

THE LEGAL BEAGLE PRESS & SERVICE

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Justice, Equality & Mercy for All

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Firearm-Related Deaths in Tennessee

Study by: The Sycamore Institute

Key Takeaways

Deaths in 2021

- In 2021, gunfire was the 10th leading cause of death in Tennessee, killing 1,569 residents or about 22 of every 100,000 people.¹ It was the leading cause of death for those ages one to 18.
- Our firearm death rate was the 11th highest in the U.S. and 53% (7.8 deaths per 100,000) higher than the national rate. That gap has grown over time. Demographics and Type
- Just over half of firearm deaths were suicides, but homicides accounted for the most among zero to 35-year-olds and black Tennesseans. Trends
- Shooting deaths in the state have been rising for about a decade — largely driven by spikes in homicides. Children and black Tennesseans had the fastest growth in firearm death rates.
- Over the same period, state crime data show a rise in offenses involving firearms — both fatal and non-fatal — while all other crime rates declined. Across Tennessee
- From the 2000s to the 2010s, firearm death rates rose in about three-quarters of the 80 counties with available data. The counties with the highest rates are mostly in West Tennessee.

To see the whole study visit: <https://www.sycamoreinstitutetn.org>

**POSITIONS ARE
TEMPORARY.
RANKS AND
TITLES ARE
LIMITED.
BUT THE WAY
YOU TREAT
PEOPLE, WILL
ALWAYS BE
REMEMBERED.**

**Bullets don't care,
but we do. Stop
gun violence!**

States create conditions that increase risk of recidivism.

Ex-Felons still struggle to find jobs that pay a living wage even though there is a massive labor shortage. For example, I applied for a job unloading trucks for Goodwill, which was denied because they have an organizational policy prohibiting them from hiring sex offenders.



JoshFessel @JoshFessel

In case I've not said this recently: If you find yourself on a committee discussing the needs of a particular group of people, but you look around the room & don't see anyone from that group, you should be HIGHLY skeptical of any "conclusions" reached.

Government officials, including judges and prosecutors, should not be given immunity for misbehavior.

By Jeffery S. Nichols

Justice Brandis of the United States Supreme Court summed it up best:

"Decency, security, and liberty alike demand that government officials shall be subjected to the same rules of conduct that are commanded of its citizenry. In a government of laws, existence of the government will be imperiled if it fails to observe the law scrupulously.

Our government is the potent, the omnipresent teacher. For good or ill, it teaches the whole people by its example. Crime is contagious. If the government becomes a law breaker, it breeds contempt for law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy.

To declare that in the administration of government the end justifies the means...would bring terrible retribution. Against that pernicious doctrine this court should resolutely set its face. See Olstead v. United States, 277 U.S. 438, 485 (1928).

Unfortunately, in recent years the Supreme Courts has changed their opinion on this issue, by allowing both judges and prosecutors to have absolute immunity in criminal cases for even the most egregious and vile acts. Now, this immunity has been extended to many other government officials as well.

The result of all this is exactly as Justice Brandis said it would be. No one should every have absolute immunity. A matter a fact, Government Official should be held to a high standard that everyone else, not a lessor one.

One Colorado prison's volunteer-grown garden is changing the lives of people both inside and outside the walls. The food grown subsidizes prisoner's meals, which provides more nutrition to their diets and wholesome products. Further, some of the produce is donated to local Food Banks for disadvantaged locals.

Tennessee Department of Correction could easily implement a similar program. They could expand it by clearing hard wood trees from the tree line, replacing them with fruit trees. Selling the hardwood trees and using the money made to pay for the seeds.



Major win for the USA limiting the power the government has in suppressing free speech on social media.

By Izabella Jamrocha USPL



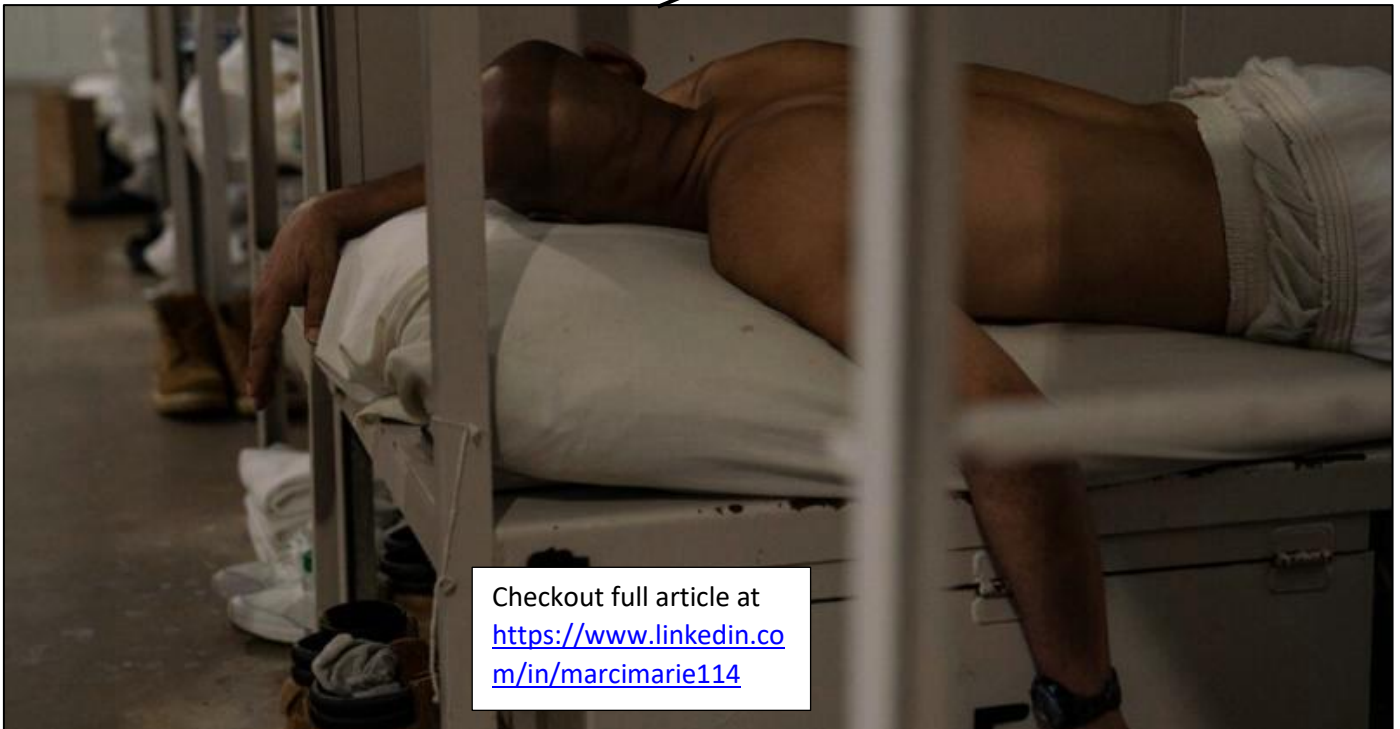
BREAKING: Federal Judge Terry Doughty releases opinion in Missouri v. Biden on July 4th, finding the government likely violated the First Amendment by conspiring with Big Tech in a "far-reaching and widespread censorship campaign."

Judge Doughty grants a preliminary injunction blocking the DOJ, FBI, and DHS from working with Big Tech to censor content.

When you see Democrats and Republicans working together on any issue; especially, ones that clearly violate the Constitution and use fear tactics to try and influence public support, it's important to research the issue, follow the money, before you support such. We now know, the government was conspiring with Big Tech (the money) in a widespread censorship campaign to censor social media outlets, providers, and content.

Find the article at:
https://lnkd.in/gbYHW_a4

Just imagine being in a Texas Prison without Air-Conditioning in the extreme heat of summer.



Checkout full article at
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/marcimarie114>

U.S. Government, both Republicans and Democrats, continue to erode individuals constitutional right to free speech and news.

It's time to stop talking and start reducing recidivism! Here is an idea.



Reshaping Lives: Enhancing Reentry with Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions in Corrections

By Dr. Barry Gregory Ed.D. M.Ed. BA

The U.S. government has allowed one corporation to own over 95% of the over-the-air news outlets. If this took place in another country, like Russia, we would call it government-controlled news, or a government propaganda machine.

"When using cognitive-behavioral interventions with inmates to reduce criminogenic risk factors and change criminal thinking and behavior in corrections, the following keys are important to consider:

Further, back in the early 2000s, the government expanded their ability to control, or censor, the news when they mandated that all over the air transmissions had to be by a digital signal. This effectively did away with the cheaper analog signal, and ability for most independent people and businesses to broadcast news. It also made it easier for the FCC to monitor and censor news broadcast.

1. **Individualized Assessment:** Conduct comprehensive assessments of each inmate to understand their specific risk factors, needs, and cognitive distortions related to criminal behavior. This assessment can include standardized measures, interviews, and historical information.

Now, with the popularity of social media, where any one can express their opinions or broadcast news on foreign owned providers sites without U.S. government censorship. Has resulted in our government, both Republicans and Democrats, working to enacting laws to ban Americans from access to all foreign social media outlets that our government can't control, or censor, the content thereof.

2. **Cognitive Restructuring:** Help inmates identify and challenge their distorted thinking patterns and beliefs that contribute to criminal behavior. Teach them cognitive-behavioral techniques, such as identifying and reframing irrational thoughts, replacing negative self-talk, and developing more prosocial and realistic cognitions.

Thus, in America the land of the free with the right to free speech has now become the land of government-controlled news and propaganda. We must stand against government control and censorship of American's opinions and speech.

3. **Skill-Building:** Provide inmates with skills training to enhance their problem-solving abilities, impulse control, emotional regulation, and interpersonal skills. Teach them adaptive coping strategies and decision-making skills to address life stressors without resorting to criminal behavior.

4. **Behavior Modification:** Implement behavioral interventions to reinforce positive behavior and discourage criminal behavior. Utilize behavior contracts, token economies, and contingency management techniques to shape and reinforce pro-social behaviors, compliance with rules, and adherence to treatment goals.

The rest on Page 7

The Memphis Office of the Tennessee Innocence Project ready to Open.



Action News 5
Memphis
By Victoria Poirrier

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (WMC) - Since 2019, the Tennessee Innocence Project has made it their mission to fight for the wrongfully convicted.

With a central location in Nashville, the organization will soon open doors in Midtown Memphis.

“It made a lot of sense for us to open a Memphis office because we get more requests for help from Memphis than any other jurisdiction in the state of Tennessee,” said Jessica Van Dyke, executive director of the Tennessee Innocence Project.

Van Dyke says when the wrong person is convicted of a crime, the right person is free to do more harm.

“The community of Memphis benefits whenever we all know who really committed a crime; and then secondly, I think community benefits when we have trust in the system,” Van Dyke said.

She adds that the biggest motivator to open the location was the Shelby County District Attorney’s Conviction Review Unit, which allows prosecutors to take a second look at cases to ensure justice was really served at the time of conviction.

“Us being able to partner with a collaborative entity like a conviction review unit like they have in Shelby County is a game-changer,” Van Dyke said.

The Tennessee Innocence Project has an application process that begins online for those who say, “I did not commit this crime; please take a second look at my case.”

“But the cases are here, the people are here, they need our help,” said Van Dyke. “And so we’re excited to jump right in and be a part of the community.”

If you would like more information on the Tennessee Innocence Project, please visit [TNInnocence.org](https://www.tninnocence.org).

Food for Thought

“The Government actually means mind control”.

It’s etymologically originated from the ancient Latin Language. It splits it into two words: 1 governare – meaning “to control”, and 2 mens or mentis – meaning “mind”. Interesting! In country terms, the government – you can’t have a society without it, but without checks and balances you might not want to live with it.

Justice Thomas champions our colorblind Constitution

From The Hill Newsletter - By Giancarlo Canaparo

In forbidding the use of race-based preferences in university admissions, the Supreme Court held that every student “must be treated based on his or her experiences as an individual, not on the basis of race.”

In addition to Chief Justice John Roberts’s majority opinion, Justice Clarence Thomas wrote a magisterial concurring opinion, explaining that the Constitution is, quite properly, colorblind.

The case featured dueling views of the Constitution and race. One is Justice Thomas’s view that the Constitution forbids racial classifications of people. He “hold[s] out enduring hope that this country will live up to its principles so clearly enunciated in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States: that all men are created equal, are equal citizens, and must be treated equally before the law.”

The other is the dissenters’ view that racial classifications are not only permissible but necessary to correct the negative effects of past racial classifications. They argue that we must “do what evidence and experts tell us is required,” even if that requires more discrimination.

But what does the Constitution actually say? The 14th Amendment says that “all persons” born in and subject to the United States are citizens. It says that the privileges or immunities of “citizens” cannot be abridged. It says that no “person” may be denied life, liberty, or property without due process of law. And it says that every “person” is entitled to equal protection of the laws. The language is universal, and it was meant to be.

The framers of that amendment, as Thomas shows, knew that America had fallen short of the high ideals of the Declaration of Independence, that “all men are created equal.” They wanted to put the country right — not just for one specific race, but for everyone. They knew what Frederick Douglass knew: that “man is man, the world over.”

Black Americans’ plight, of course, had inspired that amendment. But its authors were thinking bigger than just one race. They were thinking of humanity. What this proves, says Justice Thomas, is that discrimination in favor of African Americans is just as unconstitutional as discrimination against them.

The three dissenters try to muster a historical argument to the contrary, but it is cherry-picked and incomplete. In their view, the solution to past and present racial disparities is for experts to create present and future racial disparities that tip the balance of outcomes in the other direction. Black people suffered harms generations ago that make it less likely that their descendants will get into Harvard today? Well, then, the admissions experts at Harvard should be trusted to lower standards and admit more of them today, perhaps even at someone else’s expense.

This balancing act, they argue, is the only way to correct past disparities. It is “ignorance,” they argue, to make the law colorblind when the people are not.

Thomas agrees that America is not colorblind. Indeed, he recounts with much more specificity the legacy of America’s color-conscious history. Race is “a social construct,” he says, and yet it has played an enormous role in American life, usually with devastating consequences. Slavery, segregation, anti-Chinese discrimination, Jewish exclusion from universities, Japanese internment, and now anti-Asian discrimination in elite universities — all these things have been defended at one time or another as “positive goods.”

People rarely think they are doing evil when they discriminate, but so often they are.

Even the best-intentioned programs often hurt those they’re meant to help. Racial preferences in admissions are no exception. Thomas points to a large body of empirical literature demonstrating that, but for racial preferences, there would be more minority doctors, lawyers, and other professionals than there are today. It’s simply untrue, as he points out, to think that only the elite schools can give non-white students a leg up in the world. Historically Black colleges and universities, it turns out, are more likely to produce African American judges, lawyers, and doctors than the Ivies are.

And, of course, discrimination in favor of one person hurts others, especially in the context of zero-sum games like student admissions. A spot given to one applicant because of his race is a spot taken away from another student because of hers. This sort of racial spoils system is no different in principle than the sort of historical discrimination we all now agree was evil. The only difference is “whose ox is gored.”

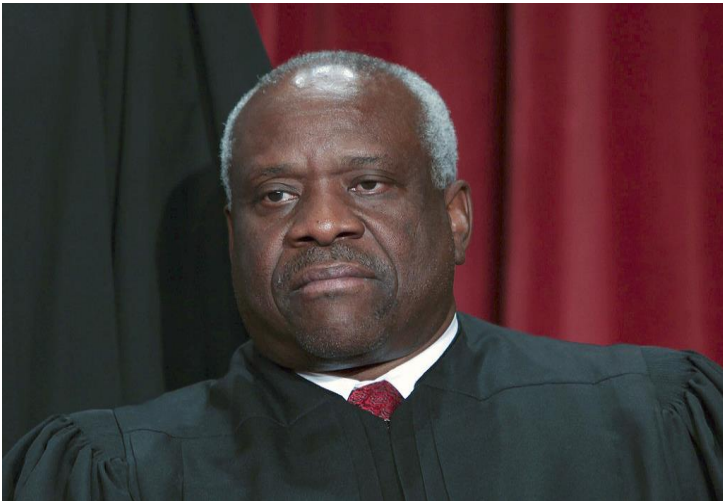
What’s more, racial divisions — even for supposedly “benign” purposes — breed more racial resentment and increase the view that people are first, if not exclusively, defined by their skin color. Thomas notes that segregation on college campuses has not abated with the use of racial preferences. Quite the opposite — almost half of all colleges now segregate housing and orientation programs, and more than two-thirds have segregated graduation ceremonies. This is not progress.

For these reasons, he argues, “[r]acialism simply cannot be undone by different or more racialism.”

Thomas is also acutely aware of that truth of human nature that Frederick Douglass observed in 1865: “If nothing is expected of a people, that people will find it difficult to contradict that expectation.”

Black Americans, Thomas believes, are wronged by those who would treat them as a “perpetually inferior caste,” as the dissenters do. He calls it “an insult to individual achievement and cancerous to young minds seeking to push through barriers, rather than consign themselves to permanent victimhood.”

See the rest on Page 7



Continued: **Justice Thomas champions our colorblind Constitution**

Thomas acknowledges historical injustices, but he won't allow them to define entire races. Racial determinism is no recipe for progress. Quite the opposite, racially deterministic visions, "historically, have ended disastrously."

Yes, some members of some racial groups face more challenges than some members of other races — but not all. Again, we are more than stereotypes. Black students are just as heterogenous as anyone else. They include "northerners, southerners, rich and poor, and recent immigrants and descendants of slaves." Some descend from people who were oppressed — as do some Asians, Jews, and even whites — but some do not.

It will do no good, Thomas argues, to let fester the belief that the color of a person's skin traps him in a permanently oppressed caste. "What matters," Thomas says, "is not the barriers [we] face, but how [we] choose to confront them."

[EPA methane rules need flexibility, balance to achieve lower emissions](#)
[Three hopeful signs for Democrats](#)

In his steady warning against "elites bearing racial theories," Thomas echoes Frederick Douglass, who urged well-intentioned white people to "[d]o nothing with us! Your doing with us has already played mischief with us!"

It is right to forbid discrimination, but it is wrong and counterproductive to attempt to cure this disease with more disease. That, at bottom, is why a color-conscious society needs colorblind laws.

GianCarlo Canaparo is a Senior Legal Fellow in the Heritage Foundation's Meese Center for Legal and Judicial Studies.

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Reshaping Lives: Enhancing Reentry with Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions in Corrections

5. **Social Learning:** Use group therapy or peer-based interventions to foster social learning and skill acquisition. Provide opportunities for inmates to engage in pro-social interactions, observe positive role models, and receive constructive feedback from their peers and therapists.

6. **Relapse Prevention:** Help inmates develop relapse prevention strategies to maintain their progress post-release. Teach them to identify high-risk situations, develop coping skills to manage triggers, and create a support network to reinforce positive change.

7. **Continuity of Care:** Ensure a seamless transition from correctional facilities to community-based programs or aftercare services. Collaborate with community agencies and support networks to provide ongoing treatment, supervision, and support to maintain gains achieved during incarceration.

8. **Staff Training and Collaboration:** Train correctional staff members on cognitive-behavioral interventions, their rationale, and techniques to enhance their ability to support and reinforce positive change. Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration among correctional staff, mental health professionals, and other stakeholders to provide comprehensive treatment and support.

9. **Evaluation and Monitoring:** Regularly assess and monitor the effectiveness of cognitive-behavioral interventions through outcome evaluations and ongoing progress monitoring. Use validated assessment tools and collect data to inform treatment planning, measure treatment progress, and make necessary modifications.

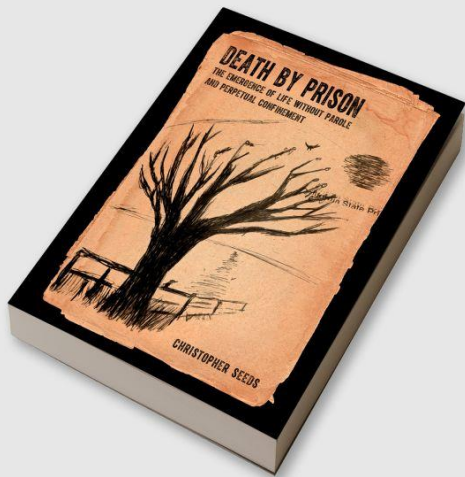
10. **Cultural Sensitivity:** Tailor cognitive-behavioral interventions to be culturally sensitive and relevant to the diverse population of inmates. Consider cultural factors, values, and beliefs when implementing interventions to ensure maximum engagement and effectiveness.

Remember, successful implementation of cognitive-behavioral interventions in correctional settings requires a multidimensional approach that addresses both individual and environmental factors influencing criminal behavior". [\(12\) Reshaping Lives: Enhancing Reentry with Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions in Corrections | LinkedIn](#)

An Illuminating, Hope-Stealing Book on Life Without Parole

Christopher Seeds' "Death By Prison" shows how life sentences went from extraordinary punishment to common practice in the United States.

Article from Prison Journalism Project, By Reginald Stephen



Let me say that I opened "Death by Prison" with a deep level of trepidation. Written by Christopher Seeds, an assistant professor at University of California, Irvine, the book informs me about the hole I dug for myself each time I was arrested, convicted and sent away.

"Death by Prison" examines how life without parole went from an extraordinary sentence to one that is commonly imposed by the United States justice system, both directly and indirectly.

To read Seeds' book is to learn more about my unwitting complicity in my own demise. As an adolescent, I misguidedly equated my self-worth with material possessions, or the lack thereof. In 1970s New York City, both my peer group and poor people of color in general judged one another on this basis.

Selling drugs and stealing was and remains culturally sanctioned by some people in poor communities. My role models were the street hustlers, people who pursued money in any number of unlawful fashions. In my mind and the minds of others, the ends justified the means.

I didn't know that my extraordinary risks to acquire material wealth and possessions made me fodder for a system whose appetite was insatiable, impersonal and self-perpetuating. I started getting locked up when I was 16. I will soon be 61, having served 10 1/2 years of a 16-to-life sentence. I will eventually have to appear before a parole board with my criminal history as an unshakable companion and adversary.

Prison Journalism Project

Prison Journalism Project trains incarcerated writers to become journalists and publishes their stories.

Check them out at:

<https://prisonjournalismproject.org>

"Death By Prison" is a scholarly and historical look at the development of life without parole sentencing — commonly called LWOP — in America over the last 200 years. It serves as a sobering portent to men like me who have served several decades in correctional institutions: With each arrest and conviction, we are digging our own graves. I am part of the graying population of incarcerated men who have served multiple prison sentences dating back to adolescence.

For the first 70 years of the 20th century, LWOP was not yet the LWOP we know now. There was still the possibility for release through executive review. It provided judicial closure to aggrieved victims and an outraged public while at the same time leaving open the possibility of clemency and parole for incarcerated people who availed themselves of rehabilitative opportunities.

In recent decades, those ideals have dissolved. Today, it is widely assumed that rehabilitation programs inside prisons are ineffective and that many of the nation's incarcerated are irredeemable and disposable. Seeds identified many reasons for the country's reactionary turn.

One seminal moment marking the shift away from parole and clemency can be found in *Furman v. Georgia*, the landmark Supreme Court case from 1972. This case called into question the constitutionality of the death penalty and placed it on hiatus from 1972 through 1976. The case also marked the shift from indeterminate to determinate sentencing practices — in other words, the shift from people being sentenced to a range of time to a specific amount of time in prison.

In the wake of the *Furman* ruling, death penalty abolitionists became reluctant but early proponents of LWOP. They saw *Furman* as a win since it put a moratorium on executions, which have long been plagued by biases and indignities inherent in carrying them out.

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Continued: **A Illuminating, Hope-stealing Book on Life Without Parole**

The state of Florida was a bellwether in LWOP pursuits, Seeds wrote. This was despite Florida officials being initially alarmed by the specter of housing men with no hope of ever getting out in the state's general prison population. Fast-forward a few election cycles, the state took the plunge into the extremes of sentencing practices. Over time, its Republican governors and legislative committees included a host of non-capital offenses eligible for LWOP.

Today I sit at the table with people serving LWOP sentences as well as those who have life sentences with minimums so long that they are meant to die in prison too. These men are some of the most decent and compassionate people I know — there is a lot of truth to the idea that most incarcerated individuals age out of crime. For maybe the first 10 or 15 years of a long sentence one may continue to hold on to the self-image that got them arrested; but after spending time in a special housing unit, sustaining scars and wounds that disfigure faces, and suffering losses too numerous to count, most guys see the errors of their ways and change for the better. Many also try to help rehabilitate the generation coming behind by becoming positive role models in prison.

We didn't start out this way, but we now exist to pay it forward, taking responsibility for the past and present. As individuals and as a collective, we hope to be stewards of positive tomorrows. But there is the ever-looming possibility that we may never get the chance.

"Death By Prison" provides a big-picture view of its subject. The text is simultaneously illuminating and hope-stealing.

At its conclusion, a reader can't help but realize that LWOP is the culmination of sentencing policy 50-plus years in the making. Public outrage about crimes and overzealous politicians have fueled a nationwide practice of locking people up and throwing away the key.

Food for Thought

Samuel Sey argues: "School shootings have increased in America. Gun ownership hasn't. Gun laws are also stricter than ever before. So, since gun ownership hasn't increased and since gun laws are actually stricter than ever — guns are not the problem. And gun control isn't the solution." I think our problem is: We took GOD out of school. We no longer start each school day with the pledge and pray or acknowledge our creator and the moral values Jesus taught. We stopped teaching creation — that life is the greatest gift and it's from GOD. Instead, we teach evolution — that we came from nothing, life is nothing, and moral values is based on each individual's concepts and desires. The true problem is our decaying moral values!!!

If we really want to reduce recidivism, we must address the mental health issues facing prisoners and those reentering society from prison.

According to statistics compiled by the Prison Policy Initiative, 43% of people in state prisons have been diagnosed with a mental disorder. A much higher rate — 74% — report never having received mental health care while incarcerated.

The problems are not confined to an institution's walls. Many people upon release from prison confront lasting psychological consequences: anxiety, depression, impaired decision making, bipolar disorder and what some researchers have called "post-incarceration syndrome," a condition similar to PTSD.

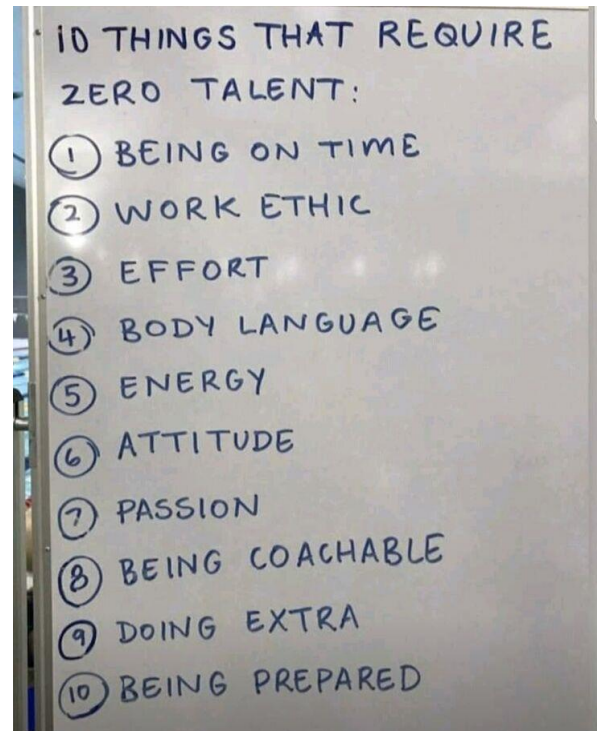
And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:9-10 ESV

Formerly incarcerated people experience an unemployment rate of 27% or nearly 5Xs higher than the overall population.

Rita Chowdhry, posted this list!

God is not going to rewrite the Bible for your generation. Stop trying to change scripture when it's written to change you!



FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

1. PRISONERS PRINT NEWSLETTER

Starting immediately, these newsletters will only be prepared and mailed out quarterly, in January/April July/October. Those that receive this newsletter will continue to receive such for the rest of the year and 2024. All new subscribers will be required to pay \$5 annual subscription fee. The reason for this is: the cost of mail and the preparation of newsletters is going up, lack of inmate interest, funding for such has been dismal, and I can't take funding from other ventures to fund it.

2. FREEWORLD JUSTICE INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILYS EMAIL AND ONLINE NEWSLETTERS

Starting in August, the Legal Beagle will be preparing and email newsletters monthly to subscribers. These newsletters are extremely popular. In less than six months the circulation of such has grown to over 2,000 and it's continuing to grow. Hence, the reason for such is: (a) online newsletters can be prepared and sent at minimal costs, (b) its popularity, and it helps to create interest in criminal justice reform.

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Mind

When your mind is weak,
Situation is a PROBLEM.

When your mind is balanced,
situation is CHALLENGE

But when your mind is Strong,
Situation becomes an
OPPORTUNITY