

Titus House Newsletter

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

JULY
2025



Registered sex offender's arrest raises concerns over New York's registry flaws

Source: CNYCENTRAL

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — [The arrest of Ryan Pontello](#), a registered sex offender from Clay, has left the Central New York community shaken and outraged. Pontello was charged with rape, sex abuse, luring a child, and endangering the welfare of a child after allegedly committing crimes against a 5-year-old. This incident has sparked renewed scrutiny of New York's sex offender registry system.

Pontello, who was already a registered sex offender due to a 2013 arrest involving sex crimes against another child, had received a plea deal that resulted in a misdemeanor charge. Consequently, he was registered as a Level 1 offender, which shields most of his personal information from the public.

Laura Ahern, Executive Director of the Suffolk County Crime Victim Center, criticized the state's risk assessment tool used to classify sex offenders.

"We have helped to advocate for changes to law to ensure that the community can access as much information as possible so that they can make informed decisions about who they want their children to have relationships," said Ahern.

In New York, sex offenders are classified from Level 1 (low risk) to Level 3 (high risk) based on a point system. However, Ahern pointed out that the system's inability to accurately predict human behavior is a significant flaw. She noted that in states like Florida, the registry is available online, providing crucial information for making informed decisions.

Local residents expressed their concerns and called for systematic changes.

Brian Frost Sr., a Westvale resident, said, "They need to do something. I mean instead of, you know, some of the stuff they do that doesn't make much sense, take care of these things. Take care of these laws that protect little kids."

New York State records indicate that Onondaga County is home to more than 1,100 sex offenders, with nearly 40% registered as Level 1.



A Note from Shawn, a Titus House reader

I wanted to write and thank you again for the work you are doing. I am not a Christian, in fact more aligned with paganism/ atheism. Yet I enjoy/ look forward to the Titus House newsletter every month.

The article by Sandy in last month's newsletter on DEI and how Jesus would not only have embraced it but embodied it helped me through the last few weeks in dealing with unkind people.

It is too easy to lose sight of the kind, caring, and welcoming religious/ Christians in the world. Especially when one is surrounded by those spouting hate in Jesus' name. For those of us still incarcerated we are sometimes forced to live in close proximity to them.

Once again, Thank You for helping me fight the despair of incarceration and offering a bright spot of hope.

Blessed Be
Shawn

URGENT!: NARSOL Conference Update

We are writing to inform you of a critical development regarding our upcoming annual conference, which was scheduled for June 26-29, 2025, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Earlier this week, the Proud Boys—a group recognized as an extremist hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center—initiated an online campaign against NARSOL by enlisting their supporters to bombard our conference venue, the Hilton DoubleTree Grand Rapids, with threats, up to and including a campaign targeting Hilton's corporate headquarters in Tennessee.

As a result of these actions, the DoubleTree has closed access to our conference venue, effective immediately. While this is deeply disappointing, the safety and well-being of our attendees, speakers, and staff remain our highest priority.

We want to assure you that NARSOL is not deterred by this situation. Our mission and commitment to advocacy remain steadfast. We understand how disheartening this is, but we are standing strong and moving forward!

The combined boards of NARSOL and NARSOL's Foundation have elected to reschedule the conference to a future date and alternative location as quickly as possible. We are actively working to secure a new venue and will communicate details as soon as they are available.

Here are steps we advise you take immediately to mitigate any losses surrounding this change of plans:

1. [Call the hotel](#) directly and cancel any overnight guest booking you made. Even if you booked at "non-cancellable" rates, the hotel must cancel without penalty and refund any payments. You may need to have the credit card used in booking. The hotel number is [\(616\) 957-0100](#). Please call before June 24 to avoid any possible problems. Despite their decision, we urge you to remain respectful and professional if you choose to express disappointment, and to do so only after your room has been officially cancelled.

2. Call your airline and inform them that your event was cancelled due to "civil unrest" in Grand Rapids and ask them for a refund. If a refund is not available, ask for a travel voucher so you can attend our soon-to-be rescheduled event.

(For further information see NARSOL website)



When is Enough, Enough

By Sandy Zalecki

Charlie Kirk, the founder of Turning Point USA, has expressed his reservation about the U. S. spending in the Ukraine. He is of the opinion that we have spent enough, and Europe should foot more of the bill in the Ukraine. If you don't know what Turning Point USA is, it's a Christian Nationalist organization that is increasingly involved in politics.

Although I do agree with him on some of his points, let me ask you, when is enough, enough? When should Christians stop working and stop giving? Should we stop when we feel we have given enough, or should we just keep on working?

The Bible has an answer for that. Luke 10:27 says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all you mind, and your neighbor as yourself." There is no caveat there stipulating that you only must love them when it's convenient. It There isn't a stopping point that you should only love them when they are inside some man-made border. Jesus doesn't put any restrictions on love and giving.

We are not called to put a spending limit on helping our brother's and sister's. He never say's love you neighbor as yourself as long as it doesn't exceed 15% of our annual income. He says, "forgive." He never puts a limit on who we should forgive or how many times we should forgive them. He doesn't say, "Only forgive the people that aren't your enemy." No, he says, "Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." Matthew 5:44

He has specific instructions for those who are in prison, or for us who are outside the prison walls. He says, "Remember the prisoners as if chained with them." Hebrews 13:3. Some Christians would try and make this statement apply only to those who are in prison because they are being persecuted. I don't believe that is true. I think it applies to *all* prisoners. I know there are many prisoners that get no visitors. There are prisons where they aren't getting even the most basic items like soap, toothpaste, and deodorant. Some places aren't giving them enough food. Should we, as Christians, ignore this situation or should we help?

When should we stop giving? We stop giving when our job is done. We stop giving when everyone has enough food to eat, when everyone has clean water, when everyone has access to health care, and when no one is affected by the ravages of war. Do we stop helping our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine because it is no longer convenient?

But doesn't the Bible say, "For you have the poor with you always." Matthew 26:11 So, why bother working if there will always be people who are desperately poor among us? It means that our work is never done. It means we will never be able to stop working.



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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 Matter of Perspective](#)

Greetings from Don

Hope all of you are doing well this July. I wish you a Happy 4th of July and that we know the true freedom that we have in Jesus Christ.

Alice had a bad fall on 6/14/2025. She hit her head and it bled. I called 911 and they called the paramedics. The ambulance took her to the hospital. They did a C-scan and MRI. The MRI told us that she had a stroke and past silent strokes. She can barely talk and she cannot walk. They want me to put her in a rest home. Please keep us all in prayer.

I want to thank a few people that have helped us out. The Angels of Albuquerque, Lorraine, James, Max and Jose and Baby. We are on shifts watching Alice. There were several other people that came and visited with her, which brought a smile to Alice.

Alice is now at Geneses Bear Canyon Rehab Center. Their address is 5123 Juan-Tabo Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111. In case you want to send a note to Alice. She uses her former name which is Alice Benson.

Alice just turn 96 in May. She wanted to thank you for all the letters and cards filled with good wishes that she received.

We do have other Board members for Titus House Ministries and we do plan to go on. Alice is an important part of Titus House. We desperately need your prayers at this critical time of life.

Our dog Goldie misses Alice. She mopes around and sleeps by Alice's side of the bed. I think she knows something is wrong.

May God bless and keep you, may God's face shine on you. May God be kind to you and give you peace.



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 20, 2025** 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