

Humans of Life Row Prompts

Mike Simmons

- 1. What is the first sound you hear when you wake in the morning?**
I'm a very early riser so I hear other people snoring and the c/o's loud ass radio.
- 2. What makes you feel safe?**
I feel safe when I'm in the company of people that have my best interests at heart.
- 3. What is something unselfish that you've done?**
Helped someone in need.
- 4. What is something you do differently now, since the pandemic?**
Worry less over what I cannot control.
- 5. What law would you change for the betterment of humanity?**
This was a hard one. Know any laws that, if changed, would lead to the demise of capitalism?
- 6. If you could change anything in the world, what would that be?**
If I could change ANYTHING, there would no longer be any concept of evil, or hate - ONLY Love. Pretty meta, I know,
- 7. What is a position that you've taken that you've changed your mind about?**
As a Christian, I no longer believe that freedom in *Christ is primarily*
- 8. What does freedom smell like?**
Freedom has a *variety* of smells. Exhaust fumes, perfumes, curry, buttered popcorn to name a few.
- 9. Tell a story about where you live.**
The powers that be here don't take too kind to change. As a result of my WGN news interview surrounding the Stateville debate team, my becoming, essentially, the face of *NEWS* SRA program and my involvement in Parole Illinois, they have reportedly harassed me and put me in positions and living situations that are not conducive - even detrimental - to growth.
- 10. What's one thing that you've worked hard to change about yourself?**
I've worked hard to calm my fears of speaking publicly.
- 11. What does prayer mean to you? What does study mean to you? What does discipline mean to you? (choose one)**

Prayer to me means tapping into the creative energy through which all persons are interconnected, and expressing myself.

12. It's been said (by a friend to me) that the most meaningful lessons are those that you have to learn over and over again. What do you think?

I agree because I think that understanding is so important, and repetition breathes understanding.

13. What are you proud of?

I'm proud of my daily choice to strive to be a better person.

14. What is your Achilles Heel?

Potato chips.

15. What is your superpower?

My superpower is humility.

16. "Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within. I use the word "love" here not merely in the personal sense but as a state of being, or a state of grace — not in the infantile American sense of being made happy but in the tough and universal sense of quest and daring and growth" - James Baldwin, The Fire Next Time. What do you think about this quote?

Having worn a mask most of my young adult life, I can relate to Baldwin's statement. Choosing to love myself, give myself grace and daring to allow myself growth beyond the limitations of my social imagination enables me to not only to remove that mask, but to completely bare myself for all to see.

17. Who are your people?

18. Who do you claim and who claims you? Who are you accountable to?

19. What are you known for? What do you want to be known for?