

# Titus House Newsletter

Titus House Ministries, P.O. Box 2376, Tijeras, NM 87059 Phone 500-286-8807

MARCH 2016



## William Howden #74073 (Blessings from Bill)

In two years, \*I'm due to be leased from prison and placed on five-years-to-life parole.\*\* Technically I'll be a prisoner, this time in custody of my parole officer (PO), who has broad discretion to return me to prison. I'm also required to register as a sex offender on a public website, "for the duration of my life."

At sentencing, the court mandated me to obtain and maintain a job. Word from the streets is that a PO can waive that if a parolee is on social security, which I will be with a total income of \$1,400 per month at age 79.

Those who leave prison without any income, without a place to live and nobody to "sponsor" them, are required to go to a half-way house, which is very prison-like. For sex offenders there is only La Pasada in Albuquerque, which has an 8 to 12 month waiting list, plus a month for application approval. If La Pasada declines your application and you can't get your own place, you will serve your parole in prison. Because of my low re-offense rate, I

think La Pasada would accept me. If I pay a \$1,200 fee, I go to the head of the waiting list. Without the \$1,200 fee, the state will pay, and I will leave prison about six months past my exit date.

Recently, low risk, self-supporting parolees have been allowed to go directly to a rental, a family member's house or a place they own-provided the place fits the sex offender distance rule \*\*\* and is approved by the PO.\*\*\*\*

The Parole Board likes parolees to have a "sponsor." They prefer family members, but will accept others. The parolee need not live with the sponsor. My impression is that sponsorship is temporary, say six months. A sponsor is someone a parolee can call for assistance if needed. The sponsor is not liable in any way for what the parolee may or may not do. Perhaps the Parole Board or PO can waive the sponsor requirement if the parolee looks capable, which I hope to be.

By no means do I look at parole as a chance to die

outside of prison. I plan to live as fully as I can, making and selling jewelry, writing for publication, teaching meditation, volunteering, etc. I will have medical care and other services through the VA. Food Stamps and other forms of public assistance will be available since my income will be below the poverty line. By the time I get out, I expect to have about \$15,000 to get started with housing, etc.

One practical note: Last year I completed two college courses, graduated from a year-long sex offender treatment program, made 97 pieces of jewelry and two crocheted blankets, wrote a novel and started another, helped produce five issues of the prison newspaper, facilitated 48 meditation sessions, and read 41 books. I meditate twice a day, do yoga for 30 to 40 minutes most days. Every other day I walk 3 miles outside on the track.

Although some teeth are crumbling, my eyesight was greatly improved by a laser treatment. I endured a four-week (continue on page 2)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

William Howden	2
Important Notice	2
Circle of Concern	2
The Yoke of Love	3
Parole Officers	3
Harsher Penalties	3
International Megan's Law	4

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Notice on how to continue to receive Titus House newsletter*
- *Change of time for Circle of Concern*
- *Report from Larry Neely on how New Mexico is moving in the wrong direction*
- *How passports of registered citizens are affected*

**JESUS  
IS LORD**



## William Howden

sprained knee. Got moved to an honor pod, which was more a transfer than an honor.

I'm experiencing improvement in detachment and coping. I continue in God, as do all. Still, there is more change I need. Hopefully, two more years of "monastic" life will work. I'm grateful to be here.

I write this assuming my prospects maybe of interest to you. In no way am I soliciting help, support, sponsorship or even best wishes. The Lord is my

Shepherd. I'm grateful for your presence and hopeful we will continue. Two years and some extra months is a long way off. A day here can last two years. I'm a better person for prison, and hope to greet

*"Hopefully, two more years of "monastic" life will work. I'm grateful to be here."*

you in person someday.

With gratitude and re-

spect,  
Bill

\*Management and Training Corp., The operator of the Otero County Prison Facility, seldom releases prisoners on their court-mandated date. They can be held over by administrative delays for months, even years.

\*\* Over 50% of parolees in NM return to prison on parole violations.

\*\*\*Distance Rules: 1,000 feet from schools, churches, parks, pools, bus stops, daycares and any place where children gather.

\*\*\*\*Prisoners can parole to other states with different rules.

## Important Notice

This is to inform you on how to continue to receive this *Titus House* newsletter. With the planned moves of 100s of people to Chaparral and Grants here in New Mexico we expect a lot of mail returned to us marked "Return to Sender" or "Moved". Therefore we plan at the same time to clean up our mailing list. Presently we have 250 people we mail to each month (an additional 200 we email) to people in prisons. We want to be good stewards of our mailing funds and not waste any money on those who do not wish to receive our newsletters



unless we hear from you immediately.

This is how we are going to handle this. If we do not hear from you after you move (this does not apply to those

and are not reading them nor no longer interested in our ministry. We have a number of people who have not contacted us after their first initial letter to us. They have not done their Mentoring Forms nor have they called us collect. Therefore we will drop you from our list

in other States) with your new address we will presume you do NOT want to continue to receive our newsletter. **Therefore it is very important to contact us with your new address.** If we do not hear from you, you'll be dropped from our mailing list.

## Circle of Concern

Our Circle of Concern needs you. We need you and you need us. The event is our monthly potluck and chat time -- This is a place where you can share your struggles, concerns, ideas and victories. A place where we help each other. This gathering is open to all who are on the sex offender registry, family and



friends. We meet at Foothills Church, corner of Tramway and Candelaria on the far east side of Albuquerque. We have changed the time to 4:00 to 6:00 PM. The second Sunday of each month. This month on March the 13th-remember to set your clock ahead one hour for daylight savings.

Put on your jeans and bring your favorite food to share. Coffee and cold drinks will be provided. See you there!





## THE YOKE OF LOVE, poem by Perry A. Pickens

He once knew loneliness,  
More than you and I.  
For He came from beyond  
The blues of our sky.  
He left the realm of Heaven,  
Saying: I'll go. Send Me.  
Knowing the mission:  
Hang and die on a tree.  
But before all of that,  
He'd live thirty plus years.  
Knowing joy of laughter,  
And sadness of tears.  
Turning water to wine  
And healing everyone.  
Declaring, the Way,  
Truth, Life...as God's Son!  
Walking on water  
And raising the dead.



Feeding thousands of folk,  
With little fish, and some Bread.  
Casting out Demons.  
Some went into Swine.  
Not long afterwards,  
He knew it was Time.

After giving up His Spirit,  
He didn't stay Dead.  
He rose from the Grave  
And here's what He said:  
"All Authority, in Heaven,  
And Earth, is in My  
Hand!"  
He's at the Right Hand of  
God,

And surely, understands.  
Not once, did He ever,  
Ever, give into sin.

He showed us how,  
To succeed. To Win!  
For His Yoke is easy,  
His Burden's really light.  
He did the hard part already,  
And only He, had the might.  
So when you feel alone  
That no one cares.  
Reach out to Him,  
Anytime, in prayer.  
Recall that He doesn't slumber,  
And he, never sleeps.  
Trust in Him, and surely,  
You. He will keep.  
For His love is the greatest.  
None is greater. No other.  
Remember, He's closer,  
Closer, than a brother.

## Parole Officers

On July 15, 2015, U.S. District Court Judge Paul Engelmeyer ordered discovery in the case, finding in a 36-page opinion and order that parole officers must face limits on their expansive powers to impose dozens of conditions on registered sex offenders.

"In addition to the power to decide

whether Doe may have contact with any person under age 18, a parole officer has the authority to grant or deny permission for Doe to own a camera, computer, scanner, or cell phone; possess 'any children's products' or photos of minors; rent a post office box; obtain a driver's license; 'rent, operate or be a passenger in

any vehicle'; travel outside of New York City; visit an arcade, bowling alley, beach, or swimming pool; or have visitors at his approved residence," Engelmeyer wrote. "There are sound reasons not to give parole officers discretion, unreviewable in a subsequent court action, over so many aspects of a parolee's life." The case remains pending. See: Doe v. Annucci, U.S.D.C. (S.D. NY), Case No. 1:14-cv-02953-PAE; 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 91861.

*"Parole officers must face limits on their expansive powers to impose dozens of conditions on registered sex offenders."*

## Harsher Penalties Enacted:

### New Mexico Moving in the Wrong Direction By Larry Neely

Despite the fact that many state and federal officials have proposed reducing extremely harsh criminal penalties, New Mexico has chosen to buck this trend. The 2016 session considered more than twenty (20) hammer down bills. It is disheartening to report that the conservative House of Representatives rubber-stamped a number of the bills without consideration for the long-term

ramifications. Also, we remain concerned about SJR 1 (the Constitutional Amendment) which passed and will go to the voters in November. This amendment, once it is approved by the voters, will permit Courts to deny bail in certain circumstances. The only upside of the amendment is that it contains a provision that is intended to prevent detention of those who simply can-

not afford to pay for a commercial bail bond.

Nearly all the bills increasing penalties moved rapidly through the House of Representatives. Both the "Three Strikes Bill" (HB 56) and the "Units of Possession" (HB 65) overwhelmingly passed the House. Fortunately, many of the bills that passed the House did not make it all (continue pg 4 Harsher Penalties)



## Titus House Ministries

P.O. Box 2376  
Tijeras87059  
, New Mexico

Phone: (505) 286-8807

Don's Cell: (505) 315-7940

We're on the Web  
[titushouseministries.org](http://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.*

Jesse Otto wants to send a shout out to all his brother at Chaparral and to let them know he is doing well.



## Harsher Penalties

the way to the finish line.

HB 65, the child porn enhancement bill, goes into effect today due to it containing an “emergency clause.”

The Legislature passed the bill in response to the 2014 Olsson/Ballard case holding by the New Mexico Supreme Court that child porn possession is only one count because the law failed to provide sufficient clarity. The new law increases the basic sentence for possession

of child porn from eighteen (18) months to ten (10) years. Although this is a tremendous increase in the penalty for possession, the original version of the bill as passed by the House would have returned it to image-by-image felony counts, presenting potential sentences of hundreds of years. In addition, the Senate added a “Sexting Amendment” which protects minors between fourteen (14) and seventeen (17) years of age from prosecution. Thanks to broad, bipartisan support, an effort to strip out the amendment led by Senator

Mark Moores (R) was defeated.

HB 56, the Three Strikes Bill, was overwhelmingly passed by the House despite the fact that so many states are backing away from the approach. Lifetime incarceration is very expensive, particularly for older inmates because of health related costs. In addition, evidence clearly shows that the propensity to commit crimes decreases dramatically with age. Fortunately, the Senate was a bit more rational and did not pass HB 56.

## International Megan’s Law (H.R. 515): Necessary? Constitutional?

by Lissa Griffin –from Pace Criminal Justice

Virtually unnoticed, on February 8, President Obama signed a new bill (H.R. 515), International Megan’s Law, requiring that 1) the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency notify foreign officials when a convicted child sex offender is traveling to their country; and 2) the State Department put a “unique identifier” on the passports of persons who have been convicted of a sex crime involving a child (even if they were children at the time themselves and no matter when the conviction arose) who have been listed on a public sex offender registry. A lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of this law has been filed by California Reform Sex Offender Laws (CA RSOL). The plaintiffs include CEOs of major international com-

panies who travel extensively – and innocently – for business.

The bill was signed eight days after it left Congress and four days after it was received by the White House. Supporters say that the law will help prevent sex trafficking by making it more difficult for sex offenders to “[plan] their trips around locations where the most vulnerable children can be found,” in the words of Congresswoman Ann Wagner, who co-sponsored the bill.

Critics assert that there has been no connection established between people on sex registries and international sex trafficking; that the branding passports will do nothing to protect the United States from its own sex offenders who, indeed, will be limited in

traveling, even for innocuous purposes; that such limitations are unconstitutional; and that the “unique identifier” endangers the safety of such tourists and anyone flying with them. Moreover, a large percentage of people on the registry for child sex offenses were themselves minors when they were convicted, usually of engaging in sexual conduct as with a minor incapable of consent only because of age. Significantly, many Americans use their passports not for travel but simply for identification purposes – and those people will be unfairly subjected to all of the negative consequences of such identification.