



TITUS HOUSE MINISTRIES

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DEAR NEW YEAR FRIENDS:

As I write to you I sit by my living room wood stove occasionally putting on another log. Looking out the window I see snow coming down, flakes dancing into the window pane, motionless pinon trees of various sizes waiting to be loaded with snow. The distant Sandia Mountain can't be seen at all. The dogs are snuggled down in their house which is supplied with a thick carpet of straw, a container of chow and a jug of water. Yesterday we had a water delivery and today we anticipate a load of firewood. A box of wood chunks on the deck supplies the kitchen wood stove. Our RV tenant, Joe, has been very helpful cutting up wood for us. Thanks Joe!

GREAT PHONE CALLS: We can get as many as four calls in one day, collect usually, from inmates. We also get exciting calls from people released and getting on with life. Today I enjoyed good news from David over in Tucumcari, who was released from a Colorado prison just one year ago, who has a job and his own place to live and is involved in ministry with his sister. Prayers, David!

2015, WHAT WILL IT MEAN TO ME? All of us will have a birthday, new relationships, losing someone to death, losing others for various reasons. I had no relatives to cook for this Christmas, my kids are adults living their own lives from Oregon to New York. Don saw his mother, one brother and one son. Our family now consists of church members, Circle of Concern, voices on the phone from prisons. Isn't Heaven going to be fun? We will have inmate family from Sing Sing, NY to a prison in Vacaville, California!

THE CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY was a huge success with 40 people enjoying a good mixture of music, magic and mountains of food! There were excited kids and happy grandparents. Thanks, Connie from the Tijeras Baptist Church for excellent Christmas music!

CHRISTMAS EVENING saw 18 guys from La Pasada also enjoying Bible study, magic, candy canes and great fellowship.

THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS AND HOMEMADE GIFTS! Yes, our home looks like a gift shop with cards hanging on a string along the wall and perched on a bookcase along with a manger scene. One picture frame was made of woven paper with an embroidered manger scene in the center.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN, Sunday January 4th, 6:00 to 7:30, Foothills Church, Tramway and Candelaria. Our guest speaker this Sunday will be our own, Doug, 19 years out of prison, newly married, to challenge us on "Getting On With Our Lives." Doug is one of Titus House' board members.

BLESSINGS FROM BILL: “Dear Lord, give me patience and give it to me right now!” is an old joke with a true message. The Holy Spirit is not a quick fix. Bible, prayer, church and eventually what you do will change you. Keep on keeping on!

YOU ARE TITUS HOUSE! You are of infinite value whether you donate \$5 a month, \$50 a month or nothing at all. Yes, YOU are Titus House. Don, Freddy, Doug and I are just four frail human beings. It will take all of us (yes we send this letter to almost 400 people) to make a real difference in the life-wrecking laws under which we find ourselves -- laws which kill chances of good jobs, laws which notify your neighbors you are a real creep, laws which discourage families from functioning well.

MENTORING SHEETS Some of you have completed all our mentoring sheets while incarcerated. That is good and some of you have well thought out plans for when you are released. We are developing a new mentoring sheet called **NOW**. **NOW** will be a challenge for the present, right now! We get too many letters from inmates who are so discouraged they believe life is no longer worth living. We are challenged to counter that thought. If you would like this mentoring sheet, ask for it!

From Don: *This was a piece from Greg Laurie from Harvest Ministry. I can see my own life in what follows and perhaps you can too.*

What God Can Do

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

— [Colossians 1:13](#)

Our society doesn't really have answers for all the problems we are facing in our country today. Ironically, our society seems to do everything it can to undermine the only one who can help us, and that is Jesus Christ.

There are people caught in our legal system as repeat offenders. There are judges who make the wrong decisions. There is the breakdown of the family. And all of these elements combined produce a society that can do very little to change a person's heart, if anything at all. Rehabilitation efforts largely fail. In fact, the only real programs that seem to produce lasting change are faith-based, and more specifically, are being operated by Christians who are calling people to faith in Jesus Christ. Society doesn't have the answers.

Jesus met two men whose lives had been controlled and ruined by Satan. Society didn't have the answers. Enter the Savior, Jesus. What did He do? He sought them out in their graveyard and offered them hope. In fact, Luke's account of the story tells us what happened to one of the men who was delivered: "Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid" (Luke 8:35). Why were people afraid? They didn't know what to make of it. He was so transformed it frightened the people. They couldn't even imagine a guy like him could be changed in such a dramatic way.

It is such a glorious thing when Christ so transforms someone that you can't even imagine that person being what he or she used to be. You realize that it is the power of a changed life. And that is what God can do.

Blessings, Don & Alice