

# Titus House Newsletter

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

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## Good news coming for South Carolina

By Don T and NARSOL

This looks like it may be a good year for registrants in South Carolina. The legislature is busy and determined to pass legislation in response to last year's Supreme Court decision that our lifetime registration without benefit of a way off is unconstitutional. [According to WSPA.com](#), "Right now, the only way for someone to be removed from the registry is their offense is overturned, reversed or vacated on appeal."

Legislators will not be overly lenient, but some good things are coming out of this effort. As of this writing, there are parallel bills active in both houses of the legislature. They are similar but have one notable difference with regard to the exit procedure.

One of the most significant benefits of these bills is that the SC Code will now have the tiers defined, listing which offenses result in the tier assignments. Since AWA was implemented, South Carolina has used a set of unpublished guidelines from the attorney general's office that have resulted in a large percentage of the registry being assigned to Tier III, which requires quarterly registration verification. The new tier definitions will push many people down one tier from their current assignments. The discussion relevant to this issue at the subcommittee meetings has not included one word of objection, not even from the attorney general, so these definitions appear to be locked in.

Both bills propose time limits after which a registrant can be removed from the registry. Both are too long: 15 years for Tier I and 25 or 30 years for Tiers II and III. The time limits are still subject to discussion, and considerable testimony was presented in both committees requesting shorter times. They will not go below the AWA requirements of 10 years for Tier I and 25 years for Tiers II and III. The removal process is still open for discussion, with options being some possibility for an administrative removal by the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), which controls the registry, versus petitioning the court for removal. It looks like some compromise or combination will make it to the final bill.

It is also likely that children under fourteen will be exempt from being put on the registry, and that for juveniles being processed in family court, judges will be given the discretion of whether or not to place offenders on the registry, based on the circumstances of the case and evaluations of the defendant. Still up for discussion is the potential for juveniles to be removed at age 21 by petitioning the family court.

This is still a work in progress. There is a long way to go before these bills become law, and there are two more approval layers where they can still be amended by legislators without even allowing comment by the public. The old saying, "Don't count your chickens before they hatch!" is appropriate here. But the momentum at this time is all in our favor, and this writer is the most optimistic he has been in nearly a decade of tracking the legislature.



## CA: COURT GRANTS CONTESTED TIERED REGISTRY PETITION

Source: ACSOL

In the first known case involving a contested petition, California Placer County Superior Court granted the petition of a registrant convicted of PC 288(a) who had registered for more than 25 years. The Placer County District Attorney asked the court to deny the petition in order to significantly enhance public safety.

In this case, the court ruled that the DA's office "failed to meet their burden that the community safety would be significantly enhanced by the petitioner's continued registration." The court went on to explain that its decision to grant the petition "in no way minimizes the gravity of the underlying offense."

In the decision, the court stated that it recognized the "significant and successful efforts toward rehabilitation" demonstrated by the registrant for more than 25 years. The court also stated that it was persuaded by the registrant's "completion of therapy and counseling, his maintenance of sobriety and service in the AA community, his own letter to the court and acceptance of responsibility. Further, the court noted the importance of a recent report from a PhD psychologist stating that the registrant had a low risk of re-offense.

"We applaud the court's wise

decision in this case," stated ACSOL Executive Director Janice Bellucci, who represented the registrant. "It's important to emphasize that the registrant in this case completed counseling, led a law-abiding life and practiced sobriety for more than 25 years."

It has been reported that a second case involving a contested petition is to be heard in San Diego county later this month. The results of that case will be reported as soon as available.



## WAYNE LOGAN: CARD CARRYING SEX OFFENDERS

Source: Wayne A. Logan

Americans, it is commonly believed, have never been required to carry and show upon demand personal identification documents; the belief, however, is incorrect. Over time, select sub-populations have in fact been subject to such a requirement, including free-born and emancipated African-Americans until after the Civil War. This article examines the targeting of yet another disfavored sub-population: individuals convicted of sex offenses, who are required to register with govern-

ment authorities.

Today, roughly a dozen states require that registrants obtain and carry identification cards or driver's licenses signifying their status. Often, the branding is very overt, such as a stamp of "SEX OFFENDER" or "SEXUAL PREDATOR" in bright colored lettering. At other times, it is more subtle, such as use of a "U," denoting that the individual is a "Sexual Deviant." The federal government also brands regis-

trants, requiring that their passports display a "unique identifier" stamped in a "conspicuous location." The passports must be shown to airport and customs officials, as well others when traveling abroad. With state laws, disclosure is even more pervasive: not only to police, upon demand, but also to myriad other individuals encountered in daily life, such as bank tellers and store clerks.



## As a Newborn Child

By Don R

I was blessed with a mother who cared deeply for each one of her three children, and with a father who also loved his children dearly. The quietness and contentment of our home was taken for granted, something that I often missed after my own marriage. But I was always grateful for the sound of happy children.

My mother was in her later 80s when she came to live with us. My father had recently passed away, and while she appreciated her friends in the retirement home, she wanted to be near family. She fit in well with our family, and even though the noise level may have been higher than what made her comfortable, she never once complained. It was a joy to spend time with her, even with the busy schedule of teaching that I maintained.

Our regular talks took me back to my early childhood when she would read to me each evening. Her loving, calm voice brought comfort and encouragement, even though sometimes she was in pain. But she had lived with that pain for most of her life, and it was under reasonable control. I thank God that she is now free from pain and anxiety.

One morning I found her in tears, and I took a few extra minutes to talk with her. She told me her tears were an expression of joy, for she had fully come to the realization that Jesus genuinely loved her. She knew he loved everyone, but today she realized for the first time that he specifically loved her. She was overwhelmed by that thought.

I was astounded to hear her say this. Here was my dear mother, in her late 80s, raised in a Christian home, wife of a Christian husband, and mother of three Christian kids. She had friends, had been happily married, and had maintained a regular devotional life for years. She enjoyed attending church when her health permitted it. But today, perhaps for the first time, she fully understood that God personally loved her. Tears came to my eyes as well. We hugged one another, and as she always did, she told me that she loved me. I told her I loved her as well, and that I knew that God loved her as much as a mother loves a newborn child. We both cried some more, and I gave her another hug before hurrying on to my classes.

She left a legacy of love when she passed away a few months later. I will always treasure those months she lived with us, and the extra time that provided for me to be with her. It is a small thing to say, "I love you and God loves you." But for some of us, those are treasured words, words that take us back to childhood and the daily care and love of a godly mother. I weep for those who were not so blessed. Regardless of age, words of love are sadly needed when no one bothers to share them. May we all take the time to share such words, along with actions that express our love, to our mothers, family members, and friends. We never know when it might be our last opportunity to do so. And, by the way, God loves YOU as much as a mother loves a newborn child. He really does!

**Isaiah 49:15**

*"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast  
and have no compassion on the child she has borne?  
Though she may forget,  
I will not forget you!"*



## Treasure Chest

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Psalms 32:1. Having struggled with drugs and sexual sin I was desperate. The relationships I value were in disarray, and my conscience was beating me up. I found myself speaking with my pastor. There I found some relief by sharing my complicated story and in hearing God's mercy and forgiveness. Psalms 32 is believed to have been composed by David after his sexual sin. He compounded wrongdoing by devising a sinister plan that resulted in the death of the woman's husband. While the ugly incidents were behind him, the effects of his actions remain. This story always gives me hope. If David "a man after God's heart," could be forgiven and restored, then there would be hope for me. Psalms 32:3 describes the deep struggles that he experienced before he acknowledged the ugliness of his deeds; the debilitating effect of unconfessed sin were undeniable. Relief only began with confession to God and accepting the forgiveness He offers. One of the greatest moments in my healing was when I finally forgave myself. I knew God had forgiven me but I struggled to forgive myself. If God had forgiven me, who was I to not forgive myself? Yes, I do have regrets about the people I hurt however; I no longer beat myself up from the mistakes of the past but learn from them and move on. Thank God for his tender mercies and grace. Behold old things have passed away and all things have become brand-new. LAM



## Titus House Ministries

PO Box 2376  
Tijeras, NM 87059

Phone: (505) 286-8807  
Alice's Cell (505) 259-0867  
Don's Cell: (505) 315-7940  
Email: [donmagicjohnston@gmail.com](mailto:donmagicjohnston@gmail.com)

We're on the Web  
[titushouseministries.org](http://titushouseministries.org)

**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



## Thoughts from Alice

open to any unwanted sounds. As a Great Pyrenees she is fulfilling her destiny.

Why write about dogs? Nothing else to do??? After all they are "just dogs!" Dogs have been trained to do almost anything except talk back! Isn't that why we love them so much? They put up with the least expensive dog chow. When I show up in the dog house they are all over me! 200 pounds would like to wrestle with me! I gave Goldie some training not long ago and she will jump to her feet waiting for me to trim her fur and help her to look much better. Then we get a storm, they are muddy and wet and I think, "Why did I bother? They don't care!"

I keep telling friends I think we are approaching "end times." Old people think up stuff like this! Or maybe they read the Bible and realize it is going to come some time. When? Of course we don't know. How should we be prepared when we hear the news of hundreds of people including small children being slaughtered in part of the world? We can easily say, "Well not here, let's just take a good vacation this summer and not worry about that stuff!" Really? OK, let us know how it goes. Remember those "old people" worry about everything!



**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 May 15, 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

[donmagicjohnston@gmail.com](mailto:donmagicjohnston@gmail.com)