

Titus House Newsletter

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

FEBRUARY
2021

Update on Legacy Acres Ministries (LAM)



Titus House Ministries has been working with David and his organization called Legacy Acres Ministries (LAM). Don of Titus House is one of Directors of LAM. We have introduced David before in this newsletter. We would like to update and let you know what is on the heart of David from LAM. As you know David is one of us who was convicted of a sex crime and has committed his life to the Lord.

January 2021 marks seven years of freedom from the DOC. Wow! The time has gone by so quick.

While Covid 19 has been a detriment to many people around the world. As for LAM and myself, it has worked to our advantage. As we develop agricultural endeavors the need for healthy produce has increased. This past year we had 5 to 11 people on payroll during the growing season. Growing thousands of pounds of produce from our market garden tens of thousands of floral bedding plants. We were the leading producer our local farmers market.

Likewise, we have been successful in developing a local food co-op TTC (tabletop co-op) which will be used three-fold to help our community. 1. TTC has a beginning farmer program along with a land access program for the beginning farmers, a mentorship program an educational program to assist the beginning farmer/rancher in their success. 2. TTC is used as a distribution network to help the beginning farmer/rancher to market their produce, so they can concentrate on growing. 3. TTC is a CSA (community supported agricultural) endeavor. Selling memberships to our community members they receive healthy organic grown produce at competitive prices. We believe that growing healthy people starts with healthy food and leads to healthy community.

An opportunity was presented in 2020 to purchase a local floral greenhouse/nursery business which enhances our other agricultural endeavors. *La Casa Verde Floral and Nursery* has been established since 1976. We are honored to be able to carry forward this horticultural business into the next generations of our community. Likewise, this business will be an extension of LAM ministries assisting the returning citizens project with jobs and opportunities in this community.

Finally, I am pleased to report that LAM (Legacy Acres Ministries) is now an official 501©(3) nonprofit organization registered with the state. We have received our first returning citizen and plan to step up kingdom business this coming year. One of our goals are to develop quarterly newsletter to be sent into the DOC. We will be seeking the men and women whom God is preparing to come to this community. There is tremendous lack of resources for our returning citizens, particularly men and women who have committed sexual offenses, I feel honored to be used in this capacity. I will continue to speak life and blessing over this ministry and the people who are drawn to us by the spirit of our Lord.

While it's true, I feel as though I have crossed over the river Jordan into the land flowing with milk and honey, I cannot forget those behind the prison walls. The utter despair, sadness and loneliness that permeates the environment within the DOC during the holiday season. The sadness of missing their loved ones. Wishing they could turn back time. Take back what they did. Change the choices that lead them to that place. Take back the words, the hurt, the pain, the guilt that brought the shame upon themselves and their family. But they cannot, the only hope is to be forgiven by the One whose forgiveness transcends time and space and hopefully they can learn how to forgive themselves and move into a place of healing.

I have tremendous hope for the men and women behind the walls because I know, first hand, that it can be a place for restoration, renewing, cleansing and refining if one embraces their time of correction and deeply cultivates the soil of their heart, mind, and spirit to bring forth the wonderful fruit that is within each one of us. (continue page 2)



Legacy Acres Ministries continue

God's word tells us that they shall be known by their fruit. In order to bring forth fruit one must plant seed. Planting good seed brings forth good fruit. Planting bad seed brings forth bad fruit. This is a simple agricultural concept to understand that anyone can apply to their life.

While we cannot change the past, we can change the future and it begins with one good choice at a time. I do not claim to have arrived however, these days I believe that I am a man that you would like to know. I am committed to making good choices and impacting people's lives for the better. Understanding that we have all, at some time, done the things we wish we had not but that is not "who we are". We are who God says we are and we have the potential to change the world for the better. Everything takes time and effort.

As we pass through the next decade, I am committed to God, family, friends, and community to make positive differences in the lives I am graciously allowed in.

To those of you who have walked with me through these years, thank you. Your support has been edifying and uplifting and I am eternally grateful. To those of you whom I hurt and offended I am remorseful and ask you to forgive me. To those of you whom I have not met, I will utilize and share the wisdom, truth and light that I have received that will help you to live a life that is glorified to God and be fruitful in good works.

Having been in construction I really appreciate power tools. I've come to learn the greatest power tool we possess is the power tool of prayer. It is my privilege and honor to lift you all in prayer.

Gracious heavenly Father, Creator of the universe, I come before thee this day and I lift each person this letter may touch and I ask for your hedge of protection to be around them. I thank you that your grace and mercy be upon us. I pray your blessings be upon them and that they are filled with life, love, hope, healing and peace. I pray that we all would be in tune with your holy spirit and make the most of each day that you may be glorified in everything we think, do and say. In the most holy and precious name of Jesus, I pray.

Sincerely, David

Legacy Acres Ministries 2 Tim 2:21

MN: SEX OFFENDERS AT MOOSE LAKE PROTEST HARSH CONDITIONS AFTER DEATHS FROM COVID-19

[startribune.com – 1/18/21] for full article

Outbreak fuels long-simmering tensions over civil commitment after sentences.

A group of sex offenders at a northern Minnesota treatment center is refusing to attend therapy sessions, while others are wearing black clothing as a show of solidarity, amid growing unrest after three men housed there died and scores more were sickened by the novel coronavirus.

The acts of defiance were organized to call attention to what offenders see as poor infection-

control practices and the historically low rate of release from the state's prisonlike treatment centers in Moose Lake and St. Peter. Most of the nearly 740 offenders held at the centers have completed prison sentences for sexual offenses but remain locked up for years or even decades under Minnesota's civil commitment law.

Tensions have been rising for months over the program's response to a large outbreak of COVID-19 within the state-operated treatment program, including complaints that many staff members and clients weren't wearing masks in common areas or remaining apart.

Since the start of the pandemic, 101 staff members and 88 clients at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) have had confirmed COVID-19 infections. At least three clients have died at the Moose Lake center since early December, and periodic lockdowns have been imposed to prevent the virus' spread in the sprawling complex.

"It was a catastrophe waiting to happen, and it did," said Matthew Feeney, 51, a Moose Lake client who contracted the virus last fall. "MSOP had nine months to see and watch the rest of the world prepare, yet their plan didn't isolate people who had contact with known infectious people."



Virginia bill would end civil commitment of sex offenders

Two Virginia Democratic lawmakers are spearheading a push to repeal a decades-old law that allows the state to hold certain sex offenders at psychiatric facilities indefinitely after their criminal sentences if they are deemed “sexually violent predators.”

Critics say civil commitment laws are fundamentally unfair and violate the constitutional prohibition against punishing someone twice for the same

crime. Supporters counter that the laws protect society from repeat offenders who are unable to control their behavior.

Sen. Joe Morrissey and Del. Patrick Hope, both Democrats, are co-sponsoring legislation that would end the state’s authority to civilly commit sex offenders.

“It is as archaic and as Neanderthal a process as I can imagine,”

said Morrissey, a defense attorney and lead patron of the bill that would repeal 1999’s Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators Act.

“We don’t sentence people because of what they might do,” he said. “That’s not that our democracy and our criminal justice system believes in.”

From ACSOL

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION FREEZES MOST RECENT REGULATIONS

FROM ACSOL

The Biden Administration yesterday placed a 60-day freeze on most regulations recently issued by the previous administration. The freeze applies to proposed regulations published in the Federal Register and could include the proposed SORNA regulations issued on August 13, 2020.

According to a White House memo, the federal government may open a new comment period “to allow interested parties to provide comments about issues of fact, law, and policy” raised by those regulations. The federal government may also consider petitions for reconsideration involving the regulations. The memo also states that the Administration’s 60-day freeze could be extended for an additional period

of time.

“ACSOL and its allies will pursue all opportunities to provide comments to the Biden Administration regarding the proposed SORNA regulations,” stated ACSOL Executive Director Janice Bellucci. “The goal of providing comments would be to stop the proposed SORNA regulations from becoming final regulations.”

Following the 60-day freeze, the Biden Administration could approve draft and final regulations that “raise no substantial questions of fact, law or policy.” However, draft and final regulations that do raise one or more substantial questions of fact, law or policy are to be sent to the Office of Management and Budget

(OMB) for review.

There are exceptions to the 60-day freeze, according to the memo. The exceptions include regulations for which there are statutory and judicial deadlines as well as regulations that “affect critical health, safety, environmental, financial, or national security measures.”

“Any delay in the finalization of the proposed SORNA regulations is welcome,” stated ACSOL President Chance Oberstein. “In addition, we welcome the opportunity to educate the Biden Administration about the significant harm that could be caused if the proposed SORNA regulations became law.”

Reminder: Scam Alert

Two of our members of Titus House notified us that they have received a phone call from someone claiming to be with the Albuquerque Police Dept. or with Bernalillo Sheriff Office. There has been these scams around the nation to registrants. They might ask you to get DNA test or for some money in order to be bonded out because of an arrest that was going to happen. Beware of phone scams. So if someone claiming to be with law enforcement be on your guard.

Correction

Last month we stated that, “the Ninth Circuit Court of appeals had fallen in line with the Sixth Circuit in ruling that retroactive enhancements to the Idaho Sex Offender registry...” Our article was based on a representation by a national advocacy organization. Unfortunately, that article was a bit overly optimistic. The Ninth Circuit actually ordered the case to be reinstated which had been dismissed by the trial judge. It is our hope that Ninth Circuit does in fact adopt the same reasoning as the Sixth Circuit once the case is concluded.



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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

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Be My Valentine, I Love You



By Alice

Every morning a bunch of adults jump out of bed and run to the phone. I grab a cup of coffee, my Bible and **"Our Daily Bread"**. We begin to hear familiar voices "Is that you Wanda"? Etc. A collection of early morning folks, pajama clad, coffee cup in hand, hair standing on end, check in to chat on the phone with one another. Don is the leader of this group and tries to give everyone a chance to express their views regarding the **"Our Daily Bread"** reading of the day. What are the requirements for this group? 18 and older, representing various parts of the US, with concern regarding the Word, current times, care for one another. There are many backgrounds for this group – recent widows, truck drivers, young single adults, older married men or women, people who have been in prison, actually just about every kind of background.

It may be 9:00 in the East, 8:00 in Kan-

sas City or 6:00 in California. We invite you to join this group. If you care about those driving on snowy roads or attending the funeral of a spouse, then you are caring enough to become part of this early morning group.

We are not a matchmaker but who knows what could happen? The goal of this group is to be supportive, non-judgmental, accepting of various theological or political views. Our goal is to know God personally and live the rest of our lives pleasing to Him.

We have a morning devotional at 7 am MST. We are using **"Our Daily Bread"**. This is for registered citizens and family and friends. Join us for a Free Conference Call at (605) 475-4092. The access number is 278954#

6 am Pacific

7 am MST

9 am Eastern

Circle of Concern has gone **ZOOM**

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 February 21, .2021 at 3 pm—5 pm. MST. We will meet on Zoom. 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.. He will send you the link to join by computer or phone. You can contact him at the number above or email him at

donmagicjohnston@gmail.com