

Titus House Newsletter

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

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Secret Poison

By Steven Waters

My name is Steve and I had a good Christian upbringing and thrived as an only child. In fact, my parents were great. However, my mind was altered by a seed that was planted as I looked at a magazine while I waited for a haircut-I was five. By the age of 10 I had convinced my step-father to buy me a subscription to that magazine (*Playboy*); one that I maintained until I was in my early twenties. Growing up my viewership extended to video, DVD, internet, and eventually the making of home videos. In 2000, I turned my life over to Jesus and served with abandon as a worship leader and sound technician. I have had the honor and joy to sing alongside many of those you hear on the radio today and have been in reverent awe of the grace of Christ for almost 20 years. Throughout my life I've had many good relationships, but the dark undertow was always lurking and eventually it surfaced and interfered with my marriage. When I got arrested I was at rock bottom-but God! He has been transforming and



using me since that day, blessing me to continue in ministry and bring contemporary worship to prison.

Sexual addiction is behavioral and it begins in the mind. Thoughts become imaginations; desires give birth to fantasies which turn into passions that burn for satisfaction. The human mind photographs what it sees and those images often remain in the subconscious until death. Our minds can bring those images to the surface whenever the occasion arises and we can be tempted to act out again. If unaddressed, eventually a desire becomes an action. Actions have consequences and the results that come from indulging in pornography are anything but pleasurable. The be-

ginning may appear sweet, but the end result is bitterness and death (Proverbs 5:3-5). Pornography ultimately attacks the family and it's a gateway to further illicit pursuits. Many people dabble in it and far too few understand the lingering effects of even the smallest exposure-fewer still take it seriously. The truth is pornography is eroding morality at an epidemic pace and it's being portrayed as normal and acceptable. This is a lie from the pit of hell.

Romans 12:1 says, "I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God-this is your true and proper worship." We believers now belong to Christ, but we didn't always. As long as we are in the flesh, Sa-

tan has the ability to mess with us **if we let him**. Any form of sexual immorality (*porneia*) mustn't be tolerated. It is a radiating sin with wide-ranging consequences. In 1 Corinthians 6:18, Paul tells us to "flee from sexual immorality". He says the best defense is to run away; away from the temptation and into Jesus's arms. Unfortunately, when we run our flesh goes with us and with it the unquenchable flame of lust. The flesh prefers pleasure over obedience. I heard a popular pastor explain it this way, "Right now, two dogs are fighting inside of you; a white dog and a black dog. Which will win?" His answer sent shockwaves through my soul: "The one you feed". God has trusted us with freedom that we can use for good or bad, so why do we often choose to feed the evil dog?

I want to encourage you to focus on faithfulness and endure your current circumstance. Remember the world is a confusing, dark place that entices us, but it can never fulfill our true longings. Only God's truth, His Word, can bring confidence, strength, and boldness. Allow His Spirit to transform your mind and He will enable you to live victo-



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riously. Make Scripture a priority and feed your soul instead of the evil dog. If you do, you will begin to say no to sinful desires and impulses in order to obey the Lord. Cast yourself on His mercy. His grace is enough.

There's so much we wish we could undo or redo. Shameful acts in the past and the memories that accompany them can haunt us. Recollections can taunt us in the middle of the night and at the most inappropriate times. Fortunately, His grace not only forgives sin, but

also uses it to make us better than before (Romans 8:28-29). The all-seeing eye has an all-forgiving heart. Regardless of how lost you may feel right now, Jesus loves you. You are exactly where He wants you to be, but you must do your part. I pray God grant you the ability to abandon the darkness and embrace the true light in Christ. Join me in turning the tables on the enemy and let's take this situation he devised for our ruin and turn it into a blessing. Let what he meant



for our harm purify and strengthen us instead. Lord, help us to be mindful of the firm boundaries you have placed on acceptable sexual behavior. Amen.



Richard in Virginia

I grew up in a broken family and endured countless hardships. I have made many poor decisions in my life, but the most recent was to begin using meth on a regular basis. I had no inclination of the profound impact my drug using was having on my life or how much control it had over my actions and lifestyle until my arrest and subsequent sobriety. It was during this time that I was able to reflect upon my decisions and recognize how I had sacrificed everything meaningful in my life for the sake of meth. Depression ensued, enticing me to delve further into addiction. I found myself caught up in a lifestyle I was ashamed of and felt no one could understand. I turned to the internet for comfort and human contact. I soon found myself living entirely online – spending days browsing and chatting while getting

high and forgetting time – forgetting my broken life and emptiness. Naturally, I developed a voracious appetite for porn – fueled by my newfound loneliness and the lustful side effects of regular methamphetamine use. Over time, my taste in porn became darker or more taboo, until eventually I stumbled upon extremely shocking material, which included child porn. To this day, I cannot pinpoint exactly where everything fell apart or exactly what specifically brought me down into this deep depravity, but I do know I am not that person. I became someone I did not recognize and in a way I am glad that the videos and images were found on my phone because I do not know where I would be had this not happened. I do feel confident in saying jail saved my life. I only

hope that after my five year sentence I can find a way to rebuild a meaningful life and that it will include my daughters. It's hard to imagine ever finding forgiveness for what I have done, but I remain hopeful. I also remain hopeful that somehow I won't be alone during this entire incarceration. It frightens me to think that I would have to face everything on my own. The worst part of the experience has been absolutely no one to talk to on the outside, no friends, no family, no one. I can only imagine what people think of me. There is such a stigma attached to my charges. How could anyone – especially a woman ever want to talk to me again. Will I be alone for the rest of my life? This frightens me more than any prison sentence they could impose.



Free Conference Call

– We invite you to join us at 7:00 AM, Mountain Daylight Savings Time. We use Our Daily Bread for our devotional time. If you would like to join us please call this number (605) 475-4092. The access code is 278954#. The call usually lasts 20 minutes. If you have trouble logging in, call Don (505)315-7940.



From Liberty & Justice Coalition (LJC)

The 2019 New Mexico legislative session concluded at noon Saturday March 16th and we are providing a short report. They are now on the Governor's desk to be signed by April 5th. We are pleased to report that our optimism regarding criminal justice reform proved true. Several good bills did pass and most of the really misguided bills were defeated.

HB 342 : CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS

The omnibus criminal justice reform legislation passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Final House Vote: 61-0

Final Senate Vote: 39-0

HB 564: PROBATION/PAROLE REFORMS

This bill provides for good time for those on probation and parole and had bipartisan support. A more comprehensive analysis will be provided.

Final House Vote: 51-16

Final Senate Vote: 26-6

HB 370: LIMITED EXPUNGEMENT OF ARREST/CRIMINAL RECORDS

We are excited to report that the bill passed and is on the governor's desk. Unfortunately, it did not have the broad bipartisan support we would have hoped to see. A significant number of Republicans opposed the bill in both chambers. Because there was opposition, it is our hope that this governor will not veto the bill. We cannot suffer the same fate as we did with similar bills which we vetoed by Governor Richardson and Governor Martinez due to opposition from the business community.

Final House Vote: 52-17

Final Senate Vote: 28-13

SB 55: STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Partial Victory! We have the most information on this bill because it was LJC's top legislative priority. The trend throughout the country is abolish or significantly extend the statute of limitations so we knew it was a matter of time before we could no longer stop this train, but we did an amazing job with our allies in improving a bad bill. The final compromise will increase the statute of limitations to age 30 for only the crime of criminal sexual penetration. The original proposal was to have no time limit at all.

Final House Vote: 65-0

Final Senate Vote: 24-15

SB 96: BAN THE BOX

This bill is a first step in ending discrimination by banning the box on all employment applications. Prospective employers may still inquire about criminal history later during the hiring process if they are interested in the individual. Based on previous comments from the governor's office, we believe she is inclined to sign this legislation. Call Governor Lujan Grisham's office at 505 476-2200 and encourage her to sign the legislation.

Final House Vote: 45-15

Final Senate Vote: 28-11

Donations – by Don Johnston

Very few people in prison donate to Titus House. Those who do donate, give \$5.00 a month or postage stamps, which we really do appreciate. Others who have the means donate more. I know it is hard to make it in prison on the pay they give you, since I myself was in prison for 14 years. If it wasn't for the help of family, I am not sure how I would have made it. I did sell a few of my drawings and paintings. I just want to encourage you to help Titus House Ministries, if you can. Instead of eating a few soups transfer

your tithe or contribution to help us. We cannot continue to do this ministry without your help. It costs us about \$400 a month to send out the newsletters and respond to in-coming letters. Then we have computers and internet service, collect telephone calls, buying newly released Registered Citizens clothing, backpacks, bus passes, shoes, work clothes, and other items to help them reintegrate back into society. We transport people to church, hunt down furniture and deliver it to those moving into apart-



ments. There are many other things that Titus House is happy to do for our brothers and sisters inside and outside the walls of prison. We hope that you will join us in supporting those that society calls the modern day lepers, which we call children of God. Thank you for your support and prayers.



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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



Gov. Cuomo Supports Banning Sex Offenders From Subway

NEW YORK (CBSNewYork) — You see all kinds of things on the subways, but if one New York City lawmaker has his way, repeat sex offenders won't be among them.

City Councilman Chaim Deutsch's proposed ban is designed to prevent certain sex offenders from taking public transportation, CBS2's Jessica Moore reported Wednesday.

The ban would apply to repeat offenders — anyone who has been convicted of subway sex crimes twice. That includes anything from groping, grinding, or other lewd acts.

"We need to protect New Yorkers," Deutsch said.

If the legislation becomes law, it could apply to all mass transit, including Metropolitan Transportation Authority buses.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo threw his support behind Deutsch's proposal as well.

A city councilman is proposing a ban repeat sex offenders on the subway.

"Two convictions for a sexual assault

on a subway, you should be banned," Cuomo said. "You have people who target victims in the subways and that's where they go. Many people, crowded areas, certain techniques, that's where they go."

According to the NYPD, 2018 brought 866 reported subway sex crimes and 373 subsequent arrests. Cuomo said driving those numbers down will require legislative action.

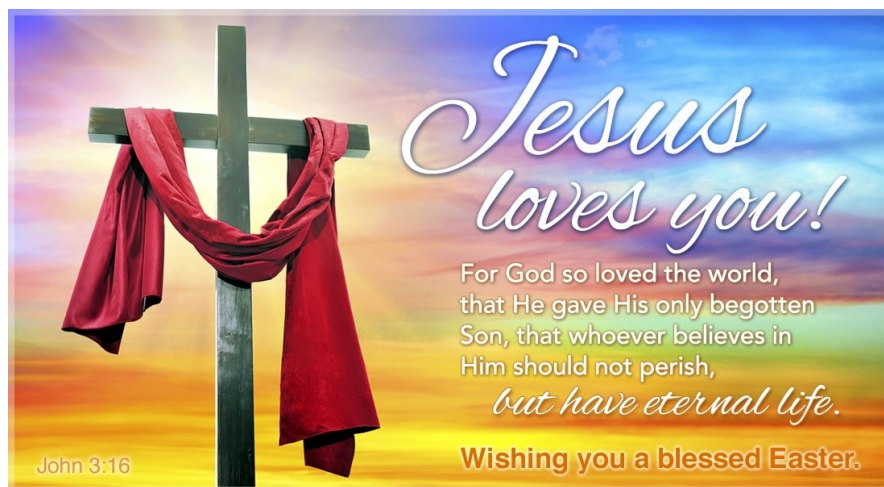
NYPD Transit Chief Edward Delatorre said officers know many of the worst repeat offenders, but are powerless to stop them until they violate again.

"We now have to follow them for hours and hours until they pick out their next victim," Delatorre said. "This is the most heartbreaking part for our officers."

The MTA said it's on board with Deutsch's proposal.

"We support legislation that would ban serial sex offenders from the subway and we look forward to working with the governor and the Legislature to implement it into law," the agency said in a statement.

But commuters that spoke to CBS2's Moore were mixed on the proposed ban.



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 April 21, 2019 at 4 pm—6 pm on **Easter Day**. 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. If you are planning to attend call Don at (505) 315-7940. **Our guest speaker is Leticia Chavez-Paulette who is the Coordinator of Volunteer & Faith-Based Services for the State of New Mexico Corrections Department.**