

CALIFORNIA'S CRY FOR HELP

by Mary Dwall

As you may or may not know I went to California in June to speak at a community event regarding viable solutions to residency restrictions. There is a small church who ministers to those who feel God could never love them and no these are not just 290's but drug addicts, alcoholics and other walks of life.

This community surrounding two homes run by the Holy Ground Fellowship Church which houses 11 registered former sex offenders is outraged and crying for all to hear "not in my backyard".

The church organized an event, along with myself, to invite the concerned families and citizens to come and listen to the facts and truths regarding registry laws and how together our communities are safer when those registered are housed in a structured environment. Sadly, even after all the effort made, these concerned citizens did not show. They cry in ignorance they want the church shut down as well as both homes. The Pastors were devastated at the lack of response from this community and depressed. They wondered now what? What do we do?

My response was simple: "If they won't come to you, then you go to them." Take the DVD recording of

the event, the brochures which were printed in both English and Spanish and put packets together. Deliver them by hand to your politicians, city councilmen, neighbors, law-enforcement etc. Educate those who are led by ignorance and fear!

This idea sparked hope and work began to reach out and educate those to the facts but **this past Thursday** my biggest fear came true. Word came by phone that the neighbor who wanted these men gone had succeeded. DOC informed the Pastors that a licensed daycare was being placed in the home across the street from a home which has been housing six registered citizens for almost three years with no incidents or recidivating of new sex crimes. They were informed the men would be forced to move in thirty days and if a new home was not located then they by California law, known as Jessica's law, would have to register as "transient". In other word's homeless.

I was stunned, shocked and angry. There is nothing in the statute which protects this from happening to these individuals in this home nor any other home. They are desperately trying to locate a new home but time is short and anger breathes amongst the

families of these individuals who simply want to lead productive lives and re-enter society.

My phone rang with the voices of those effected as they expressed their concerns and fears to be forced to live on the streets. Others who heard of me were calling asking questions trying to grasp

how one can put a daycare in and the law forces those registered to move. I had no answers, stunned as I said before, yet found myself actively working to set up more meetings and find help for California.

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STAFF MEMBERS TELL WHY THEY ARE PART OF SOSEN

“CFCNational” says: SOSEN gave me a safe haven as I watched these laws destroy my family. With time came knowledge and I wanted to be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves as I work to educate on vital issues like prevention, awareness and fact based evidence regarding sex offender laws and issues. The members and staff of SOSEN have always been very kind to me and I thank each one who makes SOSEN what it is today as they are the backbone of our organization!

“Midwest Dad” says: I joined SOSEN in an attempt to learn more about the laws that were effecting me and my family. I felt lost, like no one understood what I was going through. I joined several sites and then Zman told me about SOSEN. A warm thanks, Zman!

SOSEN filled the need of finding likeminded people who would understand what my family and I were going through.

Once I joined SOSEN I figured out that just being a member and reading posts was not going to change the laws so I started to look around to see what I could do to help. Within a few weeks I learned that there was a need for someone to help with making brochures so I jumped right in. Since that time I have been an active member of SOSEN being asked to join staff and then the BOD.

“Tiggeronmv” says: SOSEN gives me a way to advocate for change in the way that people look at sex offenders. SOSEN makes me feel like I am part of a family where most of us are suffering the collateral damage from sex offender laws.

“DoWhatICan” says: I’ve been a politically minded advocate

since the 60s and part of SOSEN since its inception. Even though I have never had the problems that many of us face, I could and I may. That has always been enough for me. I am a firm believer in “But by the Grace of God go I.” I have been on the registry since 2000, and unless my state changes the laws, I will be removed at the end of this year. Not being on the registry will not stop me from participating and advocating.

“Lynn” says: My family and I felt very alone living with the challenges of unjustly living with the label of “sex offender” until I discovered SOSEN. I soon learned that there were many *thousands* of normal and ordinary people who were suffering in the same manner as we were. SOSEN became an immediate extended family, one for which my family and I are eternally grateful.

“Topwop” says: Being a member of SOSEN as well as being a member of SOSEN Staff and SOSEN B.O.D. as Treasurer will become a defining part of my life’s work. If I must be a part of this madness, then it will be on my terms. My life and my family have been derailed here by way of a broken and abusive system that if left to run its own course will continue to destroy other family’s lives. This must be stopped. I must do what is right.

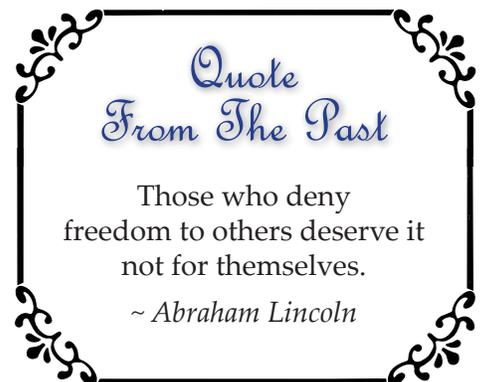
My oldest son was caught up in this while trying to do favors to help out a friend. Good intentions truly have a way of going bad when distant relatives and the Gestapo become involved in situations they need not to have. My son spent six months in jail and must spend 10 years on this registry for a crime he neither committed nor intended to commit. I as most people are, was

very uneducated in the ways of law enforcement and the judicial system. Rather I was indeed naïve. What happened to my family has in its own way happened to yours.

When ones public and financial life have been damaged perhaps beyond repair, one needs therapy. Not court ordered therapy but therapy for the heart, for ones soul. Repairing ones soul is the first step in redemption and redemption comes with an emotional, physical, and financial price to pay and pay I have and will continue to do. that I will continue onward with SOSEN and those in this fight. I will NEVER fool myself into believing what we all, sacrifice here is not making a difference. I will NEVER allow a broken system get me down and keep me down; I will get up again and again.

Will you?

We must do what is right.



BROCHURES AND HANDOUTS

We have created two new brochures available for download in our SOSEN Library.

- 1: Prevention of Sexual Abuse
- 2: What Do You Know About Sex Offenders

Ohio Supreme Court Victory

On June 3, 2010, In a narrowly tailored decision, the Supreme Court of Ohio voided as unconstitutional two sections of the Ohio Adam Walsh Act (AWA) that authorize the state attorney general to reclassify sex offenders who had already been classified by judges under a previous version of the law, "Megan's Law." The Court held that the challenged provisions violate the separation-of-powers doctrine of the Ohio Constitution.

This decision should remove an estimated 26,000 former offenders from the registry. So far this has not occurred as the Ohio AG has requested clarification from the court.

Portions of the AWA ruled unconstitutional

In another victory, (CARR v. UNITED STATES) the United States Supreme Court found certain provisions of the AWA unconstitutional for violating the ex post facto clause.

"Among its provisions, the Act established a federal criminal offense covering, inter alia, any person who (1) "is required to

register under [SORNA]," (2) "travels in interstate or foreign commerce," and (3) "knowingly fails to register or update a registration." 18 U. S. C. §2250(a).

The court found that applying this requirement to individuals who traveled before the law was written or took effect in 2006 was unconstitutional. We feel it was also foolish. How can a person break a law that is not yet a law? I guess we need to ask congress that one....

Report finds; Megan's Law Doesn't Work.

New Jersey, the place where Megan's Law began, the place it may end.

"For the past 15 years, the public has been left with a false sense of security. A federally funded study has determined that Megan's Law does not work."

"In 2007, New Jersey reportedly spent \$3.9 million with, as the study found, no appreciable benefit to public safety. Given our current budgetary shortfall this money could have been, and now should be, put to much better use by investing it in efforts that will actually protect New Jersey's children."

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What truly amazes me is this is the state with the largest number of registered individuals under Megan's law and yet so few voices are willing to speak out for Human and Civil Rights. I found it emotionally draining as my heart is with these men and their families who are being targeted for the horrifying crimes of John Gardner and the deaths of Chelsea and Amber. Here soon if we do not find a voice for these families affected by these unconstitutional laws then those registered in California will all be homeless.

We here at SOSEN and across this country need to reach out and give them hope. I plan to return later this year and meet with many more individuals and families who fall prey to these unconstitutional laws and hope to share some compassion and kindness as we help each other gain strength to stand up for what is rightfully ours; our Constitutional Rights as citizens of the United States of America.

We are the hope for so many who suffer the loss of their Human and Civil Rights.

Together, all of us, can create change by allowing our voices to be heard!

WEEKLY EVENTS

American's Reality check
(ARC) Talk Radio
www.americansrealitycheck.com

Three nights a week!

Monday 6:00 p.m. Eastern
Wednesday 8:00 p.m. Eastern
Friday 6:00 p.m. Eastern

Dial: 724-444-7444

Code: 29521#

all shows available for archive:
<http://www.talkshoe.com/talkshoe/web/talkCast.jsp?masterId=29521&cmd=tc>

Do You Have Internet?

Here is a list of some sites you may like to visit:

www.sosen.org
www.oncefallen.com
www.freebrandon.org
www.ohiorsol.wordpress.com
www.flareformsexoffenderlaws.org
www.rickyslife.com
www.cfcamerica.org
www.sexoffenderresearch.blogspot.com
www.citizensforsecondchances.com

Stop Vigilante violence:
www.petitiononline.com/vigi2010/



To email for support:

support@sosen.org

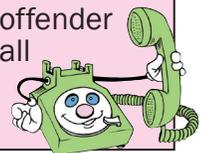
or write:

SOSEN Inc.

PO box 1128, Stilwell, OK 74960

SOSEN RESOURCE CENTER

Our new toll free number is now available for the public, media and lawmakers to contact us for educational materials and information on sex offender laws and issues. Call **800-773-4319**.





PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE