



**TITUS HOUSE MINISTRIES**

**PO Box 2376**

**Tijeras, NM 87059**

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**Phone (505) 286-8807**

[www.titushouseministries.org](http://www.titushouseministries.org)

**DEAR APRIL FRIENDS** – Spring is here! Have you survived snow, cold, building endless fires, taking out the ashes, felt the drops of real rain? This is the beginning of Spring for us here in NM. Yes, blue skies and warm breezes make enduring winter worth it all! I am sure those friends we have in Portland, Maine are hoping and praying for the same!

**NEW DATE FOR CIRCLE OF CONCERN** – We realize the first Sunday of the month gave us Easter and other events so we have moved to the **2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**. Our next meeting is **APRIL 12TH**, Foothills Church, corner of Tramway and Candelaria in eastern Albuquerque, 6:00 – 7:30 PM. Let me emphasize what Circle of Concern is for. It is a safe place for registered people and their friends and family to vent, to ask for help, to be understood. Hurting people sometimes talk too much. At other times hurting people say very little. It is all OK and that is why we all need a group such as this. We also need you so please attend if at all possible.

**GOD'S MIRACLE** – I am going to tell you a brief account of a man called Marcus. I have his permission to tell you this story. As a child he was a real intellectual, graduating from High School at 15 and college at 17. He went to prison at 18 and today he is 41, having “thoroughly wasted my life.” He became a “jailhouse lawyer”. He met a young woman who came to the prison with a church group and managed to marry her. Before long she developed cancer and she slowly wasted away and died two years later. “What kind of God”, he thought, “would take a young Christian wife?” He spent the next years trying to persuade the other inmates there was no God. He said he certainly wasn’t going to be the stereotypical “guy who came to prison to find God.” A group called Kairos came to his prison. One of the Kairos members asked him, “Do you believe George Washington was the first President?” He said “Of course”. The man asked: “Were you there?” He answered, “Of course not but it is in all the history books.” The man held up his Bible and said, “Why would you accept facts from some books and not facts that are in the Bible?” The next day someone asked Marcus, “If there’s no God who are you mad at?” Marcus ended up with the group praying and telling God, “I will open my heart and mind to you Lord.” He started crying and was surrounded by a group also crying and praying for him. He realized when he said “Lord” he knew. He says, “I knew. Everyone knew that I knew.” I hope you will all pray for Marcus. He isn’t in New Mexico, representing one of the other states writing to us. He is still a baby Christian, trying to make sense of his incarceration and what God has for him in the future. He has filled out all the mentoring sheets we sent and we hope we can be of encouragement to him.

**BLESSINGS FROM BILL** –God is able. God is able to love the unlovable. God is able to cure the incurable. God is able to deliver us from ourselves. God is able. Then why doesn’t God do it? He already has. This is called faith.

**THREATS ARE COMMON-PLACE FOR REGISTERED PEOPLE.** I recently heard from our Bill at Chapparral. He told me two women parole officers came to speak at the prison. They informed the men that parole

is tough. Over 50% of parolees return to prison. Many of the parole or probation officers I have talked with who have violated their people, seem to feel it is their ultimate duty to return their charges back to prison. The good ladies who visited Chaparral announced that sex offenders would wear GPS devices until the end of probation even if it meant life! I have resisted condemnation of the corrections system but am running out of patience. Following is an article quoting US Supreme Court Justice Kennedy. Groups in each state are trying to modify offender treatment in their state. I believe until something happens in Washington, nothing worthwhile will happen in a particular state. Read with interest:

**SUPREME COURT Justice Kennedy: Corrections System is “Broken” and “Solitary Confinement Literally Drives Men Mad”**

“I think that the corrections system is one of the most overlooked, misunderstood institutions—functions—that we have in our entire government. In law school I never heard about corrections. Lawyers are fascinated with the guilt, innocence, adjudication process. California, my home state, has more than 187,000 people in jail, at a cost of over \$30,000 a prisoner. Compare that with the amount they give to school children, about \$3,500 a year.

“And this idea of total incarceration just isn’t working—and it’s not humane. The federal government builds—what do they call them—supermax prisons, with isolation cells. The prisoner we had come before our court a few weeks ago...had been in an isolation cell according to the attorney for 25 years. Solitary literally drives men mad,” Kennedy said, noting that more humane alternatives are employed elsewhere in the world.

**WHERE ARE WE?** We all have our positions in this complex subject. One of you is a mother whose son is a registered person who hoped to go to a drug program in Phoenix who takes in registered people but the parole officer said “No.” Some of you have been taken off “supervision” and feel surprisingly almost human. You may have to register every three months but you can live and work where you want to. Many of you dream of being released from prison but with a dread of what the world will throw at you. Many have been “cut off” from family.

**GOD CARES AND SO DO MANY OF US!!!** We pray for those we know and many of us care. Let us know how we can try to help you. Here’s another thought – Help an underfunded school child!

Our love, Don and Alice



Thanks to Josiah Gilman

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**LEPERS ... I HEAL LEPERS**