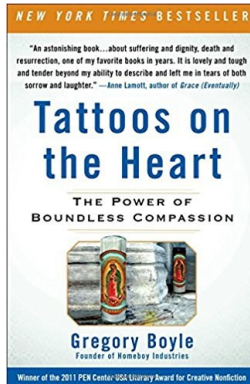
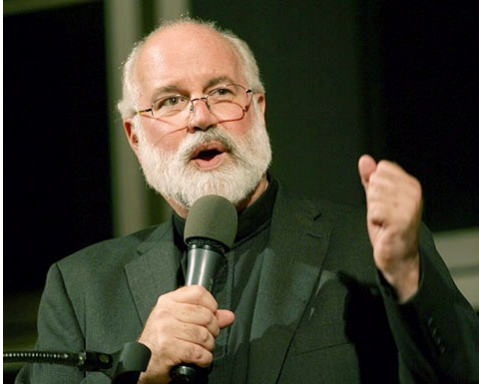


## Fr. Boyle Coming to GH



Fr. Greg Boyle, renowned author of the powerful book **TATTOOS ON THE HEART** is coming to our town! The Jesuit priest, founder and director of Homeboy Industries, will be the guest speaker at an HFP fundraiser on Thursday, October 12. The event will be held in the Lakeshore Middle School auditorium, 900 Cutler Street in the City of Grand Haven. It will begin at 7 PM. Ticket prices are as follows: \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door; and \$15 for students. They can be ordered online at [humanityforprisoners.org](http://humanityforprisoners.org), or they can be purchased at The Bookman, 715 Washington Avenue, in Grand Haven. Fr. Boyle will be available to sign books following his address.

## New HFP Board Member



Mike Scripps, founder and manager of Builder's Floor Covering in Grand Haven, has been appointed to a three-year term on HFP's Board of Directors. Mike, a gifted musician, has a passion for the downtrodden and disenfranchised, as demonstrated in the lyrics of this song that Mike has written and performed:

*Hungry? Call a Christian  
Jesus commanded us to care  
Thirsty? Call a Christian  
They will soon be there*

*We as Christians are commanded  
To reach out and care and feed  
Jesus' love is manifested  
When we meet his children's needs*

*Homeless? Need of clothing?  
Christians will help take care of you  
Sick man, man in prison  
Christians will take care of you*

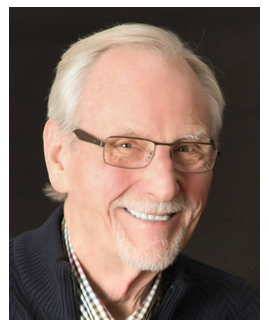
*Hey, child  
Why you cryin?  
Jesus loves you, this I know  
Hey, child, why you still cryin?  
Christians never showed.*

## Sometimes the only request from an inmate is that for a simple prayer!

Hey ALL, I want to ask you for some prayers for my new grandson. I found out this morning that he is in the hospital with Meningitis and he's pretty sick. We are asking everyone to put out a prayer to help him get better so he can have a good childhood/life. We GREATLY appreciate your help in our time of dire need. GOD bless you very much. Thanks, Mr. R.

## From the desk of Doug: Working with gangs; working with prisoners Any comparison?

The minute I finished reading Fr. Greg Boyle's compelling book, **TATTOOS ON THE HEART**, I knew that we should bring him here to speak. Fr. Boyle started a social enterprise in Los Angeles to help young people avert a life of gangs, drug abuse and street violence. The goal of HFP, on the other hand, is to provide personalized, problem-solving services for inmates who don't know where to turn.



The work of the two agencies is entirely different, so why did I feel such commonality, you ask? Here goes.

*-In both cases, the work is extremely unpopular. Whether gang members or prisoners, people aren't excited about working "in the trenches" to help these unpopular individuals.*

*-In both settings, the successes are difficult to measure and to explain. Fr. Boyle explains, in his book, that often it's "one step forward and two steps backward."*

*-Because of the above two issues, it becomes extremely challenging to raise the necessary funds to remain in operation, let alone expand.*

*-Amidst all the despair and frustration for those of us who work in these fields, the satisfaction in knowing that this is "Jesus work," in combination with the expressions of gratitude and thanks from those who are touched, MAKE IT ALL WORTH WHILE!*

So when you purchase tickets for this Grand Haven event, you win twice: you get to hear this remarkable servant and at the time same you'll be supporting our remarkable work.



## New Items at Just Goods!

Humanity for Prisoners has been partnering with another local non-profit, Extended Grace, to provide prisoner-made arts and crafts items to sell at their fair trade/social cause store, Just Goods. New items have been added to the inventory! Innovative women at Huron Valley Correctional Facility provided HFP with 20 hand-made stuffed animals. All were made using yarn that the ladies were required to purchase. The staff and board at HFP are humbled by the work these women have done to give back as a thanks for the help HFP has provided to them. These stuffed animals, along with prisoner paintings, leatherwork, and more, are available to purchase at Just Goods, 714 Columbus in Grand Haven. The store also features other unique items, as well as coffee, tea, soda, cookies and doughnuts. Stop by and support this great local effort!

## A sense of humor helps!

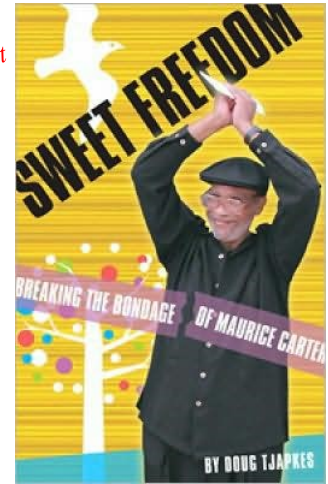
No question about it. When getting medical treatment in prison, you gotta have a sense of humor. Take Ryan, for instance. He's dealing with cancer, and it hasn't been fun. The other day, he was informed that he's due for surgery in a few days: radical robotic prostatectomy. Problem is, they removed his prostate in May! Meanwhile, the staff wasn't pleased about his resistance, and advised him to take this seriously. Said Ryan: "I'll go in if you demand it, but if they find a prostate in me something is really screwed up!" The medical staffer told him that was downright rude, and shouldn't presume to know what the doctors did. But, cooler heads prevailed. No surgery. A chagrined nurse apologized and said records will get properly updated.

Then there's Willie, who recently went to the hospital for his regular chemo treatment. His appointment was at 10:30 AM, and he didn't get finished until 1:30 PM. Corrections officers driving the prison van, meanwhile, had to take another prisoner to another hospital for surgery. After that, they were supposed to return, but apparently they forgot! Willie was left at the hospital until 10:22 PM, and never got back to his cell until nearly midnight. Said the 81-year-old inmate: "What a day!"

## Doug meets prisoner book club

HFP President Doug Tjapkes recently met with 30 inmates at the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, at their invitation. Club members had read Doug's book SWEET FREEDOM, and sought a personal chat with the author.

Available in E-Book format at [humanityforprisoners.org/publications.html](http://humanityforprisoners.org/publications.html)



Response from the guys:

*Thanks for sharing such nice thoughts & words after coming to last week's meeting of the Handlon Book Club. The session was a rewarding experience for many of the guys in attendance. Many are still talking about the personal insights gained from your talk with us. It was a real treat to have you here with us. More than anything, we appreciate your generosity -- for the books and your valuable time, of course -- and would like to think about future opportunities to engage with HFP*

## Response to HFP Compassion

Note from a parent:

*I want to take a minute and thank you for all of the help you have given us regarding my daughter (an inmate at WHV). After she had a very bad seizure that resulted in injuries she was transported to the hospital emergency room. Shortly after this visit she has been seen by another physician at the prison and her insulin was adjusted she has NOT had a seizure since May 8th. All it took was for someone to listen and adjust her meds accordingly and so many seizures could have been prevented. Thanks again.*

Note from a parolee:

*It has been two years since my release and things are getting much better. Owe you so much; let me know if ever there is anything I can do for you or HFP. Again thank you so much for all you have done and continue to do for so many. May God continue to bless you.*

# Donate To HFP Online

[Humanityforprisoners.org](http://Humanityforprisoners.org)