

Titus House Newsletter

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

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Nebraska's Inhumanity: A Call for Compassion

Nebraskans Unafraid has been made aware of the case of a person forced to register who is hospitalized and gravely ill in an intensive care unit. This person is immobilized in bed, attached to all manner of medical monitors. Friends of this person contacted the local sheriff's office, the Nebraska State Patrol, and local police with this question: Due to this person's medical incapacity, could some arrangement other than personally reporting to the sheriff's office be made for him? The answer was: No exceptions — he must report in person. *Nebraskans Unafraid* submits that **this is ludicrous** and it demonstrates that **the true intent of the registry is to inflict cruelty and inhumanity**.

Nebraska's Unyielding Reporting Mandate

Nebraska law mandates strict in-person reporting for individuals on the sex offense registry. Initial registration occurs at a Nebraska State Patrol office. All subsequent updates, including changes to address, employment, or school, require an in-person visit to the county sheriff's office within three working days. Depending on their registration duration (15 years, 25 years, or lifetime), individuals must also report in person annually, bi-annually, or quarterly for verification. With no explicit provisions for medical incapacity, this rigid framework means failure to comply, even due to severe illness, can result in a Class IV felony charge.

A Glimmer of Existing Exceptions

Yet, Nebraska law itself offers flexibility. State Statute 29-4005 explicitly exempts people forced to register from verification while "in custody or under an inpatient civil commitment." This acknowledges situations where physical presence is impossible because location and status are known. For those incarcerated over three working days, written notification of incarceration is accepted. This precedent for non-in-person reporting stands in stark contrast to the "no exceptions" stance for a gravely ill, hospitalized person. An ICU patient is functionally equivalent to someone under "inpatient civil commitment," making the lack of accommodation arbitrary and inhumane.

Legislative Intent vs. Cruel Reality

Nebraska State Statute 29-4002 claims the registry's purpose is to protect communities and assist law enforcement, explicitly forbidding retaliation. However, current application contradicts this. A person gravely ill in an ICU poses no public safety risk; their location is known, and they cannot commit new offenses. Forcing them to physically report **serves no legitimate protective function, instead becoming a punitive act risking a felony charge**. This disconnect undermines the registry's legitimacy, revealing a system that **inflicts deliberate cruelty**. This case exemplifies how inflexible laws lead to absurd and cruel outcomes, particularly for vulnerable individuals like the elderly or disabled. It leaves the family and friends in the impossible situation of having to untangle the mess in order to prevent their incapacitated loved one from facing a felony charge. Such rigidity demands legislative action.

Broader Critiques and Paths to Compassion

Nationally, sex offense registries face constitutional challenges, particularly under the Eighth Amendment (cruel and unusual punishment) and Due Process Clause under the Fifth and 14th Amendments to the Constitution, especially for vulnerable populations. Human rights organizations, including the ACLU and Human Rights Watch, consistently criticize these registries as overbroad, ineffective in preventing recidivism, and causing significant collateral consequences, like social stigma and reintegration barriers. Research shows that such laws create socioeconomic barriers and don't deter crime. The "scarlet letter" of registration stigmatizes individuals long after they have completed sentences.

Despite Nebraska's rigidity, other states offer precedents for medical accommodations. Some have compassionate release for terminally ill inmates. The ACLU has challenged registration mandates for individuals with HIV as discriminatory under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These examples underscore a broader principle: **extreme medical conditions should warrant adjustments to legal obligations when rigid enforcement serves no public safety purpose.**



Sex Offenders and The Church

Source Churchleader.com

Let's talk about one of those Elephant in the Room subjects that no one wants to talk about. I'm referring to the issues of sex offenders and the local church. Fortunately in recent years we have begun to discuss it, but there's a long way to go). Early in my career in the field of Criminal Justice I spent several years working with exclusive sex offender populations. It was during those years that I realized that Sex Offenders were one of the few populations behind the walls of a correctional institution that were treated differently. I have since concluded that this is true for both behind the walls of a prison and on the streets of society.

Let's be honest, sex offenders are definitely not treated nice in prison; as they are considered the lowest of the low. And many times they are treated equally as bad by their neighbors/society when they are released. Their names are placed on a sex offender registry for the rest of their lives and neighborhoods can pass out fliers and post signs notifying the entire neighborhood that a sex offender taken up residence in their neighborhood.

The neighbors don't generally sit around and sing the Mr. Rodgers theme song: "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood, a beautiful day in the neighborhood... Won't you be my neighbor!" It's more like: "Not In My Neighborhood, I Don't Think So or I Know He Didn't." There seems to be a heightened sense of awareness with the recent release of corruption at Penn State, aka Jerry Sandusky sex abuse scandal.

We have come to understand that sex offenders are be treated differently in society and behind prison walls. The real question is "Should sex offenders be treated differently by the church and faith communities?" Research reveals that sex offenders have a **high propensity to re-offend**, which tends to put everyone on red alert. Again, that's why sex offenders are all in a national database and are required to register upon their release.

There are over 728,000 registered offenders in the U.S.; Texas leads the nation with well over 63,000 registered offenders, and Florida is a close second. Most Christians will tell you that they are uncomfortable around

and even scared of sex offenders; especially when it comes to their children. Let's face it, insurance companies even have exclusionary clauses for churches that hire or allow sex offenders to volunteer; in other words: no coverage.

The church must play a critical role in helping sex offenders develop a relationship with Christ and become disciples of Christ. These are the true ingredients that will allow their lives to truly be restored, for them to rebuild severed relationships and for them to have freedom from the bondage of certain thoughts/behaviors/sin. The truth of the matter is that this same process can apply to each of us and our sinful nature!

I'm not saying that it's right and I'm not sure that people will admit it, but I think most people, including Christians are uncomfortable around sex offenders. Should sex offenders be allowed to be on staff, volunteer or be in a role that officially represents a church? Is it appropriate for sex offenders to volunteer with children?



Miracle From God? By Sandy Zalecki

I don't usually travel much anymore. I'm a widow and when I lost my husband over 8 years ago, I lost my traveling companion. It's not fun to travel alone and it's very tiring for me to be the sole driver. However, when I heard about the death of my good friend Alice, I wanted to be at her Celebration of Life. It's a 7-hour drive from where I live in Arizona to Albuquerque where Alice lived. I was happy to make the trip to honor Alice's life and legacy.

There were other people I wanted to be with also. I have become good friends with a lot of people connected with Titus House either on a morning phone call that we do every morning or on the weekly Bible Studies I facilitate on Zoom. It was so good to see some of the people I have talked with on the phone nearly every day for years, but I had never actually met them in person or knew what they looked like. And, of course, I wanted to support Don, Alice's husband.

The journey to Albuquerque started with prayer. The people on the morning call prayed for me to have a safe journey. I did. It was safe and uneventful. I-40, the road from Flagstaff, Arizona to Albuquerque, New Mexico is long, boring, and filled with trucks. I've traveled that road for over 40 years now and it's still the same, long, boring, and filled with trucks. I'm not really afraid of being totally surrounded by vehicles that are at least 10 times my size and traveling at speeds that could kill me in an instant if they hit me, but it is a bit concerning.

When I arrived in Albuquerque, I was met by 4 of some of the most amazing friends I have ever known. I call them family because I know I can count on them any time I need them. They made me feel welcome, fed me every day, and made sure I had a great time. I met some other friends that I had known from the morning phone call, but I had never met in person. I was finally able to meet them in Santa Fe. We had a great time together getting to know each other finally seeing each other in person. I didn't pay for that lunch either. Alice's Celebration of Life was a wonderful event. It's amazing how much one person devoted to the Lord can influence the life of so many people.

There was one thing that happened to me while I was on my journey. I figured when I started thinking about going, I would probably have to spend around \$400.00 for the trip. I'm a widow living on social security. I don't have that much left over at the end of the month to spend on anything, let alone a trip. I have some money in savings, but I was hoping not to have to dip into it. I was, however, just sure I would come up short especially after having to spend extra money on repairs for my home. Not only did I have the money to go to Albuquerque and fix my house, but I had extra money left over in my account when I got back home. Is this a miracle from God or was I just extra frugal with my spending? Well, it wasn't the latter, so it had to be a miracle!

In Ephesians 3:20 the Word of God says, "He can do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think." I believe the Lord did that for me on my trip. He did some divine "manipulation" of my bank account. Here's the thing, if he can do miracles for me, He can do them for you also.



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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



Message From Don

Hi everyone. I am still kicking. Looking forward to go forth with Titus House and my life in Jesus. Hope you all are doing well. At our morning Conference call we pray for you all. I thank you for your prayers for the Ministry. We are now having a change here in Titus House newsletter. We will be publishing the newsletter every other month due to cost and financial needs here at Titus House. Please donate if you can.

I have lately been visiting with my three boy/men. Next weekend I am going to my son's house to play a video game called "Super Mario". I have played it many times with my son and I am ok at the game.

Alice Celebration of Life went over good. A lot of photos were shown. The reception when over nice.

In this newsletter there was an article called "Sex Offender and the Church". There was some miss information in the article that I need to point out. It said that sex offenders have a **high propensity to re-offend**. We know that just the opposite.

Perhaps the largest single study of sex offender recidivism to date was carried out by Langan, Schmitt, and Durose (2003). The study examined the recidivism patterns of 9,691 male sex offenders released from prisons in 15 states in 1994. The researchers found a sexual recidivism rate of 5.3 percent for the entire sample of sex offenders, based on an arrest during the 3-year follow up period.

I hope you all have a peaceful and blessed September and October. 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 **September 21, 2025 October 19** 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