

Titus House Newsletter

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

DECEMBER
2021



THE TREASURE CHEST

Dear Returning Citizen,

Thank you for your overwhelming responses to THM October's newsletter letter entitled, "Help Wanted"; it has become clear to me that I need to be clear on my position with this ministry and life in general. It is never my intention to mislead anyone. Or build up your hope and then let you down. I wish we had the resources and the ability to help each and every one of you. However, currently, I do not. LAM is a New Mexico based 501c3 nonprofit ministry to assist the returning Citizen in reintegration into society. Working with a "for-profit" LAMB LLC, that we would be able to provide jobs, housing assistance, and be supportive in the parole conditions of returning citizens reentering society. We currently have numerous jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities that we are working on. And we are acquiring the necessary real estate to house returning citizens. However, as you may imagine, this is a multifaceted undertaking which takes **considerable time and finances**. When you consider the fact that I already have a full time business, five employees, a 2 acre farm, and three green houses. All of which require my attention; I hope that you can understand that everything takes time and resources. I am a very proactive individual. I am doing my best to bring about the necessary components to fulfill this ministry and assist those of you who's applications reveal the necessary internal work that a man/woman must do while in the DOC (**department of corrections**.) Please understand; that I am not a therapist, nor do I have mental health programs. I am looking for men/women whom have **embraced their time of corrections and have changed their hearts, minds, and behaviors** by utilizing the self-help/treatment programs offered within the DOC. **Please do not waste your time in the DOC!** You will never get that kind of free time again to work on yourselves. This would include educational, spiritual, therapeutic, drug and alcohol, and sex offender treatment. **If you have not done any of these programs you are not a likely candidate for LAM or our community.** Once you are released, you must hit the ground ready to be responsible and dependable. In order to be an asset to yourself, family, and community. We need to know that you've already done the work, mentally, spiritually, physically. We will do our very best to assist you in your deinstitutionalization. However, if a man or woman is not in control of their own body, mind, thoughts and behaviors, **then you are at risk to reoffend or being regressed.** I simply am not willing to endanger the ministry or my community with someone who is not in control. And the fact is we all get to make the choices that guide our lives. Choose you this day life and not death, blessings, and not cursing. You are the head and not the tail, above and not beneath. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. AS mentioned in the newsletter. It is very hard for interstate compact transfers to be approved, If you have no family ties in this state. If a man or woman, completes their parole and is off paper, they may transfer from state to state. In this case we would be more than happy to work with you if you would like to be a part of this ministry. Unfortunately, for those of you who just want to move out of your state, it will not be possible while you're on parole. We want the very best for you and believe you are worth it. However, we simply cannot squander our resources. We must be good stewards of what God has placed in our hands. Again, if you have family in New Mexico, your chances are good. Never give up. Winners never quit and quitters never win. Continue to sow good seed, and eventually you will reap a good harvest. In the meantime, work on the real estate of your heart, mind and body. You shall make it through this. Be of good courage

Sincerely, best wishes for your success.

Legacy Acres Ministries || Timothy 2:21

Ohio to Pay \$17.5M to Convicted Child Sex Offender After Prison Guards Boasted About Paralyzing Him

A convicted child sex offender in Ohio is to receive \$17.5 million in compensation after prison guards left him paralyzed — and boasted about it afterwards.

21-year-old Seth Fletcher was left in a wheelchair and unable to move from the chest down after he was tackled and dropped multiple times while handcuffed.

The incident occurred Chillicothe Correctional Institution on around 6 PM on April 2, 2020, when during a strip search, prison guards caught Fletcher with a cigarette they suspected was laced with drugs, The Columbus Dispatch reported.

After handcuffing him and escorting him to the medical clinic, the guards claimed he tried to pull away from them en route; when Corrections Officer Christopher Coy failed to leg sweep him, he tackled Fletcher to the ground.

Fletcher told them his neck hurt and he couldn't move his legs, so they picked him up, face down, and carried him the rest of the way. The nurse deemed he was okay and sent him back to the segregation unit. (Continue on page 2 **Prison Guards Boasted**)



When sex offender moved in, neighbors petitioned to force him out

Thousands of people have been convicted of sex crimes in New York state and those convicted of the most serious crimes appear on the public portion of the state's Sex Offender Registry, which makes it easy for residents to look up the identities of sex offenders living in their neighborhoods. Frequently, the arrival of a sex offender causes disquiet among neighbors.

In the Glenville case, another

neighbor, Mike Cusano, launched an online petition on change.org titled #NotInMyNeighborhood that as of Tuesday had 572 supporters. An updated message in bold letters by the author declared victory, as the man had put the home up for sale. Daniel Lambricht, a senior staff attorney with New York Civil Liberties Union, said sexual abuse is mostly carried out by someone known to the victim or the victim's family.

"There's no empirical evidence that residency restrictions work in protecting children or protecting families, and restrictions are primarily based on a false premise that there's that stranger lurking in the bushes that is going to come out and attack their child," he said.

By: Paul Nelson/Time Union

Hi everyone this is Don Johnston with Titus House. I decided to explain why we sometimes put bad and scary articles in our newsletters. Sure I can try to sugarcoat our situation but these things are going on around us. However, not everything is bleak and dreary as some like us to think. Never give up hope, for we are more than conquerors. As many of you know I did 14 years in prison. A lot of holidays passed under my belt. I learned a few things being locked up. One thing I learned is that it can really hurt being locked up during the holidays. But if you look at the real meaning of Christmas, then we can get through it. A lot is going around us in this crazy world of ours today. John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world". It has been only through the help of Jesus Christ have I been able to stay out of prison. I've seen so many people going through that revolving door of prison and I believe that the reason why is that they have not come into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Not that I have arrived, believe me I struggle just like you. God is my strength my anchor My Redeemer my Rock my Deliverer and only in Him will I trust, not what this world has to offer us but what God offers us. So, for this Christmas let us remember that Jesus is the Reason for the Season. **Merry Christmas**

Prison Guards Boasted

Still handcuffed and face down, the guards carried him by his arms and legs, dropping him a number of times on his face on the way back, before leaving him on a bed in a suicide watch cell, his arms hanging limply over the side. Cameras along the route were reportedly inoperable that day.

Unable to drink himself, he asked for water; guards poured some on his face, some of it going up his nose.

The acting captain checked on him around 2:30 AM and was told by Fletcher he couldn't move, but no action was taken. It wasn't until a psychologist visited his cell shortly before 10 AM that medical help was summoned. He was taken to Ohio State Wexner Medical Center to undergo emergency spinal surgery; but Fletcher had been left quadriplegic.

As part of his federal civil rights lawsuit against the prison security and nursing staff, Fletcher's legal team cited text messages and Facebook posts sent by one of the guards, Garrett Osbon.

"the dude I broke his nose is now paralyzed with a broken neck, and they say his face looks like he had been dropped and dragged through concrete, LMAO" he wrote. "It feels good to know that I played a small part in paralyzing a cho, LMAO."

"we also water boarded him LMAO", he also wrote, and "I broke a dudes nose today, yeah this was not reported, there was way too much blood so I mopped it up."

"Cho," or "cho mo", is prison slang for child molester.

Fletcher had been serving a two year sentence for pandering sexually-oriented material involving minors. His defense team claim the offense involved a consensual video the then-18-year-old made with a girlfriend a couple of years his junior.

According to his legal team, the suit was filed "as a result of the torture and crippling of Seth Fletcher by prison guards at the Chillicothe Correctional Institution. The guards handcuffed Mr. Fletcher behind his back, and then broke his spine by throwing him to the ground." Confirming the record settlement for the state of Ohio, Fletcher's lawyer Geoffrey Fieger said: "The torture and crippling of a prisoner in America sounds medieval. Yet it happened, here, in America, in 2020." Source **TooFab**



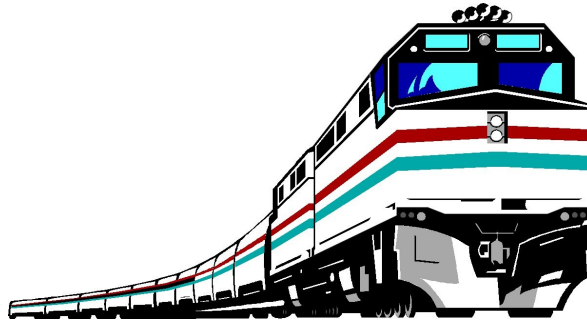
The Vacation of a lifetime

At 12:30am on July 6, 2003, my Mom and Dad dropped me off, armed with a brand new suit and a large suitcase at the Amtrak station in Cleveland, a half hour early for the eastbound train that would take me on my ultimate vacation, the vacation of a lifetime!!

I love opera. I have loved the opera and classical music since I was 10 years old. One of my lifetime goals was to go to the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. When I learned that the Kirov Opera was bringing 6 of their shows to New York, one of which is my favorite opera of all times, I called the phone number I had memorized for the MET Box Office and before I could talk myself out of it, I bought a ticket for all 6 performances! I was shocked, the tickets would be mailed to me, now I was tasked with the other stuff. HOW was I going to get there? WHERE would I stay? WHAT would I do while I was not watching the opera? HOW was I going to get around?

My mom was not happy with my decision. My Dad, on the other hand, arranged an entire vacation

package for me through Amtrak, thus, the late night train out of Cleveland. On the train, I found my seat. I had already decided I would not sleep, so I settled in with a book. I fell



asleep!! When I woke up several hours later, the train was traveling between 2 stone walls adorned with guard towers. Another passenger told me it was Sing Sing Prison and we would be in Manhattan within the hour. I couldn't believe I had slept that long.

My hotel was across the street from Penn Station. My room was on the 14th floor. My window was 12 feet from the window next door, so no real view, but I didn't plan to spend much time at the window anyway! In Columbus, if you plan to do anything, you automatically plan 2 hours for traffic. I figured I'd better plan an extra hour in New York!! The concierge pointed me to the subway station and told me which train went to Lincoln Cen-

ter. Ten minutes later, I stood in front of the facade arches of the Metropolitan Opera House, one lifetime goal was met!!

I can still remember how excited I was. I can remember the red, white, and varnished cherry wood in the theater, the great gold curtain, and the sound of the orchestra tuning. I can still remember the 6 performances I saw and the nearly half-hour ovation after the final show. I can also remember the tours of the Museum of Natural History, Central Park, and the USS Intrepid.

In closing, we all have dreams and goals. My biggest mistake was being intimidated at the thought of achieving this great mission. If I can impart one word of wisdom, it would be to not let your dreams be crushed by your circumstances. Set your goals before you. Do thorough research. Don't take no for an answer. If you want it bad enough, FIND a way! I did! I had the vacation of a lifetime...and it really wasn't that hard!!

Best wishes!
Jon



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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



CHRISTMAS OF A LIFETIME BY ALICE

When you have lived through 92 Christmases you have a memory of many experiences. I thought I would just share a few of them. Some took place in New York state, then a couple of years in the Philippines as a kid, back to New York state then on to California and then to New Mexico. My Dad was a Baptist missionary and I became a Christian at an early age. I became somewhat rebellious in my teen years and was shipped from home to Wheaton College Academy to live with my aunt. I committed my life to the Lord and after high school entered Wheaton College. I met Don Benson in college but didn't see much of him as he had the job of firing up the furnaces for the school in the middle of the night. Don and I met long enough to fall in love and get married. I got pregnant and missed my last year of college. By this time in my busy life I had traveled with my family to the Philippines for a year as my Dad was a member of a Baptist mission board. I was about 8 years old at this time and I loved life in the Philippines. Jumping ahead now to marriage with Don Benson, he felt God's call to missions, enrolled in Seminary in California. We traveled across the country in an old car, loaded with all our stuff and a 3-month old baby. There were no credit cards or even a telephone to let my parents, now in California, know we had broken down in the middle of a California desert. We hailed a passing truck and he called my parents and we got rescued! We lived in California four years, Don graduated from Fuller Seminary while I worked delivering brushes for the Fuller Brush Company!

After years in seminary we applied to the Conservative Baptist Mission Board, spent a year raising funds and before long we packed our family, now including Connie onto a freighter headed for the Philippines. Halfway there we had an enormous storm attack us and after being hit by high waves we made it to Manila a few days later. We spent about 15 years in the Philippines, establishing small beginning churches and enjoying many good experiences. By this time we had gone back to the US for a couple of visits, and adopted three more children.

Don Benson had written a book entitled How to

Start a Daughter Church and believed his work in the Philippines was completed. We all moved to New Mexico to help my Dad start a new church here. We helped three churches get underway and then Don woke up one morning realizing something was very wrong. In consulting with his doctor he was informed he had pancreatic cancer. He had been a college athlete and seemed healthy but this fatal cancer gave him only about 9 more months to live.

I wondered what on earth I was supposed to do without a husband, without a career in leadership in a church. I heard the police were looking for new recruits and I attended their specialized school for a few weeks. I never became a police officer and then one day I heard about ministry to sex offenders. Having been surrounded by the "good" people of my church I had never heard the term "sex offender". I dated Don Johnston one day after hearing he was living with an old friend and he had been in prison for a number of years. It sounded different and rather intriguing so before long we dated and decided we had a lot to do to aid those called sex offenders. We quickly learned a lot of other stuff - good people don't hang out with sex offenders and they should only come to church that supervisors them well. Well, most of you readers know the end of the story. Don and I got married 12 years ago and we have an exciting ministry to an increasing number of SOs in the country. Please pray with us that we may be able to continue this ministry until the Lord says we have done enough!



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 **December 19, 2021** at 3 pm—5 p.m. 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