



TITUS HOUSE MINISTRIES

PO Box 2376

Tijeras, NM 87059

(505) 286-8807

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titushouseministries.org

Life After Prison For A Sex Offender

by Douglas Lindgren Titus House board member

For those of us convicted of a sex offence life can be a real challenge but take heart there is hope. I had a six year sentence with half time so I did three years in prison and three years on parole. God was good to me in that I was able to quit my job after I was sentenced so I got severance pay from my job which gave me a little money to start my life again when I got out of prison. I was also able to work in the cabinet factory while I did my time starting at 25 cents an hour and being promoted to lead man in finish mill at 95 cents an hour for the last year in prison. This allowed me to add to my severance pay to give me some money to hold me over until I could get work upon release.

Shortly before my release I reached out to Prison Fellowship asking if they could hook me up to a church that might help me find work when I got out. They did connect me to a small church in the area where I was paroled and the pastor of the church helped me find housing and a job. God does help you in time of need but you do need to do your part too.

Towards the end of 2007 I got laid off from my job due to the economic slowdown of that time and was unable to find work. I was a truck driver and there were interstate jobs to be had but the limitations put on those of us on the registry made even those jobs unattainable, so since I was 62 at the time I opted to start my social security the beginning of 2008. I lived in California at the time and I had been told by an attorney that New Mexico might be a more favorable place for me to live so I set my sites on moving to New Mexico which I did in April of 2009. At that time I applied for my Teamsters Retirement (I had 22 years as a Teamster) and by the time I was approved I had eight months back pay coming so that gave me enough money to put a down payment on a new car and also on a house. I had thought that I would never get a new car again, and for sure not my own house but God is good and He allowed me both.

Shortly after I moved into my house I got a letter from someone named Alice Benson who had a ministry called Titus House. It took a little more than a year to get back to her. Being a registered sex offender you never know who to trust. There are those that you can disclose your past to and there are others that you can't. As it turned out I found good friends in Alice and her husband Don.

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.](#)

Things are not always easy for those of us on the registry. I have a son who wanted to come join me in New Mexico. He wanted to get that 20 year job that would give him some type of retirement when he reached 65. I said, "Come on I will help you." He was here for about a year. I did nothing but help him, spending thousands of dollars in the process. He did get that good job that would have given him a respectable retirement at 65 but he had a hard time meeting the quotas needed to keep the job so when the going got tough he headed back to California sending me an Email on his way out of town accusing me of many things of which I did not do. I believe that he did this trying to put the guilt he felt for leaving the way he did on me. In any case it will take a long time, if ever before I can have any trust in him again. I have another son who was unhappy with a gift that I had given him and in the process of him letting me know how unhappy he was with the gift, he showed me a great deal of disrespect that I surely did not deserve. I challenged him on his disrespect to his father and what he did was take revenge on me by disclosing my past to a mutual friend. He did not know about my past and now that friend will have no part of me anymore. It became very clear after these experiences that neither of my sons really wanted me to have a life so I decided to change some things.

I had been attending a Friday night Bible study in Albuquerque that Alice told me about. There was this lady there who had been showing a great deal of interest in me. After what had happened with my sons and feeling I needed a change in my life I started dating her. It wasn't too long and we ran off to Las Vegas and got married. Now it has not been easy. I had been single 39 years, so there was a lot of adjusting to do for both of us, but with God's help we have made it for a little more than a year. Just remember to put God first in your life and He will see you through.

Purpose of this special letter:

We are departing from the usual layout for this letter to project an upbeat mindset that even though an individual is in solitary confinement he or she is still trusting God for answers.

Poem from Chris – This morning I awoke, and got on my knees
To the Lord I was praying, and I did it with ease.
Although my body is confined, in a place with windows and bars,
I can call on the Lord's name, and my spirit travels afar.
I place my hand in His and I instantly see the stars.
The walls are removed, and there are no more bars.
My sadness disappears, on my head I wear a crown.
The love of my life, the Savior of my soul.
His name is Jesus, to Him I owe it all
He loves me regardless, of my blunders and falls.
So when I awake, on my knees I will be
Praying to the One Who daily sets me free.

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.](#)

Poem from Tina -- Break these chains, break these chains dear Lord, Take away all my pain.
Take me out of the darkness and cold. This life of crime has gotten old.
Release me or I will die in my sin. The devil I won't let him win.
All I see today is pain and hate. Renew me Lord before it is too late.
If you ever heard the lies I've been told, how crime could be as rich as gold
Well I'm one to tell you this too gets old.
Dear Lord at this moment I'm down on bended knees,
Begging dear Lord please help put my mind at ease.
Give me back the life I once had, where to find happiness
And fulfill my dream.
Dear Lord, break these chains, set me free.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN – VALENTINES DAY

On February 14 you can show your love to fellow folks on the registry. We are meeting at a new time, 4:00 to 6:00 PM. The church has bent over backwards to accommodate us and we are grateful. It is potluck. I supply plates, plastic wear, cups, napkins etc. Just bring us some yummy food. Our single purpose is to encourage one another and offer suggestions of housing, jobs, how to find good used clothes, pots and pans and whatever. Our meeting place is Foothills Church, Room 104, corner of Tramway and Candelaria. Anyone over 18 is welcome.

TITUS HOUSE FINANCIAL PROJECTION FOR 2016 -- We have enjoyed several years of growth, both financially and in number of people served. We have a budget now of only \$12,000 a year and a ministry to inmates in 15 states and many new releases. We don't take a salary but cover stamps, paper, envelopes, for the monthly mailout to about 250 people. We cover cost of internet activity and our web page which sends out 250 email letters. Then we cover the cost of assisting releasing inmates, car expense, cost of inexpensive first outfit of clothing, backpacks.

If you want to be part of this ministry please fill in your information below, tear off this part of the letter and send to us. We will be blessed and thankful for each letter we receive. We have just picked up some monthly pledges from inmates and newly released individuals. We are so thankful to all of you who are making a contribution to the ministry of Titus House.

Love, Don & Alice

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I would like to pledge \$_____ a month for the year 2016 as God makes it possible.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

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.



For some Valentine's Day is not a great day to celebrate. We have a number of "singles" in our prison system and several "widowers" as well and Valentine's Day seems to focus on "couples". For many the day just brings back memories of loved ones gone on, or being terribly alone on a day that is supposed to celebrate LOVE...

So today, for those who are indeed celebrating the day with that special "someone" over the phone, or in the visiting room, or are struggling through the day by themselves, I hope these scriptures will encourage you and focus you on the One Who loves you more deeply and honestly than anyone else could.

1. "To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." Mark 12:33
2. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16
3. "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children." Ephesians 5:1
4. "Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs." Proverbs 10:12
5. "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good." Romans 12:9
6. "No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." 1 John 4:12
7. "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." Romans 5:5
8. "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18
9. "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Philippians 4:8

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.