

Marcus...

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"But this was my son, the funny one, the one who made everyone laugh. The one who just cut my hair a week ago and told me he was changing his life and how sorry he was for many things. That day was a bonding like we had never had before, one that I cannot believe will never happen again.

"I raced to the hospital, calling everyone on the phone my mind could remember. I wished I had my son in my arms to hold him and make the pain go away. I thought of how much pain he must be in and I was praying that God would make everything better by healing him so the nightmare would be over.

"I thought, 'Why him? Why could it not have been me? Why this tragedy in my family's life - again?' I was scared and felt as though this was all my fault. I should have been standing where he was standing...I should have...I should have, but I couldn't and it was now all in the hands of God. I wanted to scream, yell. I was angry and confused. Tears streamed down my face in silence.

"When I got to the hospital, the doctors had already closed the door to the emergency

room. I wanted to break down the doors to see my son, but they would not let me in. It seemed as if the minutes turned to days - that was how long that night felt while I was in the waiting room. Then the most terrible words a father could ever hear from anyone - Dewayne had died.

"My oldest daughter screamed out and cried, 'Why, God?' The entire waiting room was filled with family and friends and everyone broke into tears. The doctors cleaned some of Dewayne's wounds and our family saw him for the first time. But it was not him laughing or smiling - but lying still in a bed. He had no breath - but it was my son, my son that I loved and still love today.

"I thought about his childhood and the little things he used to do and things we did together. How I wished to God that I could turn that day around. It was as though I did not have any feelings because a part of my life - my child, my son - was no longer alive. I could not breathe for him, I could not put a bandage on his hurt wounds, I could not talk to him because he could not hear me. He was no longer there. His life was taken from

him in just moments because of a cell phone. Then I felt angry because of the reason why my son lost his life, and it made me more upset.

"My middle daughter had to be taken from the room due to her being pregnant and very emotional. Dewayne's oldest brother did not leave the room, even after everyone left for the night.

"It has been difficult for our family since the passing of Dewayne. Our family has always been close, but we can see a difference his passing has made on all of us. We are learning how to wake up every day and live. I never imagined that this would happen to me. I pray to God that no parent, no family would go through what my family and I have experienced in the past year. We go on with the strength of God.

"My oldest daughter made a statement at Dewayne's funeral: *We forgive the man who did this to my brother...we don't hold any grudges nor do we hope the same thing happens to him. We have forgiven and we leave everything in the hands of God.* This statement lives in the hearts of our family and friends, even today. My son is in heaven

with his mother and we pray the guilty party will give his heart to Christ before it's too late."

"The sentence won't resolve the hurt"

Before he pronounced sentence, Judge Day summed up the case with these comments to Haynes:

"I look at the victim's family, especially Mr. Hall, and it is a tragedy to both sides. This sentence won't resolve the hurt from either side. All it will do is essentially close this chapter and open another one, but both sides will suffer a loss as a result of your action.

"The victim's family loss is permanent - they will never have time with their child again. They'll never have the outings they described. They'll never do the family retreats, the simple things we all take for granted when we just pick up the phone and call a loved one. They'll never have that opportunity because of your actions. At least your family will have the opportunity to visit with you, but that's something you took away from the victim's family.

"At first glance, [the murder] seems to be over a cell phone, but when you really look at the

case, it appears to be it was all about not showing you the proper respect, and that somehow you felt diminished in front of your friends. As a result of that, you've taken not only a life, but you've destroyed your own, and at such a young age to completely take yourself out of society is really a tragedy, but that's unfortunately your own doing.

"I don't know where we could have maybe turned you around earlier. I see that you've come through the criminal justice system a number of times, and evidently nothing that the court system did for you or to you had any real impact on you, and that [too] is unfortunate. Maybe if it had, you wouldn't be here today and the victim would be with his father today and his family, but that's not the case."

As the judge pronounced a life sentence for the killer, he reminded him that "it really all comes down to choices, and it's a choice that you made - an unfortunate one for everyone involved - but, again, it was YOUR choice."

And that choice also leaves Samuel Hall with a life sentence - to mourn for his son the rest of his life.

Perverted...

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doesn't need to depict children specifically for this effect to take place."

According to Dial, Shared Hope International says the men caught on "Predator" are "just the tip of a very large iceberg: one in every five pornographic images on the Internet is of a child. Federal prosecutors say child porn and abuse cases have increased fivefold over the last decade." The secret word is surveillance.

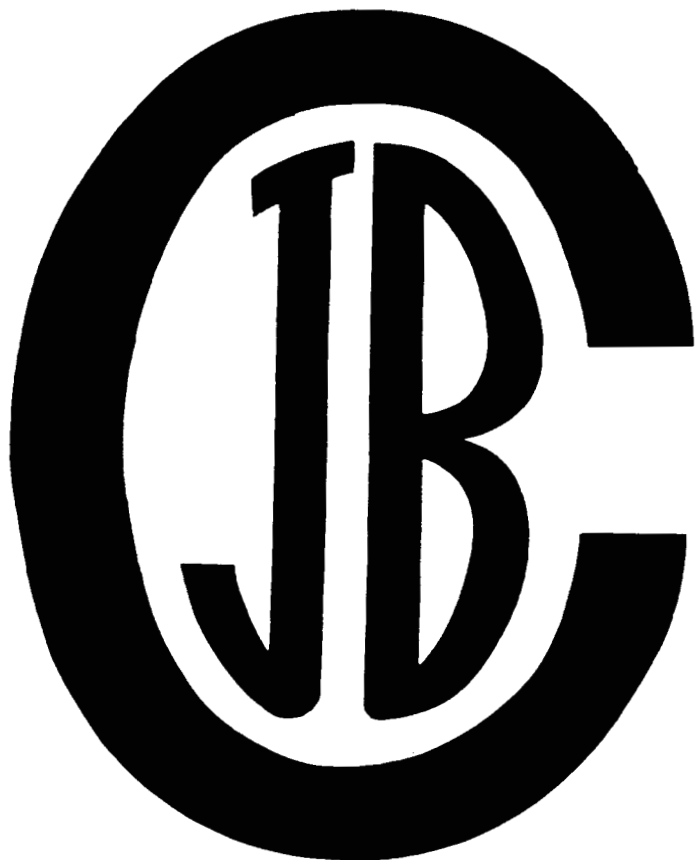
Dial relates that in an

appearance last year on "Court TV's Nancy Grace talk show, Alison Arngim - better known as Nellie from *Little House on the Prairie*, and a molestation victim who now works with the National Association to Protect Children - pointed out that child pornographers literally make millions a month, but the FBI is only able to spend \$10 million a year fighting them online. The penalty for illegally downloading a song off the Internet is three times harsher than it is for downloading a pornographic picture of a child."

But while it may seem hopeless to conquer this monumental problem in our country, Dial says Layden points out that 30 years ago cigarette smoking was considered unstoppable, but "we've had a dramatic turnaround in our attitudes and legislation on this. Clinicians started talking about it, and researchers decided not to hide the research, and then journalists got involved. Then lawyers...sued the tobacco industry for their profits. Six countries in the world are now smoke-free. So when people say we can't stop pornography - sure we can. All of us have to do our part."

J.B Coxwell Contracting, Inc. joins the Justice Coalition

in helping to make Jacksonville a safer place to live, work, and grow.



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