

Titus House Newsletter

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

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Riches To Rags, To Riches, To Leper...

By Clifford Smith—In California prison

Younger years raised in a normal classification of a 'family', did things as a 'family' ... Trips to amusement parks, the zoo, beach, watching cows being milked, feeding the ducks, to swimming in our own pool - all in an area in southern California nicknamed named "snob hill".

Then my first emotional dismay I hit, DIVORCE! Father remarried, then mother. No more snob hill. No more swimming pool, "watched my stepfather be an alcoholic. Didn't work much and beat my mother regularly. Not really good times ... after a few years mom divorced him. As my mother and I lived together, I finished high school. Not without issues and problems. Junior year my mother had a stroke. Even though emotional support from the family tree I kind of finished raising myself. Will say Never (even to this day) drank booze, did drugs, and smoked anything! Learned to drive and did a little bit of dating. After high school went to a regular job right

away.

A few years later married, bought a house, and had three kids - one right after another. Then in a flash, in dismay, my world ended and in shock even to this day. On a 'Black' Friday night about 9:30, a knock at the door ... the police, CPS (child protective services worker) and everyone started crying. They were there to take the children!!! The trauma and emotional pain to the children, my wife, 'the family tree' and me. was overwhelming (my-baby daughter-was-still breast feeding). This is a trauma no one ever gets over ... accused of inappropriate sexual relations. But not arrested or charged. System took over! My wife was told to divorce me or she would never see the kids again. Wasn't a matter of CPS listening to anything I had to say! CPS did nothing to keep the family together or a marriage. A trial without a judge or jury already convicted. me. It took my wife over 2 years to get the kids back from CPS .

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Up into my 30's I never walked into a church ... read a Bible or prayed. Life lead me to the Philippines. God sent me a lady who attended a church there. So, finally entering a church, the pastor even did services' in English just for me. That started me down the road toward the Lord. Then God sent me three American missionaries to work on me toward the Lord! One of them 'Pastor, Robert Banning', rented where I did and got me going 100% into the Lord. He said and did things so that I understood the Lord's words and work. Even taking me to local pastors and families plus local culture advice.

All coming at the lowest and saddest time of my life. Losing my wife and kids - as they moved on without me. Traumatized, lost and still in shock over all that happened - I was asking and wondering WHY?

God was giving me the peace and will to continue on. Then many years later

returning to the states, I joined a church, bought a house and was working. A few years later the state of California decided to charge me and sentenced me to over 50 years in prison to live out my end years.

Many times, I have given up as I saw no light at the end of the tunnel in this

human life:- I still-wonder and -ask--WHY? A sex-offender is not exactly treated well by staff or fellow inmates! A leper in modern society with problems, issues directed my way, negative attitudes and violence daily. While most either laugh or just don't care. Yes, it all makes one feel very much alone. But now at 60 years old (arrested right before the 9/11 tragedy in New York) I have been trusting in the Lord for answers, guidance, safety, leadership, and protection to survive in here as a 'leper'

Psalm 46:1 GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE.

Editorial by Alice

Moses, the loser for the first 80 years of his life – Moses was a child of privilege, adopted by the family of leadership in Egypt, ignoring the fact that his relatives were barely existing as slaves. When Moses in a fit of anger killed an Egyptian he fled to the desert and lived much of his life as a shepherd. He was star-

tled by the appearance of the Lord in a bush telling him he had been given the job of freeing God's chosen people from Egypt. Where would the nation of Israel be today if Moses had rejected God's call to save his people? I read stories, letters from prisoners, hear accounts of failure on every hand. Our four large notebooks are filled with detailed records

of marriage failure, children's lives destroyed, men and a few women incarcerated for ten years to lifetime for their actions. In those notebooks I read of despair, desire for death, giving up. I receive letters however from those who have been challenged by small Bible study groups, who have dared to ask God for repentance, who have been con-

vinced God meant what He said in His word about forgiveness. We share some of those letters with you so you will realize as long as we have life we have a Moses-like chance to make a great difference, first of all for ourselves and then for many others. If you would like to be considered for publication in our newsletter, please include permission to use your name or not.



Five million dollar for voodoo science? Colorado?

by Christopher N. Osher (Denver Post)

... Colorado has spent more than \$5 million to administer polygraphs on convicted sex offenders over the last seven years despite concerns that the tests are so unreliable they can't be used as evidence during civil or criminal trials.

Polygraphs help officials decide which prisoners convicted of sex offenses are suited for release from prison by probing their sexual history, attitudes about their crimes and whether they are committing new offenses. They also guide how offenders on parole or probation are supervised.

"The polygraph really gives useful information," said Lenny Woodson, administrator for the Colorado Department of Corrections' Sex Offender Treatment and Monitoring Program. "And we've made it clear in our standards that it isn't to be used in isolation. We're using as many avenues as possible to make treatment decisions."

Studies show that up to 70 percent of U.S. states polygraph sex offenders, but experts have testified that Colorado uses the tests aggressively, even polygraphing juvenile offenders for consensual sexting. Critics contend an entrenched and profitable cottage industry, rife with conflicts of interests, has grown up around polygraphing sex offenders in Colorado.

"To me, there is no question that it borders on a scam," said Senate President pro tem Jerry Sonnenberg, R-Sterling. "We incentivize the people who give the polygraph tests to have inconclusive results so an offender has to go back and pay for another one on a more regular basis."

Colorado's polygraphing is "grossly excessive," said Deirdre D'Orazio, a psychologist who serves as an expert on a high-risk sex-offender task force in California, during testimony in federal court in Denver in 2015. D'Orazio led a team of consultants that issued a report for the Colorado department of corrections in 2013 blasting how it manages sex offenders and how it uses polygraphs.

She returned to the state to testify for Howard Alt, then 51, who a decade earlier was convicted for having sex with a 15-year-old girl and possessing nude computer images of teenage girls.

After his release from prison, Alt had taken 28 polygraphs, often with competing results. The treatment provider that tested Alt had a "fiduciary incentive conflict" to fail him, D'Orazio said. The firm was "making money on outcomes that are not in the offender client's favor" by requiring him to pay for more tests and treatment, she said.

A deceptive finding on one sex-history polygraph had prompted supervision officials to bar Alt, a former software developer, from accepting a job that would raise his salary from \$60,000 to \$200,000 annually. Months later, the polygrapher found Alt to be truthful on the same questions even though he did not change his answers, showing the sanction against him was unwarranted, D'Orazio said.

"It is not a scientifically valid procedure," D'Orazio testified. "It has a high false-positive rate, which means misclassifying people who are telling the truth as being deceitful. So there is a lot of controversy about using the polygraph in high-stakes decisions."

Even Alt's supervised-release officer said he had worked hard to learn from his past crimes. He was contrite after serving six years in prison. He was free of new transgressions, with tracking software on his computer monitoring his compliance. He had re-established relationships with his former wife and his daughter, according to testimony.

"I had thought that clearing a poly and having a deceptive poly were similar to a drug test, where you either have a drug in your system or you don't have a drug in your system," the supervised release officer, Lisa Pence, testified. "It has been an education that it's not."

Booze to Bible

I'm writing because my story is strange and hurts. I don't remember anything. I was under a lot of drugs and when I woke up I asked my daughter if I was doing anything wrong to the neighbors, cause I was always over there partying with them. Then blank. I shot up coke and meth at the same time. I took pills and drank only whiskey every day. It was who I was. I should never have had my child. I miss her so much. One day she got into my stash and I did not know about it. I came home from work and she was in her room. I took a shower, popped some pills, drank some whiskey, shot up my drugs and then smoked a joint to relax. Then I realized I had a child and went to her room and she was freaking out and said, "There're here." So I freaked out being on drugs and walked her to my sister's. My sister instead of helping called the cops,

they took me in, they found meth in her system, also whisky and pills and she told them

she found them, so they could not keep me in jail long. She told them I raped her, they brought her to the doctor and she was still a virgin. "Thank God", so that was a lie and then she came down to her mom's. Here I am three years waiting for them to throw the book at me with no proof. I am sorry for being a drug user and I'm scared because they don't care about human life. If I did do this I am sorry for doing it. I wish I



could remember, but it's my fault for using.

I love you all. Keep up the good work and hope we become friends. I used to be bad person but the Holy Spirit has changed me. I pray God gives me another chance and if He does I will be doing

what you are doing, helping, teaching, preaching, loving. I do love you guys. I've been looking for some good people. Thank you and God bless you. I know they are going to give me life and if they give me 25 years I'll be 66 by then. I hope they change the laws so we as changed people can get another chance. Thank you for being a friend when there is none here.

Brother Adam

The True Nature of Sex Offender Commitment

By Cyrus P. Gladden II , inmate in Minnesota's sex offender commitment program

The first thing you need to understand is that sex offender commitments have nothing in common with civil commitment of anyone else.

Traditional civil commitment was aimed at those who suffered episodic loss of contact with reality - delusions so engrossing that their ability to function was totally disrupted, including matters like the ability to safely cross a street, or who suffered from pathological urges to violent actions against themselves or other people.

Granted, this could include irresistible impulses to commit a sex crime. However, the focus in traditional commitments was not on the particular type of feared action, but rather, on the certain imminence of the delusional or irresistible act. Only those indisputably under such delusions or irresistible impulses were subjected to commitment.

In contrast, in the 21 sex offender commitment laws now on the books in the U.S., where words like "impulse" and "urge" are used, they mean any motivation, no matter how abstract, attenuated, and strictly confined to fantasy a sexual thought or desire might be. There is no limitation to imminent sex crimes and no requirement of true irresistibility of any momentary sexual impulse. Indeed, so-called "expert" forensic psychological testimony at sex-offender commitment trials will often include an assertion (stated with a perfectly straight face) that the individual in question has some level of likelihood (as low as 1-5) of committing a sex crime at some unknown, speculated time in the remainder of that person's lifespan.

In another contrast, traditional commitments not only require a finding of a specific mental illness, but also focus on its causation of the "dangerous to others" status (where it exists). But in sex offender commitments, no mental illness is required. In fact, to facilitate such commitments, psychiatrists have invented definitions of mental states called "disorders." Some

disorders merely restate the fact of a sex offender's particular past crime(s), while others lapse into boundless vagueness (such as, "antisocial personality disorder" - often panned as being nothing more than 'jerk syndrome').

In truth, all of this is simply excuse-making for refusing to release sex offenders when their prison sentences end. This is done, not out of any reasonable fear that any of them will commit another sex offense immediately following prison release, but instead out of a junk-science assertion that, eventually - perhaps many years or even decades later, they might do so.



Contrary to cultural myth propagated by those with something to gain by spreading fear and hatred, as a class, sex offenders have the very lowest rate of committing new sex crimes after release from prison, compared to recidivism rates of prison releases who committed other types of crimes for a later crime of the same type as their conviction. Therefore, in order to justify commitment of a given sex offender, forensic 'expert' witnesses must come up with all manner of hair-splitting distinctions and exceptions in an attempt to cast the targeted sex offender as 'highly likely' to reoffend, with a 'serious difficulty' in resisting something incorrectly called an "impulse" to do so. That such distinctions and exceptions simply have no basis in science at all doesn't bother these hired character assassins or the judges who accept their every word as if stone tablets delivered by the Hand of God.

Judges and other participants in this judicial system of sex offender commit-

ments know full well that these prognostications by such 'experts' are merely prostitution of the psychiatry and psychology profession, and that such testimony is merely the plausible rationalization for predetermined judicial will: preventive detention probably for the rest of a sex offender's life. Politics and fanaticism and the bureaucracy they drive ensure that administration of sex offender commitment really means permanent detention, not treatment and release.

Meanwhile, other sex offenders, with record of such crimes just as extensive, are regularly released onto closely watched parole, which they complete without incident or, at worst, are re-imprisoned for a "technical violation" of the elaborately restrictive terms of their paroles. In short, the correctional system handles released sex offenders quite adequately, proving the lack of necessity for their commitment.

No system is perfect, of course. We must simply accept the fact that total perfection is unattainable by any kind of system. Nonetheless, the correctional system is so efficient that, out of approximately 100,000 sex offenders released from prison every year, those who then perpetrate either serial or violent sex crimes upon defenseless strangers are so few that they make national headlines in each of those rare instances.

Thus, sex offender commitment is an unjust, immoral, and wasteful boondoggle. But it also quietly opens the trapdoor to a steep and very slippery downward slope into a dark abyss of totalitarianism where, as in Minority Report, individuals of any class singled out can be detained forever, not for any crime, but just for 'dangerous' thoughts or emotions. In fact, this creeping spread is already beginning. All misuse of commitment to confine those feared to be dangerous - including sex offenders -- must be stopped, or freedom will exist for none.



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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



You are better than just a father you're a DADDY.

(Happy Father's Day)



Sign outside Countryside Christian Church, Leawood, KS:

"Noah should have swatted the two mosquitoes."

— via G. Taylor Hess
Mission, KS

Sign outside Countryside Christian Church, Leawood, KS:

"Every saint has a past — every sinner has a future!"

— via G. Taylor Hess

We are sad to report the passing of Joseph Steerman who was at CMRU in Los Lunas NM. He passed away at La Pasada Halfway House. He had just finished mopping and went to lie down and was not able to be revived.

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

"Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life," her mother replied.

The child thought about this for a moment, then asked, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

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 June 11, 2017 at 6 pm—8 pm. 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.