

# Titus House Newsletter

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

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## Married to a Monster

By Sandy Zealecki

I met my deceased husband Greg when I was 14 years old. We dated in high school for a couple of years. We lived in a very small town. The only way for most of us to make it in the world was to leave it. Greg was a couple of years older than me, so he left before me. We just kind of lost track of each other for 30 years.

My mother always like Greg. He was an entertainer; he played guitar and sang country and western songs. He was doing a gig in our hometown and my mom got his phone number. She passed it along to me. I decided to call him just to see what he was doing. We had an immediate connection. It was like no time had passed. After the passage of 30 years, we were different people but the love we shared as teenagers seemed to ignore the passage of time and returned in an instant.

We would talk for hours on the phone. I think Greg was reluctant to reveal to me that he was facing charges for molesting a nine-year-old girl. When he told me what happened I could not believe the story. He supposedly molested this girl in a public parking lot in the middle of the day, with people watching. I don't know how that would happen, but small-town justice, revenge, no finances, and no support scared Greg into pleading guilty to a lesser charge. He was sentenced to four years in prison but ended up serving three.

We lost track of each other again while he was in prison, but after Greg got out of prison, he called me again. Once again, the love returned. After his parole he needed a new start. I was in Phoenix, Arizona and he was in Colorado. He moved to Arizona to be with me. I loved him, but I didn't want to marry him. It wasn't because he was on the registry, but because I had been married twice and just gone through a horrible divorce. I was good being single with the Lord as my number one. But both Greg and the Lord had other plans.

One night a voice woke me up and said, "Marry him." I said, "No, I don't want to." This argument went on for a couple of hours and then the Lord said to me, "Marry him, and I will bless your marriage beyond your wildest dreams." There is no winning when you fight with God. One month, one week, and one day after Greg moved to Arizona we were married. The Lord, He was true to His word. We had a very blessed marriage.

Greg really didn't like Phoenix. The town was just too big for him, and the heat really bothered him. We were able to purchase a small 50-acre property near Deming, New Mexico. We had a horse boarding business on the property. Greg was an extremely talented man, so he established himself as an entertainer and was able to get gigs all over the southwest in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. We traveled together a lot. Not only did I travel with him on tours when I could, we traveled all over California and went on cruises to Mexico.

We did have many of the same issues that those on the registry deal with. He was unable to get a job anywhere. No one would hire him. Churches were an issue. It took us eight years to find a church that would accept us. They had to "protect the children." We had a time when the Luna County Sheriff's Department came out periodically to check make sure Greg was living where he was registered. One time a Sheriff's officer shoved a paper in Greg's face and insisted he sign it without reading it. Greg would not sign it until he read it. The officer threw him down on the ground with his hands behind his back. Fortunately, there was another officer with him that calmed the situation and Greg wasn't arrested for not signing a paper fast enough. After living with this abuse for over four years all the people in the Sheriff's Department that thought this was a good idea were conveniently moved to other places or voted out of office.

For me there were the looks. Looks like, "Why are you married to this monster?" There were some accusations that I was just the person that was enabling him and getting children for him to molest. But Greg established himself as a respected entertainer in the area. It was amazing how many people came to our rescue. (Continue on page 2)



## The Treasure Chest

written by— A Grateful Returned Citizen



Greetings Brethren,

I pray this month's communication will be a source of encouragement and motivation for each of you. As some of you may know LAM is not yet acknowledged by the DOC as a prison aftercare facility. However, we continue to move forward as if we are. Because, it's only a matter of time and we will be. We are currently looking at a property that will be able to house, eight men for their one year internship prior to moving into the community. It is our intention to provide this dorm room space at a very reasonable rate that the man of God may be able to save money to obtain his own house. Understand, this is a work in progress. It is not established as of yet. Please keep this venture in your prayers. One of the latest developments is; we have recently met with the president of our local community college, (Mesalands community college) who is the leading long-distance education provider into all of the prisons of New Mexico. We will be formulating curricu-

lum and the industries of agriculture like; horticulture, aquaculture, hydroponics, fish farming, floriculture and biofuel energy production. As well as all of the other curriculums offered by Mesa lands community college. This will give many of you ample opportunities to refine and polish your employment skills prior to your release. This will also increase your odds of success upon your release. Be aware, this process will take some time but it is in the works. Again, I encourage you to not squander the time that you have in the DOC. You will never again get that kind of time to work on your mental, physical, and spiritual health. Again, acquire all the education you can while you have time. As I said before, "once you are released you must hit the ground running and maintain all of your responsibilities that life requires e.g., bills, restitution's, employment, parole criteria, etc". One can enroll in college courses, if you have your GED, and receive Pell grants to complete continuing education di-

rectly from incarceration. One can also apply for food stamps which also assist you upon your release. You need not be afraid. You can be successful in your reintegration plan. Start planning today for your success, not failure! As a man think of in his heart, so he shall be. Remember you are the head and not the tail above and not beneath. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. That is not to say, there will not be adversities. But, you are an overcomer being shaped by the potter's hand. The battleground lies between the ears and the head in the heart of a man. So cultivate the soil of your heart and mind. By the daily renewing of the mind. Taking every thought captive and bringing into the obedience of Christ and you will have a good foundation on which to build.

Sincerely, your friend or brother in Christ

## Married to a Monster

I was married to a monster, as we are led by society to believe, for 14 wonderful years. Because of God's promise to me they were the best years of my life. In March of 2017, Greg had a massive heart attack and passed away out of my life as quickly as he came back into my life 14 years earlier. I can't help but think I might still have him with me if it would not have been for the pressure of being on the registry.

There is life, and love, and laughter for those who are on the registry. The Lord doesn't see unjust labels society puts on us. He only sees us as flawed human beings that need everything that His other human beings need. I'm sure there are many other women in society that are willing to be married to a monster if God calls them.



## CO SOMB changes 'sex offender' to 'adults who commit sex offenses,' but not without dissention (by Sandy from NARSOL)

The Colorado Sex Offender Management Board [has taken a bold move](#). After barely having sufficient margin in a vote taken earlier this year to even consider the issue, they passed a motion in a November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to replace the term "sex offender" with "adults who commit sexual offenses."

While this change is binding only to the Management Board and the treatment programs it oversees, it is, as far as we are aware, the first formalization of what has come to be known as person-first language into its vocabulary and usage.

Person-first language does away with labels. It recognizes that, while the person committed an offense – or at least was convicted of an offense – he or she is still a person and that people can and should change and move beyond their pasts.

The change in terminology is not without its detractors, of course. The board itself was not in agreement, with the vote being 10 – 6. [At least](#)

[one media outlet](#) could not overcome its bias against the move, letting it seep into its reporting with the denigrating phrase, "... so-called 'person-first' language."

Prosecutors, former victims, and victim advocate groups were the most vocally opposed, and their expressed opposition is shown in the statements that the new terminology isn't "victim-centered" and that "victims live with their label for life." This exemplifies exactly why this move is so urgently needed.

This practice of creating life-long victims, of creating a class of permanent victimhood, is as dangerous and debilitating as is creating the class of permanent offenders. Neither allows those involved in the criminal act, whether as perpetrator or victim, to move beyond that status and establish a healthy lifestyle that offers any personal satisfaction or contribution to society.

Virtually all opposition is centered around the implied but erroneous belief that those

who commit sexual crime are beyond redemption, cannot be rehabilitated, will reoffend if given the opportunity, and deserve to be punished for a lifetime. The very existence of a public sexual offense register assures that this belief is perpetuated and disseminated.

This change in terminology is a tiny response to what a vast body of research shows about those who have sexually offended: Virtually everything done in common and legal practice, from the registry and all that it has spawned to putting labels on people, prevent former offenders from being seen as people capable of change, inhibit self-worth, impede rehabilitation, and work to the detriment of society as a whole rather than the betterment.

Anything that can be done to start removing that stigma is a step toward allowing those who bear this label and have changed or want to change to do so.

What could be more victim-centered than that?

I hope you all had a blessed Christmas thanks for all the cards and I hope this New Year will be better. This year we are serving over a thousand people by our newsletter. The other day I went out to the Estancia prison and picked up a man who just got out of prison. We prayed for him and took him where he wanted us to take him. This ministry does a number of things for returning citizens, from moving people with my truck to visiting them in the hospital. We answer many phone calls and letters each day. Our vision and goal is to grow this ministry in the coming years to be able to provide more support to former sex offenders. Your prayer and financial support would be greatly appreciated. We are a nonprofit 501 C3 organization, therefore any financial support is tax deductible. Don Johnston



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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



## But the Lord was not in the wind. (Isaiah 19:11-13)

by Alice



Yesterday I complained that I wasn't getting enough exercise, stepped out on my deck and sat on an old exercise bike, pumped it a little. Not bad for a 92 year old lady. Today I had the fun of chasing two empty barrels down the driveway, blown by a 70-mile hour wind. By the time I had brought them back for some semblance of safety I was nearly frozen. The wind was the strongest we have had in a long time, trees bent precariously and I realized they had grown much taller than we had thought safe. One side of our woodshed that holds supplies for various animals was almost torn off with strands of old dog food bags blowing in the gale. By ten in the morning the wind was still gusting, the sun trying to peek through blowing clouds. My two dogs are looking surprised like "Where did that come from?"

Yes, Don and I love living here in the "East Mountains." No we are not living in one of those multistoried mansions that you

see poised on top of some of the mountain hilltops. One of our neighbors repairs woodstoves. Another has an interesting collection of what it best considered "junk". The old house on the corner looked nice a few years ago but now has windows missing and obviously no occupants. Nevertheless, we love it. We are attending the "East Mountain Cowboy Church"; they have been supportive of our mission. God has been good to us and we pray for you all in prison knowing that God can supply all our needs. No matter what the wind blows at us, Our God is the Creator of all! Let us keep those people in Kentucky and other surrounding states that were devastated by the tornadoes in our prayers.



**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 January 16, 2022 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

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