

BOOKS

I am an avid reader and have come across some great books that I would like to share.

This journey that many of us are on is difficult, at best, and books help me try to figure out some of it twists and turns. The following are some to start with, and in future issues, we will add others.

I hope this list gets you started. If any of you know of any good books, please let me know, and we may include them in a future list.

-Loretta Masters

Loving Through Bars - Children with Parents in Prison

by Cynthia Martone

A book written by a school administrator about her experiences with some families in her school who had loved ones on prison with insight into looking through a child's eyes when a parent is in prison.

Family Arrested - How to Survive the Incarceration of a Loved One

by Ann Edenfield

The author's story of when her husband was arrested and sent to federal prison. Gives ideas on how to survive and what to expect of the legal and prison system.

Defending Yourself Against Cops in Missouri

by Dee Wampler

This book should be in every home as a reference for when the "unthinkable" and "impossible" comes to your home - the arrest of a loved one. Great reference book for handling the legal system.

Invisible Punishment - The Collateral Consequences of Mass Imprisonment

by Marc Mauer and Meda Chesney-Lind

Explores the hidden costs of conviction for the inmates and their families.

Visiting Day

by Jacqueline Woodson

A book for children about a child going to visit her father in prison.

Prison Conversations

by Craig Gabriel

Interviews with prisoners at Washington State Reformatory



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE continued from front page

That might mean that the teens apologize and repair or replace the mailboxes.

There would be no need to incarcerate George or Gwendolyn, yet they have learned accountability and consequences of bad choices. Studies show that programs such as these reduce recidivism more effectively than punitive measures.

There are many restorative justice programs in Missouri prisons. One popular program is ICVC, which addresses the impact of crime on victims. Offenders also can create posters, cards for nursing home residents or musical messages to help youth avoid illegal

substances or criminal behavior. Positive changes can help offenders be more successful when paroled.

You might be thinking that your loved one is innocent, and doesn't need to participate in restorative justice. I disagree. As human beings, don't we all have a responsibility to help others as we can? In addition, through restorative justice, innocent men and women have an opportunity to be a positive influence on criminally minded individuals.

For offenders with parolable sentences, guilty or innocent, participating in restorative justice helps show parole boards that they

are ready to take their place as a productive member of society.

The Missouri Restorative Justice Coalition has distributed surveys throughout the state and in some prisons regarding opinions on restorative justice measures. These surveys will help us in our efforts to educate citizens about alternatives to traditional punitive sentencing. I urge any of you who have received surveys to complete and return them.

If you have more questions about restorative justice or the Coalition, contact Paula Skillicorn at skillicorn@centurytel.net.

MENTORS FOR CHILDREN

AMACHI - People of Faith Mentoring Children of Promise

Children with incarcerated parents are some of the most at-risk youths in the country. These children are often overlooked or ignored by our communities; yet statistics show that without intervention, they are 70% more likely than their peers to end up in prison. In 2004, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri launched the Amachi Program, an initiated designed to curb this cycle of incarceration. Through Amachi, Big Brothers/Big Sisters partners with faith-based organizations in the area to recruit volunteers who are willing to be friends and mentors to the children with incarcerated parents.

Amachi was founded five years ago in Philadelphia by Reverend Wilson W. Goode, the former mayor of the city and prominent faith-leader in the community. He partnered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters to implement the Amachi program. Today, 85

Amachi-affiliated programs across the country have partnered with more than 330 churches and served more than 2,300 children. Locally, the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri has connected with 18 faith-groups and has made more than 250 matches, developing the agency's Amachi program to the fifth largest in the nation.

"Amachi" is a West African word meaning "Who knows but what God has brought us through this child." Big Brother and Big Sister mentors help children succeed through dependable, caring, professionally-supported, one-to-one relationships. Research has shown that the unparalleled mentoring model provided by Big Brothers/Big Sisters helps children be significantly less likely to engage in high-risk activities such as truancy, drug use, and violence. The program also helps them improve their grades, self-confidence, and ability to get along with parents and other authority figures.

BIG BROTHERS/ BIG SISTERS Local Contacts In your area

- ST. LOUIS/EASTERN MISSOURI Relda Brooks 314-361-5900
JEFFERSON CITY Scott Gehlert (Bridges)\* 573-634-3290
COLUMBIA Tessa Foris/Demetria Stevens 573-874-3677
KANSAS CITY John Hile 816-561-5269
WARRENSBURG Stormy Taylor 660-429-1991
SPRINGFIELD Lisa Slavens 417-889-9136
JOPLIN Lana Schmidt 417-626-9244

\*Note: Not all programs are called Amachi

LEGISLATION

In our last newsletter, we listed several proposed bills for 2005 in the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives. Only two bills pertaining to criminal justice were actually approved and sent to the Governor which have not been signed yet.

HB700

Authorizes Board of Probation and Parole to charge offenders under their supervision on probation or parole a monthly fee not to exceed \$60

HB353

Bill contains several crime prevention laws which have been modified. Three are noteworthy.

- Removes a provision requiring defendants to be sentenced according to the law in place at the time of sentencing, rather than the law as it existed at the time of the crime, whenever the change in law reduced the penalty for the offense. (Section 1.160, RSMo)

- Requires lifetime supervision by Probation and Parole when victim is under 14 and offender is sentenced as prior sex offender. Electronically monitored using global positioning system.
Removes provision allowing Board of Probation and Parole to convert consecutive sentences to concurrent.



CHAPLAIN'S CONFERENCE

In April, Becky Williams (secretary) and I met with Mr. Lawrence Morganfield (Supervisor of Religious/Spiritual Programming for the DOC). We talked with him for almost two hours and he invited Missouri CURE to speak at the up-coming Chaplain's Conference on June 2nd and 3rd held at the new Jefferson City Correctional Center.

On June 2nd, Cortney Torres (Resource Coordinator for Missouri CURE) and I were honored

to represent Missouri CURE. There were approximately 20 chaplains in attendance. I spoke about Missouri CURE, explaining who we are and why we are here. Many of them had never heard of us before. We also discussed marriage seminars and what a benefit these are to help couples deal with separation and commitment. Missouri CURE wants to help in any way possible to get these wonderful events to happen.

Cortney spoke about the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program (see article on page 2) that has recently been set up with federal funding specifically for children with a parent in prison. She also spoke about Kairos Outside, a spiritual retreat offered for women who have loved ones in prison.

Each chaplain was given brochures regarding the above information for reference. There seemed to be a lot of interest

from the chaplains and we answered many questions. We want to thank Mr. Morganfield and all the chaplains for their open minds and open hearts.

If you have further questions or need information, you can write to me at the Missouri CURE P.O. Box or visit your chaplain.

-Loretta Masters

MEMBERSHIP

Currently we have over 600 people in our database, but many are not paid members. We want to continue to spread the word, but cannot do so without your support.

Membership with Missouri CURE also includes receiving the quarterly newsletter from National CURE!

As our committees expand to work on specific issues, let us know how you can help or which

you would like to join.

We continue to need strong committee and families to become involved. Contact us if you are interested!

Due to lack of interest, family support groups are not being scheduled at this time.

If you prefer to receive your newsletter by e-mail, let us know at missouricure@hotmail.com

Missouri CURE P.O. Box 1212 Fenton, MO 63026



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www.missouricure.org

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**FAMILY REPS**

DATE TO RENEW

**AROUND TOWN**

Contact Missouri CURE for more details

- July 9: MISSOURI CURE STATEWIDE MEETING**  
Columbia: 10:00am – 12:00pm at Daniel Boone Library  
For more information contact Becky Williams at 314-578-8899
- July 13: MASW (Missouri Association for Social Welfare)**  
Jefferson City: 10:00am – 1:30pm  
For more information, contact Diana Moore at 1-888-634-2901
- July 16: FAMM (Families Against Mandatory Minimums)**  
Kansas City: 1pm at Pentecostal Church of God in Christ  
For more information contact Melvin Strong at 816-763-4367
- July 21: FAMM (Families Against Mandatory Minimums)**  
St. Louis: 6-8pm at 3017 Park Avenue
- July 21: EMCADP (Eastern Missouri Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)**  
St. Louis: 7pm at ACLU at 4557 Laclede Avenue.  
For more information contact Mary Mifflin at 314-385-8344
- July 28: WMCADP (Western Missouri Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)**  
Kansas City: 7pm at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church at 2310 E. Linwood Blvd.  
For more information contact Cathleen Burnett at 816-756-0911

**SUBSCRIBE NOW!**

Prison Legal News (PLN) is a 50 page monthly publication dealing with National and Statewide legal issues.

Individuals can subscribe for one year at \$25. For prisoners one year is \$18 or 6 months for \$9.

Prison Legal News  
2400 NW 80th St #148  
Seattle, WA 98117

(206) 246-1022  
www.prisonlegalnews.org



**REMINDER!**

When joining Missouri Cure you will receive a state newsletter every three to four months. You will be put on National Cure's mailing list and you will receive a quarterly newsletter. To renew you subscription with Missouri Cure you must send payment directly to Missouri Cure. If payment is received by National Cure, it will be considered a donation.

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# Missouri CURE

News & Notes

June 2005

**NEW CHAIRMAN**

Earlier this year, John Howser announced that he was stepping down as chairman of Missouri CURE and I was asked to take his place. John's leadership skills are not lost, however, as John is now a member of the Missouri CURE Board of Directors.

Last year, our organization focused on revitalization and creation of committees and prison representatives. This year, our goals include finding someone to help us attain nonprofit status, build our membership, and provide education to our members.

Our annual meeting on July 9 promises to be an interesting and educational experience for all who are able to attend.

I believe there will be something for everyone at the meeting, regardless of your loved one's sentence. Of course, there are many more topics we all are interested in, and we plan to address those in future meetings. Come to the annual meeting and bring your suggestions for future speakers/topics.

~Paula Skillicorn  
Missouri CURE chair

**ANGELA'S VOICE**

I know a lot of you are looking on information regarding the MOSOP program in Farmington. I have been in contact with John Fougere, Public Information Officer for Missouri Department of Corrections. He has conveyed to me that CMS has just taken over the MOSOP program as of June 1 and that they do not have a new director appointed as of yet. The Acting Director at this time is Dr. David Suire.

When I inquired as to the changes that may derive from the recent acquisition, Mr. Fougere stated that none have been implemented yet in terms of length or size of the program. He also stated that at this time there are no changes to CR dates or the operation of the program. If changes do need to be made the new full-time Director will be making them.

Mr. Fougere also stated that it was important to note that CMS subcontracted with Public Safety Concepts to cover MOSOP services, but they did not fire them or terminate the contract. Public Safety Concepts withdrew from providing MOSOP services through their own decision.

In the meantime, please do your program! This may be your only opportunity to receive treatment and receive your CR date.

In conclusion everyone, I believe there will be a lot of information in the coming months. I will keep you posted. With every good wish to you,

~Angela Adams

**STATEWIDE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COALITION**

*Focuses on Alternatives to Traditional Punishment*

The Missouri Restorative Justice Coalition formed earlier this year to promote alternatives to traditional punitive measures for offenders.

Restorative justice involves all those who have a stake in a specific offense – victim(s), offenders and community. The principles of restorative justice focus on identifying and addressing "harms, needs and obligations, in order to heal and put things

as right as possible." (Howard Zehr, author of "The Little Book of Restorative Justice")

Among the goals of restorative justice are: Identifying and addressing the needs of the victims; offender accountability; competency development for the offender; and community safety.

For example, let's say teenagers George and Gwendolyn spend an evening bashing mailboxes. Punitive responses could include sentencing them to time in a juvenile justice

center at the taxpayer's cost. Restitution may or may not be assigned and fulfilled. The victims have little or no input.

A restorative justice response could involve bringing together the victims, George and Gwendolyn, members of the community, and a mediator together. The victims and the teenagers would talk about the events, how the victims were hurt, why the teenagers attacked the mailboxes, and what things need to be done to repair the damage done.

*Continued on page 2*

CURE is **NOT** a service organization; CURE has **NO** legal services. CURE is an all-volunteer non-profit criminal justice advocacy organization.