

BOBBY JINDAL  
Governor

JAMES M. Le BLANC  
Secretary

State of Louisiana  
Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
Louisiana State Penitentiary

December 10, 2008

Majorie R. Esman  
Executive Director  
PO Box 56157  
New Orleans, LA 70156

RE:           Philippians Monument

Dear Ms. Esman:

This letter is in response to your public records act request regarding the "Philippians Monument" located at Louisiana State Penitentiary.

Listed below you will find the responses to your request:

1. Any and all documents regarding the cost of designing, building, or otherwise creating the Philippians Monument. The monument was built out of recycled materials; therefore, no costs were incurred.
2. Any and all documents regarding the purpose, objective and/or intent associated with the creation of the Philippians Monument. Enclosed you will find a copy of the book *Cain's Redemption* by Dennis Shere and a power point presentation.
3. Any and all documents regarding people, agencies, corporations or entities consulted regarding the funding, creation or placement of the Philippians Monument. No documents exist.
4. If the Philippians Monument was donated to either the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections or the Louisiana State Penitentiary, then any and all documents related to the donation. Monument was not a donation.
5. Any and all documents regarding the placement of the Philippians Monument. There were none.

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6. Any and all documents regarding the purpose, objective and/or intent associated with the location of the Philippians Monument. Please refer to the enclosed book *Cains Redemption* regarding "moral rehabilitation" (page 10).
7. Any and all documents regarding any ceremonies, speeches, worship, or service associated with the creation and placement of the Philippians Monument. There were none held.
8. Any and all documents containing the text of speeches or articles wherein Louisiana State Penitentiary employees, including the Warden, refer to the Philippians Monument. No documents exist. I do not prepare written speeches.

I chose the location of the Philippians Monument. The monument is for moral rehabilitation. It was erected by the Front Gate for new inmates arriving at Angola to see that their past stopped when they entered the gates of Angola. Inmates are to forget the past because it can't be changed. It's time to look for the future. Angola is their "Land of New Beginnings".

The monument has no religious value. There is no mention of God or religion in the statement. Again, its purpose is to set the stage for new inmates entering the prison. It advises them we are not going to look at the past – to let it go and begin change for the better. It is an encouragement as they begin to serve their long sentence at Angola. Ninety percent of inmates who enter the gates of Angola die here.

If it would please the ACLU, we would be more than willing to remove the statement on the left side of the monument and the words Philippians 3:13.

Again, this sign has no religious purpose – its purpose is to encourage.

Sincerely,



Burl Cain, CCE  
Warden

BC/cf/jmd

cc: File

Enclosures