

# Titus House Newsletter

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La Pasada is around 100 people some newly released from prison. And other are still headed to court-future unknown. Titus House does a Bible Study each week there.

Our first guy we would like to introduce you to is Mark Preller..

While in high school I became involved in Youth for Christ and accepted the Lord. My participation included weekly bible studies as well as monthly activities such as witnessing and outreach. Since that time I began to slowly drift away from God.

I believe my incarceration is a blessing used by God to bring me to repentance. I have responded by re-

Much more important was what couldn't be seen, my renewed faith in God.

I have yielded my life to Him and consistently seek His will. One of my most frequent prayers is Lord, don't give me what I want, just give me what I need. God knows my needs so much better than I do.

The Lord has answered my prayers with many blessings. Since my release He has blessed me with a car, a job, and I will soon

by worldly standards, but I rest in the peace and knowledge that I am where He wants me to be. Daily His plan unfolds in my life. He is so much more able to direct my life than I am!

I know that life isn't going to be easy. There will be times of frustration and pain but through it all the grace of God will reign supreme. All I have to do is acknowledge His Lordship, follow His will, and let Him take care of the rest.

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## Prayer Requests

Three women in Texas prisons all mothers believing Christians, trusting God for His help

Several waiting for Opening at La Pasada

Needs for housing and jobs after prison

dedicating my life to Him.

When I was released to La Pasada halfway house all I had in the material world was \$300.00 in gate money and the clothes on my back.

be moving into my own apartment. The car may not be the one I thought I wanted, the job not one I would have chosen, and the apartment may not be great

Walk in faith brothers and sisters. God loves you. He has great plans for your life!



## By Juan Torres, From La Pasada

This year, 2016, I had the most amazing experience in my life with God and I have to recognize if I hadn't been in prison I wouldn't have this experience.

I was at MDC and during our "free-cell time" in the afternoon I was talking with another inmate about Jesus Christ and the mercy of our Lord when He sent Jesus to die for our sins. It was around 6 PM when I came back to my cell when my cellmate told me that someone had brought something for me. It was a Ramen soup for which I wanted to eat for two weeks. When I asked him who brought it he told me this way: "He was a guy taller than you,

dressed in orange (like us), long hair covering until his arms, white face, a peaceful face, hair between brown and black, and gave a message for you. Give it to Juan, tell him to have hope and keep believing in me." After this he just left the cell and I didn't see him anymore. I've never seen him before. I was in shock when he told me this, because only three persons knew my name, my cellmate, other friend who was locked down at that time and the inmate I was talking to. I knew immediately that I had received a visit of Jesus or his angel because nobody could know where I was, who I was and what I needed. I started to cry and thank the Lord for looking after me.

About one hour later I left my cell again for medication and looked for anyone with the features my cellmate told me about, the person who gave the message, but I didn't find anyone. I asked my cellmate if he had put the soup on my bed and he told me he didn't have money. That was true because I shared my food with him.

This experience is now the promise that God gave me, and I am sure He will give me the final victory solely because He has a great plan for my life and my family. Thank God for this amazing gift You gave me. Juan Torres, La Pasada

## From Anthony R. Montoya From La Pasada

Hello – My name is Anthony R. Montoya. I've been residing in the La Pasada Halfway House. I've been here one month and 3 weeks. It has really been such a life changing experience. I'm still awaiting trial because of the wickedness that was taking over my heart. I was doing all the wrong things in life but it wasn't till the second time I came to Bible study that the Lord Jesus

spoke to my heart and made me realize I need to have faith in Him. At that moment I cast out the demon that was making me do wrong, and invited the Lord into my life. My life and the way I carry myself changed for the better. I am sober and drug free, thanks to the Lord's Word showing me the right path. So if you decide when or if you come to La Pasada, there are rules to follow

and chores to be done but we have a brotherhood and sisterhood here. If you think it's the end of the road and have no one to turn to, God is always there to comfort you. You just need faith in the Almighty. Praise Jesus.





## Colorado Registration Statute Under Attack

by Larry Neely from the RSOL Digest

This is great news for those that have hope that our courts will actually consider whether or not sex offender registration constitutes punishment. It appears that senior U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch may be just the judge for the situation. On July 7th Judge Matsch denied Colorado's effort to avoid a trial on the merits of the complaint.

Three plaintiffs initiated the case by filing a complaint with the assistance of an attorney located in Boulder, Colorado. The first plaintiff was convicted in 1999 and was sentenced to 74 days on work release followed by eight years' probation. The second plaintiff was convicted in 2007 for conduct that occurred in 2005 when he was eighteen years old. The third plaintiff was adjudicated as a juvenile offender for conduct that occurred when he was only thirteen years old. The plaintiffs assert in their complaint that "... continuing to register and complying with the restrictions applicable to them under the Act and regulations violate the protections afforded by the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution."

The Defendant, Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI), moved for "Summary Judgment of Dismissal based on well-established case authority that statutes like Colorado SORA are not punitive." CBI, like most other defendants, cited other cases including *Smith v Doe*, 538 U.S. 84 (2003) for their assertion that sex offender registration is not punitive. Order Denying Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment at pg. 2. CBI also contends, "Plaintiffs have not shown such adverse effects on themselves as to support a finding of punishment." *Id* at 7. Judge Matsch concluded that this is a mixed question of fact and law and that there are issues of fact that should be determined through a trial with the full opportunity to present evidence that may include more than has been explored in the discovery done thus far. One plaintiff presented evidence that he has experienced harassment and vigilantism as a result of being on the sex offender registry. One plaintiff showed that he has been prohibited from entering Denver Public Schools property because of his status on the registry. One plaintiff presented evidence that he was terminated from employment due to his status on the registry.

The plaintiff adjudicated for conduct that occurred when he was thirteen years old has petitioned twice for removal pursuant to C.R.S. 16-22-1113(1)(e). His petition was denied in 2006 and again in 2012. Judge Matsch's interest has focused on the process that resulted in the denial of the petition. Judge Matsch noted that the statute requires the court to consider "...whether the person is likely to commit a subsequent offense of or involving unlawful sexual behavior." Judge Matsch noted that neither magistrate made a finding that the plaintiff was likely to commit a subsequent offense involving sexual behavior. Rather, the magistrates put the burden on the plaintiff to show by a preponderance of the evidence that he was not likely to commit such an offense. This burden shifting placed an impossible burden on the plaintiff to prove a negative. Judge Matsch also noted that the magistrates had imposed additional conditions not contained in the statute, which may be a violation of due process.

RSOL is excited that this case is pending, and we are in communication with the attorney in terms of offering any assistance we can provide. It could be that RSOL agrees to raise funds if expert witnesses are needed for trial. We will keep you posted as the case progresses to trial and any subsequent appeals that are almost certain should Colorado lose.



## Titus House Ministries

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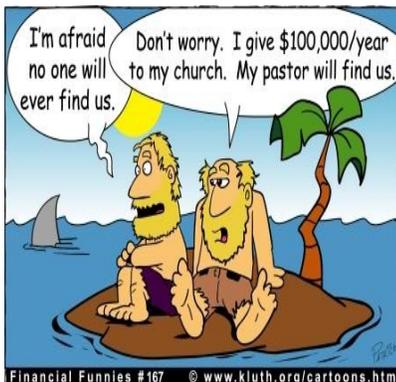
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**We're on the Web  
titushouseministries.org**

*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



## Alice's Editorial

We are five days into Don's recovery from bariatric surgery and he is doing well losing about 3 pounds a day. Before long he will be a shadow of his former self! He appreciates all the good blessings from friends. We appreciate all the backing we get from our friends for this ministry. We do need MORE FUNDING to keep on doing what we have been called to do. Let me recount a story my daughter sent me from the NEW YORK TIMES. His name is Matthew Grottalio and the tragic story of his life began when he and a brother decided to play a "touching game" with their 8-year-old sister. The sister's teacher found out, notified authorities, police handcuffed Matthew outside his 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. The result: 2 years probation, a foster home, listing on the Texas sex offender registry website, his parents' marriage was shattered. Matthew dropped out of school, "hated life and hated everybody."

He ran away, was homeless for two years, sank into drugs and served time for burglary and parole violations. He was barred from contacts with people under 17 including his sister, now an adult. He was barred from the children of the woman he married and until he passed an evaluation, even from his own baby. In conclusion there are 24,000 registered juvenile offenders and one third of those are under 14. Churches, you have a real challenge before you. Before you check the local SO registry to identify your new church attenders, keep these statistics in mind. The names you find could be the kids your kids grew up with. The names you find could be former inmates who found Christ in prison and who are looking for your encouragement. Some of these people could well be those responding to your church outreach. Keep in mind Jesus has been in prison with them. Matthew 25:35-40.



FINANCES --- "Oh, no, everyone wants my money! Yes, there are many good causes for our money! I got a call this morning trying to convince me I should replace all my windows so I could save lots of money on heating next winter. I should improve my life with a trip to the Bahamas, another new medication or a new kind of pillow where we will sleep in total luxury! Who wants to help prison inmates? They get three meals a day and a lifetime vacation (according to some thinking). Who would care about a "ministry" to such people? The answer is

that Jesus did and He cares now. A number of released inmates at La Pasada testify to the power of prayer in their lives. One person whose testimony you are reading this month believes God is calling him to the ministry! We do not want to curtail our monthly letters, our ministry at La Pasada, our answering every letter from prison or our acceptance of interstate phone calls which can be as high as \$4. If you can possibly send us a small check each month it will all add up to meeting these needs. Thank you in advance.

## Circle of Concern

The Circle of Concern is a group of concerned registered offenders, family and friends that meet together on the 2nd Sunday of each month. We are meeting this month on August 14, at 6-8pm. We will be having a potluck, bring goodies. Don is trying to

figure out how to put a pizza in a blender since he is on a liquid diet. Come and thank Jose for spending a day at the hospital with Don after the surgery. We meet at Foothills Church, corner of Tram-

way and Candelaria on the far east side of Albuquerque. 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.