

Titus House Newsletter

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

Hi, my name is Johnny.

As I write a brief testimony of my life, I hope to encourage you wherever you may be in life. Most of us never expected to land in prison, but we did. Is life over? No, no, no, no!!!! Put your hand into the only hand that will help you rise above your past and your fears of what lies ahead in the future. That would be our Lord and Savior Jesus.

I was 5 years old when my dad got killed in an off-shore accident. My mother was a great parent, but unable to fill the void of a father. I grew up without the confidence that I needed to become a young man. I believe God's hand was on me even when I didn't know Him. I have had a lot of bad things happen in my life and for some divine reason I was able to let it roll off and keep moving forward. I never was popular and never sought to be. I was friends with popular and non-popular people.

I found music at a very young age. As a matter of fact, it was shortly after my dad passed away. I began playing piano by ear and seemed to pick it up quickly. I would go to friend's houses that had a piano and would sit and play to my hearts content. It wasn't until almost 7 years of age

my mother finally learned that I could play. After her learning, she went out and bought me a piano. It was on then. I soon began picking out tunes and singing while I played.

Music is probably what kept me in school. I was in band and choir. After entering into high school, I didn't have much interest in academic studies. So I didn't do great, other than Band and Choir. I finally graduated and was old enough to venture out. I began partying, although I never let it interfere with my job. I kind of got with the wrong crowd, but never got into trouble. That was something I always kept away from. After about 23 year old, everything started to fall apart. Oil field went down and there was no work. That was all I knew. One thing led to another and I just got mentally distressed.

Not knowing what to do, I turned to God. I was saved, filled with the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I was so excited about this new life. I began devouring the Word of God. I studied and prayed every chance I got. I began feeling the call to the ministry. As I began to hear the voice of God, It led me to even deeper prayer. I can remember the Lord speaking to my heart and telling me His hand had been preparing me

all these years. He was preparing me for what was not going to be an easy journey in this life. Through many trials and much tribulation was I to go through, and it was to prepare me for the road up ahead.

In the ministry, I always reached out to the undesirable, to the ones most of the people in the church really didn't want. It would just get my goat when these pillars of the church would snub nose these people. I soon let that and the attacks against me get the best of me. I lost heart and soon fell away. It wasn't long that I began playing music for a living and just went back into the world full circle. I still had no desire to be popular and make it big time in the music industry. I had the opportunity to play with some top recording artists.

As time progressed, I quit playing music and began my own paint business. I was doing fairly well for myself and then the knock on the door. Police showed up on my doorstep and took me in for questioning. I would now begin a new journey in this life. I was being accused of a sex offence. That was an eye opener for me. It took 3 years before I went to trial. I had started hoping for the best, but preparing for the worst. I began preparing



myself spiritually. After much prayer, I knew that I was going to prison. I was sentenced to 6 years and for some reason, I had peace about it. I just asked the Lord to keep His hand on me. I was involved to some extent in the ministry in the prison that I was at. I led worship and ministered to other inmates that were going through hard times. My time went by very quickly.

I have been out for 2 years and 2 months now. I have learned some new skills and hope to get a business started within a year. God taught me through my time in prison that He is sufficient. I have learned to be content with the basic necessities in life. I don't need all the frills and thrills to make me happy. But the one thing that I need is God in my life. He has made a way for me. He seems to provide all my needs. I am not perfect, but I strive to be honest with Him. He has given me the ability to not be bitter, or walk with unforgiveness toward anybody that has meant harm to me.

My message from Him to you is your life is not over in prison or after prison if you will just seek His face and put your trust in Him. He is the WAY MAKER. Learn from every challenge that you face. He knows your heart better than you do.

Poem from Jonathan S.

Through so many hard times;
You have come to my call;
You're always there to pick me up after I fall;
You always tell me something that encourages me to carry on

You're always on my side,
Correcting me when I'm wrong;
For All these things, I just have to tell you this;
Thank you for everything you have ever done for me.
I love you God.

Prisoners Literature Project

c/o Bound Together Books
1369 Haight St
San Francisco, CA 94117

Prison Library Project
c/o The Claremont Forum

915-C W. Foothill Blvd,
PMB 128
Claremont, CA 91711

DC Books to Prisons
PO Box 34190
Washington, DC 20043-4190

Send list of subjects interested in. The more subjects the better chances to get things.



From NARSOL and Criminal Legal News

Coast to Coast, Sex Offender Residency Restrictions Waste Money, Create Havoc by Sandy Rozek

If every shred of evidence showed that traffic lights, while costing large amounts of resources to install, did nothing to decrease auto accidents and actually created a host of undesirable consequences, would cities still install them at every major intersection?

This is exactly what happens with the creation of what are euphemistically called “child safety zones.”

The emergence of sex-offender registration and notification laws in the mid-1990s created awareness of convicted sexual offenders living throughout communities and neighborhoods. This led to the notion that restricting these individuals from living (and often from just being) within close proximity to areas where children congregate would help prevent the sexual victimization of children. Today, 35 states have statewide residency restrictions, and many of the others allow individual jurisdictions to establish them.

This ignores the most basic fact about child molestation, a fact that has long been known but largely ignored: Children are not sexually abused by strangers lurking in parks and school playgrounds. Virtually all molestation of children is committed by those in the children’s lives in trusted positions, the majority in private residences.

The clamor for residency restrictions

Every month, new communities demand the creation of these “protected” areas for children. These are prominent headlines from the past few months.

In New York: “Cuomo seeks 1000-foot boundary for sex offenders around schools”;

In Maine: “Lawmakers seek to close loophole on residency restrictions for registered sex offenders”;

In Florida: “Possible ordinance would limit where sex offenders can live”; and

In California: “Vidak authors measure to limit where sex offenders can live”

Research shows these laws to be ineffective

The first research study done (Minnesota Department of Corrections, 2007), showed that residency restrictions would not have prevented any re-offenses.

Since then, numerous studies — academic, private, and governmental — have been done. Not one has shown a different result.

California is one of the more prominent states for establishing these restrictions. Yet their own Sex Offender Management Board makes this statement: “There is no research which supports the use of these strategies [residency and proximity restrictions], there is substantial research showing that such policies have no effect on preventing recidivism, and there is a growing body of research which indicates that residence restrictions actually increase sex offender recidivism [for violations and petty crime, not for re-offense] and decrease community safety.”

An academic study published in Sage Journals (2002) by experts in the field concludes: “... the residence restriction policy was not associated with a meaningful change in sex crime arrests or sex offender recidivism after the policy implementation date, suggesting that the residence restriction did not achieve its intended goal of reducing recidivism.”

Likewise, a comprehensive Department of Justice study, published in July 2015, states, “[T]he evidence is fairly clear that residence restrictions are not effective. In fact, the research suggests that residence restrictions may actually increase offender risk by undermining offender stability and the ability of the offender to obtain housing, work, and family support. There is nothing to suggest this policy should be used at this time.”

And finally, Kansas Department of Corrections officials are so strongly opposed to sex offender residency restrictions that they devote a full page on their website to enumerating and explaining 20 reasons why.

Problems, problems, problems

Aside from wasting resources on policy that does not even address the problem it is intended to solve and creating conditions that interfere with offender stability and rehabilitation, new problems have emerged.

2006 was the year that Tulsa, Oklahoma, implemented residency restrictions. “2006 just turned our world upside down, prior to that we had 15 to 20 (failure to register) violations a year. Since that we have hundreds of violations a year,” stated Sgt. John Adams of the Tulsa Police Department. “Legislators felt that if we put all of this off limits, they’ll just move out of state. That didn’t happen, they just stopped registering,” Adams continued. He noted that prior to 2006 there were about 680 registered sex offenders, but now, there are fewer than 400.

In California, communities found a huge increase in its homeless sex offender population. “Within five years of passage of a law that restricts where sex offenders can live, the number of them listed as transient had risen from 88 to 1,986.” Tom Tobin, vice chairman of the California Sex Offender Management Board, trying to explain why clearly contradicted policy is implemented, said, “We do things that are not so wise, because we want to do something.”

And in Michigan, homelessness and registry compliance are not the only problems. Homelessness means no available source of electricity, required on a regular basis for charging GPS systems, which some on the registry are required to wear.

“DOC records show some homeless offenders avoid this logistical challenge by absconding — removing their bracelets or letting them run out of power — which completely defeats the purpose of GPS monitoring.”

A totally failed system

Compelling logical, factual reasons to totally abolish distance restrictions in residence and presence for those required to be on sex-offender registries include: (1) absolutely no validation from empirical evidence; (2) conditions which contradict every valid opinion and statistic about rehabilitation; (3) a complete failure in solving the problem it is intended to address; and (4) the creation of problems that cause a decrease in public safety and destroy lives.

What are we waiting for?



Detainee sat in human waste for 18 days in private prison transport van

RT QUESTION MORE

A detainee was forced to endure an almost three-week journey between Virginia and Texas in a privately-owned prisoner transport van. A lawsuit alleges he was denied medication, inadequately fed, and forced to sit in human waste.

Edward Kovari was arrested in Winchester, Virginia, in 2016 on suspicion of stealing a car in Houston. While his charges were later dropped, a lawsuit filed in Virginia alleges that Kovari suffered inhumane conditions while en route to Houston, a violation of his 14th Amendment rights, reported the Washington Post.

The van, operated by Prisoner Transportation Services, stopped several times in seven states to pick up more prisoners. The normally 20-hour journey took 18 days.

Kovari was shackled tightly in chains, and denied his prescription medication for hypertension. When the van arrived in Houston, Kovari was unable to walk and his blood pressure was above 200, the lawsuit alleges.

Throughout the journey, cramped conditions meant that Kovari could not sleep for days on end. Water was rationed and detainees were occasionally fed fast food. In lieu of bathroom breaks, the prisoners were instructed to

urinate in bottles or defecate in their clothes.

Kovari's calls for medical attention were ignored, and he was threatened with tasing for causing a disturbance, the suit alleges.

Prisoner Transportation Services is America's largest for-profit extradition company. Picking up as many prisoners in the same journey allows companies like this to maximize profits. Tens of thousands of prisoners are packed into vans every year, and multiple deaths and injuries have occurred in these "mobile jails."



For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."—Hebrews 13:5 By Greg Laurie

It would have been easy for the Hebrew teenagers Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to think that God may have forgotten about them. The king had given a decree that everyone should fall down and worship a golden image he had erected of himself. When certain music was played, everyone in the kingdom was ordered to lie prostrate in worship. But there, standing up defiantly like three sore thumbs, were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. It was teenage rebellion channeled in the right direction. The king, however, didn't like their rebelling. He was so enraged that he ordered his guards to heat the furnace seven times hotter. The heat was

so intense that when the guards took the three Hebrew teenagers to the brink of the furnace, they were overcome by the



flames and died. But the king took a hard look, and inside he saw four, not three, individuals walking around in the fire. Where was God in all of this? He was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the furnace. We always say, "Lord, get me out of this. Keep me

from problems, Lord." But the Lord is saying, "There are times when I will answer that prayer, and there are times when I will walk with you through the hard days. But know this: I will never leave you or forsake you. "Being a Christian doesn't mean you never will have another problem. Being a Christian doesn't mean that life will be easy. But it does mean a lot of things. It means you never will be alone again, no matter what you face in life. You will have Jesus Christ there with you, interceding for you, helping you, and walking with you through it. Sometimes God delivers us from the trial, and sometimes He delivers us in it.

Lifetime GPS Tracking Is Not Punishment, Says Wisconsin Supreme Court

The court relies on a debunked recidivism estimate to justify tagging and surveillance of sex offenders.

Jacob Sullum

Last week the Wisconsin Supreme Court unanimously ruled that defendants need not be informed that pleading guilty to certain sex crimes will subject them to lifetime GPS monitoring because that requirement is not a punishment. In reaching that conclusion, the court relied on a widely cited but fictitious recidivism estimate as well as the

familiar but dubious assumption that a state's asserted interest in promoting public safety justifies the burdens and restrictions it imposes on sex offenders long after they have completed their sentences.

Under Wisconsin law, people convicted of serious sex offenses involving minors are required to wear GPS transmitters on their ankles for the rest of their lives unless they leave the state, become permanently incapacitated, or successfully petition a court for relief after 20 years. The Department of Corrections

reviews tracking data every night and receives alerts whenever an offender leaves an "inclusion area," enters an "exclusion area," or tampers with his GPS device. Malfunctions and signal loss that cause erroneous alerts can lead to arrest, jail, and loss of employment.

The court notes that the tracker, which "can cause blistering, especially when wet," creates a noticeable bulge and is visible whenever the offender wears shorts or sits down. It includes a speaker that can be used to issue commands or reminders, **CONTINUE PAGE 4 GPS**



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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



GPS

which "can be heard by anyone within earshot of the offender," who has to sit near an electrical outlet one hour a day to recharge it.

In addition to facilitating constant surveillance, then, GPS tracking conspicuously marks anyone who wears it as someone to be shunned, feared, despised, and perhaps worse. That mark of shame compounds the stigma associated with registration as a sex offender, which also entails restrictions on where people can live, work, or "loiter." But according to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, the public shaming is incidental to the main purpose of GPS tracking, which is regulatory rather than punitive. "In light of the 'frightening and high' rate of recidivism for sex offenders," the court says, "the relatively minimal intrusion of lifetime GPS tracking...is not excessive in relation to protecting the public."

That "frightening and high" quote comes from a 2002 opinion by Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, who asserted that "the rate of recidivism of untreated offenders has been estimated to be as high as 80%." Kennedy seems to have gotten that number from Solicitor General Ted Olson, who cited a DOJ manual that in turn relied on an unreferenced 1986 estimate in *Psychology Today*. That estimate has been debunked repeatedly and repudiated by its original source. It nevertheless lives on in the decisions of courts across America, justifying all manner of restrictions on sex

offenders.

The continued reliance on fanciful recidivism numbers can be crucial in cases like this, where the difference between a regulation and a punishment depends partly on whether the burdens imposed by a law are disproportionate to its impact on public safety. If the annual risk that a sex offender will commit a new crime is not



"frightening and high" but, as the evidence indicates, low and shrinking over time, forcing a 70-year-old who served time for a sex offense half a century ago to continue wearing a GPS transmitter makes even less sense than it does on its face.

Another important factor in the Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision was the supposed constitutionality of continuing to imprison

sex offenders after they have completed their sentences, which SCOTUS has said is fine as long as you remember to call the place where they are confined a "treatment center" rather than a prison. "Lifetime GPS tracking," the Wisconsin Supreme Court says, "provides a middle ground between releasing dangerous sex offenders into the public wholly unsupervised and civil commitment."

In other words, if you are required to wear a conspicuous ankle monitor that is used to keep you in your "inclusion areas" and out of your "exclusion areas" for the rest of your life, you should shut up and be grateful that you get to walk about in public at all. When indefinite imprisonment does not count as a punishment, any burden that falls short of that is a mere inconvenience that can easily be justified by "frightening and high" recidivism rates, even when those rates are pulled out of thin air.

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 3rd Sunday of each month. We are meeting this month on July 15th, 2018 at 4 pm—6 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.