

# Titus House Newsletter

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

JULY  
2022



## Brothers and Sisters in Pain

What did I do to deserve a life sentence of pain?

My motive rejected, judged my behavior a crime.

Stunned at the devastating repercussions of my action.

The act complete, my destiny sealed, my life shattered.

The impact crushed my identity, an annihilation of my worth.

The alarming, unreal raid, a SWAT team brandishing assault rifles.

Or a subtle summon to appear before a biased, hardened judge.

My life ending, my family, friends, church condemning.

My reality, years of painful imprisonment, penetrating shame.

Alone, I mulled over and over again the “what ifs,” “if onlys”

I despise their labeling me as leper, sinner ... condemned.

I even visualize the tattooed “Scarlet Letter” across my foreheads.

After punishment ends, endless traumatic troubles begin.

With no job, homeless, no future, my despair overwhelms me.

Insults from probationary officers, loved ones, neighbors down the street.

The threats, the taunting, the finger pointing breaks me down

further.

I begin to hole away, to lead a life of “quiet desperation.”

I dare not question my truth, attacks, damning, denouncing retorts.

Then my heart breaks even more ... my sentence, shunned for life.

My fate is sealed with reminders of chiding TV news broadcasts.

My agony, anguish causes me to give up, to raise a white flag.

I accept my lot, too afraid to speak up, to write a letter to question, “why!”

Inside, I say “I just want to be heard, I am not a boogymen... please hear me!”

Never mind the laws, I want to plea from my soul that I am a human being.

These inner yearnings for justice demands to set the record straight.

Though I have no outlet, to explain, to show that I paid dearly for my mistake.

Is there anyone out there with compassion for a “St. Jude” to understand?

I realize that this voice inside me is my only solace ... heard only by God.

Quiet longings for human connections dominates, receiving eyes

full of contempt.

My prayers reach out for a “do unto others,” but instead reap a slap in the face.

My Spirit tells me to have strength to cope with the dreaded registry, but I can't!

I seek answers that frustrate me ... though I still strive ... for what?

I read an article that says the registry is unconstitutional, punishment, illegal.

Another explains men are appealing to get off the registry ... is this true?

Then other litigations create further punishing laws to twist the blade deeper.

Am confused, but sense an inner need to be part of this movement ...

Sisters and brother in pain, my desperation and hope are for you.

My heart-felt thoughts are to tell you that you are not alone.

Courageous heroes are speaking out against the tyranny, injustice.

My plea is not to give up, but to give voice to your inner trauma, your truth.

By Matt Wagner



## CA: PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST REGISTRANTS PETITION FOR REMOVAL

Twenty public defender offices have made resources available to help registrants petition for removal from the registry.

(From ACSOL)

Public Defender Offices Available to Assist Registrants Petition for Removal: for California.

Updated 06/12/2021

Public Defender Contact List

Twenty public defender offices have made resources available to help registrants petition for removal from the registry. Below is a link to a list of those offices. Missing from the list is Los Angeles County, however, both San Diego and San Francisco counties are included on the list.

· Alameda County: (510) 268-7400 ask for Clean Slate Staff.

· Contra Costa County: email [PC290@pd.cccounty.us](mailto:PC290@pd.cccounty.us)

· Fresno County: [Sb384@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:Sb384@fresnocountyca.gov) or (559)600-3546 [main line]

· Marin County: [www.clearmyrecord.org](http://www.clearmyrecord.org) (select "Marin County")

· Nevada County: (530) 265-1400 or email [publicdefender@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:publicdefender@co.nevada.ca.us)

· Orange County: (657) 251-6090 or email [RegistrationRelief@pubdef.ocgov.com](mailto:RegistrationRelief@pubdef.ocgov.com)

· Riverside County: (951) 955-6094 or email [290RegistrationQuestions@rivco.org](mailto:290RegistrationQuestions@rivco.org)

· Sacramento County: (916) 875-1835 or email [publicdefender-expungement@saccounty.net](mailto:publicdefender-expungement@saccounty.net)

· San Bernardino County: [PD-PC290Help@dept.sbcounty.gov](mailto:PD-PC290Help@dept.sbcounty.gov) or (909) 387-0569

· San Diego County: [fresh.start@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:fresh.start@sdcounty.ca.gov) or (619) 338-4811

· San Francisco County: (415) 553-9337 or go to [www.sfpublicdefender.org/services](http://www.sfpublicdefender.org/services) or go to [www.clearmyrecord.org](http://www.clearmyrecord.org) and

fill out an application for San Francisco County

· San Luis Obispo County: <https://www.slodefend.com/contact-us/>

· San Mateo County: email [recordclearance@smcoba.org](mailto:recordclearance@smcoba.org)

· Santa Clara County: Call Post-Conviction Unit at (408)299-7245 or email [290Registration@pdo.sccgov.org](mailto:290Registration@pdo.sccgov.org)

· Santa Cruz County: (831) 229-1311 and ask for Clean Slate Paralegal or Supervising Attorney, or email [cleanslate@scdefenders.com](mailto:cleanslate@scdefenders.com)

· Solano County: (707)784-6700 or email [freshstart@solanocounty.com](mailto:freshstart@solanocounty.com)

· Sonoma County: 707-565-2791 (main line – ask for SB 384 assistance)

· Stanislaus County: email [freshstart@stancounty.com](mailto:freshstart@stancounty.com)

· Ventura County: 805-654-5174 or email [290registration@ventura.org](mailto:290registration@ventura.org)

· Yuba County: (530) 741-2331 or email [yubapd@gmail.com](mailto:yubapd@gmail.com)

## JANICE'S JOURNAL: THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE ARE MOVING From ACSOL

The wheels of justice are moving in California and across the nation. Perhaps the wheels of justice will take us to The Tipping Point where the public will recognize there is no need for registries and that those currently listed on a registry as well as their families will be allowed to lead peaceful and productive lives.

In California, a significant lawsuit was filed in federal court this week that challenges the SORNA regulations that became effective earlier this year. The lawsuit includes a request for an injunction which, if granted, would stop the enforcement of the SORNA regulations that threaten almost one million regis-

trants with the possibility of up to 10 years in federal prison.

The SORNA regulations lawsuit is also significant because it was filed by a large organization that has the resources necessary to continue its challenge all of the way to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary. ACSOL is a plaintiff in the lawsuit representing registrants and their families.

Also in California, the number of petitions that have been granted ending registrants' requirement to register continues to grow. An assortment of attorneys, both in private practice and em-

ployed in Public Defenders' offices, have filed these petitions. One data point is that 17 of the petitions I have filed thus far have been granted in nine different counties. And in San Diego County, more than 100 petitions have been granted.

Further, the appeal of a lawsuit is pending in California that challenges the exclusion of all registrants convicted of a felony sex offense from serving on a jury. The basis of the lawsuit is equal protection because the same legislation that excludes registrants allows individuals convicted of murder to serve on a jury. (Continue on page 3)



## Janice's Journal (Continue)

Lawsuits are also pending in other states including Illinois and Connecticut. In Illinois, a lawsuit is pending that challenges the conviction of a registrant who visited a school campus. In Connecticut, a lawsuit is on appeal regarding whether the state can require registrants to disclose all email addresses.

## PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION MOTION SOUGHT IN SORNA REGULATIONS CHALLENGE

A motion for preliminary injunction has been filed in the pending challenge to SORNA regulations that became effective in January 2022. The motion was filed on June 3 by the Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) in federal district court. The motion requests a hearing date of July 18. If that request is granted, the hearing will take place in Riverside county.

"The Pacific Legal Foundation is to be commended for filing this important motion," stated ACSOL

Executive Director Janice Bellucci. "If the motion is granted, it could stop the enforcement of SORNA regulations for registrants throughout the nation."

According to the motion, the SORNA regulations at issue are causing irreparable harm to plaintiff John Doe and to ACSOL members. For example, the regulation's requirement that registrants provide all remote communication identifiers impermissibly burdens speech. The motion argues that the plaintiffs in the

case are likely to succeed on the merits.

The original lawsuit was filed by PLF on May 23, 2022, in U.S. District Court, Central District of California. The case has been assigned to Judge Jesus Bernal who previously ruled in favor of registrants in a case challenging presence restrictions in the City of Adelanto and against registrants in a case challenging presence restrictions in the City of Ontario.

## Live your life like you are forgiven

By Shawn

Hello Friends, My name is Shawn and I am sex offender. I have been in prison for 21 years for failing to register as a sex offender under the three strikes law. I am guilty of my sex crimes I committed over 30 years ago. I hurt a lot of people from what I did. It affected my children, my sisters, my brother and the victims and their families. I carried around this shame, I used more drugs, I drank and I used sex as a tool to deal with how I felt to mask my own shame, my pain and fear. I was raped when I was young and it changed my life forever. It is not an excuse for what I did. It's part of the puzzle of why (insight). My shame destroyed so many things I loved and I even tried to take my own life because I thought I was a monster. In prison there is this hierarchy of crime in here. A sex offender is considered

worse than a robber, thief, domestic abuser and even a murderer. In here we live in fear of people finding out why we are in prison. We are terrified of being harmed or ridiculed. Murder is considered an honorable crime. In the Bible it says "Thou shall not kill." God doesn't like murder or any other sin. We are not under the Law but under God's grace. In John 3:16 it says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." It does not say "God loved the world except sex offenders." I am not my crime. In Acts Peter says "Repent". Repent means to turn away from that sin and do it no more. But more importantly we need to accept God's grace and live like we are saved and have joy and peace and know

you are forgiven. It took me a long time to figure this out. We don't need to punish ourselves and carry around that shame. Shame only announces who we are. We are children of God! That is enough! In the book of Hebrews (8 :7-13) God tells us: "I will be merciful to their unrighteousness and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." We are righteous in God's eyes when we repent and receive His grace. If God loves us and forgives us, that is enough! Let that shame go!~ You are a child of God! So live your life like you are forgiven.



## Titus House Ministries

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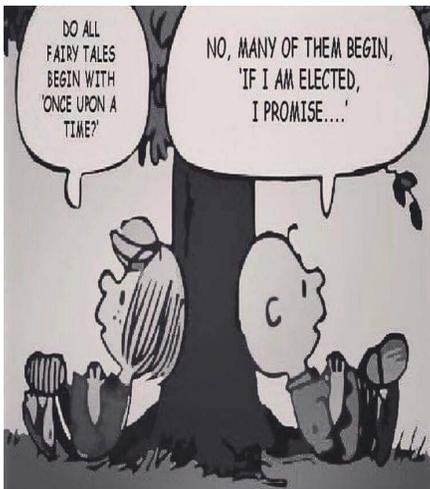
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We're on the Web

[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



## A Message from Don Johnston

People have asked me to tell them about myself. I am the father of 3 boys (men now). I was in prison for 14 years for supposedly molesting my sons. Anyway, I went to prison and tried to make the best out of it. In prison, I rededicated my life to Jesus. I was the aide to the Chaplain.

I know what life in prison is like, how it is to receive a letter in the mail from the outside. I know the good and the bad. I still have prison dreams to this day where I am back in prison. I met many good people there.

Many letters from inmates have told me that they share this newsletter around. We print out about 700 newsletters each month. Then if you figure that some of the newsletters are shared, we have a good sized group. Now my question is what I can tell those who are reading this. This is a big responsibility to hold. A number of people have asked me how have I been able to make it out here for another 14 years. First off, I give all glory to God for getting me to where I am. I also thank my wonderful wife Alice for all the help and encouragement for me.

I have to register every 90 days (three month) for life. Sure, it is hard to do this living 20 miles from

town and now with gas prices as they are. However, God has been supplying all our needs. I was on 2 year's parole and did that all by *in-house parole*. Therefore, I did not have to do my parole on the outside. There was no requirement for me as to living next to parks or schools, here in New Mexico as long as you are not on probation or parole. The Sheriff comes by once a year to make sure I still live where I say I do.

Most of my life now circles around Titus House. It is something I really enjoy doing. It is a job to put the newsletter together and it is a great expense. Nevertheless, God does supply. If you would like to sow seed into this ministry, you can. The little envelopes we supply can be used to do this. We also need stamps beside money. Please pray for this ministry. Know we pray for you. I know it can get lonely out there. God promises never to leave us or forsake us. Take comfort in knowing "if God is for us who can be against us." Now be too blessed to be depressed, too anointed to be disappointed, too glad to be mad, to grateful to be hateful, too happy to be snappy. If you can think of any more, please send them to me- Don Johnston.



**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 **July 17th 2022 3pm- 4pm. 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)