

Titus House Newsletter

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A Letter from Lacy in Texas

I grew up in a small West Texas town where everyone knew your business before you did. I had hard working parents and a very loving family, but I always felt like I was missing something. As I got older I began searching for that missing piece in men and sex. I ended up pregnant at 18 years old and my whole world changed. I became angry and started having more sex with even more men. I was using the internet and phone chat lines to get what I wanted. In 2007 I met someone who was different than all the rest. I only talked with him on the phone until 2008 when we met in person. In 2009 we got together and I was so happy. He had been there for me during some difficult times and he was what I thought I was looking for. In 2010 I left my parents house to live with him. Everything went downhill from there. He became verbally abusive, which turned into emotional and mental abuse. We had nothing but problems. He manipulated my mind to believe things about myself that weren't true. In 2010 he started to tell me about his criminal behavior and threatening me if I

told anyone. In 2011 I joined him in his criminal acts. I was tired of being tortured for not doing what he wanted me to do. In 2013 I got tired of the whole life I was living and I told the school something to



make them investigate. We were arrested in October 2013 and my whole world changed again. I went through extensive classes and counseling for being brainwashed and severely abused. Everything started making sense! I came to Christ in 2013 and was baptized in 2014. My life hasn't been the same since! I was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 2015 and I have to do half my time before I see parole.

I left my family and my two children behind because of the choices I made, but I know God has a plan for my life and it's good! At some point we have to stop looking at everything going wrong and look at what's going right!

When I began thanking God for my trials and tribulations, I began coming through them stronger. I had to stop pointing the finger and acknowledge my part in why I am in prison.

No matter how bad you think you have it, someone somewhere has it worse! Thank him for

everything – even prison! If I hadn't gotten locked up I'd probably be dead. Thank God for second chances! Stop worrying about what everyone else says about you and learn what God says about you! The Bible tells us not to fear man who can kill the body only, but fear God who can kill the body and soul in Hell! Bless you all!



Patience

My apartment. Even though I have been living here for five months those two words still sound strange to me sometimes. At first it was scary. Here I was, fresh out of prison, with no one to turn to no girlfriend, no family just myself.

Like most people, I have almost always been in some sort of romantic relationship. I can't say that they were always good relationships, but at least I wasn't alone. I rationalized that even a bad relation-

ship was better than being alone. Boy was

I wrong!

Now that some time has passed I can see that this time alone is a continuation of God's blessing on my life, a time to learn to trust in Him. It is an opportunity to examine my life without the distraction of trying to sustain a relationship.

I can't tell you that everything is rainbows and roses, there are still times of challenge and bouts of loneliness, but I can tell you that each new day is better than the one before. I am learning to enjoy what each day brings.

I put the question of a relationship in God's hands. He answered me with Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (NLT) I know that when I am ready He will provide the right person.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I pray that you will learn to trust in God's goodness. Have patience, the Lord knows the desires of your heart.

By Brother Mark

YEAR END THOUGHTS FROM ALICE

When you read this it will be the beginning of a new year in your life. Many people make New Year's resolutions that last about a week. I have done that many times. Two years ago I made a resolution to read the whole Bible through in that year and I actually did it! It challenged me and blest me a lot. I thought having been raised in the church, attending a Christian college and marriage to a pastor I knew the Bible pretty well. Pride had settled into my life and when I made that decision it opened up a new world for me and challenged me in a new way. I urge each of you to make only one New Year's resolution and to stick to it.

PRAYER NEEDS

Joe Carabajal has bone cancer, takes treatments almost every day and needs our prayers.

Several inmates in Los Lunas have serious cancer problems.

Perry Pickens in Pennsylvania wants the women in Texas to know he is praying for them.

CHAPARRAL PHONE CALLS

If you are at Chaparral prison you now have permission to call me (Alice) at my cell: 505-259-0867. For everyone, if you have done your mentoring sheets you can call us once a month.



THANKS FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS, LETTERS, PHONE CALLS!

We have been blest with a bunch of cards from all over the country, some handmade from prisons, warming our hearts during this Christmas season. Thank you!!!





Rules for Sex Offenders—by Larry Neely

Q: *I will be released on parole in the state of Virginia where I was convicted and would like to know what are the rules for sex offenders? Nobody here can tell me anything so I am wondering why doesn't RSOL have a simple pamphlet or some publication you can send out explaining what each state requires? Is this too much to ask?*

A: We frequently receive this question, so this answer is similar to our response in a previous issue of the *Digest*. It is nearly impossible to create a reliable compendium of information listing registration requirements throughout the nation because sex offender registration is a hodgepodge of 50 separate state statutory schemes plus countless locally imposed ordinances. These statutes and ordinances are constantly changing because state legislatures and local governments fear registrants will look for places to live that are "soft on sex offenders."

In addition, it is important to caution that most persons just being released from custody will have a period of "supervised release" or "parole" with many additional requirements separate from those of registration in your state, so this response only addresses registration obligations. Having said that, I will seek to explain the most common registration requirements. Most states utilize a hybrid system where registration itself is handled by local law enforcement agencies, while website and administrative functions are under control of the state.

Initial Registration Process

The initial registration will usually occur in a law enforcement facility such as a sheriff's office or state police barracks. The number of days permitted to complete the initial registration varies from between three and ten days after release, and some states complete the process in prison prior to release. During the initial registration, you can expect to be fingerprinted, photographed, provide a DNA sample, and answer several intrusive questions. The questions will include the obvious such as date of birth, SSN, residence address, employer's address, and vehicle information. Some states require disclosure of all vehicles operated regardless of actual ownership. Many states also require disclosure of email addresses, IP addresses, usernames, and monikers. Once you are registered and in

their system, you will be informed of many additional requirements of re-registration and the duty to provide notification of changes in your registration information.

Periodic Reregistration and Notification of Changes

The period of registration and frequency of re-registration varies throughout the country and is determined by variables far too numerous to list here. The shortest statutory period of registration I am aware of is ten years. The least frequent re-registration and verification period is annual, but semi-annual or quarterly registration is far more common.

The re-registration process also varies dramatically, but most often it will be similar to the initial registration, excluding collection of DNA. Many law enforcement entities take a brand new set of fingerprints and photo each time a person reregisters. Since fingerprints do not change, the fingerprinting is totally unnecessary and is done to compound the humiliation and prolong the registration process. A very small number of states send a form to the registrant that he/she is required to return by mail or in person verifying that the current registration is accurate.

A registered citizen has a duty to keep his/her registration current, and that process varies dramatically throughout the United States. Most states require that a registrant report changes in person within a few days, usually three, although the process can vary dramatically. For example, Virginia requires notification within 30 minutes of establishment of a new online identity, but they do not provide a statewide electronic mechanism for those reports to be made. New Mexico's statute permits electronic reporting of changes, but the state has yet to provide the platform for this option.

Residential/Employment Address Verifications by Law Enforcement

Many law enforcement entities perform regular field verification of registration information. This can be very unsettling for you and your family members. Verifications often

occur via multi-agency teams consisting of local law enforcement and US. Marshals going house-to-house to confirm that the registrant resides there. Sometimes the verifications are handled professionally and in a non-intrusive manner; however, that is more the exception than the rule. We receive frequent reports of heavy-handed officers demanding access to the registrant's home and information about other household members. Unless the registrant is under supervision, there is no obligation to permit the officers to enter. Even while under supervision, there are exceptions to that rule, so it is always best to consult with a legal professional.

Termination of Registration Obligation

Sadly, many registrants will not see the end of their registration obligation unless there is a dramatic change in laws across the country. If a state does terminate the obligation to register, it happens by one of two methods. The first is that after a fixed period, the duty to register is statutorily terminated. In those states, no action on a registrant's part is usually required. The registration authority simply notifies the registrant that the duty to register has ended. The second method requires that a petition for removal be filed after a specific number of years in a court of general jurisdiction, usually the sentencing court. (In cases of out of state convictions, the petition is filed in the county where the registrant resides.) Usually the registrant bears the burden of proving that he/she is no longer a significant risk in order to prevail. The success rate of such petitions varies dramatically from state to state.

It is important to keep in mind that termination of the duty to register in one state is not binding on any other state. This means a person could be required to register again if he/she relocates to another state after the duty to register is terminated



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We're on the Web
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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



Update on Christmas Eve party Success



38 people attended the Christmas gathering at Furr's Cafeteria



Don mystified us with his magic with a Christian message

CHRISTMAS PARTY SUCCESS!

38 people crowded into Furr's cafeteria Christmas Eve afternoon for great food, music, fellowship. Jim Stevens, Dave Homer and Theresa Lucero enhanced the music sing-along. Magic Man excited the kids and the rest of us with some new magic tricks. Larry Neely gave us hope with the following:

The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals held in *U.S. v Von Behren* that the government cannot force a person under supervision to answer incriminating questions that could lead to a criminal prosecution of previous sex crimes. Since New Mexico is one of the states in the 10th Circuit, this case is binding and can be cited in a legal challenge. See *United States v. Von Behren*, 822 F.3d 1139 (10th Cir. 2016)

Does v Snyder, a challenge to Michigan's sex offender registration requirements was decided favorably by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. The court held that the enhancements added in 2008 and 2011 to Michigan's registration requirements are punitive. The state has filed a *Petition for Certiorari* with the U.S. Supreme Court.

The US Supreme has granted a *Petition for Certiorari* in the case of *Packingham v North Carolina*. The court will be deciding whether North Carolina's blanket prohibition that prevents registered citizens from accessing social networking sites is constitutional. A decision by the high court is expected by June 2017.

Thank you all for your donations which paid for the Christmas meal at Furr's.

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 2nd Sunday of each month. We are meeting this month on January 8th, 2017 at 6-8pm. We will be having a potluck. We meet at Foothills Church,

corner of Tramway and Can-dalaria 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.