

Titus House Newsletter

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

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VICTORY! Connecticut just became the first state to make prison calls free - From CURE



We finally did it! We passed our first state bill to make prison phone calls FREE in Connecticut – and it actually goes further, including ALL communication like video calls and emails.

Yesterday, Governor Lamont signed SB 972 after teetering on whether he would, and we got everything we asked for, no compromises. This bill will save families \$14 million each year, reconnect those separated from their loved ones inside, ensure children can speak to their parents, improve reentry outcomes, and more. It's a win all around

But it's not just about Connecticut. Connecticut is joining a growing number of cities and states making prison and jail phone calls free, including New York City, San Francisco, San Diego, and Los Angeles. It's the third prison phone justice campaign to win this year, and we're not six months in. We're excited about what this means for the campaigns coming down the pipeline like Massachusetts, New York, Michigan, Miami, and others, and the impact on the prison phone industry

TX: REPEAT SEX OFFENDER SENTENCED TO 40 YEARS IN PRISON FOR FAILING TO REGISTER

GALVESTON, Texas – A repeat sex offender has been sentenced to 40 years in prison by a Galveston County jury after he failed to register as a sex offender, according to the Galveston County Criminal District Attorney.

Thomas Lee Alexander, III was required to register with local law enforcement because of a 1995 conviction for sexually assaulting a 15-year-old boy in Harris County, according to the DA's Office.

In 2017, Alexander moved from Galveston to Indiana without notifying local authorities, and in 2019, the Galveston Police Department learned that Alexander was in jail in Indiana and was extradited back to the county, according to a release. Alexander was indicted for failing to register as a sex offender with two previous felony convictions, the release stated.

Prosecutors said that Alexander had three prior convictions for failing to register, two in Harris County and one in Arizona, during the trial. Assistant Criminal District Attorney Quinten McConico told the jury that Alexander "is someone who has no interest in following the rules," according to the release.

Due to Alexander's guilty verdict and due to his previous convictions, his punishment range was 25 years to life in prison.

The jury sentenced him to 40 years in prison.

"Our community is safer with Mr. Alexander locked up in TDCJ, and the jury did the right thing in sending him off for 40 years," McConico said.

He will be eligible for parole in 10 years, or less with credit for good time served.



Stories from the Treasure Chest

Funny how things change and yet remain the same. As I awoke early this morning it came to my mind thoughts about life when I was incarcerated. Things like; **standing count** four times a day which wasted over a month each year of my time. These days I would enjoy being able to stand still for 15 minutes several times a day. It also came to my mind about the **dollar a day pay** that I earned while incarcerated. I felt pretty good about that \$30 a month. I spend it wisely on toothpaste and soap and Ramen soups. I never had an excess, but I always had what I needed. These days I earn a thousand a day. But don't really have any more money than I did then. I still must watch every penny and must be very frugal as to where the money goes. Quite humorous, I would say. That while the dollar amounts have changed and the decimal point has simply moved over a couple of col-

umns in my day to day, month to month living. I still live about the same with no excess but always what I need. I get the luxury of putting gas in my truck, paying my cell phone bill and an occasional pizza when I'm feeling too tired to cook dinner. It's funny how life changes and somehow remains somewhat the same. Perhaps it's just a human nature thing and it doesn't really matter where the decimal point lands in the financial statement.

Like Paul said, "I've had a lot, and I've had a little, I've been beat up, shipwrecked, and left for dead, but to have Godly contentment is of great gain. In all situations brings the peace that surpasses all understanding. I am so grateful for the heart transplant, from stone to flesh, that I received from the living God while incarcerated in the "Department of corrections". I know Father corrects those he loves. For that I am so grateful!

No matter where the decimal point falls. I am grateful to have each day, to make a positive difference in the lives of the people whom the Lord brings into this circle of influence.

I pray each day that God continues to mold me into instrument of righteousness, a vessel of honor that is prepared for every good work, that he may be glorified. And when that last deposit goes in, no matter where the decimal point falls, that it be about kingdom business that brings hope, healing light, and truth in the hearts, minds of his people. That's the legacy I aim to leave.



By Douglas Lindgren Board Member Titus House Prison Ministries

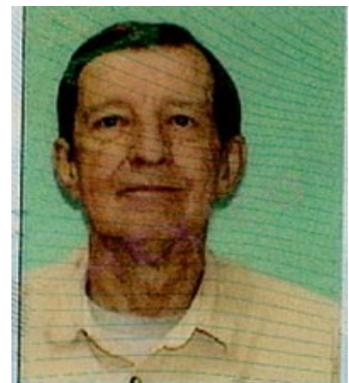
Reverend Franklin Barendse passed away February 9th 2021 in Albuquerque, NM. I am sure that some of you receiving the Titus House News Letter knew Frank. I first met Frank through Don Johnston of Titus House. I had just bought a house in Los Lunas, NM and had an open bedroom. Frank having just been released from prison was homeless on the streets of Albuquerque and in need of a place to stay. Don asked if I would let him stay at my place until he could get his life back together and I agreed to do so all though I have to admit that I did it reluctantly. I had never taken a complete stranger into my home before and didn't know what to

expect.

Frank started taking correspondence courses on Bible study while still in prison and continued the study courses until he earned enough credits to become an ordained minister. He also was able to perform marriages as he passed the study course to do so.

Frank had been very ill for many years. His health problems started while he was living with me. He had to be taken to emergency 4 different times in the year he was with me. He was on dialysis due to kidney failure and eventually had to have his kidneys removed. He also had heart and liver problems. He was in a lot

of pain especially the last year of his life. It was truly a blessing that the Lord finally took him home because he has no more pain. He is in the presence of the Lord where there is no more pain or sorrow only joy and peace.





Sex offense registration for life unconstitutional, says SC Supreme Court

By [Meg Kinnard](#) . . . South Carolina's Supreme Court says a state law requiring sex offenders to register for life without prior judicial review is unconstitutional . . .

According to the FAQ section of the state's registry website, an offender will only be removed from the registry if the offense is "reversed, overturned, or vacated on appeal and a final judgment has been rendered," or if they were pardoned.

In 2010, a man named Dennis Powell was convicted for criminal solicitation of a minor.

According to the Supreme Court ruling, Investigators said he was in an internet chat room in 2008 and planned to meet a 12-year-old girl at a skating rink in Lexington, but he was actually talking to an undercover officer . . . Powell was arrested, indicted, plead guilty, served his time and probation, and received psychiatric treatment.

Powell was told at his sentencing he had to register as a sex offender for life and has done so for more than ten years now.

Two doctors said he was low-risk for re-offending, the court said.

In 2016, Powell filed a petition with Circuit Court saying that requiring him to register for the rest of his life was excessive and deprived him of due process and equal protection . . .

The state Supreme Court upheld the Circuit Court decision and said Powell should be taken off the registry immediately.

The Circuit Court agreed with him, but the State Law Enforcement Division appealed the decision to the state Supreme Court.

[That's the decision we saw come out today.](#)

The Supreme Court said **it's not constitutional to require offenders to register for the rest of their life without a chance to see if they are actually high risk to re-offend.**

The ruling said, "The lifetime inclusion of individuals who have a low risk of re-offending renders the registry over-inclusive and dilutes its utility by creating an ever-growing list of registrants that is less effective at protecting the public and meeting the needs of law enforcement. . . . Moreover, there is no evidence [that] . . . all sex offenders generally pose a high risk of re-

offending."

The Circuit Court also said that 1994 sex offender law didn't allow for publishing the registry online.

But the Supreme Court did not uphold that part of this case, which means South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) can continue posting the registry on the internet.

The Court gave the General Assembly twelve months to rewrite the law and provide sex offenders a chance for judicial review . . .

Berkeley County Sheriff Duane Lewis said the ruling will likely not impact his county-level law enforcement operations much.

"The sex offender registry is very important to the safety and security of residents in our 46 counties," Lewis said. "Many people rely on the registry to make decisions about where to live. Employers use it as well to check applicants to jobs. It's an excellent opportunity to help protect citizens." . . .

Justices called South Carolina's sex offender law "**the most stringent in the country.**"

THANK YOU!

Thank you to those of you who sent money or stamps our way. It helps us a lot, as we are not supported by any grants. Without friends like you who understand the fight we have in fulfilling our God called mission to help us that our labeled as monsters or leper of our society we could not do it without you and the Lord's help. Again thank you who support Titus House Ministries, because of your generosity we are able to provide over a thousand newsletters and support to those who get out of prison in our aftercare programs.



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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



I THINK THAT YOU HAVE SOME SERIOUS FAITH ISSUES

Standing on the Fence

I was standing on a fence and there was an incredibly large group of people assembled around it.

On one side of the group stood a man, Jesus. On the other side of the group stood another man, Satan. Separating them, running through the group, was the fence I was standing on.

Both Jesus and Satan began calling to the people in the group, one by one, each having made up his or her own mind either Jesus or Satan. This kept going on and eventually Jesus had gathered around him a group of people from the larger crowd, as did Satan.

But I joined neither group. I stood on the fence. Then Jesus and his people left and disappeared. So too did Satan and his people.

I was left standing alone, standing on the fence. As I stood there Satan came back. He appeared to be looking for something he had lost. I said, "Have you lost something?" Satan looked straight at me and replied, "No there you are. Come with me." "But", I said "I stood on the fence. I chose neither you nor Him."

"That's OK said Satan. I own the fence. You belong to me."

(sent to us by a good friend)

BACK TO COLOR !!! We are sick and tired of drab, colorless gray so here goes! Back to color. We are sorry if some prisons are not able to accept color.

EVERY MORNING 7:00 – 7:30 Mountain Standard Time, we have a Conference Call. Grab your phone while eating your cereal. Call (605) 475-4092. The access code is 278954#. We are going through "Our Daily Bread" devotional.



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 **July 18, 2021** at 3 pm—5 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. 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

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