



TITUS HOUSE MINISTRIES

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DEAR FRIENDS,

I am writing to you on Cyber Monday! Have you done your Christmas shopping yet? Have you slept in a tent by your favorite store to get the rock bottom prices advertised??? Are you sick of the endless commercials telling you what to do to enhance your boring life??? New furniture, new car, trip to Hawaii – which is it that will give you the best Christmas ever??? I talked this morning with Brendan in a prison in Louisiana. He always calls on the first day of the month as his calls are very expensive and we have limited him to one a month. Brendan works every day at the prison chow hall and receives no pay for it. He chooses to do it as he stays busy and feels he is serving others. He won't be buying any gifts for his relatives and looks forward to perhaps moving here to NM a year from May. He loves the Lord and is an accomplished singer. He is probably happier than a lot of us! I often feel sorry for myself as I have only seen one of my four children in the last several years. But when I get calls and letters from inmates who have missed the funerals of parents, I thank God I can at least talk with my family by phone.

LA PASADA BIBLE STUDY – An enthusiastic group of guys and one girl met last Thursday evening. We hear many personal testimonies in that group of God's care during the time they were in prison. We hear heartfelt prayers and concerns for their brothers still incarcerated and for people violated who were at La Pasada. We are always tempted to find an excuse not to travel the 15 miles to this facility and every time we are driving home we are totally blessed. If you have been a resident there, please feel free to join us at 7:00 every Thursday evening.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN – We want to thank God's Gospel Café for hosting us for two Sunday evenings. These people have church on Sunday and run a sewing machine shop during the week. We appreciate their hospitality very much. However, we are moving back to Foothills Church this coming Sunday, December 7th where we have total privacy, much needed for a support group. We urge each of you in the nearby area to attend: Dec. 7th, 6:00 – 7:30 PM, corner of Tramway and Candelaria in Albuquerque.

CHRISTMAS DINNER AT FURRS RESTAURANT, 2004 Wyoming NE – DECEMBER 24TH - 12:00 NOON TO 3:00!!! - You are all invited, Titus House picks up the bill. We are planning some programming from about 1:00 on. Kids are welcome – this is a celebration of God's gift to us at Christmas. We hope to have fun, enjoy friendships and along with it, eat plenty of goodies! The donation box will be available if you want to help out on the expense. If you have a musical number or something you want to share, give me a call. This program is designed to enhance your Christmas spirit and help you make new friends. If you plan to come I would appreciate a call so we have some idea. If you want to sponsor the dinner, please write us a check. Thank you!

BLESSINGS FROM BILL: Thanksgiving? To paraphrase the song: “Dear Lord, it hard to be thankful when I’m suffering in every way.” Gratitude, we think, requires prior blessings. Actually gratitude comes before blessings, even brings blessings. Sufferings? Try gratitude for them. Thank God and they will almost miraculously become blessings. “All things work together for good....”

UPLIFTING NOTE FROM SERGIO: “I’m grateful that you guys believe that people like me can change with God’s help. It’s a real miracle that I’m alive and healthy after what I’ve been through. Sometimes I wonder why God will save someone like me, and I don’t understand it. Now I’m planning on helping others who struggle with living a Godly life just because of what they have done in the past. I believe that my story can help others overcome their addictions of drugs, alcohol and sex and realize that God accepts people if they just come to Him to seek help, and that God’s love is better than any love that any other human can give and His peace is eternal, perfect and unwavering. (Romans 15:13)”

From Don: I sit here with letters in front of me from a number of inmates, wondering, when will I find the time to answer these letters? Alice reads me a number of sad letters from inmates from her side of the desk and they all pull at my heart strings. I received one six page letter from an inmate in Teague, Texas. There was a lot of information which I wish I could share through this newsletter. Some of the information shared brought me to remember how bad it is in prison and how fortunate we are not in some of the other states (for example Louisiana and Texas and others). There should be something done about the injustice inside the prisons and with the laws that are passed. It can make us frustrated not being able to do enough for the cause. We are a small organization and there is only so much a few can do. Please pray for us and especially for the ones in prison facing dilemmas trying to get out and the many problems that they are going through. I respect those who know we cannot do legal work and realize we are limited in what we can do. If we get off course in other then what God called us to do it would be foolish. Let me say that we do sympathize and pray for you. One thing I want to remind you what we do is once when you get out of prison and arrive at the bus stop here in Albuquerque is to pick you up, get you over to your P.O. to register. We take you for your first real outside meal, get you a backpack, watch, belt, bus pass and other things you might need. So please contact us before you get out.

I hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving and an upcoming Merry Christmas!

Don & Alice

