

TACOMA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE
Working Together For A Better Community Where No One Is Left Behind
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DR. ARTHUR C. BANKS, PRESIDENT
DR. C. A. HORNE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Governor Gregoire,

The Tacoma Ministerial Alliance, representing twenty three (23) spiritual organizations, writes to you asking for mercy on behalf of Barry Massey, who in 1988 was sentenced to life without parole for a crime committed when he was thirteen years old. Before he was sentenced, two separate psychological evaluations revealed his mental age to be 9.9 years. Known forensic evidence at the crime scene pointed to another person as the principal actor. Barry's own confession was inconsistent with the crime scene facts and called "unreliable" by the prosecution. Yet, despite all of this and more, our judicial system gave Barry no hope of redemption, treating him as if he fully understood the gravity of the crime and was beyond rehabilitation. Hurling him from the juvenile justice system straight into the Department of Corrections, he sat as a child in solitary confinement for the first few months of his sentence, and ultimately was placed in the general population with adult prisoners at the age of 15.

Remarkably, Barry never saw himself as beyond redemption and is today everything we could ask of him. As of January 2010, he would have served twenty-three years in prison. He has remained infraction free for the last *thirteen* years. Thirteen Department of Corrections Officers have written in support of his clemency request, and two others testified at his 2006 Clemency & Pardons Board hearing. He has pursued all Department of Corrections programming available to him, and has completed an additional outside certification program. He has organized and participated in youth programs designed to steer young people away from fates similar to his own. He is a loving husband, focused on the needs of his wife, step-children and extended family.

The clemency power that only you hold serves as a hedge against punishment that proves to be too harsh, too rigid, too unyielding in the face of humanity. It is specifically designed to provide discretion where our judges are forced to sentence according to ever stricter guidelines that take fewer and fewer mitigating factors into consideration. It is also a power that serves to acknowledge extraordinary circumstances that cannot be cleanly proven or disproven in a court of law. It is the power to forgive that makes our system of justice, our government, humane.

We should not be ashamed of forgiving, of the power of mercy. After all, it is mightier than the mightiest. It is everything that is compassionate and just. We ask you to use it. We ask you for mercy for Barry.

In His Service,

Dr. Arthur C. Banks

Dr. Arthur C. Banks
 President

Dr. Arthur Banks
 President

Elder Toney Montgomery
 1st Vice President

Dr. Gregory Christopher
 2nd Vice President

Pastor Michael A. Purter
 Secretary

Dr. John Casteels, Jr.
 Treasurer

Dr. John H. Williams
 Chaplain

Dr. Freeman Rhoades
 Parliamentarian

Dr. Charles A. Horne
 Executive Director

Pastor Forrest Hudson
 Director

Bishop Michael Doss
 Director

Pastor Nolan Glenn
 Director

Pastor J. A. Boles
 Emeritus Advisor

Pastor Dr. Paul Warren, Sr.
 Advisor

Bishop T. L. Westbrook
 Advisor

Bishop C. E. Montgomery
 Advisor