

Titus House Newsletter

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

OCTOBER
2018



Since Getting Out!

My name is Steve, I'm 62 now, but at the time I entered prison in Jan. of 2011 I was 55 and completely settled in my ways. Well, I kissed my ways goodbye. Even with all the changes that were forced on me, I did volunteer one, and that was that I quit smoking! Since I was already used to it in prison and didn't have the money to start again once I got out, I decided to stay quit!

The comforts and prestige I enjoyed before any of my legal problems started would remain in the past as I slowly started realizing all my pluses were negatives now!

I was too old to start looking for work to make anyone think I was reliable. I had a foreclosure, a bankruptcy, 4 felonies and terrible credit. I needed the bus to get around and on top of all that stuff, I was an S.O.! I thought all those things I might be able to overcome as I had always been a great employee!! Boy, was I wrong. When I started out looking for work, I still was confident I could find work, no problem. I soon discovered that even though I had always been a great employee with great attendance and great references, the door was always slammed in my face so many times I don't care to count! I remember I used to be able to sneeze and get a job. But, not anymore!

I was so blessed to end up at Roswell Correctional Facility at the time I did as I play guitar and I had never played with such good musicians. I had heard Roswell didn't even have anybody playing guitar just a few months before. So to have all those good musicians around me was great. But, when I got out it seemed I had left those blessings behind because no doors were opening for me. I had got it in my head that I could put my CDL class B to use, but no one would hire me, till finally I just gave up and accepted the first job that came along, which was Octopus Car Wash on Eubank and Menaul and later became Mister Car Wash. I'm still there on a part time basis as I collect partial Social Security.

Life became easier. I lost the ankle bracelet, I moved out of La Pasada halfway house, got a one bedroom apt. that's very affordable by myself so I don't have to get a roommate and saved enough to get an '05 Dodge Ram in great shape. So now, I work part time and collect a thousand dollars a month from SS. I began going to a

small church on Tramway called Foothills Fellowship and found my way into the worship group playing guitar and was given a lot of leeway to play the way I wanted as a lead guitarist and the musicians there are great, I love it!!

Through it all, I always prayed and thanked God for my life, though I hadn't always felt like it and even complained. But, I always have to consider that anecdote which goes., "I complained about having no shoes, until I met a man that had no feet". The Lord always blessed me with "loving kindness and tender mercies".

Finally, when getting out never forget, you have a friend in Titus House. A place of refuge from the Torch and Pitchfork crowd that have not been able to judge enough people. Thank; Steve Norcott





A Call to Registrants Who Have Been to Florida—Florida Action Committee

A registered individual goes to Florida on vacation and does the right thing by registering with the Sheriff's office in the county where he is vacationing, presuming he'll only be on the registry during the time he is in Florida. WRONG!

Although he is only required to register in his home state for 10 years and eventually is removed at the end of 10 years, he will be on the Florida sex offender registry for life! That's because Florida, to inflate the registry count, keeps people on its public sex offender registry after they return to their home states, move out of Florida, are deported, or even die!

The purpose of "Megan's Law" is to inform the public of "dangerous" people in their communities. But what purpose does Florida's registry serve when the individual is no longer in the community and no longer in the state? Only to create shame for life!

Worse, Florida is perhaps the only state that allows its registry to be indexed by search engines. This means that if you Google your name, your sex offender flyer comes right up. As harmful as this is for registrants in Florida, it's particularly harmful and unnecessary for registrants who are no longer in the state, who are not on a publicly indexed registry in their own states, or who have

been removed from the registry in their home states.

Less than half the people on the Florida sex offender registry are living in Florida communities. Less than half!

Individuals on the Florida registry who are no longer in Florida, coordinated in conjunction with the Florida Action Committee, are looking to bring a lawsuit against the State seeking their removal from the Florida registry. If anyone is interested in participating or contributing to this challenge, please contact legal@floridaactioncommittee.org.

The cost of speaking good of a convicted sexual offender— By Sandy from NARSOL

One of the most damaging attitudes toward those convicted of sexual crimes is that they can never again do anything noble or worthy, that they are forever criminals. This is the underlying justification for registries and restrictions that block rather than encourage rehabilitative initiatives.

At least equally damaging, however, is the insistence that not only do their crimes make impossible any future worth but also wipe out any good, worth, or value from before the commission of the crime.

I have written on this subject before in the case of a war hero and Purple Heart recipient being treated as though his former heroism was totally negated by a subsequent act of sexual misconduct.

A month ago Kristie Torbick, a guidance counselor at Exeter High School in New Hampshire, received a sexual conviction for a situation involving one of

the students she counseled. When some of her peers and colleagues wrote letters on her behalf and spoke favorable of her past at her sentencing hearing, they received harsh criticism, and I wrote about it then.

And now some of those who offered letters or words attesting to Kristie Torbick's dedication and skill at her job find themselves without one.

The fall-out is difficult to assess and highly unlikely to be over.

The casualties thus far are a school guidance counselor and a school superintendent, both who have "resigned," and a Plymouth State University professor who has lost her job. Another two professors must attend "additional training on sexual assault" before being allowed to resume their classes. Community members are calling for additional firings of high school teachers who offered support to Ms. Torbick.

New Hampshire's ACLU has become

involved the situation.

People do not commit crimes in isolation to the rest of their lives. Before they cross the line, some lives clearly indicate the path upon which they are headed. Some lives are unremarkable and ordinary. And some have lives of service, dedication, and self-sacrifice.

Just as with the myths that insist those who have sexual convictions can never again be trusted, this determination to remove every vestige of good from the history of persons who have erred sexually is wrong. It reduces the individual to his or her offense and nothing more. It refuses the truth that each and every individual is a complex mechanism comprised of good and bad, noble acts and misdeeds, the glorious and the tarnished.

And in so doing, it denies humanity to our brothers, our sisters, and to ourselves.



Free Books—by Dennis K. in Mule Creed Stat Prison, Ione, CA

We wanted you to know about a couple of places that offer free books and magazines and devotionals.

Durland Alternatives Library, Prisoner Express, 127 Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University Campus, Ithaca, NY, 14853-1001

Providence Books Through Bars, Providence Books Through Bars, c/o Paper Nautilus Books, 5 Angell Street, Providence, RI 02906

Human Kindness Foundation, PO Box 61619, Durham, NC 27715

Inmate Magazine Service, PO Box 2063, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

Devotionals

Guidepost, PO Box 5843, Harlan, IA 51593-3343

Our Daily Bread, PO Box 270, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0270



The Smoking Dragon

My name doesn't matter. I could be anyone of you. After 14 years in prison and doing all my parole in-house I left prison as a free man except having to register, but that's another story. I used to smoke cigarettes and do drugs when I was on the streets but going to prison broke me of that nightmare, I thought. The first thing I did as a free man was to pick up a cigarette. What could just a little cig do to me, except to bring back my smoker's cough? One thing led to another; soon I was back drinking alcohol, medical marijuana, cocaine and heroin. Who knows I could have picked up another charge being drunk or high one night and end

up back in prison. It was then I fell to my knees and asked God for help. Through the help of my Higher Power



and Titus House, I was able to kick the smoking dragon and other addictions. Brothers and Sisters I just want to warn you and plead with you do not pick up

that first cigarette when you leave prison. It is a slippery slope and hard to get back up. If it wasn't for my faith in Jesus Christ which was strengthened while I was in prison, I'd probably be back there with you like so many people before. I now attend the Titus House's Circle of Concern and join Don and Alice at church. Life is back on the right road again and I have been free again from that smoking dragon for 5 years. So if the Son has set you free, you will be free indeed (John 8:36).

BEFORE AND AFTER PRAYERS- by Manuel R., Angleton, TX

Father God, I'm asking for help now. I realize that I can't do it on my own. I have tried all the helps of the world and nothing has been able to save me from the mess I've made of my life. Through all of this I still feel lost, alone, unworthy, uncontrollable, hurting, un-loved, beat down.... I don't have much to offer you but myself, and of myself is not much. I'll understand if you don't have time for me. No one else makes time for me. I'm sorry for how I look. I feel as if I'm just discarded trash but, I've heard you can still use me. They say one man's trash is another man's treasure. I hope to be your treasure. I hope You can find something for me to do even though I've messed up everything I've tried to far: my school, my marriage, kid's lives, family, career.... I just don't know if I can do anything right anymore. They also say you look at the heart, but I'm sorry, mine is de-

stroyed. I miss my kids so much I sometimes feel as if my heart just quits. So it doesn't have to hurt anymore. Sometimes I wish it would quit. If there



is anything You think You can do for me or with me, I'm giving You my all now. I'm done fighting. I'm too tired. Please, please help me. I do love You. I know I need You. I just don't know

what else to do. If You decide to help me or not, thank You for listening to me. In Jesus name, AMEN

Dear Friends, Above is a prayer I prayed along way back and seeing where I am at now... WOW!! I know now God listens. I came across it and thought I'd share it with ya'll and maybe be able to let others see how I felt before Christ and how I am now that I have Christ in my life. I felt beyond repairable before but now I feel indestructible. Now some things haven't changed but I can see how God is working on these things. And some things I have to let go of. But now I see through His eyes. Now I want to live in His will and not my own. I love HIM so much now and know HE loves me too!! Thank you Jesus for helping me!!

*I will not forget you.
I have carved you on the
palm of my hand
Isaiah 49:15*



Titus House Ministries

PO Box 2376
Tijeras, NM 87059

Phone: (505) 286-8807
Alice's Cell (505) 259-0867
Don's Cell: (505) 315-7940
Email: donmagicjohnston@gmail.com

We're on the Web
titushouseministries.org

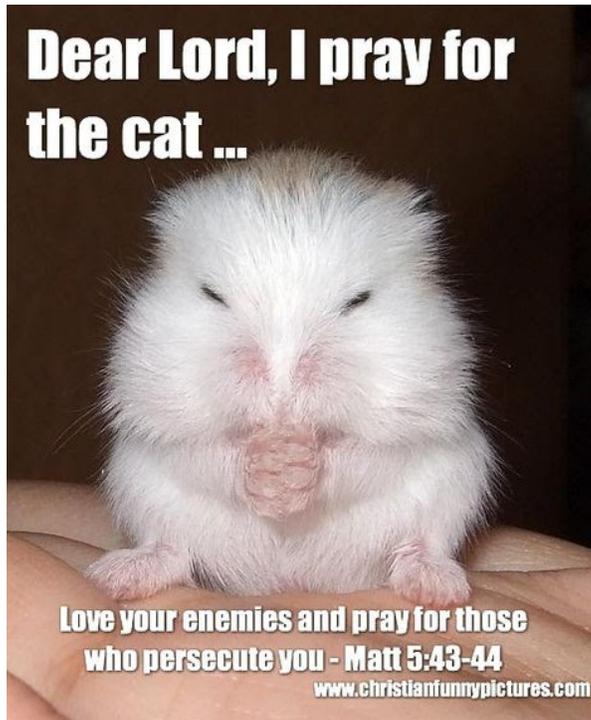
Hebrew 13:3 - Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Remember if you change your address you need to let us know if you want to continue to receive this newsletter



Inmate John wants to know if you have the answers?

If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?
If a deaf child signs swear words, does his mother wash his hands with soap?
Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all?"
Would a fly without wings be called a "walk"?
If a turtle does not have a shell is he homeless or naked?
Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?
Why do they put braille on drive-through bank machines?
Can an atheist buy insurance against "acts of God"?
How important do you have to be to be considered assassinated instead of just murdered?



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 October 21, 2018 at 4 pm—6 pm. We will be having a potluck. We meet at Foothills Fel-



lowship 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. If you are planning to attend call Don at (505) 315-7940.