

# Titus House Newsletter

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

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## STILL ON THIS SIDE OF THE DIRT

My story by Sean P.

It has been a year since being released from Federal Prison. In 2016, the Federal Government indicted me on charges of failure to register, convicted to 18 months with 8 years supervised probation. I filed petitions and violated probation three times to get my word heard. I was sent back all three times, but on the third violation, the Federal Court terminated my probation with 8 months to serve. I was corresponding with Don about coming to Albuquerque for a brand new start, and he said he would help me if I came. So I made arrangement with the prison that Albuquerque, NM is where I wanted to go. I called Don and told him that I was coming, he prayed with me on the phone and said call him when I arrive. I arrived in Albuquerque at 11:30 PM. I called Don, told him I was here. Due to the wreck on the highway he couldn't make it, but he reached out to one of the members to get me from the bus station. Ms Lorraine and son Max picked me up and gave me a place to lay my head. Ms Lorraine fed me and kept me while I figured out what I was going to do. I had to get registered and find a place to stay. The Shelter was my only option to get up on my feet. Max gave me info, with me being from another state. So that's what they did, Ms. Lorraine and Max dropped me off at the Westside shelter. For quarantine Ms. Lorraine got me a phone and made sure I had everything I needed. For that I thank Lorraine and Max for helping me out. Max became my friend and brother. I am blest to have them in my life. I got with the case worker in Albuquerque and applied for food stamps, housing and medical insurance. I got approved for all. I got connected with Truman Health for mental health and for my chronic health. In 2000 I got diagnosed with HIV and never got treated. Back in the days I was hell on wheels. I was deep in the streets, drugging, drinking, having unprotected sex with prostitutes, robbing, stealing, fighting in and out of jail for crack cocaine, been shot, beaten up. So I've been through the fire, slept in the gutters and the woods. I've been more homeless than I can count. I was hard and ruthless and didn't take no mess. But with that said, after quarantine I got into AOC shelter, on a 90 day program to get on your feet. There I got my birth certificate, SS card and State Id. Those were the things I needed to be eligible for these programs.

I moved out of AOC in 60 days to my new apartment. Ms. Lorraine gave me two TVs, bed linens and a ride to my apartment. So about a month later I felt sick, went to the hospital and the doctor found a dissection in my aorta and blood clots in my lungs and a lot of infection. In and out of the hospital the doctors found pancreatic cancer in the early stages. Surgery and treatment are my options. So I am fighting three diseases, HIV, aorta infection and cancer. My life has been a roller coaster. I've should have been dead cold in my grave a long time ago.

In my third stay in the hospital I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior and confessed my sins. When I came home I got down on my knees and cried out to Jesus to save me and poured out my heart in tears. Although I still struggle with myself, my mental state is on shaky ground and days I wish I was dead and I wouldn't have to deal with my problems, to be real I wish death would come and I would be free from suffering. The storm is not calm in my life and **(continue page 2)**



## Cancel Culture Nothing New to Those on Sexual Offense Registries from NARSOL

By Sandy . . . For those not tuned in to current trends or social media, cancel culture is most likely new, even unheard of, although according to Merriam-Webster, its first known usage was in 2016.

The basic definition is “the practice or tendency of engaging in mass canceling as a way of expressing disapproval and exerting social pressure.” The targets of such “cancelling” were public figures and celebrities who had earned the displeasure of their fans or supporters, who then showed that displeasure by either ignoring their existence on social media or by mass shaming.

The idea was to cancel their worth, to erase what they had been before and remove them, figuratively, from their community or society.

Persons who are required to register on a sexual offense

registry have been the targets and victims of cancel culture long before the term existed. They are excluded in many states and cities from living or even being in a large number of places, independent of what they did, when they did it, and even if they did it, long after all court-ordered punishment has been served. Even after years of living exemplary, productive, law-abiding lives, they are not to exist in many places; they are not deemed worthy. Their presence is erased, canceled, and not just theirs but anyone who chooses to live with them and give them support.

Their children do not deserve to live in neighborhoods close to their schools. Their wives and husbands have been denied jobs due to the status of their registered spouses. As a fami-

ly, they are denied access to many parks, churches, school events, and, in some places, [participation in Halloween and other holidays](#). As a family, they are canceled.

The wife of one registrant described it as “slow motion asphyxiation.”

Access to some social media is denied. Facebook will not allow anyone on the registry to hold an account. I had to really hunt to find this in [their written policy](#), but it is there, far down in their terms of service: “We try to make Facebook broadly available to everyone, but you cannot use Facebook if . . . you are a convicted sex offender.” To the Facebook community, not only those on the registry but also those with any sexual offense conviction, no matter how trivial, do not exist. They are canceled

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### Still on this side of the dirt.

feel all alone. I believe I have no meaning and I’m something the world can do without. I’m not worth two dead flies smashed together. I suppose my past has made me who I am today. Jail, prison, the streets has taught me survival. I’ve been on my own a long time. Tears and pain are my companion. I have bad nightmares that don’t make any sense, I see things move around me. I feel they are spirits bad and good. My grandmother used to tell me about “Hank’s”. I’m not afraid of them. Family, I’ve been really going through the storm. We are not immune to the trials and tribulation of life and my faith is growing weak, but I trust God to pull me through the storm. I think my prayers are not getting to Him, but I keep on praying hoping He will hear my prayers. I don’t know if I’m going up yonder, but I’m doing my best to make it in. There’s a lot to this story and more but I think I have said too much. I reckon I’m still trying to pull my life together. I’m just a stranger in the world. The End, Sean P.



## Cancel Culture (continue)

And now *NextDoor*, a virtual neighborhood group available anywhere in the United States and even beyond, has gone a step further. Their member agreement, which everyone who joins is required to indicate they have read, [states this in the eligibility section](#): “You may not use our Services if: (1) you are a resident of the United States and are under 13 years old ... (2) you are a registered sex offender *or share a household with one.*”

[Emphasis added.]

So on a site designed to help neighbors know what is going on in their neighborhoods—if there has been a rash of robberies, when the open-air concert is, who the next football game will be against, if anyone is having a yard sale—not only cancels out persons on the registry from availing themselves of information about these and other community issues but also cancels out their spouses and their teenage children, their moms and dads and brothers and sisters, their roommates, and the sojourners within their

gates. They have sinned by association and must be banished. Jennifer, whose dad is on the registry for consensual teenage sex with her under-age mother before they were married and long before she was born, must explain to her circle of high school friends why she cannot participate in their *NextDoor* group.

This is a policy born out of ignorance, out of inflated and invalid fear, even out of hatred. One registrant expressed it this way: “[These policies punish] those who have broken no law. Society not only hates [those on the registry] but anyone who would dare love them, befriend them, or help them in any way.”

[All valid sources agree](#) that, regarding persons on the sexual offense registry, best practice includes initiatives that offer ample opportunities for housing, employment, social services, family connectedness, community involvement, and acceptance. This not only drives down the already remarkably low re-offense rates

but also helps to remove the feelings of isolation, stress, and low self-worth that quite possibly contributed to the offending behavior in the first place. According to government figures, the total number of people on the registry is approaching a million. With spouses, children, parents, siblings, and friends, the number of individuals affected by laws and policies that are not only ineffective but also cruel numbers in the many millions.

An incorrectly informed public, a sensation-driven media, and a political system that forces our representatives to keep an eye on the next election rather than on what would best serve those they serve create a perfect storm of condemnation, exclusion, and cancel culture when it comes to those who have a conviction for a sexual crime in their pasts.

Changing this is critical before our nation collapses from the weight of cancelled, hated, bitter registrants and those who choose to do what research shows works best for all concerned: support and love them.

## VA: CONVICTED SEX OFFENDER PLEADS GUILTY TO VIOLATING FEDERAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION ACT

BLUEFIELD, W.Va. – A convicted West Virginia sex offender pleaded guilty today to failing to provide information related to foreign travel as required by the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA).

According to court documents and statements made in court, Andrew Todd Smith, 32, of Peterstown, Monroe County, admitted

that he traveled to South Africa in November 2021 without providing the required advanced notification. Smith was required to register as a sex offender under SORNA after he was convicted of three counts of third-degree sexual assault in Monroe County Circuit Court in 2013. Smith admitted that when he registered as a sex offender with the West Virginia State Police, he signed writ-

ten forms acknowledging his requirement to report any international travel at least 21 days in advance.

Smith is scheduled to be sentenced on August 2, 2022, and faces up to 10 years in prison, supervised release of five years and up to life, and a \$250,000 fine  
By Justice.gov



## 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



GRILLED CHICKEN

## JANICE FILES LAWSUIT THAT CHALLENGES DENIAL OF MILITARY BASE ACCESS TO REGISTRANT RETIREES Source: ACSOL

A lawsuit was filed today in a federal district court in California challenging the denial of access to a military base of a military retiree solely because he is required to register. The lawsuit claims that the military retiree's right to due process was violated when he was denied access without prior notice in November 2021 to Vandenberg Air Force Base which is located near Santa Barbara, California. The lawsuit asks the court to require the commander of Vandenberg Air Force base to allow the plaintiff access so that the plaintiff can receive the benefits of his retirement, including but not limited to, medical care, shopping at the base exchange and commissary and access to MWR programs.

The plaintiff in this case is 75 years old and a retired Air Force officer who served in the military for 20 years. After his retirement, the plaintiff worked on an Air Force base as a civilian employed by a base contractor. The plaintiff was convicted of one sex offense in 1992 for conduct that did not occur on a military base and that did not involve military personnel or military dependents.

"Military retirees who are also required to register are being denied access to military bases throughout the nation without prior notice," stated ACSOL Executive Director Janice Bellucci. "As a result, military retirees are being denied their retirement benefits. Today's lawsuit is expected

to be the first of many challenges to these unlawful actions."

According to the lawsuit, the denial of plaintiff's base access is based upon a policy set forth in a Department of Defense manual that allows base commanders to prohibit individuals currently required to register as a sex offender from entering a military base. That policy, however, also states that a base commander's authority must not be exercised in an arbitrary, unpredictable, or discriminatory manner.

The lawsuit states that military retirees have a "constitutionally cognizable and protected property interest" in their military benefits. The lawsuit further states that denying military retirees access to military bases deprives retirees of those benefits because they cannot access military bases where those benefits are available.

"The denial of Plaintiff's base access was arbitrary and not based upon either reasoned grounds or judiciously applied, in that it was based solely upon Plaintiff's requirement to register as a sex offender," according to the lawsuit. The lawsuit emphasizes that the Plaintiff had access to multiple military bases for more than 40 years and during that time, Plaintiff's actions were lawful and without incident.



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 **June 19, 2022** at 3 pm—4 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)