



Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty

On Wings of Hope



Project Hope



to Abolish the Death Penalty

Vol. 20 Issue IV
Oct. -Dec. 2016



MY CHRISTMAS PRESENT

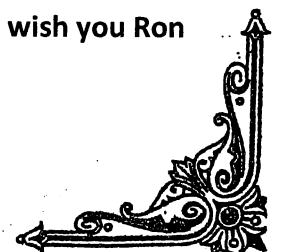
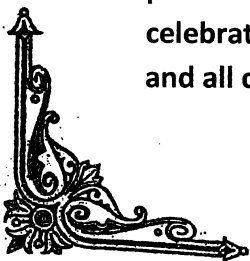
The Christmas edition of *Wings of Hope* is put together at the end of November and will be in the mail by December 8th, yes, December 8th the day on which, if there is not a stay, there will be an execution in Alabama, the execution of our Chairman and my friend Ronald Smith. This article is my Christmas present for you, Ron!

Would you not agree, Ron that we go back quite a few years, good years as well as heartbreaking years which saw the executions of people dear to us, people we called family? One gets to know someone rather well at times like that and is not stuck in superficialities. And then of course after you became Chairman we spoke on a daily basis, yes, about business but also about our families on the street, about our concerns, about all that one shares with a friend.

All of that I believe places me in a unique position to give you this Christmas present. You see Ron, this article will be on the front page and I want to tell the world what a great Chairman you are. Please don't be embarrassed! I am not speaking in my role as your friend now but as the Executive Director of our organization Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty. No, our friendship does not bias me. I see your organizing skills, your care for the individual, your ability to hold things together even when this organization went through some difficulties, and even now after the State gave you this date, I never saw you shirking your responsibilities. What is more, I can always count on your support and encouragement for the work I do out here. That means a lot to me and I know you know that! Sometimes you even make me smile when you quote me back to myself and say: "as you always say, we cannot change the other only ourselves." Yes, you have my number alright!

And now Ron, may I just say a few words in your role as your friend? You are a uniquely caring and intelligent man. Without going into details let me just say that I have witnessed both countless times. Thank you for all! And now although this is meant to be your Christmas present I would like one as well. It is that when this article sees the light of day we are celebrating a stay. After all, we know we still have lots of work to do together! I wish you Ron and all our supporters the peace, joy and love that is Christmas!

Esther





**PROJECT HOPE TO ABOLISH
THE DEATH PENALTY** (phadp)
501 (C) (3) non-profit.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Working together with friends, supporters and other advocates to educate the public and bring about the abolition of Capital Punishment in Alabama.

NATIONAL OFFICE:

P.O. Box 1362 Lanett, AL 36863
Phone: 334 499 0003
Email: beesther@earthlink.net
Web: www.phadp.org
Email group: phadp-mail-subscribe@yahoo.com, also on Face Book:
Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty in Alabama

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ronald Smith Jr. Chairman
Anthony Tyson. Vice Chairman
Bart Johnson Sec. /Treas.
Marcus Williams, Coordinator.
Jeffrey Lee, Asst. Coordinator
Anthony Boyd, Sgt At Arms
Info Dir. Randy Lewis

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ronald Smith Jr, Pres. /CEO
Anthony Tyson Jr. Vice Pres.
Esther Brown, Executive Director

DEVELOPMENT: Brandon Fountain

PRESIDENT EMERITUS: Jeff Rieber

STUDENT REP: Petra Jackson

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Donald Blocker

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Atty. Bryan Stevenson, Antoinette Bosco,
Atty. Christine Lichtenfels, Callie Greer
Robin DeMonia, Dale Wisely, Ph.D.
Robert M Wilson, Judy Collins,
Claudia Whitman, Ed Hart,
Ann Williams, Ursula Malchau,
Gary Drinkard, Louis Richard,
Bill Pelke, Diane McNaron,
Shelley Douglass, Sam L. Sullins,
Rev. Kenneth Sharpton Glasgow

**THIS NEWSLETTER WAS WRITTEN,
TYPED AND FORMATTED ON DEATH
ROW AT HOLMAN PRISON**

Greetings from the Editor's Desk

G oodness gracious how the time does fly. Another year gone. I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the holiday season be filled with love, joy and peace for all of you. I have a few things to take care of before I can truly enjoy mine but enjoy I will. Count on it.

This year has been trying for me personally and a test of my faith and mettle. But, I had the best teachers and mentors when it came to handling this situation I am in so "Nuff said". My family on the other hand had no practical experience and so I set my sights on being a comfort. After all the love and support I have received over the years from my family and my extended family here and from the outside it was time to get real or positively real as I like to say. My parents and I, and also my son and I have been sharing some frank discussions. Things that needed to be said. The thing is, you don't have to wait until you find yourself under dire straits to do so. In fact I recommend that you say the things that need to be said as soon as you can. Trust me that you will find things to say at your ending if given the chance and you won't be under any pressure because the things that needed to be said have already been said.

For those of you wondering about the State of Hope, well to use a sports analogy, we are on the goal line but our opponents don't seem to realize it. Time is running out on them not us.

Esther has been her usual compassionate self and we have been sharing some frank talks too. There truly is not anyway to put words to my feelings for her and what she means to me and to us here on Liferow, especially the Board. She wears too many hats. I couldn't explain to someone not in my situation. I won't even try. She even managed to give me an early Christmas gift. And to think she actually thought I was going to let her get away. She knows better now. But we can always use more help. If you are reading this then

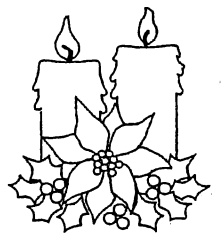
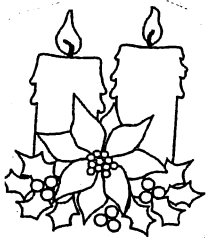
you know how to reach her. But if you aren't serious don't waste her time. She wouldn't say it so I will. She truly has more important things to do than have her time wasted by someone whose agenda differs from hers. If you want to know her agenda ask her but don't expect to put her into a box or give her a generic label. It just won't fit. Trust me. I have known her a long time and even I don't call her anything but, "my friend."

Thank you to all who have made the "good" of this year happen and the "bad" of this year less than it could have been. We have been blessed with some dedicated and big hearted supporters. I have not the faintest idea what we would do without you. May God bless you and keep you. And a personal thank you to everyone who wrote a letter to the Governor on my behalf. To my legal team thank you for your diligence, professionalism and for all the time I posited theories to test the boundaries of the law and you kept from saying, "No convict that won't work." Although Jon you do have to admit that my belief that ineffective counsel post conviction, the three facets of jury override claims, and the "suicidal burden claim" will all pan out. Just need the right court. I look forward to more philosophical in the New Year.

See you next year. Just trying to keep it positively real. Thanks for helping to "Keep Hope Alive!"

Sincerely,
Ronald B. Smith Jr.
Z-586 H-6

Editor; On Wings Of Hope
Chairman; PHADP



That Time of Year Again...

Giving of Thanks, and Tis' the Season to be jolly. It's that time of year again. That time of year, when we join together as family, friends and sports fans to share food, give thanks for the blessings we've received and continue to receive... and watch some football. That time of year, when we again gather to share some good food, share and receive gifts (more blessings) ...and watch some football. So, what I'm saying is...Happy Thanksgiving and a Very Merry Christmas to everyone. May your holidays be filled with peace, love and joy.

As we head into the holiday season, we who fight against have had some setbacks in our fight to end this barbaric practice of state sanctioned assassination...Proposition 62 in California failed and Nebraska brought back their death penalty. Neither could find any serious needs within their States to spend tax payers dollars on, other than murdering human beings they already have locked up. Still, I mentioned those things to tell you all this...Please, do not be deterred. Do not be saddened, nor feel defeated. Do be determined. Do know that our fighting has not gone without notice in the national and international community. So, go into the holidays knowing that even though

we've had some setbacks, we've had a year filled with great accomplishments, and blessings. And know that the New Year will bring with it many more great accomplishments and blessings after blessings. God will not be denied in our stead.

Now, I want to take this time to wish my family and personal friends a very Happy and blessed Holiday Season. they're my "Team Strength". May the Holiday Season be filled with love, joy, peace and blessings for all of you.

Be Blessed,
Anthony Boyd



Wish List

Raise your hand if you remember the Sears catalog. Now put your hand down, you look silly. I guess the equivalent of that now would be Black Friday ads, if those even still exist? Whatever you had as a kid to make your Christmas list from, you probably got real familiar with it, I know I did. (Kinda like I am with this food package now.) So it was always fun to make the list and change it, then make one for Santa, and one for your Grandparents, maybe even a list of stuff you want your siblings to get you. Then on Christmas morning, there'd be something not on the list under the tree (or out in the yard if I was lucky) that would be so much better than what I had picked for myself.

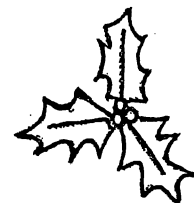
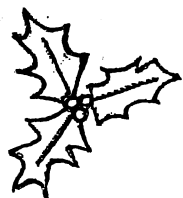
But things change, and while the things on the list get more expensive, they have less and less value. Eventually, you start wanting things with real value, things that won't just be a passing fad. And those are the things that I am thankful for at this point. The things that money can't buy, and you'd never think to ask for as a kid.

If your list is coming up short, make a new wish.

The year that I've had in 2016 has been great. I've been challenged with some of the hardest challenges that I've ever had to face, but I have also held my head higher than I have in a long time. There is a hope in my heart that is as peaceful as it ever was, and a positive outlook that keeps me prepared for whatever comes next. So now it's time for me to make my list, and the thing that I'd like to have most of all is the ability to share this heart full of joy, peace, comfort, and most of all hope with all of you.

God wants to make you happy, let Him.

Bart Johnson
F-18 Z-778



Alabama News
2016 4th Quarter

* PHADP participated in the media blitz led by our new friends at Virgin United prior to California and Nebraska's failed ballot measures to abolish the death penalty in those States.

* Our Executive Director Esther Brown attended the Annual AL Arise meeting where thanks to our supporters who voted, we were once again named a priority issue.

* Esther attended "Moral Monday" in Sept. on the Capitol steps.

* On 9/14 Execution dates were set for:
Tommy Arthur for November 3rd. And PHADP Chairman Ronald Smith for December 8th.

* Esther attended the Alabama New South Coalition Conference in Montgomery, where she spoke with Sen. Hank Sanders and passed out Execution Alerts.

* Esther attended the Interfaith Conference put on by Capital Defenders. The subject; "How the Faith Community can affect the morality of the State regarding the death penalty." Sara Romano of Capital Defenders was the main speaker and Jon Palumbi a Capital Defender Lawyer was the guest speaker.

* Esther filed report to AL State NAACP Annual Meeting in Birmingham as Chairperson of Death Penalty Moratorium Committee.

* The National Association of Social Workers included PHADP in their newsletter which goes out to their 1300 members and 42 partners. Thanks guys!

* We have facilitated a speaker on the death penalty for the "Students for Life" at Springhill College. The event will be held in the Spring of 2017.

* The Director of the Office of Family Life of the Archbishop of Mobile contacted Esther to coordinate working together.(Vigil)

* Esther did an interview with the Times-Daily (Florence) which requested and later published photos from the vigils.

* Tommy Arthur receives stay from SCOTUS on method of execution and Hurst issues. SCOTUS to review issues and publish findings December 2nd.

* Vigils held in Mobile, two in Birmingham as well as on the Capitol Steps. Thanks to all who attended including Sec. Sara Wiles of the AL Libertarian Party and all of our new friends at "Students for Life" at Springhill College. Special thanks to all those whose time and effort went into making them happen including our longtime friend Cyrus in Mobile and Jimand Shelley Douglas in Birmingham.

Alabama News Continued

* Sen. Pittman R.(Montrose) prefiles bill to allow executions in Alabama by firing squad.

* Esther does interview with Anniston Star about firing squad.

* AL Death Penalty Exoneree Anthony Ray Hinton does radio interview from the booth at Jordan Hare Stadium during Auburn v. Alabama A&M game.



Inspiration

There is nothing and no one that can make you less than what you are. No matter what has transpired in your life, holding your head up, having esteem for yourself, and putting your best foot forward is a potent antidote to any problem in life. It's easy to get discouraged and sometimes quitting sounds like the easiest way out. Always remember why you started and just know, it's never over until you win. The future can always be better and you have the power to make it so. Growth is hard and change is harder but nothing is harder than being stuck in a place you feel you don't belong. Don't be afraid to go outside your comfort zone and expand your horizons. Overcome the notion that you must be regular. It robs you of the chance to be extraordinary!!

The Artist

Untitled

Do you know Christmas used to be a pagan holiday? Roman pagans celebrated Saturnalia between December 17 - 23. During the weeklong celebration, Roman courts were closed and Roman law dictated that no one could be punished for damaging property or injuring people during the weeklong celebration.

In the 4th century, the first Christian Emperor of Rome, Constantine, Hoping to convert the pagans ro christianity asked the Catholic church to incorporate the festival into the church. But Christianity and Saturnalia had no common ground. A few years later, Pope Julius 1 officially declared that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on the 25th of December.

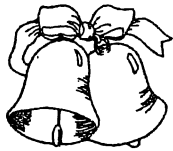
It still took fourteen or fifteen centuries for Christmas to resemble, even in the tiniest way, what it is today. Well, some historians say it was the Winter Solstice festival. Now Christmas is all about peace and love and money. Christmas is starting to look like it did in the 10th century.

Merry Christmas
Jessie Phillips

G-18

A Christian Perspective

Produced By
Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty



Vol.20 Issue IV
Oct. -Dec. 2016

Organizational Information

A Christian Perspective is
Published by Project Hope
To Abolish the Death
Penalty. Address
correspondence to: Anthony
Tyson, Editor
(Z-641-N-17), Holman 3700,
Atmore, AL 36503

Editorial Staff

Editor
Anthony Tyson
Assistant Editor
Randy Lewis
Writers-Contributing
Jeffrey Lee

Executive Committee

Ronald B. Smith
President/CEO
Anthony Tyson
Vice President
Esther Brown
Executive Director

Spiritual Advisor
Donald Blocker

For more information
about Project Hope to
Abolish the Death Penalty,
write to:
PHADP, P.O. Box 1362
Lanett, AL 36863

All articles in this
newsletter may be
reprinted without
permission unless
otherwise stated. We ask
only that you put:
*reprinted by permission
of Project Hope to
Abolish the Death
Penalty, P.O. Box 1362
Lanett, AL 36863*

Hello Friends and Family,

WOW, what a year, huh? 2016 was the year that me and one of my Liferow brothers came into the year believing, agreeing and standing on ...Psalms 27:13b which states that we believe to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. That means right here, right now. So, let's take a look back on this glorious year. On January 12, 2016 the USSC decided *Hurst v. Florida*, which declared Florida's death penalty scheme unconstitutional. Why is that good news? Well, as alot of you all have already read and heard, our statute in Alabama almost lines up exactly with Florida's. In the following month, there was an unexpected death upon the highest court. The faithful Death Penalty Advocate Justice Scalia passed away. By no means do I applaud his death, but I'm just speaking the obvious without saying much more. As the months continued our thoughts came to fruition with not one, not two, but five remands from the high court in Alabama cases related to the *Hurst* ruling. We were also given favor in the courts to receive a few stays of execution as well. So, all in all the Goodness that me and my brother were believing for came to pass. God is Good!

So, now as 2017 approaches and we are looking forward to losing some of the pounds from the holidays, we look toward 2017 with great hope, that all things will work out for the good og those that Love God. No, the Presidency didn't work out as some of us would have liked, but I have a hunch that the Justices that are presently there, without calling any names are smart and will follow the Constitution for right reasons and not the political reasons that someone may want to appoint them for. It is clear that the death penalty is unconstitutional and that's undisputed. So, let's continue in hope and focus on what we as PHADP can do to educate and

enlighten the nation to this miscarriage of liberty. So, we will not allow one decision by our country to derail our faith. We have a Just God and to quote Mr. Hinton ...He sits high but He looks low. Keep Hope Alive!

Truly,
Vice Chairman
Editor; "A Christian Perspective
Anthony Tyson
Z-641 N-17

Fullness & Demonstration

Season greetings to all! Smile! During these holidays, may the God of hope fill you all with all joy and peace in believing, that you all may abound in hope by the power of the Spirit of the living God. Amen.

Well, the Chairman has given me the green light to write an article about anything I like. Wow! Thank you "Ronnie". Smile! I really would like just to take a minute to remind you all, of God's past, present and future demonstrations and fullness of His love for us His Creation.

The Word of God declares, that when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son to redeem those of us who were under the curse of the law, that we as believers might receive the adoption as sons and daughters.

The Word of God declares that God demonstrates His own love toward us, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Now blindness in part has happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, and so all Israel will be saved.

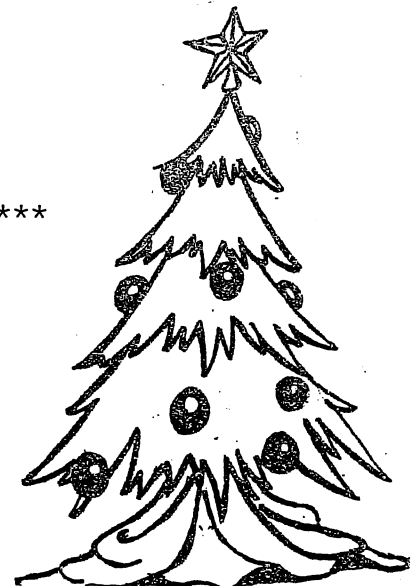
John, the Apostle of Christ Jesus testifies, that I heard a loud voice from heaven saying "Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and God will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, God Himself will be with them and be their God." (another demonstration), and "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Behold I make all things new."

With much love, peace and joy for you all!

Earl "Pete" McGahee Sr.
Z-466 H-18

Happy Holidays & a blessed New Year!

Execute
Justice
Not
People



But for the Grace of God, Go You!

In the birth of Law, the label on books for those arrested was "Citizens Rights". The government had no dog in the fight except to see a civil society via discipline of a wayward citizen. The idea of discipline was to help one who is ill, get well. And released back into society, as an asset.

The idea was that there is hope for everyone.

Now, what was once Citizen's Rights is called Criminal Rights.

Now, the government that had no dog in the fight has given rise to Victim's Rights.

The idea changed from discipline into punishment, revenge and retribution, with the pretense that a leopard cannot change its spots. Once labelled a criminal you are a hopeless cause; so why invest in rehabilitation. The so called "criminal" is not wanted back in society so why try to convert him/her into an asset. Voting for Life without parole sentences and expanded death penalty aggravators soon followed. The sad thing is that the mega majority of law makers and enforcers claim to be Christians, on a mission from God. Crusaders in a sense, who forgot "but for the Grace of God, go I".

I am not a leopard and thank God, He knows the difference.

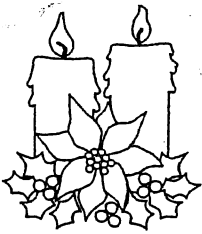
Greg Hunt

The Day 360

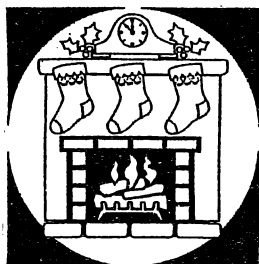
Numbers play an important role in our world, from our currency to our temperatures. You can't get away from numbers in our world. Right now, Alabama is the one and only State that allows judges and not juries to impose sentencing in Capital Murder trials. As we end another year, it was filled with some highs and lows, but God kept us through it all.

This year was a leap year and instead of having 365 days we had a total of 366 days in this year. So the 360th day this year we will celebrate Christmas. The ceremonial birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Truly we don't know for certain that this is the right month, day or season that the Savior of all mankind was born. We as a society choose to believe that this is the right day. This will be my 18th Christmas of being incarcerated that I celebrate. Yet this time of the year can be lonely at times being away from my family and loved ones. Though I have an amazing family of brothers here at Holman Life-Row. We have the typical American family here, that Uncle that drinks up all of the egg-nog. We also have the Uncle that don't want to leave until all of the turkey is gone. Also those cousins that have been away all year on a "job" with stories to tell so we have your typical American family here and I honestly love these guys!

This Christmas falls on the number 360, and that number means fullness, surrounded, things that are complete. So my prayer for all; that you have experienced the fullness of God in 2016, and you have been surrounded by the love of God, family and



friends. That for the upcoming year, you would be filled with things that will help complete you, and your family and your destiny. Have a very safe, blessed and Merry Christmas! And a prosperous New Year!



I Remain,
The Caring Christian
Jeffery Lee
G-1

Where You're Going

I can't help but think that we are actually living in the end times. These aren't good times; these aren't times where things are going to get better. These are evil, wicked times, times of sexual immorality, adultery, idolatry, and witchcraft. The Bible prophesied that things are going to be like this and that things will continue to get worse.

To deny that Trump is racist, a bigot, has no respect for anyone (especially women) other than the white man, is to remain blinded when all the facts and solid evidence are presented right in your face.

He is not the type of person I want my son to grow up and be like. I want my son to respect all people despite race, religion sex, or sexual preference, and Trump can't teach my son to do that. He isn't leadership material. A good business man? Yes. But not a leader of an army, a government, or a role model.

There is nothing I've seen from Trump that would lead me to believe that he will hold true to his promises (which may or may not be a good thing) or his moral obligation as the leader of this country. I'm afraid this country is in rapid decline, spiraling out of control. Our two presidential candidates were jokes and now we are about to have a clown in office.

Honestly, my hope is in the Lord, not to save this country or heal this land because, with this being the end times, this land won't get better until after Armageddon. My hope is in the Lord that He will come quick for His children so we won't have to experience much more of the disaster that is about to ensue.

This country wasn't founded on the Word of God like we were taught. It was founded on racism, hatred, slavery, and the blood of blacks, Asians, and Native Americans. This country was bathed in blood from its beginning and Trump stands with, and is backed by multiple white supremacist groups. This is not a coincidence. Birds of a feather...

This is my honest, personal opinion of what I'm seeing and the direction I see this country headed in. Everything comes full circle, like the seasons, and there is nothing new under the sun. This is why they say you have to know where you come from to know where you're going.

Castro

The Gift to Remain in Love & Peace

The gift my Father gave to all whom believe... Miracles, dedication, participation, motivation, and many more, but mainly salvation. The government whom still wishes bad on our savior punishes us daily in His name and the only thing I can focus on is how much He loves His children to give us the gift of life, which they try so hard to kill, steal, and destroy. "John 10:10) The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.."

My God

Jesus weeps Jesus sleeps
Jesus awakes for our souls to keep
The devil stoness The people moans
My God almighty rose for His people to make it home
Justice lied Jesus died
For His mercy and grace I testify it
A humble heart and peaceful mind
We praise the Father during Christmas time
A prayer of faith a heart of grace
The gift of God we share today..



Luke 24:47-49

"It was also written that the message would be proclaimed in the authority of His name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent. You are witnesses of all things. And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with the power from Heaven."

Jovon Gaston
Z-802 / F-3

Cheers to Us All

The holiday season is upon us. Well, that could only mean, to me, that another lonely Christmas is mine. Syke, All is well on the row. We are thanking God for his Hail Mary blessing with Thomas Arthur and now we're praying for another one with our dear brother Ronald Smith Jr.

The USSC has shown a lot of compassion this year; starting off 2016 with the Hurst v. Fla. ruling, then the remanding of multiple cases back to the Alabama courts with instructions to reconsider the death penalty statute in the state. The Bosse v. Oklahoma ruling dealing with victim impact testimony, Foster v. Chapman reaffirming and expanding Batson discovery were also good news.

So, we're in Great spirits around here.
All are in our prayers and All have our best wishes.

God is Good
Randy Lewis
Z741/O-19

Oath

- 1.) A solemn declaration or undertaking
- 2.) A statement or promise contained in an oath
- 3.) A profane utterance



Often in our lives we have all taken an oath, and I'm sure we can all agree that every oath taken is motive motivated.

As an adult the oath's taken are way more binding because they are often in support of protecting someone or something, and everyone, everyone is supposed to be under that protective clause, even those taking the oath.

The problem we all are facing isn't with the oaths, it's with the motives of the oath takers/ I know I am a nobody, but this nobody truly commends the medical community for standing on their oath in a time where it seems motives are ruling the day.

It's amazing how growing up the same people who were against peer-pressure are now the authors of it! If our elected and appointed leaders are no longer walking under the protective shield of their oath, then we the people are no longer protected

Our shepherds (Doctors, Nurses, Judges, Police, Mayors, Governors, Councilmen, Pastors, Preachers, Teachers, and even Gang leaders) take oaths that weren't written, nor taken based on public opinion. No, they were taken because it was viewed as a way to help family, friends, community, and society! Things have become distorted based on personal motives and agendas and views, and we as a society are suffering badly from the fall-out!

So where are our heroes? Firefighters can't fight this wildfire that threatens the Land of Man, where are our Heroes??

Ooohh they are there, they have just forgotten:

"With great power comes great responsibility!"

Shepherds shepherd so we can return to green pastures, and remember that fattening up your sheep for the wolves doesn't protect you from the wolves, and it certainly isn't healthy for the sheep! (HaHaHa)

We're all in the same fight, despite the different situations, now if we could just stop fighting ourselves and one another surely the oaths taken to protect another will rediscover its heartbeat and beat loudly as we as one go into battle against all forms of injustice!

Oracle



Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty

P.O. Box 1362, Lanett, AL 36863

Tel: 334 499 0003

beesther@earthlink.net • www.phadp.org

Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty is an interfaith 501 C 3 organization whose mission is to educate and mobilize communities to act to abolish the death penalty in Alabama. PHADP relies on YOU for support. Suggested donations: \$25/individual, \$40/household, and \$100/congregation, or whatever amount is affordable. Checks should be made out to "PHADP" and sent to the above address.



The Absurd Does Not Liberate; It Binds
Albert Camus

Hurst v. Florida, is a case that sprung forth in Florida, bringing with it ramifications for two other states. Alabama and Delaware. It's a case that made its way up to the United States Supreme Court, so the highest court in the land could consider whether or not Florida's capital sentencing scheme was constitutional, or stood in violation of the 6th Amendment, in light of Ring v. Arizona [575US...(2015)] The United States Supreme Court decision was that Florida's capital sentencing scheme violates the 6th Amendment, in light of Ring. And, without so much as saying so, or outright doing it, the court also ruled the capital sentencing schemes in Alabama and Delaware to be unconstitutional, because both states use the practice of jury override as well. However, where Florida set out to pass legislation to try to correct their broken system, Alabama and Delaware decided to both fight the inevitable. Delaware has since been forced to face, and concede that its capital sentencing scheme is unconstitutional, by its very own high court (The Delaware Supreme Court). Alabama will fight on, until it too is forced to face the fact and concede that its capital sentencing scheme is unconstitutional, but it'll have to eventually come from the United States Supreme Court, as Alabama's good ole' boy Supreme Court isn't going to step on any of their golf buddies' toes.

Now, with that said, in the past Alabama has went on record saying that, "their capital sentencing scheme is the same as Florida's" in their efforts to dodge being affected when the ruling was handed down in Ring V. Arizona. They skated by, and they were just fine with that. Why? Because during that time the country was still in love with the death penalty, and cruel heinous, atrocious, and illegal things states were doing to murder their own citizens under the guise of "getting justice" hadn't come to light yet. So, in the meantime, Alabama did what Alabama does, it went on a killing spree. Now, with the ruling in Hurst v. Florida finding Florida's capital sentencing scheme unconstitutional, in violation of the 6th Amendment, Alabama is once again singing a different tune... "Our sentencing scheme is not like Florida's." Which is it Alabama?

When the United States Supreme Court said in Hurst v. Florida: The role of the judge in the process of sentencing the defendant to death was what made Florida's sentencing scheme unconstitutional, Alabama should have conceded, and started to save the taxpayers of Alabama their hard earned money. Money that could certainly be used on education, and helping the less fortunate. Because the U.S. Supreme Court was talking about jury override plain and simple in that ruling, and no matter how Alabama tries to use its smoke and mirrors, or good ole boy contacts, they have jury override, just like Delaware, and just like Florida!

Please Stay Tuned...
Jessie M.D.Y. Phillips

Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty

P.O. Box 1362 Lanett, AL 36863

Tel: (334) 499-0003

beesther@earthlink.net

www.phadp.org



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Lanett, AL
PERMIT NO. 67

Seasons
Greetings