

Phillip Andrew Stroud was born and raised in South Bend, Indiana. He is a teacher, student, caregiver, artist, activist, poet, singer/songwriter, family member, friend, and loving human being. He is also a former death row inmate, serving three life sentences at a maximum-security prison for a crime he did not commit.

For several years Phillip looked at his reflection—inside out and head to toe—and didn't like what he saw. Influenced and inspired by authors like CaNon Harper and Shaka Senghor, he decided to do something about it. He chose to walk a different path from that point on: a path of peace, of service to others, of responsibility and integrity.

He has learned some harsh but valuable lessons about life and what it means to hit rock bottom within the bowels of the criminal justice system. He has also learned how to loveeven deeper and forgive, how to open his heart and mind, how to accept grace, walk in grace, and reach out to others with grace. Phillip is a living, breathing example of the power of human transformation and the power of faith. He is grateful that he has found a purpose behind prison walls, but he hopes one day to be a free man. He has work to do, especially with the young people he can influence with his testimony, his message of nonviolence, his passion for peace.