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## Former gang member shares transformations at SMCI

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LEAKESVILLE – Former gang member Brian Lecroy, whose life was once defined by violence and a looming 40-year prison sentence, shared his journey from a life of crime to faith and purpose with inmates and staff at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution last week.

Lecroy's story is one of radical change. After years of being entrenched in a Security Threat Group and facing nearly half a century behind bars, his message focused on the possibility of redemption regardless of one's past. He spoke candidly about his transition "from bondage to freedom," emphasizing that true liberty is found through faith and a renewed mind.

Supt. Brand Huffman said he believed that Lecroy's "powerful testimony" was beneficial for his team. The March 19 visit had a deep impact on SMCI Programs Director Lisa Herndon, who reflected on the significance of the event and the weight of the mission at the facility.

"If you've ever had a day where you felt like your work was 'just another job,' I truly wish you had been in the room to hear this young man speak," said Herndon. "His testimony I can only describe as miraculous. He went from being a member of a Security Threat Group to dedicating his entire life to Christ. Once an inmate in the Florida state system, he is now living proof that hope is never out of reach—even for the ones we fear might never make it."

Herndon continued, "Listening to him, I realized how much our roles truly matter. We aren't just punching a clock; we are positioned to impact lives. The reality is that most of these men will return to our communities one day. They will be the people standing next to us in line at Walmart. Because of the road he has walked, he can reach people and places we never could. He arrived with nothing, but he left prison as an extraordinary voice for God."

Since his transformation, Lecroy has dedicated his life to ministry, traveling to correctional facilities to reach those still caught in cycles of addiction and violence.

His visit to SMCI is part of an ongoing effort to provide spiritual support and rehabilitation resources to the incarcerated population in Mississippi, reminding both staff and inmates that their work and lives have a purpose far beyond the daily routine.



