

Titus House Newsletter

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

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40 Years in Prison by Mike

My name is Mike. I spent nearly 40 years of my life in prison, in and out. I loved those drugs. Always I'd get caught up in a stolen vehicle, kept on stealing them to hustle for my dope. I was at Hobbs, NM for my last nine years. Another person doing time, Smiley, a good person when male PMS didn't get him, told me, "Mike if you come back you're going to die in here." Thank you Smiley, made me think. Had a cellie named Andrew. I told Andrew, a true Christian that I'd never pick up a Bible. Dumb me, should know at my age never to say "never." Thank you Andrew. Well, as prison is, don't get comfortable. They shipped all old folks to Los Lunas Level II. "Don't worry," they said. By January 1st there were all old people, no youngsters, at the old man medical facility. So now I'm in dorms, 1980-82 at the Main. It wasn't too bad. Being old and grumpy, it was not cool in dorms. I was lucky, I was a

caretaker and got a dollar an hour. It was a job I liked and could do. I hated every day of my time at Los Lunas. A lifetime friend of mine, went to grade school, junior high, Boys Town Nebraska, Springer, the main Los Lunas. The last time I saw Carl Olona he was a 300 pound man, a true Christian. I'm told he weighed little over 100 pounds when he died. He had been down 35 years or so. They wouldn't even let him die a free man. I remembered again what Smiley from Cruces told me: "Come back and you'll die in here Mike." In the past when time to get out, no big deal, if I did I did. At Los Lunas I drove my caseworker crazy. I can say he was a good caseworker. Mr. Meeks I think was his name. This time I didn't tell everyone I'll



be back. I said, "I won't be back!" I ran into Don Johnston at a program one day at La Pasada. I remembered him well. He had old Platta with him. Don asked me to come to Bible study. I did – they even sent people looking for me. Alice, Don's wife, a really

good Christian woman, gave me a Bible. I threw it under my bed, didn't even think about it. When I moved into my own place I pulled up the mattress and the Bible was there. I took it out, have been reading the Our Daily Bread daily and it gives reference to Bible verses. For 40 years in and out I've told people I'd never even pick up a Bible.

Well, now I live in the mountains, I go to church each week. I killed my parole, got 5 years probation but with no violations I can be discharged by the courts after two and a half years. I'm doing

good and like doing good. I bought a car and it was a rip off. Let it go and got a deal on another car for \$1000. I am still paying for the car and it runs well. Yes, I bought a car, didn't steal it, didn't rent it with others credit cards! It's mine!

I can't tell you I'm, a Christian at this point, but I can tell you in the near future I will be. I decided until I read the entire Bible I wouldn't ask the Lord. I feel it's a matter of respecting God's Word and understanding it. Yes, my friends, if I can make it and change and seek the Lord's way and forgiveness anybody can. Prison is simply a waste of your time and life.

Alice's comment: In talking with Mike as I write this, Mike assures me he has prayed and asked God into his life. He wants to read the whole Bible and he prays he has enough of life left to do so. God bless you Mike. We enjoy having you as a neighbor.



JANICE'S JOURNAL: REGISTRY CONTINUES TO GROW BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS

The registry continues to grow by leaps and bounds. In fact, the registry grew by almost 5 percent during the past 12 months. That means there are currently more than 912,000 people on the registry in the U.S., an increase of 42,001, according to The Dobbs Wire.

The recent increases in the number of people on the registry are not uniform throughout the nation. In fact, the number of registrants decreased in the states of Vermont and Kentucky as well as in the District of Columbia.

But in the vast majority of the nation's 50 states, the number of registrants increased significantly. The greatest

increases were in the states of New York, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas where the number of registrants grew by at least 5,000 in each state. The percentages of increase were the highest in South Carolina with about 40 percent and in New York with about 18 percent. Overall, the states of California and Texas continue to claim the highest number of registrants with the California total at 106,916 and the Texas total at 99,511.

What is the message we are to learn from the significant growth in the number of registrants? The message is that society has not yet learned from its

mistakes. That is, society continues to believe that increasing the number of registrants will increase public safety.

This message is, of course, contrary to the fact that public safety is decreased, not increased, as the number of registrants continue to grow. Why? Because a growing number of registrants and their families may become unstable as they face the new challenges of unemployment and even homelessness. Because the real danger of sexual assault is not found on the list of registrants but instead in families, schools and churches.

PEOPLE QUESTION LEGALITY OF SEX OFFENDER LIVING IN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY

FORT CALHOUN, Neb. (WOWT) – Concerns have been raised over a registered sex offender who is living in an assisted living community in Fort Calhoun.

A few people connected to those living in the community are questioning whether or not the arrangement is legal.

There are 48 apartments for seniors at

the Autumn Pointe Assisted Living Services. One of those units is occupied by a registered sex offender, but the company officials said no one living in the community is at risk.

Amy Wilcox Burns works for Dimensions in Senior Living, the company that owns the assisted living community in Fort Calhoun. She said she understands the concern.

“Oh a hundred percent, a hundred

percent what I would tell you is we wouldn't have admitted this gentleman if it had been something illegal and if we had concerns for our residents, our staff and the community,” Burns said.

Dave Woodard has a friend that lives in the complex, and doesn't think it's ok.

“I think it's terrible, 'cause to be in a place like this where they're treating people decently and you got somebody in there that's like, I don't know, it's a danger hiding in a bad corner,” he said.

By [Nick Schager](#) . . . According to *Untouchable*, there's a reason most Americans think sex offenders, and [pedophiles in particular](#), are incurable, and thus destined to relapse: 2002's [McKune v. Lile](#), in which Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in a plurality opinion that there was a “frightening and high risk of recidivism” for such predators, and that “the rate of recidivism of untreated offenders has been estimated to be as high as 80 percent.” That statement has since been used in numerous legal verdicts as well as to support countless pieces of state and local legislation aimed at curbing the rights of those found guilty of crimes against kids. In doing so, it's become de facto common wisdom, almost universally accepted as a bedrock truth about individuals who possess child pornography or abuse (or have improper relations with) a minor.



The problem? The sole piece of evidence that led Justice Kennedy to make such a bold claim came from a 1986 *Psychology Today* article written by Ronald Longo, a counselor who ran a treatment program in an Oregon prison—and there was absolutely no statistical basis for his “80 percent” assertion. Moreover, Longo himself has since rejected that figure. . . .

The reason the aforementioned *McKune v. Lile* decision is so stunning is that, by

all accounts, actual sex-offender recidivism rates are low. In three-year studies done by Connecticut, Alaska, Nebraska, Maine, New York and California, recidivism figures are generally less than 4 percent—hardly a “frightening and high” figure. Furthermore, most conclude that there's no correlation between recidivism rates and geographic proximity, meaning

that laws passed to keep registered sex offenders from living close to schools, playgrounds, or other kid-centric areas generally have no impact; if wrongdoers are likely to seek prey nearby, it's often in their own homes, or in churches or educational settings, where they know their intended targets. If *Untouchable* is to be believed—and its statistical case appears reasonably solid—then that's a forceful repudiation of how we think about, and treat, sex offenders.



RIT study is Butner Redux déjà vu

From NARSOL

Michael M . . . A recent study conducted by researchers at the Rochester Institute of Technology, or RIT, is already being [cited](#) in Federal Court cases to support the false presumption of a high rate of unreported child molestations by those convicted of child pornography offenses. This is despite the fact that it suffers from exactly the same serious flaws and inaccuracies as the infamous and thoroughly [discredited “Butner Redux” study](#), which first appeared in the Journal of Family Violence in 2009.

For those who may be unfamiliar with the Butner Redux controversy, here are some of the basics. There were actually two studies conducted at FCI Butner. The “First Butner Study”, a preliminary study done in 2000, suggested a significantly higher rate of hands-on offenses among the population of child pornography offenders than had been known at the time of sentencing. That study involved just [sixty-two people](#) in a Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP) group, whose crimes “involved the production, distribution, receipt, and possession of child pornography, or involved luring a child and traveling across state lines to sexually abuse a child.”

Butner Study Redux, or the second study, was conducted between 2002 and 2005. It began with 201 SOTP participants and concluded with 155. The 46 exclusions were for voluntary withdrawals, expulsions, and one death. The results of the study suggested that at sentencing, 26% of the study subjects were known to have committed a hands-on offense against a minor. By the end of their SOTP treatment, 85% had admitted to molesting at least one child. The study’s conclusions were widely circulated in the media and cited by prosecutors in court cases to justify longer prison terms for CP defendants.

Almost immediately, the Butner studies came under intense scrutiny and criticism for institutional bias, sloppy methodology, misrepresentational sampling, flawed data gathering, and subject coercion.

First, let’s examine how this “peer reviewed study” first appeared in the Journal of Family Violence. From their submission guidelines: “Pay \$3000 for



Springer Open Choice [Plan] to have articles made available with full, open access.” The guidelines also state, “All manuscripts are assigned to an editor who will manage the external peer review process. The Journal encourages authors to recommend individuals who could be considered as reviewers [and] are given the opportunity to request the exclusion... of individuals.” In other words, the author gets to pick who does – and doesn’t – conduct the so-called “peer review.”

Second, let’s take a look at the *subjects* of the study. Each had been convicted of at least one federal sex crime which involved child pornography and was incarcerated in a federal prison. To characterize this sample as being typical of all persons in the general population outside of prison who have ever viewed child pornography would be somewhat akin to comparing those in federal prison for larceny with everyone who has ever stolen a candy bar.

Next, consider the way SOTP works. The foundational purpose of SOTP is to get participants to overcome denial, admit their wrongdoing, take responsibility for it, and commit to never offending again. It is typically, for all intents and purposes, a one-size-fits-all curriculum that unfortunately treats all sex offenders like violent rapists. It is extremely ill-equipped to address non-contact crimes such as internet crimes or child pornography. As a result, this often results in group facilitators and participants attempting to “shoe-horn” non-contact crimes into a “hands-on” criminal context for lesson plans and exercises.

Participants who minimize or justify their crimes are shamed or berated.

Anyone who claims to have been wrongly convicted is reprimanded and may be thrown out of the program. On the other hand, participants who *admit* to wrongdoing – *any* wrongdoing, even hypothetical acts or fantasizing about them – get rewarded.

One should also keep in mind the fact that the facilitator gets to define “sex crimes” however he or she likes. I once had an SOTP facilitator tell me that spooning with my wife while she sleeps is a sex crime, since she cannot give consent to being touched while sleeping! Participants were instructed by facilitators that their recollections didn’t need to be accurate and, in fact, *shouldn’t* be so accurate that they could result in being *charged* with additional crimes. Participants were even encouraged to include incidents that occurred when they were very young children.

In the end, many prison SOTP participants tell program facilitators exactly what they want to hear, since successful completion of SOTP can lead to their eventual freedom. The system is highly coercive and gives participants every reason to exaggerate or lie about any previously unreported offenses. After all, they have nothing to lose by doing so and everything to gain. In statistical terms, studies utilizing such methodologies suffer from “researcher demand characteristics.”

Fast forward to 2018, and researchers at the Rochester Institute of Technology have used *exactly* the same flawed methodology as Butner to [conclude](#): “More than half of the men on federal probation in western New York for child pornography possession had instances of sexual contact with children that were previously unknown to legal authorities.”

Respected researchers and statisticians should thoroughly examine the RIT study immediately and critically before it becomes another Butner “blunt force object” to be used by prosecutors nationwide to paint all CP defendants with the label of “unindicted child molester.”



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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



THOUGHTS FROM ALICE

We all survived Christmas and hope you did too. I am trying to stay close to my two sisters in law. They lost their husbands (my brothers) unexpectedly shortly before Christmas. We are so thankful both of my brothers were involved in the Lord's work, Bruce a missionary in Argentina and Dave an author of Christian books. We have planned a family reunion in heaven! Life is really short and I am challenged to make the most of it, reaching out to those we can help. It is so rewarding to see people who may have wasted much of their lives now turning to God for the years they have left. I realize

that I can waste a lot of time with useless pursuits, watching mindless TV shows and other such activities. My brother Bruce recently told me he believes we are in "end times" already and we need to be prepared for difficulties and challenges ahead. Brother Dave had published several books on end times and now both of them are experiencing heaven first hand. Many thanks for all the Christmas and greeting cards we have received. Don and I wish all of you a Happy New Year, the best one you ever had and closer to the door!

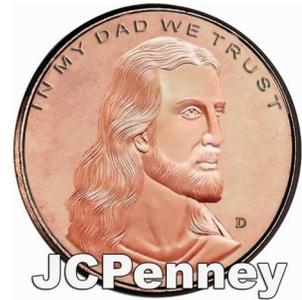
RED ALERT! BEWARE OF REGISTRY FEE SCAMS!

From Once Fallen

It has been reported all around the country that people are calling registered persons claiming there is a warrant for their arrest and that they can clear your name by wiring money. **THIS IS A SCAM!** Only the registration offices at the law enforcement agencies collect fees and you

would receive notices directly upon registration, **NEVER** over the phone and **NEVER** using money wires or Prepaid Debit cards.

Be Still
AND KNOW
THAT I AM GOD
-PSALM 46:10



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 citizens, family and friends that meet together on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We are meeting this month on February 17, 2019 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.

