

Titus House Newsletter

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

FEBRUARY
2022

Valentines Day

By Don R.



“Donnie, here are your valentines to give to the kids at school.” I was about eight years old and was not happy about sending cards to classmates.

“Aw, mom, do I really have to do that? I think it is strange to send a card about love to guys in the class. And if I send them to girls, they might get the idea I like them. The guys will never let up on teasing me.”

My parents understood these arguments, I am sure, but they insisted that I send the cards. They had a convincing argument. “If you don’t send the cards, you might be the only one in class that doesn’t do it, and think how you will feel about that.”

I knew she was right about that, but it still didn’t seem right. Today I can see my ambivalence for what it was: I felt like a hypocrite telling people I didn’t like that I loved them. I knew the hearts on the cards stood for love. But I sent the cards, and so did the other kids, and the whole thing was over within a few minutes. At the suggestion of my mother I even gave my “mean old teacher” a card. (“Old” has changed its meaning: my teacher was a woman who was 22 years old, a new graduate of a nearby college.)

As an adult, I can now see the value of expressing a liking for unlikable people. It may be a struggle, but if we have a desire to be like Christ, we need to work on loving the unlovable. It’s usually easy to tell our kids we love them. We know that’s essential for their wellbeing. But it’s harder when we must buy a box of chocolates for a spouse with whom we recently had a shouting match. If we didn’t know she was going to get us something, we just as soon skip the whole thing right?

But then we see in scripture that we are to love our enemies. This is a tough one for those of us who have experienced ongoing marital friction or even suffered divorce. Yet Jesus did not just say “love your enemies” and leave it at that. He gave details as to how we can love them: especially giving them what they need: a cup of water, clothing, going the extra mile, and so on.

But we can think back to the early days of dating and marriage, and remember the fond motions of those days. We wanted to give them gifts. We cared a great deal for them. Or at least so we thought. At a deeper level, we were selfish and self-centered. Even at our best, we probably expected something in return, or at least some peace and quiet in return for our Valentine’s Day gifts. **(Continue on page 3)**



New SORNA Regulations Issued - effective Jan. 7, 2022

They will impact everybody on the registry. By Bill Dobbs, Dobbs Wire

In the last months of the Trump administration the Department of Justice (DOJ) suddenly issued draft regulations under the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). The draft regulations were published as required and hundreds of comments received. After the comment period ended there was no response from the government. The silence continued as Trump exited and Biden took office.

Any hopes that Biden might simply do nothing and leave the regulations in limbo evaporated. The Dec. 8 Federal

Register has the finalized regulations. They're lengthy and complicated, lots of questions as to what they mean and how they will be enforced. Without a doubt these federal regulations will make life even more hellish for the hundreds of thousands (900,000+ in 2018 according to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children) listed on state sex offense registries -- counting their families and significant others, several million people will be impacted.

While the states are at the center of registration matters, these changes expand the responsibilities that registrants

have under federal law, creating more trip wires and opportunities for prosecution. The screws are being tightened, again. The existing registry regime has produced no benefit to public safety. A more draconian regime will not change that. As of 2021 every state has had a registry for 25 years. There's still no coherent cry to get rid of these ineffective, destructive laws. I hope these SORNA changes will bring more people into this fight.

Dear Registrants, Family Members and Supporters -

The Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws (ACSOL) today filed a complaint regarding the new SORNA regulations with the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Justice. According to that complaint, the regulations are unlawful for several reasons.

First, the regulations are not based on empirical evidence which demonstrate that most individuals required to register no longer pose a current risk to society. This evidence includes studies conduct by and reports issued by both government and academic sources. Second, the regula-

tions create an unfunded mandate upon both state and local governments such as multiple registrations each year for some individuals. Third, the regulations violate the federal commerce clause because they exceed the federal government's jurisdiction regarding individuals.

Fourth, the regulations violate the First Amendment because they limit individuals' right to free speech by requiring the disclosure of remote communication identifiers. This restriction has a chilling effect upon free speech. Fifth, the regulations

fail to provide adequate due process to individuals in violation of the Fifth Amendment. Finally, the regulations are vague and ambiguous which make it difficult if not impossible to comply with.

The Inspector General is responsible for taking action in cases involving fraud, waste or abuse. The new SORNA regulations will result in the waste of millions of taxpayer dollars at every level of government -- federal, state and local.



Valentines Day

That deeper level reveals what theologians call the sin nature or the fallenness of humanity. Even our purest love for another person has been contaminated by sin. C. S. Lewis wrote “All this flashy rhetoric about loving you, I never had a selfless thought since I was born.” He writes about wanting peace reassurance, pleasure, the goals I seek, “and the frightening idea that “I cannot crawl outside my skin.” In other words, we must struggle to see another person’s viewpoint, even when we love them. The shouting on the phone I sometimes saw in prison may reveal that we often don’t struggle hard enough to understand. To hear what they are really saying is an expression of love.

If we are so self-centered, how is it that we can love another person? A key is being loved. It is easier to love when one has received love as a child. But even as adults experience the love of others. And, most importantly, we are loved by God. That’s a given. John 3:16 tells us that he loved us enough to sacrifice his own son life for our benefit. We can have a relationship with God because of the love he gave.

Once we have experienced the love of God, we can more clearly see our own limitations in loving. The poem by C. S. Lewis continues: “Now you have taught me my lack; I see the chasm.” Just as there was a gulf between us and God before we turn to him in faith, there is also a gulf between us and others around us. That gulf or chasm extends to our kids, our spouse, and most everyone in our lives. But realizing that divide exists is the first step to bridging the divide.

Again C. S. Lewis comments: “Everything You are, was making my heart into a bridge by which I might get back from exile.” God provides the bridge, which is Jesus Christ, a pathway connecting us with God, from whom we have been separated by our sin. But just as we realize that fact, C. S. Lewis adds, “And now the bridge is breaking.” What is breaking? The bridge, Jesus, was broken by dying for us. And in his brokenness, we fall from our self-imagined security and self-confidence. The same is true in our human relationships: we realize how fragile relationships can be

when they are broken.

The concluding lines of the poem by C. S. Lewis reads: “For this I bless you as the ruin falls. The pains you give me are more precious than all other gains.” Our ruined lives fall apart, and now God can pick us up and re-create us through his love. The pain involved is a precious gift, as it allows us to step away from what we imagined ourselves to be, to admit that we really do fall short, and then let God give us a stronger source of confidence—his love and his guidance.

Those in prison and we who are outside that are on the registry, have been broken by that experience, whether they realize it or not. It certainly was the case with me. It is not easy following all the rules of the registry, and being incarcerated with people we would prefer to avoid. But that pain forces us to rely upon God in ways that we would not otherwise. It is by his love that he shows us how to love others. It is out of our brokenness that we rely upon him more completely in every area of life.



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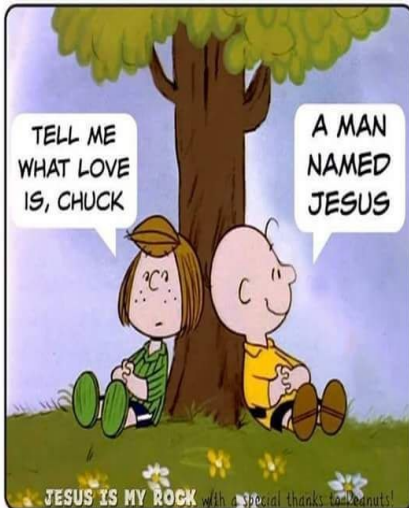
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Hebrew 13:3 - Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Remember if you change your address you need to let us know if you want to continue to receive this newsletter



A Chat With Don & Alice



I hope everyone had a good as possible Holidays. We did not do anything special. We did receive many letters and cards and answered them. I hope you like the new format of this newsletter. The reason we are doing this is that prisons here in New Mexico do not like colored paper and people are smuggling drugs through the mail. Therefore, they have us along with family and friends send their mail to Florida to be scanned. We know this problem is happening in other states. It is a shame that several people mess it up for the rest of us and this is what is called "Collective Punishment". Please keep this issue in prayer.

I (Alice) have not told you but I have a daughter, Janet that is handicapped. She is now 68 years old and lives at a home/facility since she was 12 for the handicapped. She is a believer in Christ. I adopted her at the age of two. She was in the Philippines with us when I was a missionary. She has lived in a cottage with about 10 or more people for some years and now they want her to move to another home with three

other women. She is very unhappy about this; she is just recovering from the Covid. I tried talking and reasoning with her and hopefully did a little good. I told her that God has a plan for her.

This got us to thinking how difficult it is to move to a new place. Don says, he remembers moving in the system to different prisons and to the hole because of his S.O. charges. It was hard but "God got me through it". I think of Joseph in the Bible who was moved to a foreign land because of his brothers who sold him into slavery. However, God had a purpose for Joseph to save his family and a nation. God too has a purpose for you when you get moved. This is not our home, we are just traveling through. Who knows that at the end of Janet's move God has a plan for her to witness to someone new. Therefore, keep your heads up, God has a plan and is coming soon.



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 20, 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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