

Titus House Newsletter

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BLOSSOMS IN THE DESERT by Greg Scarpella

The word desert it brings to mind lifeless blowing sand, extreme heat from a glaring sun, and harsh living conditions for any form of life. It is a place of exile, loneliness, and seclusion that nobody desires to experience. Yet, for me, it best describes where I found myself after going through a personal crisis. I currently live in southwestern New Mexico on the Chihuahuah Desert and it is here that I began realizing the similarity between what I see around me and what I have experienced in life. Disappointments have withered away my hopes along with the unforgiving winds of criticism that have driven my dreams into dry lifeless sand. Then this spring I saw the cactus blooming and started to look for the times in my life that would bring back the inspiration to help me thrive among the harsh conditions of being a registered sex offender.

I grew up when hard work and diligent effort was rewarded with success. Slowly those ideals vanished as I entered the corporate world and experienced the reality of office politics. The harder I worked the less my efforts were recognized and the more management

expected from me. At one performance review I was told that my excellent work could not be replaced and I was denied a promotion. I changed jobs several times hoping to find a vocation that would live up to my expectations only to get older and



never advance past an entry level position. With the weight of providing for a wife and two girls I started working two jobs. I even tried to start a business but that failed, too.

There were other disappointments that undermined my sense of self worth. At a young age I began playing the guitar and singing. At first it was a past-time, but as I got older the desire to entertain became a passionate desire. I never considered myself good enough to become a rock star but

good enough to entertain a crowd. This obsessive-compulsive behavior became the focus of a divorce along with my failure to advance up the corporate ladder. Finally, I snapped at mid-life disillusioned with success in any profession and deprived of fulfilling my inward yearnings.

That was when the desert of my life began. The landscape of employment yielded little to nothing. My dreams of a fulfilling career evaporated with the rise of the sun. I'd grasp at any relationship that might give me a drop of refreshment. Each glimmer of hope for achievement became an oasis in the distance that was always

out of reach. I'd sacrifice the what I believed in for so many years to relieve my burning desire for pleasure. I developed a taste for unacceptable behavior as means to provide my needs. Places I had always considered disgusting and had avoided became my habitual den and hideaway. Through bad choices and unfortunate circumstances this path ended in a three-year prison sentence.

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Enough For Today—by Greg Laurie

"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today."
— [Matthew 6:34](#)

Have you ever been gripped by fear? You know the feeling. Your blood goes cold. You get that shiver down your spine. Your hair stands on end. (In my case, that is singular, not plural.) Your stomach sinks. Your mouth goes dry.

Then there is the other emotion that is often coupled with fear, and that is worry. There are a lot of things people can worry about today. The state of our country. Our economy. Terrorism. The threat of a war. We are a nation filled with worry.

But there is nothing productive about it. In fact, the word worry comes from an old German word that means "to choke" or "to strangle." And that is exactly what worry does. It chokes you



spiritually. It creates an emotional and mental stranglehold on your life. It doesn't ever make anything better. In fact, it makes things worse. That is why Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "Don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries.

Today's trouble is enough for today" (Matthew 6:34).

Paul tackled this problem in Philippians 4 when he wrote, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done" (verse 6). Where was Paul when he wrote those words? He was incarcerated in Rome. He didn't know what was going to happen to him. So there was Paul in a difficult situation, and what did he say? "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything."

What happens with worry is that our hopes pull us in one direction while our fears pull us in another. When you worry about the future, you cripple yourself in the present. Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.

Blossoms in the Desert

Starting life after prison was no easy task and the landscape for survival was very hostile at best. The parole agreement required me to pay for housing, find a job, and stay alcohol and drug free for six months. I was court ordered to complete parole in the town where I was convicted. These circumstances created an environment so overwhelming and bleak it was almost impossible to exist. My mother and sister, along with a close friend of the family, gave the support I needed to endure the desolate terrain of parole. Within eight weeks I was working and after six months successfully completed all of the requirements.

Having survived the barren waste land of prison and parole I started a new life. I relo-

cated to a different setting, started to perform professionally and eventually remarried. With the support of my wife I was able to return to a responsible life, develop my talents, and flourish as never before. Now, I believe in myself and have realized that life has more than hills and valleys in a desert... it has promise and hope.

This last spring my wife and I explored the Chihuahuah Desert along the foothills of the Florida Mountains near our home. An early rain had given the area a rebirth from months of drought. When we stopped to take some pictures I began to smell the fragrance of the flowers blooming everywhere. The barrel cactus were glowing with bright yellow and orange. The normally lifeless drab ocotillo were now full of green leaves and topped with brilliant red blossoms. The yucca had

sprouted shafts eight feet into the sky and boasted clusters of white and yellow flowers at their tops. Everywhere there was life anew. Grass was growing amidst the dead remnants of winter. Rabbits sprang up ahead of us and dashed around creosote bushes releasing the sweet smell of colitas. Suddenly I realized that what I was witnessing was exactly what I was experiencing in life. Although the surroundings were bleak with despair, in the midst of hostile conditions there was the hope for new beginnings. The Lord who provided refreshing rain for the desert had provided the needed support and care for me to have a fulfilling life. My past life, as thorny as the barrel cactus, can now be as fragrant as the blossoms in the desert."



Champions of Hope

By Matt

Admiration and respect to those heroes, champions and brave sex offense advocates who face fear and injustice every day. They put aside their safety to tackle the tyranny of the Adam Walsh Act and the Sex Registry. Their passion is... righting perverse and cruel sex offender laws that destroy registrant lives and devastate their families.

This article identifies only a few of the courageous efforts of those heroes who challenge horrendous sex offense laws. By viewing The Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws, National Association for Rational Sex Offense Laws and other articles that follow, you will realize that a vast amount of work is being done throughout the United States to wake people up to the truth about illegal sex offense laws.

I will not identify those heroic individuals, but will provide the reader with the lawsuits, articles and resources that they have produced. Many of the articles describe successful litigations against sex offender laws. The challenges by lawyers, advocates and everyday people will eventually have dramatic and wide ranging effects to force law makers to change the Adam Walsh Act and related laws.

Most of all, I want to provide these resources to the uninformed to make registrants aware of the results of the champions of our cause. With knowledge comes power. With knowledge comes hope. With this new perspective, hopefully, comes involvement.

I know that there is an enormous amount of work to be done. I also know that there are many of us who are unwilling to come out of the darkness, like myself. I want you to embrace the fact that there are brave Americans who are fighting for your rights.

PS: I WOULD BE REMISS IF I LEFT OUT DON AND ALICE WITH TITUS HOUSE MINISTRIES, TWO SPIRITUAL BEINGS, WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO ASSIST THOSE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON... THANK YOU.

Sex Offense Laws Resources (Click on



web address to access article.)

Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws – A comprehensive web site with a variety of sex offense law articles

<http://all4consolaws.org>

National Association for Rational Sex Offense Laws – Another web site of informative articles

<http://nationalrsol.org>

Registrant Travel Action Group (RTAG) (*International*) Travel Matrix – List of countries we can travel to and ones that will turn us away.

<http://registranttag.org/resources/travel-matrix/>

States with Early Termination/Criteria for Relief - List of states with early termination and procedures for getting off the registry

<http://ccresourcecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Sex.Offender.Relief.5.12.15.pdf>

Conference Call Recordings - Topics: Tier Registry, International Travel, (*Domestic Travel*), Other Topics

<http://all4consolaws.org/acsol-conference-calls/>

Summary of State Registration Laws Concerning Temporary and Permanent Residency by Adults (*Domestic* Travel requirements for visitors)

<http://all4consolaws.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Summary-of-State-Registration-Laws-Concerning-Short.pdf>

New Mexico: Court ruling shows child porn laws' ambiguity: Court decided that a person cannot be charged for each child pornography picture.

http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/court-decision-highlights-state-s-ambiguous-child-porn-laws/article_8924b0e8-6f8b-5795-9e75-14cd7e8749b0.html

Significant Constitutional Legal Challenges – Sex Registry

Michigan: Sex offender laws 6th Circuit's Ex Post Facto Clause ruling (A decision that stated that the Sex Registry is Unconstitutional)

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2016/09/07/sex-offender-laws-and-the-6th-circuits-ex-post-facto-clause-ruling/?utm_term=.63c1b0171109

North Carolina: NARSOL, NCRSOL file suit challenging North Carolina's sex offender registry (A legal challenge to the Sex Registry)

<http://nationalrsol.org/narsol-ncrsol-file-suit-challenging-north-carolinas-sex-offender-registry/>



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I, the LORD, have called thee for a light of the nations, to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and those who sit in darkness out of the prison houses.
Isaiah 42:6-7

Remember if you change your address you need to let us know if you want to continue to receive this newsletter

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"Did you remember to water the lawn?"

SEX OFFENDING AND CHURCHES

Editorial by Alice

Let's define "church". My definition is a body of believers composed of seekers, believers, leaders all based on the Bible whose aim is to evangelize, encourage and build up each member of the body.

Titus House leadership is composed of believers in God's Word who in the past have not behaved well. We have confessed our sins, felt the call of God to help others, especially those accused or convicted of sexual offenses.



Some people with our background have had bad experiences with church and as a result seldom attend, or they may attend out of a sense of duty but avoid letting leadership know of their background. This is easy to do in the larger church where they can come in time to grab a cup

of coffee at the refreshment bar in the mini restaurant, settle in with friends to a rousing music time, and listen to a well-planned sermon. They shake hands with friendly people and leave for lunch at a nearby snack bar. They avoid filling out those little forms asking for their address. They may have had a bad experience with

the smaller church that has labeled them, told them what bathroom to use and avoided inviting them to the potlucks or other social events. Let's remind ourselves that God loves us all, invites us to participate in Christian

fellowship, and teaches us in his Word how to raise our children so they will be "safe." That of course is a whole new subject. I love speaking to parent groups and we need all the help we can get in today's world on how to raise our children, not only to be "safe" but to be committed Christians, carrying out God's plan for their lives.

A pastor went over to an elderly member's house to see how she was doing. Seated on the sofa and very hungry, he spotted on the coffee table a bowl of almonds. A little timid, he asked, "Do you mind if I have one?" The woman was quite reluctant but said, "No, go ahead." An hour later, he was in disbelief that he had finished off the whole bowl! "Oh I'm so sorry about all the almonds!" he said as he stood to leave. "Oh, don't worry about it. All I can do is suck the chocolate off since I lost all of my teeth."

Proverb 17:22

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

We have 10 people throughout Colorado. We have put money on our account for you to call us. You need to call us on a Pre-Paid Collect call at this number (505) 286-8807. We would love to hear from you IF you have done your Mentoring Sheets.

We apologize to the people at Otero County Correctional Facilities. At this time we are NOT allowed to take calls.

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 March 12, 2017 at 6-8pm. We will be having a potluck. We meet at Foot-hills 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.