

# Until Justice Rains Down

by Rodney J. Sumler

## Inmates Living as Slaves in 1998

Slavery is the act of holding a person against his will and making him work for another — workforce with no pay. Everyone has a job. You are told when you get up, when to eat, have visits, no sex, watch T.V., recreate, and worship God. If you don't want to be a slave, don't go to prison. Don't break man's laws.

Slavery is as old as man. Our first knowledge of slavery is taught to us in church as we study the life of Moses. It was fueled by greed and economic interest then and it still is today. Black Slavery in America is not dead. There are two types of slavery in America still alive and kicking. Dr. James Alsbrook, professor emeritus, Ohio University, said recently, "It involves voluntary self-humiliation, the prostitution of personal dignity, the deliberate degradation of other blacks and the implicit or explicit adoration of white skin."

That is the slavery not enforced by the law, the whip, chain or gun. It is enforced on blacks by blacks and is voluntary. This slave mentality and mindset is one of the major causes of our failures, our inhumanity to each other, and black on black crime. One very wise old black man stated the plight of blacks when he said, "You 'educated Negroes' are going to get some of us Niggers killed."

Black inmates in America's prisons are the "New slaves of the 90s." Depending on what type prison you observe, inmates are subjected to guns, chains, psychological whips and gestures symbolizing and enforcing absolute subjugation. While the average American citi-

zen is victim to an epidemic of ignorance about our penal systems; misinformation and an epidemic of violent crime has resulted in extreme apathy in regards to life in prison. Americans become concerned about prison conditions only after one of their family members becomes incarcerated, along with over 1.7 million other Americans. In comparison to our percentage of the population, blacks make up a large disproportion of the prison population in every type of jail, prison, or incarceration in America.

We are living in a troubled world. Our judicial system is failing America. Our constitution guarantees us a day in court. It does not guarantee perfect trails. The constitution doesn't even guarantee justice. All the constitution guarantees any defendant is a reasonably fair trial and a chance at justice. Guile U.S. Attorneys use fear to convince an overwhelming number of indicted Americans to plea bargain. Those that go to trial are convicted 95 percent of the time because guile U.S. Attorneys use their awesome powers to instill fear in witnesses and exponents of falsehoods. Anything goes to get convictions. Once convicted, if you are black, you are sentenced to slavery — 1998 style.

Inmates at FPC's are the benefactors of welfare, day care, and workforce. They get free housing, food, clothing, recreation and medical care. They are watched around the clock and are counted five times every day. There is no unemployment. Every inmate has a job. The starting pay is 12¢ per hour.

Most federal prisons, like any business franchise with locations in various places, look and are run very much alike depending on whether it is a penitentiary, a federal correctional institution, or a federal prison camp. But each are a cosmos of a sick society. Slavery and the actions of some slave masters during the more than 400 years of brutality and torture are still causing hate, distrust, and turmoil between blacks and whites 134 years after slavery. Our prison and the "Slave Masters" mentality results in too many inmates returning to society angry, vindictive and full of hidden hate for law, authority and other races.

The purpose of prisons and incarcerations is not to allow the Federal Bureau of Prisons to simply grind away with subconscious degradation until inmates, exhausted, beat, stripped of human dignity, manhood or womanhood, and citizenship are forced to "grovel and beg" for community custody, furloughs and halfway houses as bargains of the defeated. Prisons should not be destructive to families, they should offer programs to help families pick up the pieces and start anew during incarceration.

The rule of law is based upon over 2,000 years of experience, common sense, fairness and a sacred belief in the worth of each human as an individual. These laws were built on the laws of God. If BOP officials would follow and respect God's laws in the same manner that they enforce and expect inmates to follow and respect BOP codes of

conduct, there would be no New Slavery. Most BOP officials are hypocrites who lie, have affairs, have drinking problems and act like they hate inmates. But our government has given them authority over inmates. Inmates are expected to adhere to their every command. Immorality by prison officials is overlooked. There is a low moral character that is growing among BOP employees. Our justice department should put some moral standards back into running our penal system. Prison officials should provide affidavits swearing that they have not behaved in a manner equal or worse than the inmates whom they have authority over. BOP employees should know the power of good over evil. Even the evil acts of some BOP officials cannot change the truth that justice will one day prevail. "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Proverbs 15:3

Being a warden does not call for the wisdom of Solomon or the intellect of Einstein. If it did, we would have very few wardens, for wardens are no more and no less than common men with uncommon power — awesome power over the lives of other men, women, and their families. As the leader of a prison, the warden sets the standards for all actions by staff and behavior of inmates. Most wardens have an "open door" policy for talking with inmates. It is really an open "air policy." Inmates line up to talk with the war-

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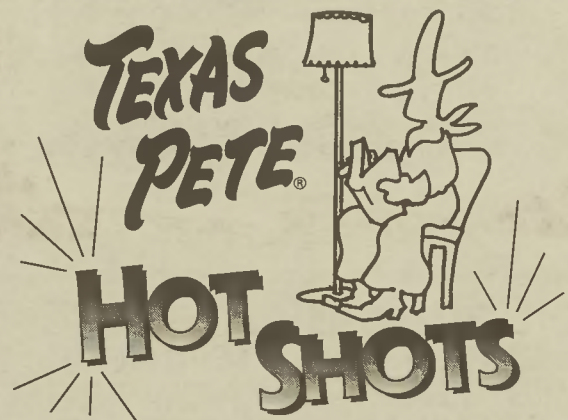
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