~~ HAD BROUGHT THE RUFF CUT OF THE DOCUMENTARY THAT WAS BEING MADE ABOUT OUR ANT PROGRAM AND THE HELP IT GAVE TO THE KIDS OF OUR TOWN-AWA.

WHILE I SAT THERE AND WATCH IT, I COULD NOT BELIEVE WHAT THESE KIDS HAD, HAD TO LIVE

4.

THEN <sup>IN</sup> THEN young lives.

AS A YOUNG MAN I WENT TO WAR, NOT JUST ONE TOWN BUT TWO. AND WHAT I SAW AND DID, WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT THESE KIDS HAD TO DO JUST TO EAT AND LIVE.

LATER I CAME BACK TO MY HOME (CELL) WITH A LOT ON MY MIND AND A HEAVY HEART. I JUST SAT HERE FOR HOURS BUT IT SEEMED LIKE DAYS AND DAYS THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN I BROKE DOWN AND STARTED TO CRY AND CRY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN THE LAST TIME WAS. THEN I GOT VERY MAD AND THE Madder I GOT THE MORE I STARTED TO THINK WHAT MORE COULD I DO TO HELP THESE POOR POOR KIDS OUT.

WHEN YOU MAKE ONLY \$22 TO 24 DOLLARS A MONTH AND IT TAKES EVERY DIME TO EXIST IN HERE. GIVING MONEY WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

SO I KNEW THE BEST WAY I COULD HELP OUT WAS BY DOING ALL THE ANT WORK I COULD. EVEN IF ~~IT~~ A ~~ONLY SOLD FOR~~ ~~A~~ PIECE ONLY SOLD FOR A FEW DOLLAR I KNEW IN MY HEART THAT THOSE DOLLARS ALONG WITH OTHER ANT DOLLARS ~~W~~ COULD AND WOULD HELP TO HELP THESE WONDERFUL KIDS, GET ~~A~~ A BETTER SHOT IN LIFE.

5.

So RIGHT THEN AND THERE I MADE A COMMITMENT TO MYSELF TO DO ALL OF MY ANT TO HELP OUT. NOT ONLY TO DO ANT MYSELF, BUT TO HELP OTHERS TO HELP WITH THEIR ANT.

~~THANKS TO~~ THANKS TO JOHANNAS, & ILLAPIN BRAB. I NOW SIT ON THE FLOOR OF MY ~~CELL~~ HOME AND ~~TO~~ SPEND ~~AT~~ 90% OF MY DAYS DOING ANT TO HOPEFULLY HELP THESE KID.

MY HEALTH HAS GREATLY IMPROVED, VERY LITTLE DOWN TIME. NOT ONE NEW HEART ATTACK.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LONG LIFE I FEEL THAT I CAN AND WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR SOMEONE OTHER THAN MYSELF.

LAST MONTH I SPENT 283 HOURS DOING ANT FOR THIS PROGRAM. THERE NEVER SEEMS TO BE ENOUGH HOURS IN A DAY NOW. MY FRIEND JOHANNAS COMES BY AND MAKES ME STOP TAKE A BREAK AND MAKES ME REST. (I WILL <sup>IF</sup> ~~FOR~~ ONLY A SHORT TIME)

I DARE ANY OF YOU TO WATCH THIS DOCUMENTARY WITH AN OPEN MIND AND HEART. I AM WILLING TO BET THAT YOU CAN NOT HELP ~~BEAT~~ BUT FEEL THE NEED TO DO SOMETHING ALSO.

IF WE HERE ON THE INSIDE CAN DO OUR BEST TO RAISE THE ANT SUPPLIES WE NEED BY USING OUR OWN FUNDS OR GET LUCKY ENOUGH TO

MOVE TO THE END OF LETTER

6.

get art supplies By DONATIONS ~~FROM COMPANIES~~  
From where ever, and who ever.

Just stop and THINK WHAT you can do out  
There.

My own goal THIS year is to be able to  
FINISH 20 pictures For PATH. Hopefully By doing  
THIS, IT will RAISE even a few Dollars to Help  
These Kid.

THAT IS NOW WHAT I WANT OUT OF THIS Program.

Restfully  
THE Old MAN  
Reelam