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The Glorious Defeat of Chuck Colson
by A.R. Quinn


“What are you going to do for guys like us when you get out?” he demanded.

Chuck promised he would never forget the men at Maxwell. “Bull!” Archie said, throwing down the deck of cards he had been playing with. “Big shots like you get out and forget little guys like us.”

Becoming 22326

Before Chuck became federal inmate number 22326, there was nothing in his life story to suggest that he would end up in prison. Raised near Boston, Mass., he graduated from Brown University, went on to become the youngest captain in the U.S. Marines Corps, and earned a law degree with honors. After that, he entered politics, a field for which he had a natural talent.

By 1969, Chuck reached the high point of a dramatic climb to influence and prestige. As special counsel to President Nixon, he was one of the most powerful men in the country — until it all came crashing down.

When the Watergate scandal broke, Chuck found himself at the center of the storm. His name was dragged through the mud by the press as one of the “Watergate Seven.”

Under the pressure, Chuck retired into private life, but the threat of prosecution on Watergate-related charges still haunted him and his family.

At this critical moment, a close friend gave Chuck a copy of Mere Christianity, a book that touched him and his family deeply.

Looking for Love that Lasts
by John Byrne

Prisons and jails are some of the most overcrowded places on the planet — and yet also the loneliest. You’re isolated from people you care about. Except for the occasional visit or phone call — if you are lucky — they continue their lives without you. You hunger for a touch from the outside world. To cope with the loneliness, many inmates turn to romantic relationships. They seek out a pen pal of the opposite sex. They try to rekindle romance with an old flame. They may even have more than one relationship going at the same time.

Inmate romances rarely end well. As the director of a reentry program, I have seen too many inmates enter a relationship with high hopes, only to have it crash and burn around them. So how do you find love that lasts?

Reasons Not to Date before Release

When I talk to inmates, I offer a two-pronged approach: While you’re incarcerated, don’t date, and when you’re released, wait.

Reasons to Wait — Even after Release

There’s nothing like the feeling of freedom. When you walk out the gates, your adrenaline starts pumping. The first time a person of the opposite sex smiles at you and shows interest, you’re over the moon. Why not go for it? When I talk to inmates who are about to parole or max out, I encourage them to wait 12 months before starting a relationship. Waiting is hard, but it will pay off, and here’s why:

Before you can have something to offer, you need to get yourself established. The first months out of prison will be hard enough without adding the pressure of a romantic relationship. Spend that time laying the foundation for your new life: find a job; go to your appointments; find housing; re-establish relationships with your family or your kids; if you are

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Love That Lasts Continued from page 1

Chuck, a Christian, finds a good church community where you can serve and be accepted. If you live those things up, you’ll have much more to offer the right kind of romantic partner – one who will support you and help you make wise choices about the future. Plus, after a year, your emotions will stabilize, and you will be able to get in a relationship with a clear head.

A bad relationship will wreck your heart. No one walks out of prison without scars, but keeping a Christian couple can heal them. When you’re out, see if stalwart Christian friends. They helped me through my divorce, and I’m grateful to them to this day.

Defeat into Victory

Chuck has been an on-the-top writer, editor, and a leader in the Christian faith. The book sparked a series of conversations and events that led, finally, to Chuck’s conversion to Christianity.

Chuck’s experiences at a federal prison camp, though painful, helped him realize the need for family, wound up awakening him to a new focus in life – helping other inmates.

While spending time with inmates, Chuck realized that many were not being labeled a “correct” incarcerated men and women. Many times, it left them more hopeless and criminally minded than it did when he entered prison. He knew he could do something to help them.

When he was released in 1975, Chuck said he felt free to follow his heart and write about his life and the worries of the inmates. He knew it was the right thing to do, but he was also kept busy with the new responsibilities and the return to the world he loved.

Chuck died from complications of a stroke while speaking at a conference. Doctors discovered bleeding in the side of his brain; he had suffered a huge stroke. The doctors said his most likely cause of death was a blow to the head from a fall or a fall from a height.

Chuck’s death was a huge loss to the Christian community. He was a leading voice in the fight against prison reform and a champion of the rights of incarcerated people. He is remembered for his commitment to helping others find hope and freedom through faith.

The Good News about Hard Times

by Johnathan Kana

Chuck Colson was a key figure in two major political cases in U.S. history – the Watergate scandal and the Iran-Contra affair. He served as the chief of staff to President Richard Nixon and was convicted of obstruction of justice in connection with both cases.

Chuck Colson was initially sentenced to 5 years in prison for his role in the Watergate scandal. He served 10 months of his prison sentence and was eventually released in 1977. However, he was later convicted in 1986 for conspiracy in the Iran-Contra affair and served another 3 years in prison.

Chuck Colson was a prominent evangelical Christian and a leader in the movement for prison reform. He founded the Prison Fellowship Ministries, a national Christian prison ministry, in 1974.

Chuck Colson was also a prolific author and a leading voice in the Christian community. He wrote several books, including “Prisoners of Hope” and “Love That Lasts”.

Chuck Colson’s death on April 21, 2012, marked the end of an era for the Christian community. He was a leader in the fight against prison reform and a champion of the rights of incarcerated people. He is remembered for his commitment to helping others find hope and freedom through faith.

Eternity or Bust

The chain bus is waiting for you. You are already locked in the dockers. You are already in line to board – but you don’t have to get on.

If you honestly confront your confusions and accept Jesus’ death as God’s seal of pardon, you can start thinking all over. You can experience inner freedom from this moment on – to eternity. God doesn’t require you to believe in the cross. But the days you spend with your new life will only be a rehearsal for eternity.

Do you want to take your life as a test? Do you want to see if you have the faith to trust God? Then you can only do one thing – repent and believe in the Gospel.

Prisoners of Hope

But God’s not done yet. “Come back to the place of safety, all you who dwell in sin!” (Isaiah 11:12)

Prison chaplains interested in having an ongoing program at the facility they serve should contact Keith@pilgrimseminary.org, or write to the address listed above.

In the next edition, he will offer insights from his family, wind up awakening Chuck, who had been on death row, to the reality of prison life. He realized prison was harder than he thought it would be.

Chuck, who had been on top of the world, now found himself in the bottom of a different world. Though his freedom was one and that being labeled a “convict” would kill his chances of doing anything meaningful with his life.

While Chuck was in prison, his family worried about him. He was in his late 30s and had been married for 10 years. When he was released, Chuck said he felt more free than ever.

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DOJ Adopts New Rape Standards

WASHINGTON, D.C.

On May 17, 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice released national standards to help protect inmates from suffering sexual abuse while in custody. The rules, which the DOJ was required to adopt after Congress passed the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA), have three main goals: to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse. Here is a summary of some of the most important rules:

Prevention
- Correctional facilities must have a zero-tolerance policy.
- Facilities must have a PREA point person to coordinate compliance.
- Facilities must screen all inmates for risk of being sexually abused and make assignments accordingly.
- Cross-gender pat-downs of female or juvenile inmates will be prohibited.
- Facilities must limit the use of solitary confinement as a way of protecting vulnerable inmates.

Detection
- Inmates will be allowed to report abuse anonymously upon request.
- Facilities must develop policies to prevent retaliation against inmates who report abuse or cooperate with an abuse investigation.

Response
- Victims of sexual abuse will have the right to timely physical and mental health care.
- Facilities must establish procedures to preserve evidence of an assault, and victims must be offered no-cost forensic exams.
- Abusers should be disciplined; staff abusers should be fired if proven guilty.
- Facilities must keep good records of incidents of sexual abuse.

These standards apply to all facilities under the control of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. State facilities that fail to comply with them may lose some federal funding.

Justice Fellowship, the criminal justice reform branch of Prison Fellowship, spent a decade pushing for the changes. In a recent article, Pat Nolan, an ex-prisoner and the president of Prison Fellowship, spent a decade pushing for the changes. In a recent article, Pat Nolan, an ex-prisoner and the president of Justice Fellowship, remembered talking about the problem with Prison Fellowship founder Chuck Colson. "(Chuck's) response was immediate and firm," he recalled. "'Pat, we have to get involved in this fight. You and I know the horrors that take place within prison walls, and if we don't speak up, who will?'"

Together, Pat and Chuck helped rally support for the end of prison rape. They joined forces with groups as diverse as the ACLU, Human Rights Watch, and the National Association of Evangelicals, to help bring PREA to a floor vote in 2003. Finally adopting the PREA standards is an important step toward protecting inmates from sexual abuse, but huge gaps remain. The DOJ estimates that there have been more than 1.8 million cases of rape or sexual abuse in correctional facilities since PREA was passed, and it will take more time for facilities to create and enforce their new anti-rape policies and procedures.