

Dear Friends and Supporters of Pastor Hoye,

There are so many things that I could relate to you regarding our dear friend Rev. Walter Hoye, so I'm not exactly sure where to begin. This will be a long e-mail, but I will try to highlight just a few key areas.

People still inquire as to where they can go for updates on Walter's case or where they can make donations. *Life Legal Defense Foundation* are the ones who have been defending Walter and where he would like all donations on his behalf to be sent: <http://www.lldf.org/>

Another website is under construction which should be up and running very soon at [www.freewalterhoye.org](http://www.freewalterhoye.org) You will be able to order *Free Walter Hoye* T-shirts, pins, and Walter's famous "got Jesus" ball caps directly from the website.

Peter Shinn of *Pro-Life Unity* has posted on-line the video that he shot yesterday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, with Walter at Santa Rita Jail. You can view it on **YouTUBE** at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHjMFGVvQy8>

Or directly on Peter's website at: <http://www.prolifeunity.com/>

All videos related to Walter and Lori Hoye that have been posted on **YouTUBE** can be seen at the following link:

[http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_type=&search\\_query=Walter+Hoye&aq=f](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_type=&search_query=Walter+Hoye&aq=f)

We had a good Prayer Vigil this morning at the abortion clinic where Walter would go every Tuesday morning from 8-10:00am. Even with the rain, there was a good spirit and show of support. Today we stood where our brother Walter is not free to stand. We held signs where our brother Walter does not have the freedom to hold a sign. We spoke where our brother Walter is not free to reach out and speak to others. And, we prayed where our brother Walter is not free to pray.

Thank you to everyone who has been praying for Pastor Hoye since I made the request last week asking for special prayers after he was taken to the infirmary on Thursday. He was released back to his housing section by late Friday, but I didn't send out an e-mail sooner so that I could give you a more personal update after my own visit with him over the weekend. Last Thursday, his wife Lori and Pastor Dion Evans were not able to see Walter when they went to visit, but on Friday, Lori was able to have a very special visit with Walter while he was in the infirmary.

I was with Lori for much of Saturday and Sunday, and we visited Walter on Sunday night. I'm happy to report that Walter was able to complete his liquid fast. Many of you know that he began a total liquid fast before Ash Wednesday, and the last day of Walter's fast was April 5<sup>th</sup> -- to coincide with the end of the **40 Days for Life** campaign. Walter completed his goal and was

successful to the very end! Lori continues on with her own liquid fast until Walter is released from Jail – today, April 7<sup>th</sup> is Day Nineteen for her!

When Walter was taken to the infirmary last week they asked him *“are you on a hunger strike because you are here?”* He replied *“No.”* They asked, *“are you fasting for Lent?”* He responded *“No. I am fasting for the **40 Days for Life.**”* The prison officials there at Santa Rita Jail haven’t known what to do with Walter, as they have never had this type of situation before. Naturally, they have been concerned about his well-being. Some of you have also been asking why Walter took it upon himself to do such a strict fast, and to continue on with the fast while he’s been in Jail. It is because he was not able to participate personally in the **40 Days for Life** there at the Oakland clinic where he was arrested (due to the judge’s “stay away” order), so instead he participated in a profound way by fasting each day of the **40 Days for Life**.

It’s quite a process to be able to get in to visit Walter. There are only 3 days of visitation per week on Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays and the visit is limited to ½ an hour. On each day of visitation, Lori has to go to the Jail around 6:00 a.m. or so to sign up on the list to visit. Then she goes back later that day for the actual visitation. Because of all the families visiting the other inmates this becomes quite a long process and it’s broken up into 3 rounds of visiting times, and there are various long lines that you have to wait on. Lori and I waited for hours to see Walter on Saturday, but were not able to see him. However, we were very happy because we knew that Bishop-Elect Salvatore Cordileone of the Oakland Diocese was going to have a very special visit with Walter while we were there on Saturday. While Lori and I were at the Jail, we thought the Bishop was having what’s called a “contact” visit with Walter wherein he could actually be in the same room with him. Unfortunately, once we left the Jail we found out that this was not the case. The phone system didn’t work in the room where they had their visit together, so Bishop Cordileone and Walter had to yell at each other for over an hour through the heavy glass wall that separated them so that they could make themselves heard to each other. They did manage, though I imagine it must have been exhausting for Walter! Walter told me when I spoke with him *“what a man of God”* the Bishop was!

On Sunday, Lori and I went back again to visit with a couple other gents – Peter Shinn who is the President of **Pro-Life Unity**, and a wonderful Jesuit Brother who is a mutual friend of mine and the Hoyes. When I first saw Walter, I didn’t think he looked good, but his spirit and smile and laugh still shined through at times despite his very weakened condition. Since he entered Jail on March 20<sup>th</sup> through April 5<sup>th</sup>, Walter only had apple juice (the kind from concentrate which is little more than sugar water), as well as some broth a few times from Top Ramen that the other inmates have given to him. He did receive an IV while he was in the infirmary so that helped a bit to build him back up. So except for the IV when he was in the infirmary last week, Walter had **NOT HAD** any real nourishment and it definitely showed in him. They wear a type of scrubs, but he also now managed to get a kind of skull cap and scarf. He’s been cold since he’s been in there, and has had hardly any rest or sleep either. He looked beyond exhausted but not as fragile as I had feared. It was painful for me to see what a great toll all of this has had upon our dear friend, yet his spirit remains so strong and resolute.

The most basic things that we take for granted become very important in Jail. It took 4 days for Walter to get a toothbrush, and 3 days to be able to get his own glasses (they have to inspect and take them apart first to make sure there aren't any hidden drugs). Even time itself -- there are no clocks in the Jail. When he was in the infirmary, Walter asked the attendant what time it was, and she went out to ask the guard if she could tell him the time.

I can only write of my own personal experience. Much of it is similar to that of Craig DeLuz who is a Candidate for the California State Assembly. You can read his own testimony on his blog at: <http://www.homeofuncommonsense.blogspot.com/>

I also have never visited anyone in Jail before, so everything was a new experience for me, but was not one that I feared in any way as I was waiting to see someone that I dearly love. In fact, when I was there with Lori for all those hours on Saturday, I felt great peace the entire time that we were there. I felt sad for all of the families who came to visit with their children ranging in all ages, but there was also a kind of joy and happiness in them (even despite their own sadness) as they were waiting to see their loved ones.

Walter has gained much respect in the short time that he has been there, and so has Lori. The guards know who they are and why he's there. There is a row of about 10 individual sections where you can visit with the inmates, but it gets very loud with all of the visitors talking at the same time and there's no privacy. We were given the private room at the end of the row, and so we were able to close the door and shut out the noise from the other visitations going on outside. The inmates are hungry for contact with the outside world. Even though they'd be talking on the phones with their own visitors, they would really look at each person who passed by them.

We each took our turns speaking with Walter on the phone that hangs on the wall. Naturally, Lori went first, and I knew how difficult it must have been for them to be separated as they were like that? they are truly of the same mind and heart. Yet, you would never know this in either of their demeanors as they were very serene. Since we were part of the third and last visitation on Sunday, the guard added 10 minutes extra to the 30 minutes of visitation with the inmates. After we had each had our turn speaking to Walter, the three of us withdrew from the room so that Walter and Lori could have some personal time together.

Next to speak to Walter was our Jesuit friend. It was such a blessing for me to watch these two great men of God speaking to each other and lifting each other up, and to witness the special bond that is present between them. Next up, was Peter who took copious notes of Walter's words which he'll be posting on his website very soon.

I went last. My heart longed to reach through the glass wall to embrace my friend, but the best we could manage was various gestures of affection and touching each other's hand through the heavy glass wall. Much can be communicated through a look and a gesture, so it was really very fine. We may have been separated physically, but there was a rich communion of spirit and heart which I cannot adequately express in words.

The phone system wasn't that good and with Walter's soft voice, it was a bit hard to hear him at times. Walter told me of two very special experiences that he has had during his incarceration, and which he would like for me to share with you all. I will paraphrase and relate them as best I can.

Last week right before he was taken to the infirmary, he was trying to stand up but was unable to stand erect and was really bent over at the waist. He then proceeded to collapse to the ground and lost consciousness. After he regained consciousness, he said what most surprised him was that he had absolutely no bruises nor had he been hurt in any way. The floors are very hard concrete. His only real recollection of the entire incident is an image of Jesus. He grew even more serious as he told me that as he was falling, he felt that Jesus Himself came and laid him down very gently upon the hard concrete floor and tended to him. That is the only memory that Walter has of his collapse and loss of consciousness, but the memory of Jesus abides and remains very strong with him.

You may also be aware that since Walter was incarcerated on March 20<sup>th</sup>, he began a new type of ministry right away. The very first day of his imprisonment, he brought one of the inmates to the Lord. He told me Sunday night that since he has been there, he has brought 6 men to Christ, and he is preparing 2 other men to carry on with the ministering after he is released. The unit in which he is housed has constant noise day and night. The men don't seem to sleep much, so there's always something going on, i.e. playing cards, watching TV, etc. It is not a conducive environment for getting any sleep. They also serve the men breakfast at 3:00 a.m.! Why 3:00 a.m.? Who knows? The other reason that Walter gets little rest is because the other inmates come to him for counseling throughout the day and night. Walter also conducts his Bible study at midnight (like Paul and Silas would), and has even preached a few times. Since Walter has been in, he receives stacks of mail, so not only the other inmates but also the guards have taken notice of him. When they'd see the stacks of mail he was receiving, both the guards and inmates would ask "*who are you?!*" Once they saw a story about him in the newspaper, so they all know and understood now the man they have before them. Walter told me that now he can really minister to them as many of the men in there have been personally affected by abortion, so it has become another avenue for him to reach out to them.

The men trust and respect Walter, so they feel free to come and open their hearts to him and even confess to him. He is able to offer them not only counsel, but hope as well. He told me of one man in particular with whom he has spent countless hours counseling and talking with. In fact, right before he saw us on Sunday night, he had spent hours with this man on Sunday afternoon. At first, this man didn't pay any attention to Walter. He told him that "*anyone can call himself a Rev. in here.*" Once he saw and knew that Walter was legitimate, he began coming to him for counsel. This man's son was dead and he blames the boy's mother. He blames her that she must have neglected him or the boy wouldn't be dead, and he even had held a gun to her head. This man has been very suicidal. On Sunday, this man told Walter – "*Rev. you have saved my life!*" When Walter was relating this story to me over the phone, he said it so matter-

of-factly and without taking any credit. You can see what profound impact Walter has had on this man, as well as so many of the other inmates and guards.

Know that your prayers and letters are of great support and encouragement to Walter. He also received a beautiful letter from Dr. Alveda King – she has compared Walter to the memory of her beloved uncle, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Great things are coming out of Walter's witness, and they will do so long into the future!

As I finish writing this, I can assure you that Walter is okay. On Sunday, I saw a man sitting before me who in some ways physically was a shadow of his true self (and this is a man who runs marathons!). His movements, his gestures, his speech cost him great physical effort, but I know that Walter has never been so strong in spirit and soul. I couldn't help thinking of Pope John Paul II who preached so eloquently to the world when he was at his most weak and fragile in body. Rev. Walter Hoye is a man who right now is in a weakened physical condition, but never has he been so strong? in his example, in his resolve to spread the truth about abortion, and in his spirit and love for the Lord which reaches out from the confines of Santa Rita Jail to the far ends of the earth!

Thank you for your continual support and prayers for the Hoyes. You are making a difference!

Lisa H.