

# Titus House Newsletter

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

AUGUST  
2019



## People give up— God doesn't by Manuel Resendez

Hello Don and Alice and my Titus House Family,

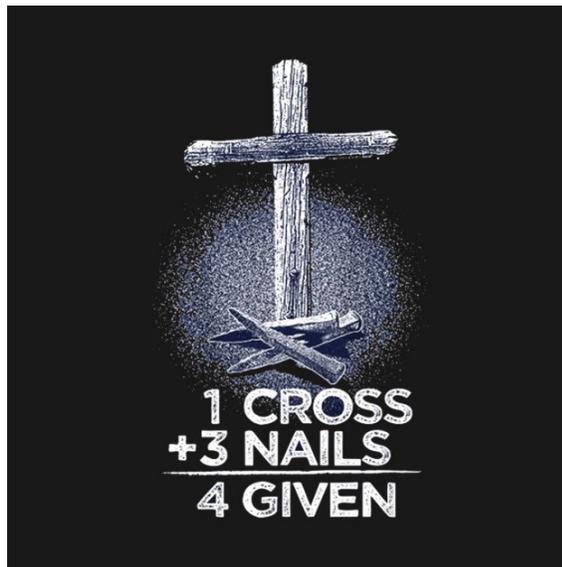
As I was clearing out some papers, getting ready for one of our annual lockdowns, I came across my Titus House folder. I keep all of the newsletters because they are letters of encouragement during hard times. As I was reading through them, I realized I haven't written in a bit. So I decided to share more of my story.

I grew up with two brothers and two sisters. I was the second to the youngest, beating my twin brother by five minutes. My mom and dad always fought, had affairs on each other and we moved around a LOT. When I was around eight I was molested by my uncle; it went on for about a year. Damage done. I started being sexually active with both boys and girls. Looking back I can say I started victimizing. My mom and dad finally separated for good and my mom remarried when I was around ten. My step-dad was big into church so we went every chance we could. Even though I was a kid, I remember going down to the altar and giving my life to God. Little did I know that with God there are no take backs. Life was going good and my mom and step dad were doing great. Then at twelve it came out about my uncle. He had molested my brother and a cousin as well. By the time I was sixteen, my mom and step-dad completely quit going to church. At eighteen I met a young lady who invited me to church. I went

in hopes of getting her to like me and played church for awhile. After graduation I went off to college for a year. While there I got to drinking and partying so I

visit or even stay late to pray. Not that I cared about any of that, I had used God's house for only one reason, a hunting ground. One of the families that I had manipu-

dren and had filed for divorce. (Now you have to pay attention for all the blessings). Almost 10 years later my past caught up with me. For the next three years I was a single dad, being investigated and battling Child Protection Services. In 2008 CPS cleared me from any allegations against my own children but because I had this charge pending, they took my children away from me. They were 8, 6, 5 and 3. I went to court later that year and took a plea for eight years of deferred adjudication probation. While on probation I had to attend counseling and take polygraphs. During this time I had wanted to go to church but my PO wouldn't allow me (and I didn't blame them). So I was listening to nothing but Christian music and watching Christian TV. For the first six and a half years everything went great. Then I started dating a female co-worker who has five children. She knew about my charge and after working with me for over two years, she believed in me that I had changed. Now my counselors and PO didn't want me dating her because she had children. They made our lives chaotic. They came to our job constantly, showed up to my house constantly and even called CPS to talk with her children. Now it was time for another polygraph. Granted on some of the previous polygraphs I lied and still passed them, on this one I was totally honest. I failed. After three months, I had to retake it and I failed again. On Sept. 15, 2015 I got locked up in (CONTINUE ON PG. 2) county jail. My lady friend



came back home. At nineteen I was going back to this church because these were a lot of nice-looking girls there. I got baptized for the wrong reasons and they placed me as a teacher over a group of teenage boys. After a few months I victimized one of these boys. When he told the pastor what had happened, I denied everything. The small police department did their investigation and I came up clean. I had victimized the young boy again by making him look like a liar. Now the church had me on all kinds of restrictions. I was only allowed on church grounds for the sermon. I couldn't be there early to

lated allowed me to hang out with them at their house with their son. One evening the son and I were watching a show and reading the Bible. I victimized him while he was reading God's Word! Now why would God want anything to do with me? Will He forgive me? Will He ever trust me with His Word again? That family moved away and I quit that church. My next three years was all alcohol. I woke up for work with alcohol in my cup left over from the night before. At lunch more alcohol. After work it was the bars and more alcohol. At 24 I settled down and married a young lady I got pregnant. By 28 I had four chil-



## NARSOL 2019 Conference

### NARSOL 2019 Conference

On June 6, 2019 Doug (a board member of Titus House Ministries), and myself (Don) went to Houston Texas for their 11<sup>th</sup> annual 4 day conference of NARSOL (National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws) at the Marriott Hotel. One of the highlights for me was the letter read from the mayor of Houston welcoming us to the city and giving us his support to our cause. There were a number of great workshops that were presented for us to attend filled with information pertaining to sex offender issues. Doug and I split up and attended different workshops. Not only did we learn a lot but were able to network with other people and get contact information. We then went to the

Award Banquet and the speaker was Lenore Skenazy writer of Free Range Kids. It was very informative and funny. NARSOL does a great job with helping financially to attend the conference by providing scholarships for the registration fee and then what is unheard of a scholarship of \$300 to help with the cost to get there for those that qualify.

What we took home was something beyond the obvious, something that goes deeper than seeing friends and making new ones, deeper than learning new skills, something more than participation in workshops and listening to experts in their fields speak of shared concerns. Doug and I have a passion about justice in our hearts and the con-

ference stroked that fire to its highest levels. Many of us have lived a story that would move most to tears. Yet we find the strength to rise each day, hold our heads up high, and walk the walk. For me it is my relationship with Jesus Christ. It is my high recommendation when you get a chance to attend one of these conferences and be blessed.

For free copies of decisions, write Public Information Office, Supreme Court of the United States, #1 First St. NE, Washington, DC 20543. Up to 5 decisions can be requested. **Sex Offenses:** 17-6086 Gundy v. United States; 17-1672 United States v. Haymond.

## People give up—God doesn't

had left me because CPS was harassing her because of me. Now I have less than a year left on the eight year probation and I'm getting revoked. (I shared part of my testimony from country in a previous newsletter). On October 11, 2015 I rededicated my life to God. I confessed my sins and took responsibility for my past. So from 2009 to 2015 I had seen my kids only twice. The following week I received a letter in the mail. It was four individual letters from my kids, now 15, 13, 12, 10. All their letters began with "Dear Dad" and ended with "Love you." The following weekend they came to see me. That's how great God is!! Did you see all the blessings? Too many times we are focused on all the bad that we miss God working it all out for the benefit of us. Check out some of the blessings I found.

### BLESSINGS

My kids being taken from me – keeps them safe from the possibility of me hurting them.  
 Being reconnected with my kids.  
 Coming to prison – Now I get to be a missionary.  
 7 years counseling to share that knowledge with others.  
 20 year sentence – time to study God's Word – finishing up Associates degree  
 Best relationship ever with my family. I get to share my peace and joy with them even though I'm behind bars.

See guys, if God can forgive me, use me, and still trust me with His Word, He can do the same for you. I ain't gonna lie and say it's easy. I've had many struggles but I got up and dusted

myself off and kept going. I will not allow the enemy to tell me that God wants nothing to do with me.

Now I see parole in August of 2025, after 10 years I'm praying for either the possibility of going to help out Titus House Ministries or starting my own here in Texas. If in New Mexico I would couple with the Circle of Concern and prison ministry.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away; behold all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation." II Cor. 5:17-18.

Lots of love to my Titus House Family!  
 God Bless, Manuel Resendez

## Words from Don of Titus House Ministries

I have been out of prison now for 10 years. Never did I thought I would be in a prison ministry growing up but I knew God had a special place for me in His Kingdom work. As a kid I was an altar boy, not a good one, we used to steal wine from the priest's secret stash. Later at a Christian Church, I was in a puppet ministry for the kids. I changed my magic/illusion show to a Christian message. When I went to prison I was a Chaplain aide for a few Chaplains. I also started a few Bible studies in the unit. I took computers and started a newsletter. I say all this because I see how God's hand has been molding me. He will do the same for you my brothers and sisters if you only trust Him.



## New Mexico Report for August by Larry Neely

Liberty & Justice Coalition (LJC) is excited to announce that as of August 1<sup>st</sup> we now have a staff attorney. Ashley Reymore-Cloud is a former assistant district attorney with the 13th Judicial District Attorney's Office who recently left to pursue criminal defense work, specializing sex offender cases. She spent the better part of her 25-year legal career as a prosecutor in New Mexico.

With the addition of Ms. Cloud, LJC will be able to move forward with our ambitious litigation plans. We had hoped to have our first lawsuit filed regarding translation of out-of-state convictions. Unfortunately, the screening of potential plaintiffs has taken longer than we had anticipated. The lawsuit will seek to force the New Mexico Department of Public Safety (DPS) to provide a due process mechanism to those with non-New Mexico convictions. New Mexico law requires that an out-of-state conviction be "equivalent" to an offense on our list of registrable sex offenses. Despite this unambiguous language, the DPS has failed to provide a process, and we now have more than 500 in the category of "waiting for translation" listed on the website.

The next priority area for us to attack is the many problems we have with the Parole Board. LJC now has additional resources to attack the many unconstitutional practices which have been occurring for several years. It is our position that the current administration has been in office for six months, which is sufficient time to begin making changes. They have not. In fact, the attitude they have conveyed thus far is no different from the previous administration. Even though the official name is "parole," the indeterminate period which follows incarceration is clearly a period of "supervised release" comparable to what occurs in the federal system. It is our position that only the court can revoke that period of supervised release and then only after the person has been afforded due process which does include the right to counsel. If you have been revoked by the Parole Board, please write a short letter to us with the relevant details. Send to LJC, P.O. Box 36123, Albuquerque, NM 87176. Do not send more than two pages. We will contact you if we need additional details.

In addition to those listed above, the following list is our priorities for the coming year.

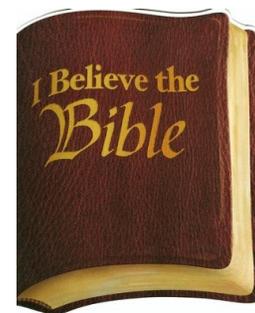
1. Litigation against the Parole Board for failure to release those convicted of sex offense who have served their time because the parolee is unable to provide an acceptable address;
2. Litigation to force New Mexico to provide probable cause hearings for those accused of technical violation of their supervision. Despite the fact that the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision mandates such hearings, our state has chosen to disregard this due process requirement;
3. A Declaratory Judgment seeking credit for time on registration dating back to enactment of retroactive registration requirements;
4. A Declaratory Judgment to strike down the blanket imposition of GPS monitoring as violative of due process without individualized determination of need for such monitoring;
5. Litigation to strike various unconstitutional provisions of the New Mexico's Behavioral Contract, which everyone supervised as a sex offender must sign. We will be coordinating our efforts with other legal entities on items such as the ban on social media, employment notifications, and other portions that are being used subjectively to reincarcerate offenders.

## Some Serious Thoughts by Alice

I guess after bragging about driving a race car I need to get serious for once. We have recently run into some very nice, well educated people and in speaking privately with them I discovered they are not believers in Christ. Our brochure quotes I John 1:9 saying "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. We need to stand up for the teaching of the Bible since we claim to be His followers. This will be tough in today's world since the average person today defends living together outside marriage, same sex

relationships and many other behaviors the Bible condemns. The educated world has many methods to make us all feel better, psychology hopes to fix us all up. People now who make it public they are Bible-believers are looked upon as old fashioned and not well educated. We have a decision to make in our personal lives: believe the Bible and its clear way to heaven or take our chances with end times and God's judgment. I am pretty sure where I stand. Possibly nearing the end of my life, I look forward to joining my two brothers, who died recently and many friends I no longer hear from. If you want more

Scriptures on these topics please give me a call. House number (505) 286-8807.





## Titus House Ministries

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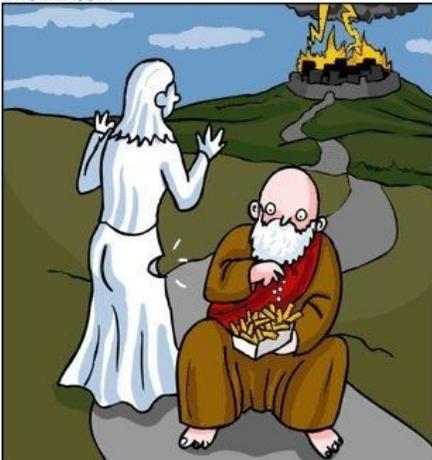
Email: donmagicjohnston@gmail.com

We're on the Web  
titushouseministries.org

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

BifSniff.com



While Lot was obviously going to miss his wife desperately, he could see no reason not to make the best of the situation.

# Sex Offender Registries Don't Keep Kids Safe, But Politicians Keep Expanding Them Anyway

by Huffpost Michael Hobbse

The first time Damian Winters got evicted was in 2015. He was living with his wife and two sons in suburban Nashville when his probation officer called his landlord and informed him that Winters was a registered sex offender.

The previous year, when he was 24 years old, Winters had been arrested for downloading a three-minute porn clip. The file description said the girl in the video was 16; the prosecutor said she was 14. He was charged with attempted sexual exploitation of a minor and, because he had used file-sharing software to download the video, attempted distribution of child pornography.

Winters had no criminal record, no history of contact with children and no other illegal files on his computer. Facing an eight-year prison sentence, he had taken a plea deal that gave him six years' probation and 15 years on Tennessee's sex offender registry.

The day after his landlord found all this out, Winters found a letter on his porch giving him and his family 72 hours to move out. He ended up in one homeless shelter, his wife and sons in another.

He had no idea that it would be the last time he would ever live in a home. He has been sleeping in shelters, halfway houses and parked cars ever since.

"I've lost everything so many times," said Winters, who asked HuffPost not to use his real name due to concerns that it would add to the difficulty of finding housing and employment.

His years on the registry have been an exercise in hitting rock bottom and then falling even further down. He has attempted suicide twice and checked himself into inpatient psychiatric facilities three times. The strain of living apart from his family eventually

ended his marriage. Without an income to help keep his family afloat, his now-ex-wife had no choice but to take the kids and move back in with her parents in Ohio. Winters can't visit without approval from his probation officer and can't afford the bus fare very often anyway, so he only sees his sons a few times per year. At 29, he still has 10 years left before his name comes off the registry.

"I don't even forge relationships anymore," Winters said. "People are judgmental, so I keep to myself. I go to work, I go to sleep and I try not to think about what's going to take everything away the next time."

Winters is a member of an expanding and invisible American underclass. In 1994, when Congress passed the first sex offender registration law, the list was reserved for law enforcement officials and only applied to the most serious offenders. Since then, American lawmakers at every level have relentlessly increased its scope and severity.

The registry now includes more than 900,000 people, a population slightly greater than Vermont's. At least 12 states require sex offender registration for public urination; five apply it to people charged with offenses related to sex work; 29 require it for consensual sex between teenagers. According to Human Rights Watch, people have been forced to spend decades on the registry for crimes they committed as young as 10 years old.

Read the rest of the story at

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/sex-offender-laws-dont-make-children-safer-politicians-keep-passing-them-anyway\\_n\\_5d2c8571e4b02a5a5d5e96d1?guccounter=1](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/sex-offender-laws-dont-make-children-safer-politicians-keep-passing-them-anyway_n_5d2c8571e4b02a5a5d5e96d1?guccounter=1)

## 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 August 18, 2019 at 4 pm—6 pm. We will be having a potluck. We meet at Foothills Fel-



lowship 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.