

Titus House Newsletter

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

November
2017

FROM MANNY IN TEXAS –



Thank you so much for your letter. I try to stay busy. It helps the time go by and besides, why waste away watching TV or playing games when I can be rehabilitating myself with God's Word. It's pretty neat at times. I used to always listen to country music and hip-hop and catch myself singing songs all day (and I'm not going to say it's wrong to listen to that music.) But it's true what they say, "What you put in is what you get out. It was so easy to sin. I'd just think of a song that would say what I wanted and it would like help lead me to sin. NOW I fill myself with the Word and Christian songs....So now when the flesh tries to overpower, my spirit fights it with the Word and Christian songs. Sometimes I'll try hard to think of a bad song and it's like they are no longer in my head. It's neat. I'm full of Christ now. And no worries. I'm not saying I'm perfect either, but I sure am trying harder now than ever before.

A missionary?
Amen!! I've said that. I can remember being a kid and always going to church and always being amazed at the missionaries and their testimonies. I used to pray to be blessed as a missionary. Then when I rededicated my life in 2015 I can remember God telling me that I don't have to go to another country or foreign territory. I can go where most people are terrified to go here in my own state, the Texas prison system. And I gladly accepted it.

I found myself in a dorm with 20 other men. Every night we had our prayer circle with 19 men (I didn't speak English) and we had what we called a "praise circle." People would come back from court and thank God for what He was doing. A lot of people were getting probation or cases dropped and sent home. Then came my day in court. I came back from court and guys were running up to me and asking what happened. I called the praise circle and started talking: "Now I don't want anyone to lose faith in God or question what He's doing. Not once did I ever pray to go home or be back on probation. I've always prayed for God's will to be done. So I want to thank God for 20 years." Right then mouths

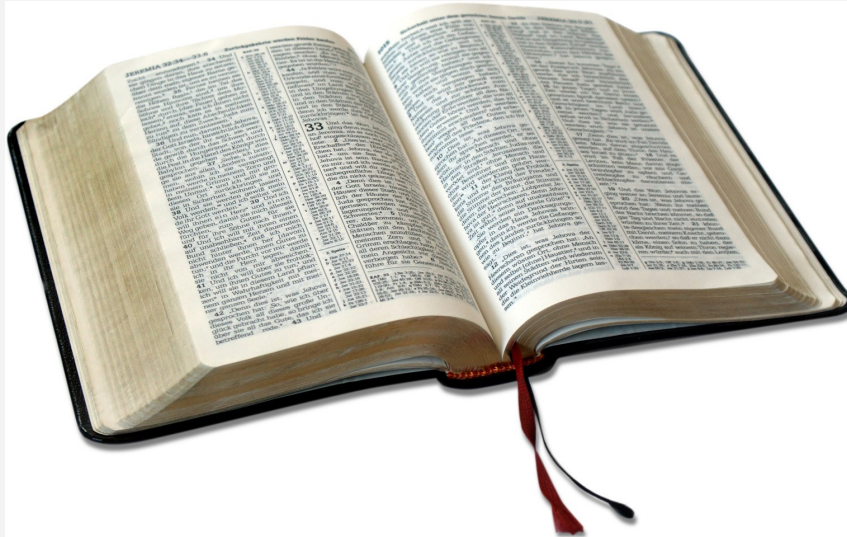
dropped and some guys started crying. I told them to stop. They better be shedding tears of joy. I was happy that God chose me to come to prison to share Christ. I told them that God is doing something with the prison system and that He was needing soldiers. With my past I'm glad He still believes in me.

And even though all that sounds good, it ain't the good part. Later on that evening, a big muscular guy in his late 50s came up to me and said, "I've been in and out of prison since I was in

my teens. I've seen a lot of strong men in my time but I've never seen someone as strong as you. I was in court with a guy who got 8 years and he was crying so much he couldn't eat his sandwich. Then I came in here and saw your smiling and happy face and you got 20! What do you have that other guys don't?" BAM!! I knew that was my one shot. I

told him about Jesus Christ. I had a marked New Testament and gave it to him. The next morning he told me he gave his life to Christ. NOW THAT MADE MY TIME WORTH IT!! Even if he would've been the only one I had the chance to share Christ with, my 20 years would be worth it!! And now by His grace and mercy, He still sees me useful!!

Thank you Jesus for all you've done for me!!





David in Florida

DAVID IN FLORIDA

Born again believer, baptized at 6 ---sexual contact with siblings --- years of sexual abuse leading to bad choices --
- sexual assaults from older men --- fear I couldn't escape.

25 – Married with two step children ---drug use, abuse toward children --- sentenced to 31 years in prison for rape of a child, battery and child molestation.

13 years in prison --- sex offender treatment ---

rededicating life to Christ --- age 41 healing begins ---

Now --- owning all the choices made --- no more blaming others.

David writes: "I pray all who read this will understand that at the end, with Jesus Christ, there is always healing and forgiveness to those who seek it."

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday December 23, 12:00 to 3:00 PM

Furr's 2004 Wyoming NE, Alb. NM

Titus House is paying the bill.

Come and eat and have fun.

Let us know you are coming (505) 286-8807.

Hint: We could use sponsors for this project.

We wanted to thank everyone that has supported Titus House Ministries. We could not do what we do without you. As you know we put out a monthly newsletter to around 600 people (I've been told that the newsletters gets passed around so it is even reaching more people). We help people when they get released. We lead a Bible Study at La Pasada each Friday. We hold the "Circle of Concern" once a month.

We also want to thank the inmates who send us stamps and \$5.00 a month. May God richly bless you so we can bless others.

An Open Letter to a Sexually Abused Daughter: by Bill

Dear Daughter—

Yes, it did happen. You once looked at me with much love and trust and I violated both your love and trust because I violated you. Above all else, I want you to understand that the things that happened were not your fault. You did nothing to cause it and there was nothing you could have done to prevent it. You were an innocent, beautiful child and I alone was to blame for destroying that innocence by thinking only of myself.

You were not responsible for having been violated and hurt. There was nothing about you that caused me to abuse you. You were just there and available. I was the one in control, and I have the power and sadly, I misused that power and made the choice to defile you.

As the parent, I was the authority in your life. I decided what time you went to bed, what clothes you wore and even what food you should eat. I had the power to guide you to a good, healthy life. Instead, I placed you in an unfitting and confusing role.

My daughter, the things that happened were and are my fault. The responsibility for misusing and violating you has always been mine. My selfish actions caused your confusion and hurt. I was the one who caused scars you will bear for life.

If there were a way to rewrite the pages of the past and make up for the trauma you have suffered, I would use every available resource to do so. But there is nothing I can do to change the hurt I caused. There is no way to erase the pain. I live daily with the sorrow and consequences of my actions. I only want you to know how very sorry I am.

There are people who care about you and understand the things you have been through. You are not alone. There are organizations that can help. If you are still carrying "our secret" in your heart, please tell someone what happened to you. Please reach out for that help.



WHY do we register children as sexual criminals? By Riya Saha Shah

Ten-year-old Leah pretended to have sex with her younger step-siblings. She said it happened a few times and that she was just acting out scenes from the movies. A couple years later, Leah's conduct was discovered by law enforcement.

Leah was 12 when she was convicted of criminal sexual conduct in juvenile court and labeled a sex offender. The law required her to remain on the sex offender registry for 25 years. She says she lost jobs and internships as a result. When she was about to enter her freshman year of college, an old friend called her up to tell her she'd seen Leah's name and photograph on the state's online public registry. Even though her friend knew the circumstances of Leah's conviction, it seemed all anyone would see when they searched her name was "sex offender."

According to the Center on Youth Registration Reform's estimates, Leah is one of the approximately 200,000 individuals placed on sex offender registries for actions they engaged in before they were 18 years old. Proponents of laws that require children to be placed on sex offender registries argue that providing the public this information will help people keep their families safe from harm. But many believe that including children on registries does much more harm than good.

While laws differ from state to state, sex offenders can include individuals who engaged in benign sexual experimentation, those who "sext" with their peers, as well as those who committed a forcible rape. The classification of offenses differs by state, but in all cases, registration is imposed after young people have been held accountable in the court system. Before they are deemed rehabilitated and fit to return to society, many offenders spend years incarcerated and undergo treatment to address their sexual misconduct. But the society to which they return is not likely to accept them when they're labeled sex offenders.

Depending on the state, registration can last anywhere from a few years to the individual's entire lifetime. During that time, they may be required to appear in person — in some cases every week and in others, every 90 days or more — to

update and verify their information. This can include details like where one's car is parked, their online usernames, and, if they are homeless, a few places they may frequent. If a young person fails to provide this information or to return to the police station to report any changes in this information, they may be charged with a felony offense and incarcerated.

These laws are based upon the assumption that juveniles who commit sex offenses will commit them again. Research has showed that the overwhelming majority of juvenile sex offenders won't — between 97% to 99% of young

trants, many youth and their families have suffered humiliation, victimization, and violence. Leah, mentioned above, explained that one time during college, she returned to her room to find a note attached to her door: "We know you're a sex offender. Get out of our dorm. You're not wanted here." After a few more incidents like this one, Leah dropped out of school. And one father, whose sons were labeled sex offenders at ages 10 and 12, said neighbors passed out pamphlets with his sons's photos on them, and someone threw a Molotov cocktail through his front window.

Maintaining juvenile sex offender registries has failed to keep communities safer. Some activists argue that rather than focusing on punishing young people for the rest of their lives, we should continue to hold youth accountable while investing in prevention and victims's services. For example, California spends \$140 million a year to register youth, compared with only \$46,000 it spends on victims's services and prevention.

Registering kids as sex offenders is not only harmful, it is also considered by many to be unconstitutional. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that mandatory, lifetime registration was unconstitutional because it required young people to register as sex offenders without any consideration of whether they posed a future risk of reoffending. The court also reasoned that the stigma that follows a young person labeled a sex offender is inescapable and violates the individual's constitutionally protected right to reputation. Similarly, the Ohio Supreme Court struck down mandatory, lifetime registration for young people, calling it cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution.

In October, California passed a law that includes prohibiting lifetime registration for children and permitting those tried in juvenile court to petition for removal from the registry after five or 10 years. Under this new law, a person like Leah would be able to ask the court to remove her name from the registry after five to 10 years — but for many, the damage has already been done.

Name: [REDACTED]			
Birth Date: OCT 26, 1991	Birth Place: MT		
Race: WHITE	Sex: MALE		
Height: 5 FEET 08 INCHES	Weight: 145 LBS		
Eye Color: BLUE	Hair Color: RED OR AUBURN		
Home Address			
[REDACTED]			
ID: [REDACTED]	ITY: [REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]			
Offense	Description	Date	Place of Conviction

people who commit a sexual offense never reoffend. Not all sex offenses committed by juveniles are sexually motivated; some young people who are required to register have cognitive or intellectual disabilities or are on the autism spectrum.

As they age, young registrants can have difficulty finding and keeping jobs. Many registration laws prohibit certain types of work or impose residency restrictions. Registrants can experience homelessness or family separation. Youth on the registry also can suffer from depression, and one in five registrants has reportedly attempted suicide. One state passed a law prohibiting registrants from using social media, which the U.S. Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional.

In addition to the many fees young people are charged while in the court system, registration triggers a whole new set of monetary obligations. For example, in New Orleans, registered young people are required to notify their communities by sending postcards to their neighbors within a 0.3-mile radius, which cost one individual \$744.

When the community is aware of regis-



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We're on the Web
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.

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

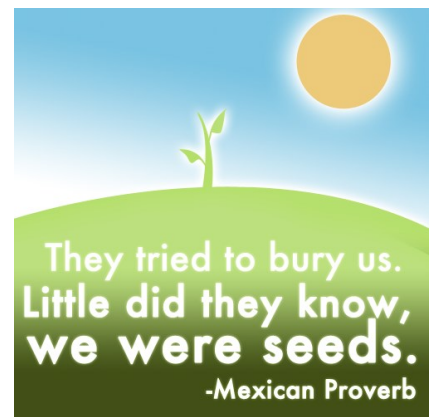


We want to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

An Opportunity For Change

Brother James Foust will be offering to us a 5 week course on how we can live our quality of life. This will start Sundays on November 5th, 12, 19, 26, and ending on December 3rd. 2017 at 5 PM to 7 PM. We welcome all to come. This will be held at Foothills Fellowship on the corner of Tramway and Candelaria. For more information call Don at (505) 315-7940. Hope to see you there.



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 November 12, 2017 at 6 pm—7 pm. 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.