



# COALITION FOR SEXUAL OFFENSE RESTORATION

*Though I have fallen, I will rise.  
Micah 7:8*

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

CSOR Newsletter

March 2014

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## MOVING FORWARD

By Susan Walker

It is exhilarating but somewhat frightening to begin a new venture such as CSOR (Coalition for Sexual Offense Restoration). Not being a person who is accounting literate or overly computer literate, I must depend on friends and co-workers to assist me with these tasks. Hopefully, I will continue to learn along the way, but am, in the meantime, extremely grateful for those who are giving from their hearts to assist in getting this organization off the ground!

The newsletter that is going into the prisons this quarter is different from the one you are receiving. Since I have sent most, if not all of you, the summary of the Outside Evaluation of the Sex Offender Management Board that I prepared, it seemed like a waste of good space to send it again. That summary took up the first two and one half pages of the "inside" newsletter this time, as CSOR cannot afford to send the 168 page report in to all of the folks in prison who would like to read it. Rather, I am sending one or two copies into each facility, hoping that the guys (and ladies) who get it will pass it around to others who are interested. This has worked well with previous reports. Folks inside who can afford to send money for the report are doing so! Friends on parole who can afford to send money for the report are doing so as well.

I have just procured a P.O. Box, and am ready to start getting mail there. **While CSOR is a Colorado Non-Profit at this point, we will have to wait a while to actually get our federal tax exemption 501(c)(3). Because of this, any donations given to CSOR while we are waiting may not be tax deductible. However, if we do receive our tax exemption (could be as long as a year), donations given may be tax exempt retroactively. WE GOT OUR FIRST DONATION THROUGH THE MAIL TODAY (2-21-14).**

In the meantime, a few folks are giving of their time and dollars to assist this organization on its way. Bear Valley Church graciously gave \$200.00 toward a motel room for a person recently out of prison. David Smith and Marion Husler are giving of their time and expertise in the IT area to help with the creation of our logo, letterhead and website. They also gave out of their own pockets to get the website going. DG, a friend and co-worker, continues to give as the need arises for coats, furniture, food etc. My good friend, Nadia deStackelburg, drew the logo and is helping me straighten out the pile of receipts and accounting sheets with which I have started working. I was able to purchase a copier, print, scanner, fax for CSOR at a very reasonable price!

I believe the time is right to ask those of you who can and who feel so led to consider giving to this organization. We will need approximately \$1,200 for the incorporation, and the ongoing costs of printing and mailing the newsletters quarterly to those on the inside, the cost of gasoline for "hands-on assistance" in transportation as people are getting out of prison and meeting a myriad of parole requirements, the price of maintaining a phone for conversations with inmates, families, referral sources, parole, CDOC, coalition partners – all these plus other needs add up. I know that you already give to your loved ones who are in the system, and/or to the organizations with which you work, and appreciate that some of you may not be able to give. God will provide for this venture in His time.

## LETTERS, PHONE CALLS AND E-MAILS

If I could keep up with the letters that come to me from CDOC and prisons around the country, it would be a miracle. At the present time, there are thirty-three letters to my left waiting for answers. If there are folks getting this communication that would like to assist with the incredibly important job of writing to those incarcerated with a sexual offense, please let me know. Some letters are complex, and hard to answer. Some are long, and some are legal. I frequently ask that letters be kept short and that legal mail not be sent, since CSOR is not a legal organization, and really cannot help in that area, other than by sharing attorney referral ideas. Many of the people to whom I write have no-one, and only get mail from me. What a thrill they get when they receive mail.

Phone calls come in consistently through the day (and evening), and many of them present complex challenges as well. Guys on the outside call because they are having trouble with parole and/or treatment issues. Families call because they are sometimes not able to get in touch with CDOC staff/therapists who are working with their family members. Parolees recently released need ideas for housing and jobs, as well as direction to a variety of resources that are available in the community, such as the V.A., food banks, clothing options etc.

Then there are the e-mails! I am embarrassed to say that about 4,600 that have piled up. All have been answered, but they keep coming. I try to delete as I go, but so far have not been successful in getting them down to a reasonable

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*"I have trouble individualizing offenders"*

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number! It is my pleasure and joy to be able to assist as people pour out heart-wrenching issues regarding their children or teens who have been accused and convicted of a sexual offense, as moms and dads, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters try to cope with the pain that sexual offending has caused for them, for their loved ones, and for those who have been victimized.

Someone recently said to me "I have trouble individualizing offenders". Much of the world sees only what they consider disgusting behavior by those who have sexually offended, and does not see the individual persons who have fallen. While all of us fall at times, people look at those with sexual offenses and see them as the worst of the worst – remember the 60's song that said "everybody has to have somebody to look down on". I am not in any way minimizing the offense and the pain it causes for many, but I do believe in redemption! It is amazing that something as exciting as redemption can begin to be achieved via the answering of a letter, e-mail or phone call!

## RECENT NEWS

It is quite possible that Dr. Deirdre D'Orazio, co-author of the recent outside evaluation of the Sex Offender Management Board with Drs. Anthony Beech and David Thornton, will be invited to Denver to address legislators on major report findings. If this happens, it will take place in April of this year, after the Long Bill.

## BUILDING COALITION

Coalition building is a daily activity. It is clear that the surface has barely been scratched when we think about those in Colorado who are working to either a great or a small extent with people who have committed and been convicted of a sexual offense. Each week, I try to schedule a breakfast or lunch with someone who is a potential coalition partner. In some cases, CSOR is getting referrals for assistance with housing, employment and other issues from future and potential coalition partners, people and organizations with whom I have not yet met!

It is my hope and prayer that CSOR is able to clarify sexual offense issues and laws for coalition partners, raise grant money for mutual or team projects, and work side by side to assist in achieving the physical, social, emotional, psychological and spiritual restoration of the sexually offending population.

## RESEARCH CORNER

I recently reread the article *Effective Policing: Understanding How Polygraph Tests Work and Are Used* by William G. Iacono, from the journal **Criminal Justice and Behavior**. The polygraph has been around for over half a century, and while it continues to be utilized to try to detect criminal behaviors, its veracity is frequently questioned in journals and articles discussing issues of criminal justice.

Dr. Iacono points out that “there is no physiological response that is uniquely associated with lying”.

He further states that no-one knows what brain mechanisms are involved in lying, making it very hard to create ways of parting those who lie from those who tell the truth. People in criminal justice fields try to discover deception by comparing differing sorts of (polygraph) questions to physiological reactions. It is assumed that certain kinds of questions are more likely to elicit lies than others. The CQT or Comparison Question Test is the kind of test that is assumed to elicit untruths.

The author states that “despite the convictions of polygraphers that the CQT is highly accurate, science does not support the use of polygraph tests”. He further explains that empirical evidence has not been found that supports CQT polygraph questions as a means of uncovering incriminating evidence.

Dr. Iacono goes on to say that it is more likely that those who are innocent will fail, than that those who are guilty will pass. In crimes where there is minimal evidence, the CQT polygraph question/testing does appear to be able to produce confessions.

“THERE IS NO PHYSIOLOGICAL  
RESPONSE THAT IS UNIQUELY  
ASSOCIATED WITH LYING”.

Dr. William G. Iacono

The MRI has been tried as a means of discovering the neurophysiological basis of lie detection, but at this point, the processes of the brain underlying deception continue to be a mystery. The GKT or guilty knowledge test is another recent test that has been used to try to identify deception.

If you would like to read more about the polygraph, you can find this paper online at <http://cjb.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/35/10/1295>. Other polygraph articles can be found on the CSOR website at [www.csor-home.org](http://www.csor-home.org).

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CONTRIBUTIONS HELP ACHIEVE SOLUTIONS

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If you would consider giving something to help CSOR move forward with its 501(c)(3) incorporation, as well as ongoing costs, it would be most appreciated. You may send your donation to:

Susan Walker, M.A.  
Director, CSOR  
P.O. Box 27051  
Denver, Colorado 80227

Make checks payable to: Coalition for Sexual Offense Restoration

## CSOR MEETINGS COMING UP

The next CSOR Meeting is planned for Wednesday March 5 at WGA, 1532 Emerson St., just off E. Colfax. The meeting is held upstairs. Lunch will be served. It is from 11:30 to 12:30 to allow everyone to get right back to work. Please be ON TIME!

June, September and December will be the schedule for the rest of 2014, with exact dates and locations to follow.

## THE LEGISLATURE

On March 3, 2014, at 1:30 p.m., the State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives will hear the presentation of two bills having to do with Jessica's Law. The Republicans have been trying for a number of years to pass Jessica's Law. It originated in Florida after the sexual assault and death of Jessica Lundsford. You may remember that last year, Bill O'Reilly chastised the Colorado Legislature for the fact that Colorado was one of only six states that had not passed Jessica's Law.

In reality, there are many forms of Jessica's Law across the U.S. Because of the political pressure on the Democrats after last year's passage of controversial gun, marijuana and civil unions' laws, and Bill O'Reilly's attack on Speaker of the House Mark Ferrandino, the Democrats are apparently feeling "pushed" to pass something along the lines of Jessica's Law, in order to minimize the voting damage in an election year. The Democrats' bill is a "sentence enhancer", whereas the Republican bill follows the Florida bill in terms of requiring a 25 year or life sentence for anyone 18 or older who commits the crime of lewd molestation (not currently a Colorado offense) against anyone 11 or younger.

Because Colorado already has a Lifetime Act for sexual offenses (1998), a report to the Governor from the CCJJ (crime commission appointed by Governor Ritter) suggested that more sexual offense laws were not needed in Colorado. There is also a determinate sentence option in our state. The testimony at this hearing will likely be extensive, as advocates for offenders and those who specifically support those who have been victimized will all be present. It is sad that politics and not reason frequently govern our system of laws. Anyone is welcome at the hearing.

We are waiting for word from the SOMB (Sex Offender Management Board) on how they will move forward with the suggestions made in the Outside Evaluators' Report.

**MORE IN JUNE 2014!**

"I lift up my eyes to the hills-where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth". - Psalm 121:1-2