

# Titus House Newsletter

Titus House Ministries, PO Box 2376, Tijeras, NM 87059

MAY  
2019



## My Story-by Alice Benson/Johnston (Director and Founder of Titus House Ministries)

I was born in upstate New York, the first child of a Baptist pastor. I was in church several times a week. I was baptized at 9 on Easter Sunday with my Dad doing the honors. As I moved into early teens I became uneasy with all the rules and regulations imposed on me. In 8th grade I went to a summer camp where a wellknown evangelist had just returned from a trip into the Amazon jungle. He told of hundreds of villages where the gospel hadn't gone and he asked us kids why we went to church several times a week and did nothing about the people who had never heard. That thought never left me but in high school I started to rebel against the strict rules imposed on me by my parents. I was not allowed to go near high school dances for example. Finally after becoming engaged to a school dropout turned US army recruit my mother arranged for me to go to Wheaton Academy in Illinois. I said I wouldn't go without my dog. My godly aunt bought a home in Wheaton just so I could live with her. Before long I got on a train with my clothes in a large footlocker and a large collie dog in the baggage car. 800 miles later I

landed in the town where I would live for the next six years, meet my husband, get married and leave for Seminary in California. My last year at Wheaton Academy was a major turning point in my life. I was only

ed for California in a very old station wagon. The blessings of credit cards had not yet arrived and we got to Pasadena with one dollar left for gas. Don started seminary at Fuller and found a job selling Fuller Brushes!

ment in the Philippines was establishing churches and we worked with six of them, our last the construction of a large inner city church in Manila. We had every possible experience in the Philippines, the joy of building churches, training leadership and falling in love with the people. Don learned to preach in the Tagalog language and we were so blessed in that work. To this day I attend a Bible study in Albuquerque which hosts many Filipino people who have moved to the US. We adopted a baby boy during one furlough from the Philippines, welcoming Jimmy to our home on Halloween! After a few months we were back in the Philippines. Before leaving the last time we adopted a small Chinese boy named Kelly from an orphanage and after many trials with international paper work, we brought him to the states when we retired from the mission. My husband died of pancreatic cancer in March 2005. I asked God what he would have me do now that I was no longer a pastor's wife or school director. After a few months I received a letter from a prison inmate that I had known in our last Albuquerque church. His wife had accused him, judge declared him guilty of a sex offence. I panicked! He wanted me (MY STORY page 2)



interested in sports but one evening I attended a student prayer meeting. Our beloved coach spoke and I knew his message was directed at me. I left the meeting, went outside in the cold of January, leaned against a tree looking at the stars above and told God, "You win!" I broke up with the high school dropout, tackled my Freshman year at Wheaton College and several months later met the man I would marry, Don Benson. We were married and as Don was finishing college our daughter, Connie was born. Three months later we packed up all our worldly goods, a small dog and a baby and head-

The combination always brought laughs from friends. After graduation, raising money and packing, we headed for the Philippines. By this time we had adopted a little girl, Janet. Janet was later diagnosed with low I.Q. and one doctor said, "Send her back!" That made us mad, we kept her and to this day she calls us once or twice a week from a great facility in Pennsylvania. We took a ship to the Philippines – three weeks of skirting typhoons. We were four of the 10 or so passengers on that Norwegian freighter. We ate at the captain's table, had the run of the ship, a great experience. Our assign-



## My Story (continue from page 1)

to visit him in prison! I had experienced a typhoon in the middle of the Pacific, I had climbed a volcano which went off just after we got out, experienced a typhoon which destroyed 80% of Manila's homes, but I had never gone alone to a prison! We endured several severe earthquakes but a prison! I told Dave to send me a visiting form, hoping it would get lost in the mail, hoping the prison would not accept me but

you know what happened – I was approved! Over the next 12 months or so I visited Dave and we outlined what we thought would be a good ministry to those with a sex offence. Dave was released, worked for a while, was violated several times, is now in Texas. I want to thank Dave for saving me from the depression often suffered by widows. Dave asked me to visit several fellow inmates and before long I was run-

ning back and forth to Los Lunas to visit others. It was in that long line of contacts I started writing to Don Johnston . We dated for a while after his release in 2009 and we married in November of 2010. He is the man in my life for this ministry and God has convinced both of us we are in the place God wants us to be.

### Federal Judge Finds Illinois Rules On Sex Offenders Unconstitutional

Max Green ,WBEZ News

A federal judge in Chicago has found the Illinois Department of Corrections is violating the constitutional rights of prisoners convicted of certain sex crimes by making the restrictions on where they can live so stringent that inmates are often locked up long beyond their sentences.

In a ruling issued Sunday, Judge Virginia Kendall wrote that hundreds of offenders in the state's prison system successfully complete their entire court-ordered sentences yet remain behind bars indefinitely. Kendall found the corrections department is depriving them of fundamental rights, and if they had money and support, they'd be able to leave and begin serving out what's called "mandatory supervised release."

Mark Weinberg, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said the decision could mean relief for hundreds of people who have been in prison even though they've served their time.

"A plaintiff of mine called me [today] to



say it's the talk of the prison," he said. "There are ways to protect public safety but holding people in prison long after their sentences are over isn't the proper way to do it."

In 2017, WBEZ visited and spoke with J.D. Lindenmeier, one of the plaintiffs in the case. At that time, Lindenmeier had been behind bars six years past his court-ordered release date. But he's still in prison today, a total of eight years beyond his sentence because he can't find a place to live that complies with the state's requirements.

Prisoners call the time they serve beyond their sentences — often many years — "dead time."

In the 2017 interview, Lindenmeier said he couldn't afford his own apartment, so he turned to his family for help. But their living situations disqualified them under state law. He said his father lived too close to a park, his mother had a computer and smartphone with internet access, his sister had small children, and his dad's girlfriend's home was too close to a day care center — all violations of the state's housing rules for offenders like Lindenmeier.



### Note from Alice

Thank you all for celebrating my 90th birthday. My life verse has been John 15:16. In fact I am giving it to you! It says: <sup>16</sup>"You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you to go

and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name." It will challenge you to stop wor-

rying about your life, turn off all those commercials that say: "Are you feeling sick today?" There is really only one purpose for our lives – to glorify God in all we do. It won't make us perfect but it will make us overcomers.



## My Shipwreck by Mark B. in Pennsylvania

It has been close to nine years since I had the wake-up call when Federal agents came aboard a private yacht I was captaining. A wake up call that I was under the spell of Satan's temptations child pornography. While my knees went weak, I also felt a weight lifted off my shoulders as my secret was no longer going to be. But I expected a difficult outcome completely. One of explaining to my wife, daughter and family, along with the owner of the yacht, became so much more. I learned just how much I may have hurt innocent ones in my misguided behavior.

Doing a 210 month prison sentence, I have had a lot of time asking myself why? I have always considered myself a Christian, and I do believe in Jesus. I have seen God in my travels out in the open ocean. Yet I have always questioned the accuracy of the Bible. Recently I learned a lot in *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel. I am starting to see the history and accuracy of the

Word.

I am now in a group called Seven Pillars of Freedom, by Ted Roberts. Out of eight men, I am the black sheep of the group. I was not the one that said that put God first as the one I let down the most. I always listed my wife the mother of my two children. I brought her over from Mexico on a fiance visa. I abandoned and lost her. I lost my children. I lost it all.

I write about what I lost on a blog [www.myshipwreck.com](http://www.myshipwreck.com). The sentencing judge said he was going to make me an example. He failed. Most people soon forgot who I was. All those friends gone. So I have a mission, and that is to be an example to others. I have to warn others about the dangers of pornography addictions. Our prison ministry invited the 'Rock of Ages', Bob Leach and Jeff Castle, an excellent program. After eight years this was the first time I went to hear others speak in the Chapel. They spoke about sex ad-



dictions, right on target.

In my Seven Pillars of Freedom group, another member brought in your material. I decided to write. You have a message, and I am trying to get my incarcerated voice out to the public. I think you can help me in more than one way. Pass along [www.myshipwreck.com](http://www.myshipwreck.com). If you think it says anything make suggestions. My brother Fred, God bless him, scans my writings, corrects them, uploads them, and reformats them so that they look good. About 45 minutes of time per posting – and he has another life. He does it for me and for others. I need to do my part in spreading the web address to get more viewers. If I can just keep one man from making the same mistake I made, then I am not wasting my time



## A letter from James S. from Louisiana

My name is James and I am 30 from Louisiana. I am recently incarcerated and serving a 15 year sentence for pornography involving juveniles. My problem started when I was 12 years old. I became addicted to pornography and have been ever since. I got married at the age of 22 to a wonderful woman and also took on the role of stepfather to three wonderful boys. I was still addicted to porn but not as bad. In 2013 I became addicted to methamphetamine, which made things worse. I became twice as worse addicted to pornography and it eventually led me to become fond of porn with teenage girls. I also started having homosexual tendencies. It led me to cheat on my wife not but once but twice, once with a prostitute and the other with a transgender. I lost my job and almost lost my family. I

stopped doing the drugs in 2016 but was still watching the porn. I went to church every Sunday and eventually got "saved" for the wrong reasons. I knew the Lord was calling but I wouldn't answer the right way. The teenage porn finally caught up with me in 2017 when I was arrested. I understand now that this was God's way to set me down and get my attention. I have confessed all my sins and accepted his free gift of eternal life. Although I still have 13 years left and will have to register for the rest of my life, I will live the rest of my life for Jesus Christ. A friend recently introduced me to your newsletter and one of the stories related to me and spoke to me to share this testimony. I hope this could help someone just like someone else's helped me. God bless! Thankfully, James S.

**2 Cor. 5:17** – Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new. **Jeremiah 31:34** – I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.



## Titus House Ministries

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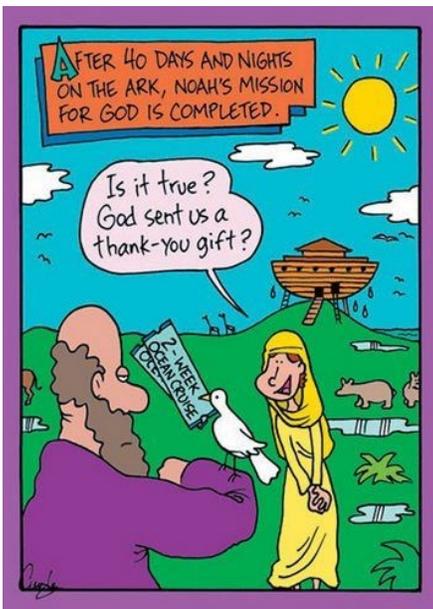
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We're on the Web  
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Hebrew 13:3 - Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Remember if you change your address you need to let us know if you want to continue to receive this newsletter



# JANICE'S JOURNAL: FLOWERS OF JUSTICE ARE BLOOMING

Spring has begun and the flowers of justice are blooming. One of these flowers, which is especially beautiful and fragrant, is a decision issued today by the Massachusetts Supreme Court that significantly limits the use of GPS devices for those convicted of a sex offense even if the registrant is on probation.

In its decision, the Court determined that GPS monitoring of an individual convicted of possessing and distributing child pornography constitutes a violation of the Fourth Amendment which protects against unreasonable searches. Specifically, the court stated that "(t)he government's strong interest in protecting the public from sex offenders"....does "not outweigh the privacy intrusion occasioned by GPS monitoring."

It is significant that the Court acknowledged that registrants are harmed in several ways when they are required to wear a GPS device. For example, registrants' jobs are threatened when they are required to leave their job site and walk around outside in order to regain a lost satellite connection. It

is also significant that the Court acknowledged that GPS tracking devices amass "a substantial quantum of intimate information about [a] person" and that information is stored indefinitely in a way that is currently unregulated by statute.



As sweet as the Massachusetts decision is, it does not mean that all registrants in that state will be free of the requirement to wear a GPS device. Instead, it means that the government must make a decision on a case-by-case basis whether a registrant in that state will be required to wear such a device.

Two additional beautiful and fragrant spring flowers of justice are recent acts in Connecticut and Virginia that will restore the civil

rights of registrants and their loved ones. Specifically, the town of Windsor Locks, Connecticut, repealed a local law that prohibited registrants from visiting parks, schools, libraries and other public places. And the Governor of Virginia proposed the elimination of language in a law that would have prohibited registrants from entering emergency shelters.

Breathe deeply. Spring is here. And justice is blooming in many gardens.

— by Janice Bellucci

## Circle of Concern

Circle of Concern is aimed at breaking down isolation and fear by providing a safe place for registrants and their loved ones to get together, build community, and learn ways to step out and take charge of their lives and overcome the stigma

they face. The Circle of Concern is a group of concerned registered citizens, family and friends that meet together on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We are meeting this month on May 19, 2019 at 4 pm—6 pm. We will be having a potluck. We meet at Foothills Fellowship



Church, corner of Tramway and Candelaria on the far east side of Albuquerque. We encourage and try to help each other. It is a safe place to share our strengths and struggles. We hope you will join us. If you are planning to attend call Don at (505) 315-7940.