

Titus House Newsletter

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

APRIL
2024



My name is Paul Apodaca.

I have been in and out of institutions since I was 13 years old. I began in the children's Psychiatric Center at UNM back in 1981. I was sent there a few years after my Father and Uncle died from gun violence. After that, I was sent to the Youth Diagnostic Center in Albuquerque in 1982, the New Mexico Boys School in 1983 and 1985, in Springer NM. While I was at the Reintegration Center from the Boys School, I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart and began to walk with Him in my life. The Administrator of the facility believed I was faking my faith and picked at me until I finally broke and got sent back to lockup. After that, I turned my back on Jesus, out of anger, frustration and disappointment, with myself and society. I was an angry young man and ended up hurting many people in my lifetime. I spent many years in prison for the things I did get caught for. I spent many year out of prison and free despite having committed many more crimes for which I had not been caught. Over the years friends, family and strangers all tried to help me come to terms with my problems. I tried Psychologist Therapy again, with little success. After years of family, friends and community members praying with me and for me, I eventually began to look to Jesus again. I was afraid that after turning my back on Him, after all the harm I had caused, He would not be there for me. I knew that I did not deserve His love or forgiveness. Yet, God came to me in a dream and saved me from myself. In my dream, I was bound in chains and in darkness. God reached out to me, broke the chains, and turned them into a bridge, while the song by the Judd's played "Love can build a Bridge." Over time after that, I prayed and got close to God again. Finally, after holding all the pain and suffering inside me for so long I went back to the hill upon which stood the children's psychiatric center where it all began. There I confessed everything I had ever done including the long unsolved murders of three innocent beautiful souls, Althea Oakley, Kaitlyn Arquette, and Stella Gonzales. I am now serving my sentence for those crimes. I am now free on the inside, because God reached out to me and I reached back.

CO: Colorado Senate Bill 118 would allow community-based treatment for sex offenders

Senate Judiciary members heard testimony on a bill that would eliminate indeterminate prison sentences for certain convicted sex offenders and allow them to receive treatment in the community rather than in prisons, but did not vote on the measure at the request of the bill's sponsor.

In addition to removing some indeterminate sentences, Senate Bill 118 would impose mandatory minimums for individuals convicted of sex crimes, mandating that they serve 75% of their sentence before becoming eligible for parole. The bill would allow offenders deemed "low-risk" to complete sex offender treatment within the community instead of prison.

According to the bill's sponsor Sen. Julie Gonzales, D-Denver, the waitlist for convicted sex offenders to access treatment within the state's prisons has grown exponentially in recent years. Currently, the Department of Corrections (DOC) can move inmates down on the list without any repercussions, leaving some offenders waiting for treatment long after parole eligibility has come and gone.

The bill modifies the legislative declaration in the Sex Offender Lifetime Supervision Act of 1998, also known as SOLSA or LSA, which requires lifetime supervision for most class two, three and four felony sex offenses. The revised language emphasizes that there is no evidence that life sentences for sex crimes have resulted in increased public safety. It also includes a statement that research indicates community-based treatment programs are the most effective approach to addressing the public safety risk presented by sex offenders.



Action Alert for MO residents: Missouri Bill Makes Teachers Sex Offenders If They Accept Trans Kids' Pronouns

Source: riverfronttimes.com

A new bill introduced in the Missouri House would force teachers to register as sex offenders if they use the names and pronouns of transgender children or otherwise support them and their identity.

HB2885, filed on Thursday, February 29 by state Representative Jamie Gragg (R-Ozark), would make it a Class E felony for teachers or school counselors to aid the “social transition” of a child — meaning that a teacher “provides support, regardless of whether the support is material, infor-

mation, or other resources to a child regarding social transition.”

The bill defines “social transition” as:

“The process by which an individual adopts the name, pronouns, and gender expression, such as clothing or haircuts, that match the individual’s gender identity and not the gender assumed by the individual’s sex at birth.”

Teachers found guilty of “supporting social transition” would be placed in the same sex offender registration cat-

egory as Tier 1 sex offenders, which is Missouri’s lowest level but includes possession of child porn or attempting a sexual act. And since no Missouri sex offender is permitted to be within 500 feet of a school or daycare, the bill would effectively end the teacher’s career.

Ex-Chicago police officer is sentenced to a year in prison for forcing woman to perform sex act in squad car

Source: currently.att.yahoo.com

A former Chicago police officer who forced a woman to engage in a sex act in his squad car in 2019 was sentenced to a year in federal prison, prosecutors said Monday.

James Sajdak, 65, pleaded guilty in November to one count of deprivation of civil rights, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Illinois said in a statement.

He was sentenced Friday to

the maximum allowed for the misdemeanor charge.

On March 5, 2019, Sajdak flashed the lights of his police vehicle at a woman walking on the street and said something like “You can get in the front seat or you can get in the back,” which he meant to be a threat of arrest, Sajdak admitted in a plea agreement. The woman got in the front seat.

Sajdak locked the doors,

drove to an abandoned lot and forced her to do a sex act, the plea agreement said.

Sajdak, a police officer since 1989, retired after the incident. The victim sued him and the city, and the case was settled, according to records and his defense attorneys. He was federally indicted in 2022.



It's time for a new direction in sexual offense policy

By John Covert Arizona Capitol Times

Among all the policy experiments in this country that have thoroughly missed the mark, sex offense registries have surely earned their own special niche.

Registries have been examined in numerous academic studies over the past several decades, and virtually all of them have found that registries do not accomplish what they were intended to do. They do not reduce recidivism.

They do not prevent sex offenses. They do not protect children. They do not make communities safer.

These findings certainly run counter to the beliefs of some policy makers seemingly more interested in inflicting additional punishment on past crimes or enhancing their “tough on crime” personas. New directions must be taken—employing evidence-based reforms focused on intervention and treatment methods that have been shown to reduce sexual violence.

Sex offense registries in this country go back to the mid- 20th century, when they had the limited aim of providing law enforcement (and only law enforcement) with contact information on those who had committed specific types of offenses.

Then, in 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Alaska's relatively lean registry, using the now debunked premise that people convicted of a sex offense have an exceptionally high recidivism rate. Policy makers around the country took it as an invitation to pile on new regulations and requirements, vastly expanding registries that had once focused on a narrow spectrum of serious crimes to include an ev-

er- growing list of offenses, even including such things as public urination and sex among underage teenagers.

Those who seek to maintain, and even expand, sex offense registries make the claim that those convicted of a sex offense cannot be rehabilitated and need to be under constant surveillance. However, study after study has shown that therapeutic interventions largely lead to success. In fact, those convicted of sex offenses have essentially the lowest recidivism rate among all classes of offenders; a study done by the U.S. Department of Justice found a reconviction rate of 3.5% among individuals in 15 states released over a three-year period.

So, if registries do not work as intended, what can be done?

The American Law Institute (ALI) provided recommendations on where states might go when it adopted extensive model penal code revisions regarding sex offense registries in 2021. ALI's model codes are enormously influential in the courts and legislatures, and in legal scholarship and education.

ALI's proposed changes match the recommendations of academic literature, which shows that people convicted of sexual offenses have low reoffense rates and that registration hinders rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Specifically, it recommends restricting the information on registries to be available to law enforcement only, limiting those registered to only the most dangerous, and shortening the length of time individuals must

remain on the registry.

The first is important because publicly listing those convicted of a sex offense on the internet exposes them to a variety of negative consequences, ranging from public shaming, physical intimidation and violence, and difficulties in finding employment and a place to live.

The requirement of lifetime registration that many states, including Arizona, impose carries burdens for many convicted of a sex offense, often preventing them from ever being able to fully reintegrate into their communities even many years after the offense.

In her dissent in the Alaska Supreme Court case, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg noted that many registries, including Arizona's, make no provision at all for the possibility of rehabilitation. “However plain it may be that a former sex offender currently poses no threat of recidivism,” she wrote, “he will remain subject to long term monitoring and inescapable humiliation.”

At a time when the American Law Institute, virtually all available research, and a growing body of public and professional opinion reflect the reality that our current sexual offense policies do not work, it is important for Arizona to take a new direction.



Titus House Ministries

PO Box 2376
Tijeras, NM 87059

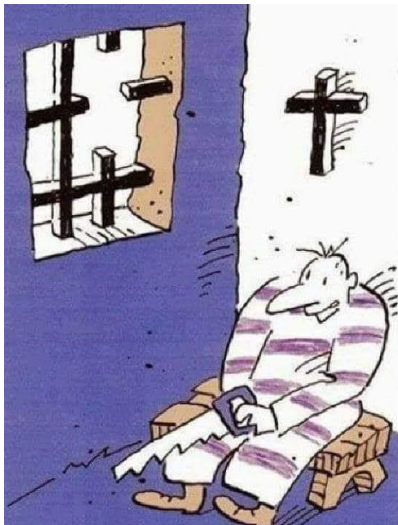
Phone: (505) 286-8807
Alice's Cell (505) 259-0867
Don's Cell: (505) 315-7940

Email: donmagicjohnston@gmail.com

We're on the Web
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



What does Church mean to you?

by Don & Alice Johnston

We would like to invite you to our morning daily Our Daily Bread devotional call. It is each morning at 7:00am Mountain Standard Time. About 15 people call (605) 475-4092, Access code 278954#. We hope you will join us and become one of the family.

Life here in the mountains can be strange at times, especially during the winter. There is wood to be chopped for our two wood burning stoves. Right now as I look out my window we have 6 inches of snow to contend with. My animals are doing good, 1 rabbit, 2 white doves and a large dog who is eating us out of house and home. Because of the weather and other factors we have been attending church sometimes online. We are attending the East Mountain Cowboy Church in Edgewood New Mexico. The Pastor and associate pastor David Crosby has been very supportive of our ministry. We want to encourage you to attend a church in person or online. The Bible tells us in Hebrews 10:25 *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*

According to Croswalk.com. "Church attendance is in decline. This has been shown by countless studies throughout the years. Year after year, more people step away from their local congregation, choosing to define themselves as

"spiritual but not religious." This trend has given rise to an increasing demographic of people who identify as "Nones", those who have been raised with little to-no church exposure. It is yet to be revealed what effect the pandemic has had on church attendance.

As scary as this downward trend may appear, this is nothing new.

We sometimes forget that the church throughout the ages has faced similar challenges. The church is always one generation away from extinction. It is precisely for this reason that the author of Hebrews exhorts the Christians of the day to "not forsake assembling together as some are in the habit of doing"(Hebrews 10:25). Even in the years following the resurrection, with the explosive growth of the church, there was a temptation to step away from the gathered community."

This fact testifies to the relevance of the biblical words for our lives. The Bible's exhortations and commands still ring true. Gathering as the community of faith is important and necessary for our spiritual lives. There is simply no way around this fundamental, biblical fact.

You my brothers and sisters should if it is available attend church service there in prison or wherever you are. Get involved in your church, they always can use help and your spiritual gifts that you offer. Share with us your church experience and perhaps we can share it in this newsletter.



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 April 21 2024 at 3 pm—4 p.m. MST (Mountain Standard Time). 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