

Miracles do happen: The power of truth and honesty

After seeing and hearing his victim at court, Jason Samuel knew in his heart that he needed to come clean and be honest – both with himself and everyone else. "I felt so sorry for what I did." What he did was shoot officer Tom Morgan in the neck in 1997.

Part 1: _____

Jason's life was miserable. His parents did not care about him when he was a kid, so by the age of 10 he left home to live on the streets. He made only one promise to himself – if the police ever tried to arrest him, he would never go down without a fight. He would shoot to kill, if necessary.

One day, when he was 17 years old, the inevitable happened. While officer Morgan was trying to arrest him, for carrying an illegal weapon, Samuel shot him in the neck. Only by coincidence, officer Morgan did not die that day, he was badly injured.

Part 2: _____

Samuel was found guilty of attempted murder of a police officer. As the years behind bars went by, Samuel could not help but thinking about officer Morgan and his wife, Christy, and how badly his actions had affected their lives.

After 20 years in prison, Samuel went to his first parole hearing. In that hearing, Samuel told the truth about his actions, and said how sorry he was for what he did, and for the effects of his actions. Samuel's petition to be released was denied by the parole board. Nevertheless, what Jason did not know was that officer Morgan had also attended that hearing.

Part 3: _____

After hearing Samuel's words, Morgan immediately forgave him for what he did to him. Moreover, both Samuel and Morgan started to communicate with each other by the help of **Victim Offender Dialogue**, an organization that helps victims and offenders connect in order to make peace.

Samuel and Morgan even got to meet inside the prison, and slowly but steadily built their friendship. On the second parole hearing, officer Morgan and his wife came together to advocate for Jason's release. On March 12th, 2019, Samuel was released from jail. Officer Morgan and his wife Christy became friends with Jason Samuel, and they usually meet once a week for lunch together.

Paragraphs titles:

- A) No matter what, honesty is the best policy
- B) The life on the street
- C) Friendship can come from the most unexpected place
- D) They lived happily ever after
- E) Tough life leads to bad situations