



**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 FRIENDS:** This month I want to take a different direction and talk about something absolutely vital for all of us. No, it isn't the need for more funding, although important. It isn't about getting more correspondents for inmates although also important. It isn't about charging on Santa Fe next winter to modify SO laws, although important. I want to quote part of an article in the July Reader's Digest about Desmond Tutu of South Africa. The other day an inmate told me he broke a man's nose in order to get even with him. That and reading some of your stories in our notebook has prompted this account.

**BISHOP DESMOND TUTU OF SOUTH AFRICA** grew up in a home where his drunken father abused his mother. As he recalled this part of his life he realized forgiveness was very difficult. He was sent to a black school that received only one tenth the funding of the white schools. In spite of that he excelled, studied abroad, was given many honors from many countries and universities. He received the Nobel Peace Prize and became Archbishop of his church. He writes:

"Are you hurt and suffering? Is the injury new, or is it an old, unhealed wound? Know that what was done to you was wrong, unfair, and undeserved. You are right to be outraged. It is perfectly normal to want to hurt back. But hurting rarely satisfies. Retaliation gives only momentary respite from our emotional pain. The only way to experience healing and forgiveness is to forgive. Without forgiveness, we remain tethered to the person who harmed us. We are bound with chains of bitterness, tied together, trapped. Until we can forgive the person who harmed us, that person will hold the keys to our happiness. We don't forgive for others. We forgive for ourselves."

**MATTHEW 6:14, 15** speaks to me: "If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive the wrongs you have done." We wish the judge would forgive us, that the parole officer would forgive us, that our children would forgive us. I desperately want God to forgive me.

**BLESSINGS FROM BILL AT CHAPARRAL:** Christ in us. This is a great and deeply hidden truth. There is nothing in our behavior or thinking we can point to and say, "There's Christ." Only perhaps someone else can say that about us, not we ourselves. Look for Christ in others.

**GOOD NEWS:** Many letters come to me from happy inmates who have completed college courses, are looking forward to release soon. Some have been released in various parts of the country. Some are asking about the possibility of coming to New Mexico. Several have prayed the "prayer on page 10." If you don't know what that is, ask! If you have completed mentoring sheets please call. I am not that scary! Don is busy in Albuquerque singing with three different groups and doing occasional magic

shows. He is spending quality time with two of his sons much to his delight. Bill from Chaparral tells us that they are starting an inmate newspaper. Bill also says he is one of four who have filed a civil rights lawsuit about the cruel way they were transported from Clayton.

**PRAYER NEEDS** Don and I need your prayers constantly. We seem to be under some kind of oppression as we try to carry on a ministry to the most disliked people in our country. We feel it constantly. We need to be upbeat and optimistic when people call on the phone asking for our help. Pray for a single mother in Texas with two sons in prison who often calls me. Keep praying for Jeff who should have been paroled long ago. Thank God those RSOL fighters have convinced the Legislature to take off residential restrictions for those no longer under supervision.

**JOBS** – We are constantly called about jobs. There are jobs out there. Ernest, recently released, works for himself. An old friend let him stay in his motel and clean, paint, help out as he puts his old landscaping business back together. Working for oneself is good since you don't have to convince a boss. Getting all the college courses possible while in prison is good. If possible get parole done in prison so you can come out without supervision (not always possible these days). If you come out with a parole or probation officer, obey them politely until they become a good friend. Can this be done? It has been done!

**CALENDAR** July 4<sup>th</sup> – celebrate INDEPENDENCE DAY even though you don't feel very independent. Groups around the country send us news of their efforts to attack the punitive registry. Don't give up expecting freedom!

**JULY 6th** – Circle of Concern at Foothills Church, corner of Tramway and Candelaria 6:00 to 7:30 PM. We don't have a speaker at this point in time so come with your ideas and info and we'll toss them around. I do have brochures from Credit Rescue Now, Inc.

**DONATIONS** are always needed. Thank you regular donors! We couldn't do anything without you. Don's car needs some work so he can continue taking guys around to their first appointments. Titus House pays half the cost of internet, printer etc. and half the cost of our two cars' insurance. Our monthly regular needs are around \$400.

**WRITE US AND CALL US ONCE A MONTH IF YOU HAVE COMPLETED MENTORING SHEETS!**

Our love, Don and Alice