

On Wings of Hope

Volume 26 Issue 4

Oct. - Dec. 2022

Project Hope



STILL NO ROOM AT THE INN

Fourteen years ago my Christmas article was entitled **NO ROOM AT THE INN** and here we are and there is still no room for so many of us. As with just about every saying there can be different ways of interpreting it but one thing appears obvious that if at the first Christmas there was no room at the inn and there is still no room for all too many it is a human trait to exclude the other.

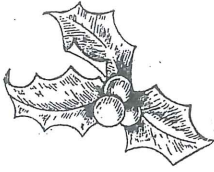
And so one of the gifts of Christmas, one of its invitations is to stop and reflect on this trait of ours, and yes, it is ours. We can read the Christmas story and like that the angels sang, that the shepherds came and eventually the Three Kings or the Three Wise Men, all of them with their particular message to us but it is the simple words that there was no room at the inn that present the challenge. Singing or bearing gifts make us happy and something we associate with Christmas but it is the words that there was no room at the inn, which make us sad and challenge us.

We don't want to be challenged at Christmas, after all don't we have enough on our plate with getting out cards, buying gifts and reaching out to the ones we love the best we can? Very true, but challenges are good for us and when met bring us joy and if you don't like the word "challenge" we can call it an invitation to open our doors.

We live in what seems to some of us particularly divisive times which means that we are all presented with all kinds of opportunities to try to make room at our inn. Yes, it is hard to try to open our door/our hearts and minds to the one who is foreign to us for oh so many reasons, and yet if there is ever a time when it may not be so difficult it is during the season of Christmas. Is it because of the lights, the decorations, the message of good will to all the people? Most probably and so I wish all of us that this will be a season where we will not turn away the stranger, the one who thinks differently, the one who irritates us and that in the process we all become a little more tolerant of the "other".

I wish you the peace, love and joy that is Christmas and I hope that you may always find room at the inn and help us to find it as well.

Esther



Happy Holidays

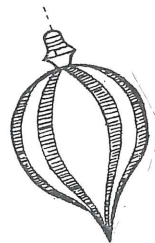
We are sending Happy Holiday wishes to all of you and your families, from all of us and our families. May your holidays be filled with love, peace, and joy.

We are thankful to have Alan Miller and Kenneth Smith with us this holiday season. Both men suffered through horrible ordeals at the hands of Alabama's thoroughly proven incompetent murder squad. Poked numerous times for hours, ignore by officials standing ring side when asking for help, as it was all clearly going wrong, put in a headlock, whispered to... "this is for your own good," medical professionals-sworn to do no harm, encouraging them to accept the lethal cocktail because the nitrogen would cause them to die a terrible death. People standing up for justice being falsely accused of hijacking a known corrupt system. Santa's checking his list "TWICE," and he knows who has been naughty or nice. Political propaganda being panhandled by a protagonist who seeks to spread hate and vengeance, while turkeys are being stuffed and Christmas trees lit. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in a state where lock them up and throw away the key remains the motto, and kill at all costs, the narrative. Silent night - Holy night, that's not right, vengeance is MINE saith the Lord, while in this self-proclaimed super Christian state, politicians play God. The facade of a moratorium in place to save face, because the spotlight is bright, as the whole world watches this state procreate botched execution after botched execution. "Alabama isn't standing down, they're reloading." Two men, different names, both came back changed. Torture has a way of doing that to a person.

As we go into the holiday season, we ask that everyone please be safe and take care. Enjoy the family atmosphere of love and togetherness, because no one knows what the future holds. Also, with the new year fast approaching we ask all of you - our friends, family and allies to be prepared to push harder against this ever changing machinery of death. Remain The OTHER VOICE!!

Happy Holiday wishes to all,
and to all a good night,

Anthony Boyd, Chairman, PHADP



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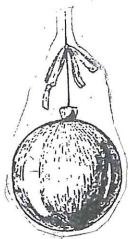
**THIS NEWSLETTER WAS WRITTEN,
TYPED AND FORMATTED ON DEATH
ROW AT HOLMAN PRISON**

Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty's response to Gov. Ivey's call for a halt to executions pending a review by the Department of Corrections.

Characterizing the problems as anything other than DOC incompetence is not only misleading, it's missing the point. ADOC cannot be allowed to investigate itself, there has to be an independent and impartial panel of experts to not only review what is going wrong, but to "pull back the curtain" to provide transparency for every step in the process, beginning with the arbitrary process prosecutors use to decide which cases should be tried capitally, how innocent men like Toforest Johnson, Chris Barbour, and Jarrod Taylor continue to languish on death row when the Attorney General's office knows they don't belong here. Judicial override is another issue to tackle, it never should have had a place in our judicial system, and now that it has been remedied going forward, this would be a great opportunity to address the unconstitutionality of those sentenced to death against the wishes of a jury.

The harsh treatment of the families (on both sides) and the inhumane job of executioners also degrades us as a society. We believe that this de facto moratorium is the perfect opportunity to do what we shout out to do from the start, educate people about what really goes on in capital cases.

Respectfully,
The Board of PHADP



The Lost Tapes

Memory is weird, you don't get to pick which ones stick. I can pull up memories of Christmas trees in every place I've ever lived, and some of those Christmas mornings under those trees come flooding back in high-definition, some are more VHS quality, and others it's like the tape's missing altogether.

I love sharing those moments with my family on the outside and the ones in here, because it helps me find the missing tapes. Like the one with the GI Joes hanging in the tree, that bicycle from Granny and Pop, the gifts exchanged in a van at Sonic, the some assembly required trampoline, and the batteries that were always included<3

Because memory is so fickle, you just have to make as many as you can with the ones you love the most, hope they have a good memory, and good people around them to help them find the lost tapes.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas from M-3

Santa

Alabama News

Fourth Quarter 2022

* We are grateful to Dr. Katie Owens-Murphy (Whose book, a PHADP collaboration "Ghosts Over the Boiler" will be available in Feb. 2023) for presenting alongside Derek Malone at the American Society for Criminology conference in Atlanta, "Archiving for the future: Documenting the death penalty in Alabama." They hope that researchers will use the archives to center the voices and experiences of those most directly impacted by capital punishment.

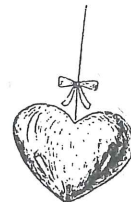
* We were honored to meet (via our Executive Director Esther Brown) with Honorable Eline Goovaerts, the Deputy Consul General of Belgium, to share with her about human rights aspects of the death penalty as well as potential future collaborations with the Belgian Consulate.

* Thank you to all of our supporters who protested, gathered, prayed, gave, and voted in the recent election. Our efforts continue to bear fruit in and out of Alabama. We are especially thankful for those who have continued to support us financially, we know that money is tight and we appreciate you all making us, and our issue a priority.

* As many of you may know, after a string of bungled executions and execution attempts (the latest being Kenny Smith's), Gov. Ivey has ordered a halt to all executions pending a top-to-bottom review of the execution process, and in doing so has enacted a de facto moratorium. This is an acknowledgement that they have been putting band-aids on a broken system for too long. While we applaud an investigation, we feel that it should be conducted by an impartial and independent third party.

* We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of many local ministries who have provided meals for the men at Holman, thank you for filling our bellies and our spirits.

* We appreciate the two Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Morris Tidball-Binz and Alice Jill Edwards for urging the United States to safeguard the rights of its citizens and halt executions pending a review.





Jesus is the reason
for this season.
Merry Christmas & may
you have a prosperous
New Year! 2023
Carey McMaher Sr.

It's a good thing
we're not in prison

Merry Christmas

Jingle Bell
Jingle Bell
Jingle Bell Rock!!

It's the season
Good Cheer's to
the season and
we'll wish to you
All

I pray Favor and
blessing upon
you and your



Family this
Christmas
Jimmy Davis Jr

Happy Holidays!!
Remember the season
for the season!!

Be Happy

Love to your family
Keep them all close
Happy Holidays
WJH

Silent Night

Wishing Everyone
a very Merry Christmas
a Happy New years
stay safe Bless
mu Jeffrey Lee



Happy Holidays!



Giving Thanks For & In All Things

Happy Holidays to the families, supporters, friends, and foes of PHADP, peace be with you all!

There's so much to be thankful for, what comes to mind is when I hear my grandchildren say grandpa-grandpa it tugs at my heartstring. This is a honor to be called which I didn't deserve and yet is given me.

I'm thankful to be able to talk with my son and his family on a regular basis, especially during the holidays, you can hear the excitement in their voices, which brings joy to my heart. One tradition that I have started with my son and his family at Christmas time, is I sent him a ornament of a dove with an olive branch in its mouth, with the words I wrote on it, "May the Spirit of God bring love, joy, and peace to this family and their home."

Since being incarcerated these thirty-six years here, I would have to say that my most memorable Thanksgiving and Christmas happen in 2020, where I had surgery on my back twice, the latter was two days before Thanksgiving.

O'yes! COVID-19 was thriving, I spent 4 days in ICU and yes! The Thanksgiving dinner was great, the little I was able to eat (real turkey, ham, collar greens, dressing, even punkin pie, cake and ice cream was delicious.) smile!

But what stood out the most to me is when I wasn't able to feed myself, bathe myself, or use the restroom on my own, I was cared for with much kindness and dignity by the nurses and doctors there at the free world hospital.

It was a very humbling experience for someone like myself, full of pride, who is used to doing for myself and not depending on others.

Also, I would like to thank the practical nurse and nursing staff here at this prison who were very instrumental in my recovery during my stay in the infirmary and release on Feb 10, 2021. I am thankful and appreciative to you all, may God bless and reward you all, as I have been richly blessed. Amen.

With Much Love & Thanksgiving and Happy New Year 2023!!
Earl J. McGahee Sr.
Z - 466 / L-24



The Pain of Boredom

I want to start off this letter with a big thank you for all the supporters of Project Hope. I had a lot of great experience with Thanksgiving and Christmas, family came together, food were so good and we shared so many funny times together, but one Christmas the unthinkable happened, it rained all day and we were all over at our grand mom house, who happen to stay across the street from a big popular park, so me and my cousins were stuck in the house, with our bikes and firecrackers. So, out of boredom I threw some firecrackers in my grandmom's fireplace and all my cousins told on me and I received two kinds of pain for my boredom, the pain of my aunt whooping me, but also the pain of my cousins telling everyone why I couldn't come outside, because what I did. We can always create better moments with others, our boredom is about what we don't have, instead of seeing who we have it with. Allow this Christmas to be filled with created moments that last forever.

Yours Truly,
Jimmy Davis



Christmas

Christmas is a time for bright lights, beautiful decorations, gifts, family gatherings, love, joy, peace, sharings, long distance connections by phone, & all the wonderful things God has created for mankind. My favorite is the love & joy of family gatherings with all the great foods that has been prepared. I also love to see the wonderful expressions on everyone's faces as they open their gifts & are surprised as to the blessings they have received from other loved ones. There are other fascinating things taking place as well, the sound of Christmas carols playing, stories being told by the elders of past events, not all true, but very exciting to listen to. I love this time of the year & even though I may not be able to physically be there to share Christmas with my loved ones, we will make do by long distance connecting by phone. For those of you on the other side of the fence, I wish you all a Merry Christmas so enjoy...

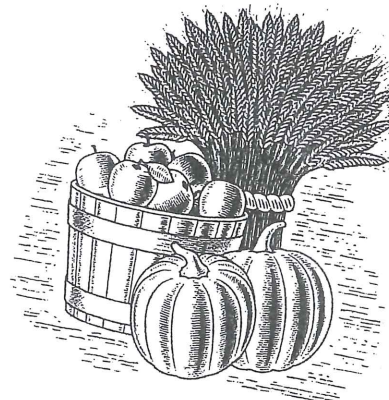
Mario Woodward



Governor Ivey, this article has been written in response to your most recent comments concerning Alabama's execution process. First and foremost, we'd like to say "shame on you!!" How dare you attempt to place blame on the lawyers fighting to protect the guys on Alabama's death row from the barbaric and savage tactics your officials are putting them through to try and execute them. Secondly, Gov. Ivey, it should make you feel as dumb as you sound attempting to come up with a conspiracy theory, when you made the statement concerning the criminals hijacking the system somehow. That was the most ridiculous crap we have ever heard. Shame on you! The truth of the matter is, "there's a light shining bright on the things Alabama used to do in the dark." This light has complicated things for the murderous individuals you had torturing these guys in the past. Now, their true incompetence is being revealed to society. If I may offer my own opinion to the matter? I'd say, "I think Alabama has employed someone as a doctor in this matter who's probably not licensed or who has had their license taken away for some sort of malpractice." This is why Alabama banks so hard on this so-called secrecy clause so much. Bring in the Big wheels, I say, for this investigation you claim to be having. Society wants to know the truth. Stop bringing in people from within the state of Alabama. We'd like to ask a question. Why Allow incompetent people to investigate their own incompetence? That would be like allowing the blind to lead... Well, you get the point.

We need an independent, impartial entity over this entire process from beginning to end. That way Governor Ivey, the people of this state will know the truth about what has really been taking place. If the state of Alabama has nothing to hide?? Open the door!! Invite the outsiders to come take a look at what is really going on #PullBackTheCurtain Stop trying to hide things because despite your efforts, the people of Alabama will get the facts. So play ball or shame on you...

Anonymous



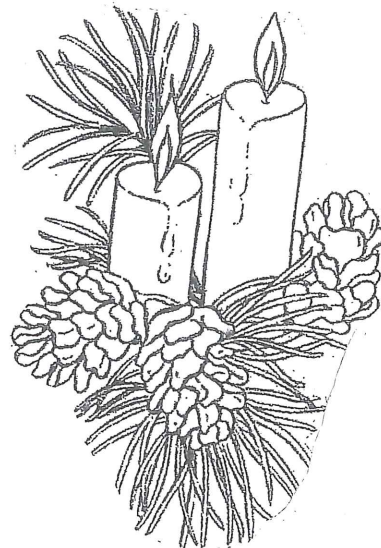
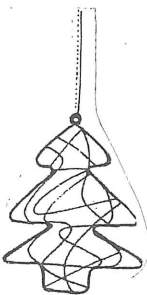
The Night Before Christmas

I know everyone has trouble sleeping on Xmas eve, and I'm here to inform you that I'm one that didn't have trouble sleeping on this night. Now- I stayed up as long as I could, me and my brother listening to our parents play with our gifts. It was almost like they for the gifts for theirselves and we had to wait to see what was ours.

Now my brother always beat me cause he would stay up all night til they got done. Me, I was getting my sleep cause I knew that all my gifts would still be there but I needed to be fully charged up when I got up. There was no staying up and then falling asleep for me.

To me those was the good old days of the youth and now we are older and live life through our kids, nephews, and nieces. God is always good. Enjoy life and be a blessing to another.

Wishing you all a blessed Xmas and Happy New Year,
Darryl Turner



Merry Christmas

Joy and Peace in all spaces
Lights and happy faces
Gifts being shared between all
Songs sang loud in every hall
Though all of this is well and good
Occasion asks for what's understood
Let us not forget the real reason
Remember why we have this season
Birth of new
A change is due
Continue to pursue
Searching for truth
In my own way
Wishing you love and joy and peace during this Holiday...

Merry Christmas

Marcus Williams

Opinion

"It's Krazy" You can't shame Alabama's government or its perfect, righteous-religious people into doing the "right" thing, when it comes to treating regular people with decency, or respecting the wishes of forgiving families!

Attention all humans! If you're not human, this message is not for you! Have you ever been at fault for something and felt ashamed? You asked your peers to forgive you or have mercy on you?

"They say" _ God forgives, people don't - They want vengeance! "Vengeance is mine" - says God!

Unforgiving people, you can't want something that you are not willing to give!

Judges are not God, Prosecutors are not perfect, police are not superheroes and politicians are not truthful, and corrupt government in the U.S. is normal.

The U.S. Constitution is suppose to exact equality in governing its people, but how can we have equality in governing when it's a right and left side opposed to one another (Dems & Reps) and then it's all the others.

Separation of power has no place with equality! Compromising hurts the less fortunate when decisions are made without them!

N.O.



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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. Donations may also be made on line by going to our website and clicking on "donate" on the right hand top corner of the front page.

Peace

Peace and joy to us all Yah/Jah has oversaw us through another season where we endured a process that has molded and shaped us for the season to come. Not saying that it will be without trials, I am saying that if we remain in the vine, Yahsua, we will remain with strength and comfort that shall sustain us as we progress and harvest the seed we've planted in this season which was ordained for the level we're entering this new season on. So, devoice the doubt, devoice the stress, devoice the weights and sandbags, devoice the naysayers, devoice the negative energy, only to marry the good times and good vibes Yah has prepared for us.

Joy was birthed into the universe for us to enjoy heaven on earth by having life more abundantly.

Randy Lewis



What is Christmas to you without Me,
Do you even think of me, or just candy canes in a tree
Do you praise me on this day,
For I have told you, praise no one but Me,
Or do you look for gifts under the tree
You have 12 Days of Christmas, I hear My Name nowhere,
Yet I'm the one who created you, so how is that fair
That's okay, have your fun,
But I'll be the last thing you see
When it's all said and done.

Merry Christmas
Jessie Phillips

God has admitted His own shortcomings regarding man. Can man admit his shortcomings against man? W.W.J.D., would Jesus stroll on by an execution without interferring?

We have a long road to travel, let us begin this journey on a positive trip....Abolish the Executions! Abolish life without parole! If we must incarcerate overzealously our citizens, let's reduce the time behind bars and reunite families together, back from hard lessons learned. With much respect to those for the lives lost of loved ones from tragedies born of poor decisions.

Let us attempt to heal, as the one great nation we proclaim to be!!

Christmas: Mas Christ

The stores around the country often announce the arrival of the Christmas Season, even when some are still dressed in Halloween costumes. The pageantry of the lights and trees and gifts have overshadowed the reasoning and meaning of the celebration. Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone is the reason for the season of Christmas. The controversy behind the man Jesus has been debated endlessly through the decades. Whether you believe or not it will be continued debated until the prophecy of His return is fulfilled. So the opportunity for distractions presents itself in the form of lights and trees, because they are pleasing to the eyes. Stay focused on the one that is the light of the world!

The first time I saw the word Xmas I was somewhat offended, because I thought like many, oh my, they're trying to X out Christ, and most are. Yet, if you take a deeper look, you will find out the "X" in "Xmas" is in fact not the English letter "ex." It is an abbreviation of the Greek name of "Christ," Xplotoc (Christos), which starts with the Greek letter Chi. This abbreviation of "Christ" as "X" can be traced many centuries back. Jesus said something that the writer of Matthew 11:6 "and blessed is he who is not offended because of me!" When you get offended often you get defensive and Jesus don't need you defending Him, just live the way he commanded!

When the lights are taken down and the trees are dried up and thrown away and the excitement of the presents are long gone, what do you have left? Jesus said that when I go I will not leave you comfortless, I will send you a comforter who would lead you and guide you in all truth. One truth about Christmas is we need more Christ and less everything else. Christmas the very spelling of the word broken down means Christ-Mas (more, most). Having more of the fruits of the spirit means less of the works of Jeffery. Yet we can't have more of Christ until we make more room in our heart, mind, and soul for Him. So this Christ Mas in the middle of all that's going on around you, let us make room for the Christ that surround us. Have a safe and blessed, wonderful holiday season! Merry Christmas and may your New Year be prosperous!

Jeffery Lee
Sec/Treasurer
L - 12



The first time I thought about writing the Constitution was in a dream. Earlier that day, I overheard two of my lieutenants Lt. Rosa Acosta and Lt. Tiffany Luu, in a spirited debate about justice. Lt. Acosta was saying: Civilization rests on the principle that we treat our criminals better than they treated their victims. That we as civilized people not stoop to their level.

I did not need to hear Lt. Luu's response because I knew what it would be, I'd been hearing those kinds of conversations ever since I revealed the Supreme Court. The peasants love the idealism of the Supreme Court like I knew they would. And like I foresaw, congress and the senate abhor it.

See, the Supreme Court was my brain-child, so right now, many will not see the potential it has. Given time, they will see that the Supreme Court will make sure we stay in power. Any ruling the lower courts make that we don't like, the Supreme Court will overturn. Let them win 5 out of 20 and they will be happy.

When I revealed the constitution 2 weeks later, the results were the same. I have to say, the Constitution was my masterpiece. New rights, freedoms, and most importantly, protection. No one could take away anything afforded to you by the Constitution, a great day for us all. Your constitutional rights will protect you from anything.

Except the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court will step on your constitutional rights whenever they see fit. Anybody that sues a company for violating their rights and wins, said company takes it to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court reverses the lower courts ruling saying we have the last say. Forget your rights. The potential I saw in the Supreme Court has a finally arrived.

That's not how the Supreme Court is in real life, but at the same time it's just like that. See, for us peasants, the Supreme Court is about two days from being irrelevant.

Right now, they are making rulings with their political party and that's not the job they were hired for. If a case comes before them that will affect one or one million cases after they rule on said case, they are supposed to make a ruling on said case. But, that's not what they are doing. They're sending cases back to the lower courts telling them to fix said cases because they will affect too many other cases.

And what really makes no sense, if it takes 4 judges to hear a case, why then does it take 9 to rule on the same case. The Supreme Court is not a job that a person should have for the rest of their life.

With the wrong judges, this country will never move forward. They will never look for the evolving standards in anything because they do not want to evolve themselves. Don't get me wrong, 5 times out of 20 they do the right thing, but that's just not enough for me. But I guess you're good with that (or are we all dreaming to think that standards evolve, and that decency exists?)

*Project Hope to Abolish
the Death Penalty*

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Justice
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People*

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Christmastime

Here it is Christmastime again. I sit here reading a old beat up copy of "A Christmas Carol" like my dad would read us years ago. I look around my cell and see the Christmas tree I made from things around the prison. Some paper plates, paper clips, glue, and popcorn on string made from a trash bag. The tree is colored with paint and markers to look like lights.

The walls have Christmas cards from family and friends that bring cheer to the heart. A little mouse comes to visit, I give him a cookie. He is, after all, God's creature. I think about the past gifts under the tree and think about what I want more than anything.

I think and think... It is not the Rule 32 or direct appeals, because God has given 2 men a great gift to live and tell their stories. Now that is a gift worth giving or receiving.

Chris Henderson
Z - 816 / M - 54

