

Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty

On Wings of Hope

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NO ROOM AT THE INN

How devastating those words: No room at the inn and yet they are an important part of the Christmas story. Can many of us really imagine how that feels? How it feels not to be welcomed, how it feels not to belong. Looking back at the year and the devastations of the hurricanes and the difficulties experienced by refugees we know this has been and is a reality for some of our neighbors. It is also an integral and challenging part of the Christmas story although most of us do not have the right to say we truly understand.

However even if we have never tasted the bitter cup of homelessness and so cannot really understand how that feels we must accept its challenge if we truly want to be part of the Christmas story, if we really want to celebrate its meaning. As you are reading this article in the *Wings of Hope*, our newsletter from death row, it will not surprise you that my list where you will find people for who there is no room at the inn begins with Holman death row. Certainly there is no room at the inn for men and women on death row in our vengeful, racist and backward so called justice system. For many of them there never was. Is this your particular challenge? Only you know the answer to that question.

Unfortunately the list is long for those among us for who there is no room at the inn. We find them in prisons, among undocumented immigrants, living on the street, in nursing homes, in all kinds of institutions and even living right next door. Their companions are loneliness, fear, deprivation, sadness because there is no room at our inn. We see them and perhaps we feel threatened by their needs and so turn away and hurry past. And yet, and yet one of them represents your particular Christmas challenge. Please stop and open your heart to one of these and let there be room at the inn for them after all. I can promise you that when you do you will then experience the true joy, peace and love that is Christmas, which is our wish for all of you,

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.

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



Hello Family,

It seems like yesterday that we were just here celebrating the close of 2016. And here we are again. As you all know, this has been a tough year for us. We lost another friend and brother to this killing machine. Alabama is really thirsty to kill. Wow, what a christian state we are. "Thou shall not kill, or you will be killed" according to some. When I hear about the Death Penalty and the torture that this state hands out, I'm in unbelief that these same comments are from people who call them selves christians. But they only see the Law or Commandments when it comes to judging others. Jesus was clear.. "He who is without sin, cast the first stone". And according to the Law Of God, murder isn't the only sin that gets you the Death Penalty with God. So, I have to ask... Which law do you honor.... But enough on that. I want to discuss what's good and how we are looking for bigger and better things in the new year. Our prayers and positivity are with the lawyers at the Federal Defenders Office that will be having a hearing in 2018 on the protocol and the drug Midazolam. Also we recieved good news from our friend Katie Owens-Murphy at the University Of North Alabama who earlier last year, connected us with some of her students to start a pen-pal program. Now Katie tells us that her editor is interested in seeing a proposal from us about a collection of writings. So we are looking forward to that in the coming year. So as we close this year out and begin a new chapter, we would like to thank you all for standing with us in hope and prayer. And to the family's and friends of the brothers that we lost in 2017, we are still here for you and we still see you as family. Have a wonderful and blessed year..

Your Chairman,

Anthony Tyson Z641/N17
Holman 3700
Atmore, Ala 36503



Alabama News
Fourth Quarter 2017

* We mourn the loss of our brother, Torrey McNabb. Who was murdered by the state of Alabama on October 19, 2017. McNabb was given a stay by the federal district court to fully examine Alabama's lethal injection protocol, but the U.S. Supreme court stepped in to lift the stay. His execution was badly botched. Proving once again, that the Alabama execution method is in deed cruel and unusual.

* The 11th U.S. Circuit Court Of Appeals has reviewed a lawsuit filed by Alabama death row inmates, challenging the state's use of a controversial sedative as part of lethal injections. The court ruled that the case was prematurely dismissed and ordered the lower court to hold an evidentiary hearing to determine whether Midazolam will effectively render inmates unconscious during executions.

* WE are happy and grateful to be able to report that our issues, Death Penalty Reform made it one more time as one of Alabama's arising priority issues for 2018. In particular, we would like to thank our Advisory Board Members - Shelley Douglass of Mary's House, Sara Moran Romano of the Federal Defenders and Cryus Johnston a long term friend and organizer of the Montgomery execution day vigils, for their role in making this happen.

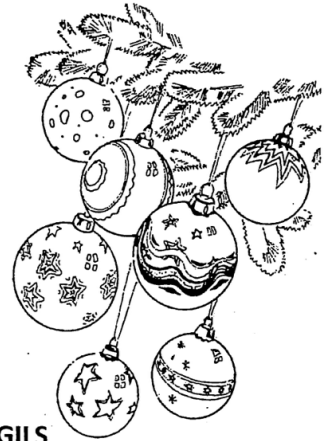
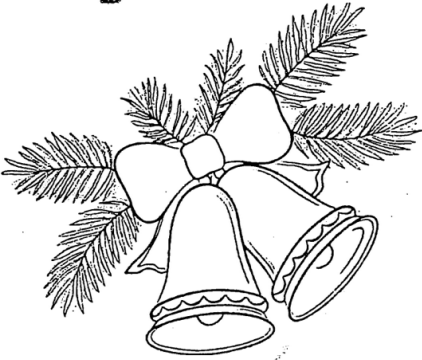
* We would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Allen McQueen, Director of the Savery Library at Talladega College. Not only for inviting us to participate in the Savery Library Student Program, but also for filling in for us and making our execution alerts, newsletters and talking points for a moratorium available. We look forward to participating in the future events at the Savery Library.

* We would also like to thank our friend, former board member, current advisory board member and Witness To Innocence member, Alabama Death Row Exoneree Gary Drinkard - For agreeing to attend and man our table at the Community Service Organization Fair, being held at the Savery Library at Talladega College, in Talladega, Alabama on April 3rd 2018, and again on April 19th 2018. We greatly appreciate all that Gary has done and continues to do. Fight On Our Brother...

* A disappointing ruling from the 11th Circuit Court Of Appeals upheld the death sentence of Bobby Waldrop, who is white. The white judge that sentenced Mr. Waldrop stated that he overrode the jury's recommendation because "If I had not imposed the death sentence, I would have sentenced three black people to death and no white people". The issue was denied because it should have been raised earlier.

* Thank you all who continue to stand with us here in Alabama, in the nation, as well as overseas, individuals and organizations such as the Alabama New South Coalition, the Alabama State Conference of the NAACP, S.O.S., JAM, Alabama Arise and the Catholic Mobilizing Network to End The Use Of The Death Penalty.





RESPONSE BY OUR ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER CALLIE GREER TO NOTIFICATION OF VIGILS ON DAY OF EXECUTION

One would think in such a time as this killing or to cause someone else's death would be something we "WOULDN'T be doing or even considering doing. It's as if "Killing" is the new way of life and offering Life is the Old way of life. Granted we've been fighting this battle for Life since the beginning of time but it's still hard and always fresh to me when we have to do vigils and write letters and make phone calls to "Christian Folk"(?) asking them NOT to Commit this Crime of Political "MURDER". Yet here we are again.

I ask God to not let "US" become weary in doing GOOD and that in our doing "GOOD" we may help save a life. Not because we believe, think, or feel that the person that was killed isn't worthy of justice. But because we believe that a person should seek justice and not revenge. And that He/She would not want to become the thing they are trying to kill, a Murderer.

Anyway, I love you and I ask God to be your guiding force, to cover "ALL" who is connected to these cases the families of both sides and their supporters too. For we are to pray for one another and to try and walk in each other's shoes, bearing one another's burdens in love.

I have worn those shoes; my brother was on Death Row and My Son was killed. And in ALL of this, I still SPEAK LIFE!!! Be blessed Esther you are a blessing.

Callie Greer, PHADP Advisory Board Member
Community Organizer
Selma Center for Nonviolence, Truth And Reconciliation
calliegreer1960@gmail.com

**If you're not at the table,
You're on the MENU!!!!!!**



"A Very Special Thank You"

Dear Family, Friends and supporters of everyone on Death Row. I want to first, wish you all a very safe and festive holiday season. I want to give a shout out to my amazing wife, my precious mother, as well as my awesome sister. Those three women have stood by me and haven't turned their backs on me and I want them to know just how truly thankful I am to have them. And that's not just due to the fact that it's thanksgiving. But because Im thankful everyday for their love and support. But yes during these holidays we should all remind our loved ones just how much they are appreciated. It is so easy for us in here to sit in our tiny 5X8 cells and feel sorry for ourselves and think about what we don't have and dwell on what we're missing out on. But instead we should be thankful for what we do have. Especially with Christmas upon us. Personally I think we should incorporate thanksgiving with christmas and give thanks for the unconditional love that we have from God. I thank Him daily for His Gift that He gave us all over 2000 years ago. I think alot of us tend to lose sight of that sometimes. Especially when things aren't going our way or when a disaster happens around us. But it's during those times we need to stay focused on God's Wonderful Gift of His Son. Because it's through that love, that we are able to get through our hard times. One more thing I want to add before I go; I want to give a special thank you to my brothers here on Death Row who have shown so much compassion and support and their prayers for my mother who just this past year was fighting with breast cancer. And because of their prayers to our loving God, she was able to kick its nasty butt. Thank you all dearly. I pray that we all will have a great year ahead... Happy Holidays!!

- With Lots Of Love, Sincerly & Grateful
David Wiggins Z760/N-20



A Soldier's Salute

Farewell to a soldier. A now casualty of an unjust system that's just the same. It's often to late when the veil is broken, the scales removed before one becomes conscious of self and their being. I learned alot from the "Veteran" during my days of knowing him. Our conversations were very indepth and when the Veteran spoke, his resoning was very profound. The Veteran incouraged me to read more and study more to become more concious of self, environment and spirit. Once free from the vice of mental captivity, the Eagle of the mind and thoughts came and will save again. The impact of a soul connection creates the ebracment of an individual and their fault which brings about a sincere salute to the changes of life that they've made.

Salute Brother McNabb!!!

A brighter note, God has been gracious and merciful. Aside from the loss of the Veteran, God's sovereign love in my life and on my behalf is good. All smiles with expectations, I Am.

To My Family, I Love You. To Project Hope Supporters, We Love You..
Happy Holidays....

T.V.O.A.I.M.

Randy Lewis Z741/O-19



The Good Old Boy System

We the people of the United States Of America and throughout the entire Nation, tend to rebel and/or get defensive when things dont go your way especially when it comes to someone in the position of authority. Speaking as an african american; We tend to pull the "Race Card" alot. As do the other races. But when you think about it, and I mean really think about it, We only do it when it benefits our own agenda. The State Of Alabama has a system that has been known as the Good Old Boy System. Why? Because the Legal System is a group of people who primarily are going to have each others back through whatever the situation may be. For example: If the district attorney says that you're guilty and he wants a conviction - All of his Good Old Boys in the system are going to follow and back him up. Yet to our advantage, we are going to pull the Race Card.... Truth be told, Everybody has a Good Old Boy System.. Even YOU! I see it everyday. Such as you will cover do your buddies and friends because they are part of YOUR Good Old Boy System.. The entire prison environment is a Good Old Boy System.. A man may be hungry and you know they dont have anything to eat and on this particular day - the meal tray were extremely messed up.. You may have a cell full of food items fruit, snacks, etc.. But what do you do? Treat them like an outcast because they aint part of YOUR Good Old Boy System. They aint down with your crew. Can A hungry man get an extra tray? Nope! Why? You aint working the hall so you shouldn't be hungry.. But I garuntee you made sure that the people in YOUR Good Old Boy System Got an extra tray if they wanted one... Now I just might be stepping in some toes when I say this, but Some things just need to be said.. Dont be so one sided with situations just because they aint in your favor. White or black is really doesn't matter.. We all segregate ourselves to those of like agendas.. But the sad part about it is, you only do it to feel like you're needed and/or need to be a part of something. Need to be validated... Open Your Eyes People! Just because you think that you're doing something right "IN YOUR EYES", that doesn't mean that it is... Get It Together and stop pushing blame on others and treating other people better than the next person.. Cause you just never know, that person you looked over and/or excluded - you just might need him one of these days...

- "A Traveling Man"

Justice Knight Z806/N-13



COMPANIONSHIP

My flesh is weak, my soul is dry
Draw me near, dear Lord, I cry
Help me give thought to you always
And walk with you throughout my day
I ask not, change me, make me new
I merely ask to be with you.
For when I'm near you I am changed,
My earthly thoughts are rearranged,
And as I gaze into your face,
Your Spirit transforms me with grace.



Earl J. McGahee Z-466
Holman Unit 3700 #H1-18

"This Christmas"

December 25, 2017 at approximately 4:26am, Breakfast Time! Breakfast Time! Those are the words that echo down the halls of the "Row".. Since Christmas is a holiday, breakfast is served an hour later than usual.. Everything is sort of silent in the mornings early hours, which is totally in contrast to the Christmas Mornings of my memories. Those mornings were controlled chaos, me and my younger brothers were often the first to wake up to refind our presents. We had been playing with our presents for a couple of days behind our parents back. It's mid-morning now and most of the men have started to wake up. The air is scented with smells of freshly rolled cigarettes and the freshly made coffee. Most of the men are preparing for the first televised NBA basketball game of the season that we are allowed to see on regular television. Growing up, the house would be filled with the aroma of pies being made; Pecan Pies and Sweet Potato Custards.. Most of the other meals were cooked the night before. The Turkey and Dressing, Corn Bread, Collard Greens, Mac & Cheese. Most of the time we would have dinner around 3pm before heading to our grand parents house. Tray Time! Tray Time! It's usually around 2:30pm when the meals hit the door. It consists of a piece of processed turkey, Stove top stuffing, cranberry sauce, corn, greens, piece of cake and dinner rolls which is the conventional meal eaten on all major holidays here at Holman Prison. The lack of change on this of all days allows for it to be just another day. My memories of how my Christmases use to be have allowed for me to hold on to my idea of how Christmas suppose to be and it always gets back to the reason we choose to celebrate in the first place, which is the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Though we dont know for sure that December 25th is the actual day of birth for Jesus, It's just the time we choose the celebration.. So as long as you acknowledge your creator, spend time with your family and friends and show the love of Christ to those you come in contact with, you're showing the love and Spirit of Christmas...

- Jeffery Lee (The Caring Christian)



Fill Me Up Lord

The concept is easy, but the hurdles are real. There is a place in you where God belongs, He Made You That Way. From the beginning, we've been trying to fill that hole with everything but Him. That's what makes it so hard, in these times, because we've found false fillings. We've had generation after generation to have them, to make them "Seem" like they fit. In other words, if our ancestors were bad about displacing God with fleshly desires and worldly things, how much worse will our children be?

Collectively, so many people for so long have been doing this same thing. Which has resulted in a large number of us who don't even know what our source is. And during the holiday season it seems like there is a magnifying lens on that hole. There is also an abundance of worldly things to throw in it. Remember that only God and His love can complete you. If you're looking for something to add to yuor christmas list, make it Him. And if you know someone who is hard to but a gift for, remind them of His Grace..

-Bart Johnson F-18/Z778

Vice Chairman PHADP

Empty Seats and Missing Bulbs

Another Holiday Season is upon us, and.... I would like to say, Happy Holidays to everyone. I wish you all health, happiness and blessings. May your holiday season be filled with family, friends, peace, love, joy and lots of great food.

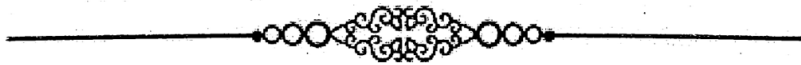
As the holiday season brings with it a gathering of friends and loved ones from near and far, we cant help but be reminded of all those who will be missing. Those empty seats at the Thanksgiving table. Those bright smiles, the infectious laughter and the appetites that never seemed to quit..... Missing.... Men and women that the courts, not society, deemed the worse of the worst, and murdered under a false sense of Justice. But merely out of revenge and to secure political votes. I say, "Deemed by the courts, not society" because in a society where we're supposed to be such tolerant, loving and forgiving people- if society knew these men and women true stories and not those painted by overzealous prosecutors and political piggy-backers, then they wouldn't be prodded into being so blood thirsty.

Ambitious prosecutors and politicians use the mob mentality when it benefits their agenda. Leaving in their wake, empty seats at the Thanksgiving tables all over this "civilized" country. Here's what's so ironic... Those men and women that the states just "had" to murder exhibited more love, understanding, tolerance and forgiveness than those "deemed" the upstanding and "civilized" citizens of this "great" nation. So, I ask all of you... As you sit down for that delicious Thanksgiving dinner, please take a moment to remember OUR brothers and sisters senselessly murdered by "civilized" citizens.

Look to those empty seats and smile... They're There. Also, while you're gathered around the christmas tree sharing stories and opening presents, if you notice a few bulbs not lit, don't stress yourself about it... They're just letting you know They're There...

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!!

- Happy Holidays (Maximus Strong)



Government Assistance

Suicide by cop, driving vehicles into crowds of pedestrians and cyclist, the Las Vegas Massacre, Columbine, the theatre shooting in Colorado... The list of people who have lost the will to live, yet dont have the courage to take their own life, goes on and on..

The statistics show that states and countries that use the death penalty have higher murder rates than places that dont. Is that just a coincident? Or is it possible that people are committing suicide by committing capital murders? Is there a difference between this idea and the tragic events previously named?

More startling than this is the fact that, if this is true, the unjust government is not only assisting in these cowardly acts of suicide, it is encouraging them by continuing to impliment capital punishment. And that also means that the innocent lives being taken in these capital murders are due to the governments thirst for blood and revenge. All in the name of so called "Justice"..

The death penalty is not a deterrant!! We need to follow the examples of the states and countries that have lowered their murder rates by abolishing the death penalty.

-Castro-



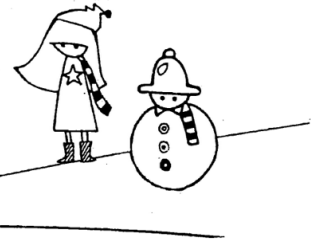


"I REMEMBER"

Remember those who will go without this holiday season. Seems that every year, at the beginning of the season, people's houses get broken into, houses burn down, storms happen. Those on the east coast, I feel for ya. Though I didn't go through that experience with them, I'm from the bottom and I have been without. Though I never had, or lived in, a house that burned down, I have seen a few. Back in the 90's, in Collegeville, I witnessed a family's apartment burn at the beginning of winter. The neighborhood came together, as usual when tragedies happen, that day. My mom offered her fire extinguisher to a neighbor who tried to go in the apartment and rescue the mother and two or three children that were inside. He ran through the front door and up the stairs before running back out and sadly realizing that he couldn't make it to the location of the kids in the house. The hood didn't give up though. We went to the back where the mother was screaming out for help. The kid she was able to reach, she had to throw out the window, and later, herself jump. The hood-soldier then went through the back window and was able to make it to the children in the front of the apartment. The kids were rescued and had to be treated immediately.

In 2003, the house where I lived with my aunt was broken into. All of my clothes and designer glasses were stolen, and all the kids Christmas gifts. It was a hard Christmas, but we bounced back though. One time for the hood, one time for the victims, my feet are still on the ground, because I still remember and can relate.

Randy Lewis
Z-741 I-18



KEEPIN' THE FAITH

The holiday season has once again come around. I enjoy this time of year. Everyone is jolly and so full of spirit. I ask myself, why can't it be this way all year round?

In my heart I would much rather be home with my kids and family, and I'm sure my fellow brothers on life row would agree with me. However, I'm thankful just to be healthy. Even behind these bound walls, I try to find happiness in the midst of ungodly things. And believe it or not, I do find happiness.

Some may say that because I'm on the row, I shouldn't be happy. Well, to those I say, God has already done so much for me, there is no earthly reason not to be happy. Peace and joy to all this holiday season.

Courtney Larrell Lockhart
Z-776 F-12



THE GIFT OF GOD'S PEACE

My peace I give in times of deepest grief, Imparting calm and trust and my relief.
My peace I give when prayer seems lost, unheard; Know that My promises are ever in My Word.
My peace I give when you are left alone, the nightingale at night has sweetest tone.
My peace I give in times of utter loss, the way of glory leads right to the cross.
My peace I give when enemies will blame, your fellowship is sweet through cruel shame.
My peace I give in agony and sweat, for my brow with bloody drops was wet.
My peace I give when nearest friend betrays, peace that is merged in love, and for them prays.
My peace I give when there's but death for you, the gateway is the cross to get to me.
Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

With much love, peace, & joy for all the readers & supporters of Project Hope during this Holiday Season!

Earl J. McGahee Z-466/H-18



"Matthew 10:16"

Why do you wish to remain as you are born?
You could be so much more if you stop letting other people think for you.
Use the knowledge that you have to see the B.S. around you.
You will be better off and alot richer if you do.
"Merry Christmas".....
- Jessie M.D.Y. Phillips

Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty

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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.



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LET OUR VOICES
BE HEARD!!!

BE YE NOT CONFORMED TO
THIS WORLD... BUT BE
YE TRANSFORMED, BY THE
RENEWING OF YOUR MIND!!

ABOLISH THE
DEATH PENALTY

With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts.
Theodore Roosevelt

