

# Titus House Newsletter

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

September  
2017



## My Story by Jack, Board Member of Titus House

First thing I must write is that no matter how dreadful things get or have gotten, so low that you can't go any further down; remember, God can and will bring you back up if you allow Him.

I came from a middle-class family, good upbringing and the ability to advance in life. Served in the Marine Corps. Got married and had 2 boys. completed 8 years then separated in 1992 after the Gulf War. That's when I got into my second marriage where she had 3 children and together we had

one. I Went into the Air we were doing well.

York away from her home to, so we moved riage quickly was fall-committing my crime life, rock bottom. This so He could get my at-

He had been trying to first opened my eyes

marriage in Texas. I was interested in knowing more about this so-called God so when I arrived in North Carolina I went to a Christian book store and asked about a church. The lady invited me to her church in which I went. A gentleman went through the Roman's road with me but I really didn't understand but still got dunked. Since there was no class for baby Christian's it wasn't long after I went my own way again. During my second marriage we attended church, God calling me but I am thinking I'm a Christian and sitting good with God. Far from it.

I was really living for myself and doing exactly what the devil wanted, everything against God. I was spending money on myself for things I didn't need instead of on my family. I was partaking in homosexual activities and molesting my step daughter. These activities went on as I was spiraling downward till I finally crashed. When I crashed I was ready to end my life and went into major depression.

As I sat in jail, dazed and not focused on anything, a sheriff deputy came in and asked if I would like a Bible. So, I took the Bible and read it and read the salvation path in the back. After reading and looking verses up I decided with a whole heart to allow Jesus into my heart. This time I knew it was for real cause I had a thirst for the Word I never had before. I read and read, just couldn't put the Word down. Over time God gave me peace and favor. As my time in prison went, God used me to help those around me not only in the chapel setting but also through the Jaycees, library and gym. It was God that got me through prison and found favor in the administration's eyes, just as Joseph. He was innocent as I was guilty though.

When it was time to be released, it didn't go as I planned, but God had other plans. I thought I was staying in North Carolina but instead I ended up in New Mexico. Actually New Mexico ended up being better. Here there are no laws as to where you can/can't live as no laws with Halloween either. I found a job in which I've worked up the ladder; due to **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



National Guard, where financially My wife didn't want to be in New family and wanted to move back back to North Carolina. Our mar- ing apart, which I justified in that took me to the lowest level in was where God needed me to be tention.

get my attention for years. He when I went to visit my sister by



## My Story by Jack

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those in management don't let my past interfere, its God giving grace.

Through the years I went toward God's way but not with my whole heart, not even with a quarter of my heart. He was calling but I always had one excuse or another. When I finally hit rock bottom, when I had no place to go, look or seek, I finally listened, heard and believed. I opened my heart and allowed Him in, where He belongs. Then God began to show me things, things I've never seen due to being blind. Through God, I now see. He taught me things that changed my life, but He didn't make me perfect. These changes were not only to make me a better person but through me to help others. God changed me to stand straight and have confidence, (Phil 4:13) I can do all things through Him who strengthens me, be the man He created me to be. The world system wants you down, fallen, and dead. God wants you alive, living and free. He wants you for His will just as He used Peter, John, Paul and the many others.

So, remember, no matter how dreadful things seem, God is there and always knocking on the door of your heart for those who don't know Him, and will use you for His glory and purpose. So, if you don't know love, life, mercy or grace, He's only a prayer away and you can read all about Him in His book, the Bible. As His child, He won't let you go around the challenging times but will help you go through them. He will strengthen, encourage, mold you for His purposes.

Keep your heads up and stay encouraged for all is temporary, for this will end too.



## Is a 12-Step Program for You? By Matt

According to Pew research, a Washington think tank, there are 40 million Americans who watch pornography every day. Another study states that 9 million more suffer from some form of sex addiction.

Startling statistics... which means nothing until law enforcement enters your home to find child porn on your computer, or when a loved one discovers that you have been watching pornography, or has to bail you out after picking up a prostitute.

Believe it or not these are the lucky ones because addicts will never admit that they have a problem. They lead a secret life of "quiet desperation" until that dark day comes.

I have been in a 12-Step program for sex addiction for 10 years. The 12 steps and the people in the program

have helped me to understand my addiction, to eliminate the fear, shame and guilt and has given me "strength and hope" to deal with my shortcomings.

More than this, the life-changing results of the program comes from its members, shocking, reassuring shares at meetings, heartfelt shares that have taught me empathy, an understanding that I am not alone in my pain and addictive behavior. Those courageous 12-Steppers have also helped me develop compassion in order to reach out to other troubled individuals on their road to recovery.

The ultimate power though of the 12-Step program is a "Higher Power of your understanding" who will guide you through your journey.

I hope I have made you un-

easy, anxious about the obvious next step because if you are in denial or in fear of joining a 12-step program, you will continue down that road of pain, lost potential and fear. Your Spiritual decision to join a 12-Step program will change your life, make you cry out for joy at meetings and bring you peace and happiness for yourself and loved ones. Below is an article(s) about how a 12-step program works. Please read them. Please look in your heart to determine if it is right for you.

Article about SAA

<http://www.projectknow.com/research/sex-addicts-anonymous/>

SAA Web Site: Descriptions/ Meeting Locations

<https://saa-recovery.org/Meetings/UnitedStates/meeting.php?state=NM>

## Thank You to Michael in prison, every bit helps. Together we can make a difference.

Just a quick note to let you both know of my deep appreciation for the kind and loving Christ-like work that you both do. I always fully enjoy your thoughtful newsletters. They are full of the information I need to know about,

especially my home state, New Mexico. You both sacrifice so much to help the least fortunate in today's society and their families. Yes, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has a great reward waiting for you. I know this in my heart. What

you do for us hurting individuals takes a great deal of your time and resources, so I would like to do my tiny part and help our cause, yours and mine, with this gift of a book of stamps. God Bless You Both - Michael



## AWA Loses in Pennsylvania's Highest Court

By Larry Neely . . . *What follows was composed utilizing portions of an analysis written by Aaron Marcus of the Defender Association of Philadelphia. We will endeavor to answer some of the most common questions that arise after a favorable decision has been handed down.*



The Pennsylvania Supreme Court held that the current (2012) version of Pennsylvania's Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, hereinafter referenced as "SORNA," is punishment and cannot be applied retroactively. [See \*Commonwealth v. Muniz\*](#)

The challenge was brought by Jose M. Muniz who was convicted in 2007 of indecent assault of a minor in violation of 18 Pa.C.S. § 3126(a)(7). Sentencing was scheduled for May 8, 2007; however, Mr. Muniz failed to appear. Had he appeared, he would have been ordered to register as a sex offender with the Pennsylvania State Police for a period of ten (10) years pursuant to Megan's Law III (SORNA's Predecessor), which was the statutory scheme in effect at that time. During his absence from the state, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed SORNA, which greatly expanded the duration of registration and obligations imposed on those subject to sex offender registration. When Mr. Muniz was finally sentenced, the current version was in effect, and he was classified as a lifetime registrant. He challenged SORNA, asserting that the law was punitive and cannot apply retroactively. After years of litigation, five justices on the state's high court agreed. The Court declared that SORNA's registration provisions constitute punishment under Article 1, Section 17 of the Pennsylvania Constitution — Pennsylvania's Ex Post Facto Clause. The Court held:

- SORNA's registration provisions constitute punishment notwithstanding the General Assembly's identification of the provisions as nonpunitive;
- retroactive application of SORNA's registration provisions violates the federal ex post facto clause; and

retroactive application of SORNA's registration provisions also violates the ex post facto clause of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

This decision is a significant departure from prior Pennsylvania decisions as well as the Supreme Court's decision in *Smith v. Doe*, 538 U.S. 84 (2003). The reasoning of the justices to get to this result is a little convoluted because several in the majority did not believe that the court needed to address the federal constitutional claim. Complicating the opinion slightly is how the five justices reached this single conclusion. Three justices concluded that SORNA is punitive under the federal Constitution's Ex Post Facto Clause. They applied the United Supreme Court's 7-prong test established in *Kennedy v. Mendoza-Martinez*, 372 U.S. 144 (1963), which was the framework relied upon in *Smith v. Doe*. The three justices held that despite the Legislature's expressed intent that SORNA be civil and non-punitive, the law imposes too many restrictions on individual liberty by requiring that registrants report in-person, potentially hundreds of times, and is too akin to historical punishments such as shaming and probation. Additionally, the court found that because SORNA imposes severe consequences on those "who in fact do not pose the type of risk to the community that the General Assembly sought to guard against" and includes "those convicted of offenses that do not specifically relate to a sexual act," the law is excessive and over-inclusive. Thus, SORNA is "punishment" and cannot constitutionally be applied retroactively.

Those same three justices also concluded that although the same test is applied under Pennsylvania law, Pennsylvania's ex post facto provision is broader and

provides greater protection than the federal clause, thus ensuring that SORNA's retroactive application independently violates state law as well.

Two justices concurred in the result and in much of the lead opinion's reasoning but got there in slightly different ways. Two justices concluded that there was no reason to render a decision under the federal Constitution and be-

lieved that the same result could be obtained under the state Constitution exclusively. The likely effect of the decision is that the registration terms of thousands of registrants across Pennsylvania (whose periods of registration increased dramatically on the date SORNA took effect) may be returned to their original terms. This means that hundreds could suddenly find that they have completed their original registration terms and will now be removed from Pennsylvania's registry altogether.

This is a big win for registrants, and when combined with the Sixth Circuit's analysis in *Does v. Snyder*, 834 F.3d 696 (6th Cir. 2016), there is an unambiguous message to legislators that they cannot continue: (1) adding more and more restrictions within their registration schemes; and (2) increasing periods of registration at will. We caution everyone not to become too giddy because the court did not find that registration, in and of itself, is unconstitutional; rather, they found the 2012 version unconstitutional as applied to Mr. Muniz. And the Court's ruling does not address whether SORNA is punitive as applied prospectively because Mr. Muniz did not have legal standing to assert that claim. It is noteworthy that since the highest court in PA has now found that SORNA is punishment, that may open the door to new challenges whether the current scheme can continue to be enforced prospectively.







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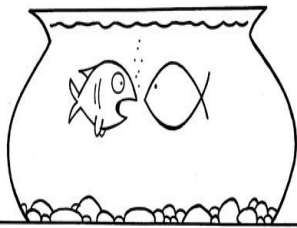
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Hebrew 13:3 - Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

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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"Can't we talk about something besides religion for a change?"

**This newsletter needs your brief answers to prayer, drawings, jokes, personal testimonies and currant news articles. Please indicate this is for the newsletter.**



An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%.

The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

—via George Goldtrap  
Ormand-by-the-Sea, FL



Mary had a little lamb,  
His fleece was white as snow,  
And everywhere that Mary went,  
The Lamb was sure to go.  
He followed her to school each day.  
Twasn't even in the rule.  
He made the children laugh and play,  
To have a Lamb at school.  
And then the rules all changed one day,  
Illegal it became;  
To bring the Lamb of God to school,  
Or even speak his Name  
Every day got worse and worse,  
And days turned into years.  
Instead of hearing children laugh,  
We heard gun shots and tears.  
What must we do to stop the crime,  
That's in our schools today?  
Let's let the Lamb come back to school,  
And teach our kids to pray!

## Circle of Concern



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 offenders, family and friends that meet together on the 2nd Sunday of each month. We are meeting this month on September 10th, 2017 at 6 pm—8 pm. We will be having a potluck.

We meet at Foothills Fellowship 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.