

NEWS RELEASE
For immediate release

Willow in a Storm: An Inspired Survival

Jim Taylor's story demonstrates the power of faith
through a man's darkest years

MINNEAPOLIS (MARCH 2008) – Scarletta Press introduces *Willow in a Storm* (Scarletta Press, 978-0-9765201-5-3, September 2007), a raw, unflinching memoir of prison life and post-prison hope.

With the help of his wife Kathleen Murphy-Taylor, James Peter Taylor recounts the events of his unusual life, over forty years of which he spent incarcerated. Mentally and sexually abused by his adoptive father, he receives a life sentence at age 30 when he unintentionally kills a Minnesota man during a robbery gone awry.

Despite the rampant violence, Taylor manages to survive in prison in part by playing a woman's role, a gender switch that becomes second nature. After decades behind bars, a wiser and more spiritual Taylor gains his parole in the 1990s at age 70. Partially blind, he re-enters civilian life with Kathy Murphy-Taylor, a former social worker, and with a new sense of both present and future. *Willow in a Storm* demonstrates hope even in the most dismal of circumstances.

Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking* and anti-death penalty activist, writes, "I was stunned by *Willow in a Storm*. It is the story of one man's long life, and his truly spiritual journey into the abyss of our country's penal system, and miraculously, almost mythically, his survival and return to society ... [The authors] tell this harrowing and inspiring story with class, directness and honesty."

Al Quie, former governor of Minnesota, says, "In this fascinating book we read of a gifted person who tragically took a wrong path. We witness prison brutality and the painful fear, anger, and alienation of prisoners, which usually hardens rather than reforms. Then we read of the transformation that can come about, even in dire circumstances, when we put our trust in God and the hope of reconciliation with a community. I was amazed to read about the people who helped Jim Taylor find his way back to that good-hearted, gifted person he began as."

James Peter Taylor and Kathleen Murphy-Taylor have been married for 11 years. Kathy received her MSW from the University of Michigan. She practiced social work for 32 years for private and public agencies. In her retirement, she devotes herself to caring for Jim. They live in Minneapolis.

For more information regarding *Willow in a Storm* or Scarletta Press, please visit <http://www.scarlettapress.com>

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