

# Titus House Newsletter

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## Sad Stories of Texas Women in prison

We relate to several women in Texas and there is a common thread through all their stories. Their story begins with abusive relatives in childhood who target them sexually. Along with this there is secretiveness with parents. Some parents are drug addicts or absentee for some reason or other. As young teens these girls fall in love, with the usual dreams of happiness. For some a teen relationship is an escape from an unhappy home. Before long

the teen is pregnant and gives birth in a relationship with a domineering partner. When she becomes pregnant again the partner becomes even more domineering and she tries in vain to hang on to the security she wants. After a while he introduces some of his former children to the home. A common happening is she turns to the teen guy who appears to value her more than her husband/ partner seems to do. The mother of the teen she has sex with gets wind of what is going on

and files a criminal charge. The result is the imprisonment of this unhappy gal. Please keep these women in your prayers.

I recently received a letter from one of our Texas women telling me she was moved out of the Hobby Unit, a special group



composed of Christian women who wanted to be further disciple with a study of Biblical material. It is amazing to me that such grouping even exists in prison. She has been told that a similar program will be offered soon in her new housing facility.

This particular gal, whose name I will not disclose, has rather frankly told me her story. She has been convicted of abusing her own children which carries two life sentences. She was happily living with her parents to the age of six when her mother di-

vorced her father and took up with a boyfriend. The mother, boyfriend and little girl moved to Mexico where she was soon sexually abused by her step father's associates. She actually became a sex slave in Mexico. She gave birth to a child when she was 14. A relative got her

back in the States. She met a guy and got married. They both got heavily involved with smoking pot and using drugs and alcohol. She refers to this as a time of being under the influence of "our demons". More children were involved, they were abused and today both mother and father are in prison

with long sentences of child abuse.

My new friend, now in her 30's with two life sentences, has turned her life over to God. She says she is sure God has forgiven her and He loves her. Her goal is to "reach out beyond these walls to share my life with life-minded people, share what the Lord has done for me. He has healed me of that sickness that was instilled in me as a child."



## Indiana Federal Court Certifies Habeas Corpus Class of Prisoners Disciplined for Refusing to Admit Guilt in Sex Offender Program

Loaded on NOV. 7, 2016 by Matthew Clarke published in Prison Legal News November, 2016, page 20

On September 30, 2015, a U.S. district court certified a class of Indiana state prisoners who refused to admit their guilt as part of the Indiana Sex Offender Monitoring and Management Treatment Program, and who were subjected to disciplinary sanctions as a result.

In 2006, the Indiana Department of Correction (DOC) made participation in the program mandatory for any prisoner with a prior sex offense conviction. Admitting guilt and providing a list of prior offenses, including unadjudicated crimes, is a required part of the program. The information is not private and may be shared with DOC personnel, parole and probation officials, child protective services, law enforcement, and sex offender,

mental health and substance abuse treatment providers.

Donald Lacy, an Indiana prisoner, refused to admit his guilt. He was disciplined, lost around 2,460 days of good time and was demoted in time-earning class. He then filed a civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, alleging that his loss of good time and time-earning class as a result of disciplinary action for refusing to admit guilt violated his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

The district court dismissed the complaint for failure to state a claim upon which relief could be granted. Lacy appealed. The Seventh Circuit reversed, but held that because Lacy sought restoration of his good time credits, his claims should have been brought in a habeas corpus petition. Lacy agreed to convert his lawsuit into a habeas corpus action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

On remand the district court examined Lacy's motion for class certification, noting that a procedure similar to Federal

Rule of Civil Procedure 23 was appropriate for habeas actions. Lacy's case was consolidated with those of five other Indiana prisoners who had filed similar habeas petitions. The court held that they were adequate representatives of the class, and that the action met the criteria for numerosity, commonality and typicality.

Therefore, the district court certified a class that included all DOC prisoners who were required to participate in the Sex Offender Monitoring and Management Treatment Program but refused to do so because they would not confess their guilt on the primary offense or disclose other criminal conduct as required by the program, and who were subjected to disciplinary sanctions in the form of lost good time credits and/or demotion in time-earning class as a result. The case remains pending. See: *Lacy v. Butts*, U.S.D.C. (S.D. Ind.), Case No. 1:13-cv-00811-RLY-DML.

## A Prosecutor's Confession

by Greg

The recent popularity of "*Conviction*," the ABC network's Monday night series after "*Dancing With The Stars*," has raised the public's awareness of the wrongful criminal sentencing of the innocent. Over the past four decades 140 people have been exonerated providing plenty of story lines for the television show.

Whether capital punishment actually decreases crime has never been proven beyond a shadow of doubt. Our culture must come to grips with the idea that the American justice system is flawed. If one innocent person is sentenced to death and that sentence is carried out then all who are involved are just as guilty of murder and should be likewise

convicted as the person they so righteously condemned.

One prosecutor grew a conscience thirty years after he put a man on death row. Glenn Ford was recently exonerated and released. Attorney A. M. "Marty" Stroud III, of Shreveport, LA, was the lead prosecutor in the December 1984 first-degree murder trial of Glenn Ford, who was sentenced to death for the Nov. 5, 1983 death of Shreveport jeweler Isidore Bozeman. The following is excerpts from a response to The (Shreveport) Times ... Stroud writes: "Had I been more inquisitive, perhaps the evidence would have come to light years ago. But I wasn't, and my inaction contributed to the miscarriage of justice in this matter." He continues: "I was not going to commit resources to investigate what I considered to be bogus claims that we had the wrong



man." Attorney Stroud also admits... "My mindset was wrong and blinded me to my purpose of seeking justice, rather than obtaining a conviction of a person who I believed to be guilty. ... Furthermore, my silence at trial undoubtedly contributed to the wrong-headed result. I did not question the unfairness of Mr. Ford having appointed counsel who had never tried a criminal jury case much less a capital one. It never concerned me that the defense had insufficient funds to hire experts... They were excellent attorneys with experience in civil matters but this did not prepare them for trying to save the life of Mr. Ford."

It is refreshing to finally see that Mr. Stroud had enough fortitude to admit what those of us who have dealt with the judiciary system know to be true.



## Sex offender registries abject policy failure; protect nobody

by Sandy Rozek

. In 2009, Mark B. was convicted of a sexual crime, served 13 months in prison and put on the public sex offender registry. Fearing he would be unemployable at any meaningful job, Mark started his own company traveling to antique shows to take old-fashioned photos for people. The business was successful, and he was proud to provide for his family and be a contributing member of society.

In 2016, it fell apart. An unknown person sent anonymous emails to his largest clients telling them of his status and sending a link to his public registry listing. The resulting emails to Mark severing the business relationships alluded to “public safety” and “parent concerns.” The anonymous emails continued, and Mark faced bankruptcy. He is slowly rebuilding, but living every day fear-

ing his new accounts and the old ones he still has will receive a similar email and cancel as the others did.

Proponents of the public sex offender registry say it’s needed to help parents protect their children from sexual predators, but there is no evidence it does that. Very few registrants meet the criteria for predation. Furthermore, the vast majority of sexual crimes, especially against children, are committed not by those on the registry. They’re committed by those close to the victims in trusted, often familial, positions. Re-offense by those on the registry living in the community has always been, across the board, in single digits before

Megan’s Law and afterwards.

Academic analyses and research studies have consistently failed to show a public safety benefit, or any beneficial results, from public notification — no reduction in sexual offending by rapists, child molesters, recidivists or first-time offenders.

Due to its failure to benefit public safety, the current registry system is wasteful. It’s impossible to estimate the totals spent because expenses are covered both by the federal and local governments. Even by conservative standards, many millions in taxes are squandered with no meaningful return.

## Christmas Party

Dear Titus House Friends: Don and I have reserved a special room at Furr’s Cafeteria, 2004 Wyoming Blvd NE, just south of Menaul in Albuquerque for December 24<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 noon to 2:00. This is for those of you who would like to celebrate Christmas with us. The room holds 50 people; we have received some funds so you can be our guests. We must know exactly who is coming by Dec.

20<sup>th</sup> (RSVP). There will be a list of your names on the desk where you come in. Please come if possible. Many thanks to those of you who have made this possible. We also consider this a fund raiser for those of you who would like to help Titus House. To let us know of your coming you may call us at 505-286-8807 or one of our cell phones: 505 315-7940, 505 259-0867.



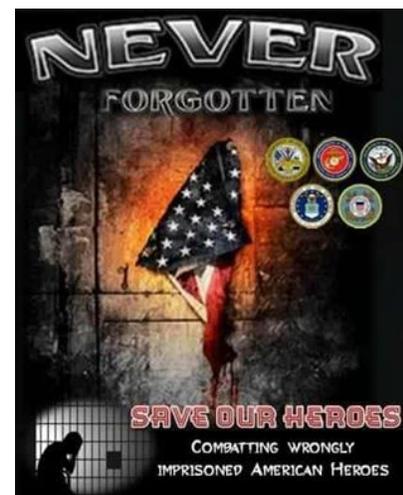
## From a military inmate at Fort Leavenworth

In recent years, senior military leaders have falsely claimed that there is a sexual assault epidemic in the military. In order to remedy this false epidemic, Congress proposed taking the judicial system away from the military and trying cases in federal civilian courts, in order to ensure fairness and efficiency. The military, not wanting to relinquish control, bolstered their internal judicial system by incorporating unlawful and unethical means to obtain convictions by any means necessary. Senior military leaders now boast high conviction rates in order to appease Congress and justify keeping control of the

military justice system.

At Fort Leavenworth there are 214 convicted military persons. The figures for 2015 are: Violent offenses: 29 Property: 10 Drug: 5 Public: 0 Military: 3 Other: 17 Sexual: 150.

There are several military prisons and our informant said he wasn’t quite sure why he was convicted. We need to keep these military members in prayer as it would appear they will lose all their retirement after they are released.





## Titus House Ministries

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**We're on the Web  
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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

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"Wireless communication is nothing new. I've been praying for 75 years!"

# Sex Offender Laws are Un-American

by sandy • November 4, 2016

By Fred . . . Imagine that life is good as you and your smiling wife walk hand in hand at the fairgrounds. She is seven months pregnant; both of you are excited about starting your family as you trade ideas for the baby's name. You just drove 120 miles to enjoy the North Carolina State Fair. You planned to enjoy the over-priced pineapple drinks and ride in the tractor pulled taxi to keep your wife off her sore feet. You have no reason to think anything could go wrong on this day.

Suddenly you are surrounded by up to 30 police officers and torn away from your wife. You are thrown to the ground and your arms are twisted, then cuffed, behind your back. Your wife stands frozen in shock and fear as you struggle to ask the officers what you are being arrested for.

Onlookers stare in disbelief at the scene unfolding before them. Surely they must think you are a terrorist or a fugitive on the FBI's Most Wanted List, but it is actually nothing like that at all. You are merely on North Carolina's Sex Offender Registry. You were convicted 10 years ago for an incident that happened 3 years prior when you were only 16.

The police whisk you away, leaving your scared wife standing there with no idea whom to talk to or where to go. As she makes her way back to the car, she is overwhelmed and struggles to fight back the tears when the realization sets in that this is the family life she has to look forward to, a family life where her husband can not fully participate, and her child is going to want to know why.

As surreal as this scenario might seem, this is what happened several weekends ago when a North Carolina registrant and his pregnant wife made a 120-mile drive to enjoy the North Carolina State Fair. A new law went into effect on September 1st that bans 17,000 registrants from fair grounds within the state.

He was convicted when he was 19 years old for something that happened when he was only 16. He had completed his entire sentence and had not been in any trouble since.

The City of Raleigh, where the State Fair is held, sent people door to door to notify all registrants of the new law. However not every city in North Carolina used this method, and obviously because the law is still new, not every registrant has been informed yet.

This is a perfect example of how sex offender laws prevent registrants from moving forward with their lives and establishing the stable support system that is necessary in order for one to grow and strive to reach their full potential. These laws cripple an entire class of people, forcing them under a rock and away from civilization. These laws also effectively break up families, therefore causing emotional and psychological damage to the children of registrants, which in turn can set them up for risk in their own adult lives.

This system of oppression would be very fitting in Nazi Germany, but it has no place in the modern United States. The land of opportunity is supposed to exist for all. Even convicted murderers have more opportunities to change their lives and become productive members of society than former sex offenders, who in far too many cases were charged for having sex as teens or in victimless police stings. However, regardless of age when convicted or the severity of the crime, in the United States the right to Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness applies to all citizens.

Many other groups struggle to get ahead in the United States, but when it comes to former sex offenders, actual laws are written and passed with the sole intention of keeping them down and out of society. That is wrong. That is un-American.

## 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 December 11, 6-8pm. We will be having a potluck. We meet at Foothills Church, corner

of Tramway 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.

