



Tough on Crime

By Emmett Solomon
Executive Director

Restorative Justice Ministries Network

Supreme Court Justice Kennedy's opinion speculated from the record that reduced incarceration may even improve public safety:

Some evidence indicated that reducing overcrowding in California's prisons could even improve public safety. Then-Governor Schwarzenegger, in his emergency proclamation on over-crowding, acknowledged that "overcrowding causes harm to people and property, leads to inmate unrest and misconduct, ... and increases recidivism as shown within this state and in others." ... The former warden of San Quentin and acting secretary of the California prison system testified that she "absolutely believes that we make people worse, and that we are not meeting public safety by the way we treat people." ... And the head of Pennsylvania's correctional system testified that measures to reduce prison population may "actually improve on public safety because they address

Continued on Page 16

More God, Less Crime: The Evidence is There

By Chuck Colson
BreakPoint May 2011

A recent *Wall Street Journal* article confirmed that we've been right all along: the more time you spend in the pew, the less likely you'll be behind bars. Read on and see the facts for yourself...

In 1993, I received the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion at an award ceremony in Buckingham Palace. I represented the thousands upon thousands of Prison Fellowship volunteers and staff who are offering the hope of new life in Christ to prisoners around the world.

I was honored to stand next to Prince Philip. We were surrounded by dignitaries. The Prince asked me, "Mr. Colson, what can we do about juvenile crime here in England?" I told him: "Send more young British children to Sunday school." He smiled, thinking I was joking. *Continued on Page 19*

IN THIS ISSUE

Supremes and CA Prisons	2
RJM Ministry Resources	3
Regional News	4
Execution Day	5
RJM Ministry Calendar	6
Ex-Offender Celebration	6
Registration Form	7
Ministries Directory	8-14
Helping Victims of Crime	14
Dear Editor	15
Life to Life Fund	15
Community services and supervision save money	16
God's Way Works	17
Antagonism increasing Christianity's appeal	20
HOPE Program	21
Success of Gavel Clubs	22
A Word from Executive Director of RJMN	23

R · J · N E W S

The Supremes and California Prisons

June 07, 2011
Chuck Colson

By a 5-4 vote, the Supreme Court upheld a lower court order that California must reduce its prison population by approximately 33,000 inmates. I believe the Court is encroaching on territory that belongs to the California Assembly. Unfortunately, years of political pandering and bad correctional policy choices made the Court's ruling all but inevitable. So, it was wrong method, right result.

Justice Kennedy's majority decision paid special attention to the facts and with good reason: The facts describe a system so overcrowded, so dangerous and so out-of-control that it shocks the conscience." Or at least, it does me every time I walk into the California system.

It's not simply that the system currently houses 142,000 inmates in a system designed to house 80,000 -- it's that the overcrowding makes basic regard for human decency and dignity next-to-impossible. As justice Kennedy pointed out, accommodating that many prisoners means more than double or triple bunking, it requires turning every bit of available space, including clinics, into dorms. There is one toilet for 54 inmates; disease is so rampant that "one prisoner dies needlessly every six to seven days."

The impact on the mental health of prisoners is even worse: mentally-ill prisoners are "often housed in 'tiny, phone-booth sized cages;'" suicide rates are "well above national norms;" as much as one every week. The Court was right to rule that this status quo is "incompatible with the concept of human dignity and has no place in a civilized society." What makes this even more outrageous was that it was avoidable.

I know that because for 20 years Justice Fellowship and I have been speaking out about California's corrections crisis. We warned California voters and politicians that the "three strikes" ballot would overload the prison system. We told them that simply building more prisons with ever expanding payrolls and costs would only speed the state toward bankruptcy. I'm sorry to say, we were right. We were right and then some. Only this time, instead of years, California has weeks to come up with a plan. But apparently, California's "goal is to not release inmates at all." Instead, it plans to reduce prison populations by sending parole violators and non-violent offenders to county jails.

Good luck with that: California jails are already overcrowded, and this plan is contingent on paying local jails to take the prisoners with money California doesn't have. Get real!

Eventually, California is going to have to do what it should have done a long time: rethink the way it does criminal justice. It simply has no legal or financial choice. It must decide who really needs to be in prison and who can be punished and supervised safely in the community, where they can repay the victims of their crimes.

It's also going to need help from groups like Prison Fellowship, which works in most of the prisons in California. As my colleague Pat Nolan, a former Republican leader in the California State Assembly, has pointed out, through our in-prison and post-prison programs like Out4Life, "Prison Fellowship is working closely with state corrections departments to ensure that released inmates will be good neighbors and not a danger to our communities."

This kind of public-private cooperation is an essential part of a cost-effective solution to the overcrowding crisis.

The question is: is the Golden state ready to listen this time?

Ministry Resources from Restorative Justice Ministries Network

1229 Avenue J, Huntsville TX 77340

Order online at: <http://rjmn.net/resources.html>

Recommended for ministry people:

Challenging the Impossible: Discovering Beautiful Trophies for Jesus- Joe Fauss \$13.00 _____
The inspirational story of Joe and Charlotte Fauss, who have spent the past 31 years reaching out to prisoners.

The Real World of Restorative Justice Ministry- Pastor Dave Umfreville \$13.00 _____
Timeless principles in a restorative justice ministry arena. Dedicated to those who labor in this field.

Recommended for ministry & offenders:

Serving Time, Serving Others - Tom & Laura Lagana \$18.00 _____
Acts of kindness by inmates, prison staff, victims, and volunteers

Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul -Canfield,Hensen,Oberst,Boal,Lagana \$18.00 _____
Stories to celebrate the spirit of courage, caring and community

Chicken Soup for the Prisoner's Soul -Canfield, Hensen, Lagana \$18.00 _____
Stories to celebrate the spirit of courage, caring and community

Karla Faye Tucker SET FREE-Linda Strom \$12.00 _____
Her Death-Row transformation captured the world's attention. Uplifting, good read

Spanish version also available \$12.00 _____

Restoring Peace Using Lessons from Prison to Mend Broken Relationships - Kirk Blackard \$13.00 _____
Forward by John Sage, Founder, Bridges To Life A book about how to really restore any broken relationship.

Recommended for offender's families and friends:

What Is Jail, Mommy? - Jackie A. Stanglin \$13.00 _____

It is the author's firm belief that it is incumbent on each of us to provide age-appropriate facts to young inquiring minds. To do otherwise will be evident in future generations. Spanish version also available \$13.00 _____

Family Arrested: How to Survive the Incarceration of a Loved One - Ann Edenfield \$16.00 _____
Ann Edenfield is Executive Director of Wings Ministry, a ministry to families of inmates.

Audio tape book also available \$23.00 _____

An Inmate's Daughter - Jan Walker
Jan Walker taught parenting and family relationships to adult felons for eighteen years.
She used her background and success with incarcerated dads to create this 'true fiction' novel \$11.00 _____

Recommended for offenders:

A Map Through the Maze - Rollo, Adams \$13.00 _____
Overview of the correctional experience of offenders and their families

Man, I Need a Job- Ned Rollo \$11.00 _____
Provides offenders the insights and skills they need to find and keep a job following release

99 Days and a Get Up - Ned Rollo \$13.00 _____
A guide to success following release for inmates and their loved ones.

Life Without A Crutch - Ingraham, Bell, Rollo \$11.00 _____
An introduction to recovery from addiction

Total \$ _____

All prices include shipping and handling. We can mail books to prisoners on your behalf.

SEND BOOK(S) TO:

INSTITUTION: _____ INMATE #: _____

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PURCHASER: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

States Seek Alternatives to Incarceration

As a result of the recent fiscal crisis and accelerated state sentencing reform and parole policies state legislators are looking to find alternatives to incarceration.

Another concern faced by the states as new laws are enacted impacting early release of prisoners is paralleling the cost of operations in line with the declining prison population. The Bureau of Justice reported a decline in prison population in 2010, the first decline in overall prison population since 1977.

So far this year Michigan, New Jersey, Kansas, Connecticut and nine other states have closed or are planning to close prisons by the end of 2011 which will reduce operational capacity by nearly 14,000 beds. Florida, Louisiana, and Ohio have explored the option of privatizing their prison systems in an effort to cut costs. The state of Arizona, however, has experienced an increase in cost per prisoner in their experience with privatization.

Early releases, concerns for recidivism rates, and the lack of funding from states for reentry programs and services point to the importance of assisting former offenders to gain career skills and to rejoin community life.

Washington D. C.

The U. S. Department of Labor has made available \$11.7 million in grant funding focused on providing labor prospects to ex-offenders in high poverty, high crime communities. It is recognized that for successful reintegration into the community the ex-offender must learn the skills and have the support necessary to compete in the job market. This grant program will rely heavily on faith-based and community organizations to develop, implement, and facilitate programs and services for the participants.

The U. S. Department of Labor has made available \$11.7 million in grant funding focused on providing labor prospects to ex-offenders in high poverty, high crime communities. Washington, D. C.

New York City

Bronx Community Solutions are cooperating with other groups to form a coordinated task force “The “Bronx Re-entry Working Group” to assist 128,000 former prisoners in finding organizations that can help them transition back into society. The high release levels, high poverty, and low levels of health are other issues adding to the complexity of reentry into the community. An information-sharing exchange, training programs, and housing issues are additional elements included in the guidance provided for the participating ex-cons .

Illinois

Redeploy Illinois continues to offer a positive alternative to incarceration for troubled youth. The program strives to provide the courts with an option other than prison for youth who have committed nonviolent crimes. The plan works with counties to provide service and support within the home community in areas of court advocacy, education assistance, counseling, and crisis intervention.

At the adult level the city of Chicago recently announced an effort to provide employment for formerly incarcerated individuals. It is hoped that this effort will influence business and industry to take similar steps to help ex-offenders in the reentry process.

Continued on Page 5

Execution Day at Huntsville Hospitality House

By Ferrell Foster
Christian Life Commission
April 8, 2011, The Baptist Standard

Two young men spent the day listening to music and weaving beaded bracelets, laughing and talking, seemingly nonchalant.



Guard tower at the Walls Unit, Huntsville, Texas

That abruptly changed when their grandmother entered the room cursing angrily, shouting, then sobbing uncontrollably. She had witnessed the execution of her son—the father of the two young men.

“The eldest fell into my arms sobbing,” said Debra McCammon, executive director of Hospitality House in Huntsville, where the scene unfolded. “I began praying over him and talking to him gently as he hugged me so tightly I felt my ribs would burst. ... I don’t think I’ve ever seen a man cry like that.”

Whispering in his ear, McCammon told the young man about Jesus’ love and about the peace and comfort that Christ offers. “It was one of the hardest days I’ve had.”

Hospitality House is a nonprofit ministry of the Texas Baptist Prisoner Family Ministry Foundation that provides a home away from home for families who come to Huntsville to visit loved ones behind bars. The Texas Baptist Offering for World Hunger helps provide meals for the ministry.

On execution days, the ministry takes on a special rhythm of its own as the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) prepares to carry out capital sentence.

In advance of the day, TDCJ sends a letter to family members and others selected by the prisoner telling them to go to the Hospitality House on the execution day. The state has tried different venues as this gathering place, but the house has worked best, McCammon said.

Continued on Page 18

Regional News

Continued from Page 4

California

The state is still facing a dilemma in meeting the court order to reduce prison population by 46,000. Officials are considering asking the judge for more time and are still looking into the possibilities of reducing overcrowding by sending more prisoners to prisons in other states.

Castro Valley

Glenn Morrison, president and founder of Follow Up Ministries, International reports that the ministry is working with Christian leaders in Kenya, Africa, India, and Pakistan. On a state level five Discipleship Seminars have been presented since June, including: Centinela State Prison, Imperial, California Correctional Center, Susanville, Folsom Prison, Folsom, California State Prison-Corcoran, Corcoran, and California Men’s Colony, San Luis Obispo.

Restorative Justice Ministry Events Calendar

September 15-18, 2011—Christian Community Development Conference

Waco, Texas , Crestview Community Center
For information: <http://noneedamongyou.net/>

September 24, 2001—Nat'l Symposium on Issues Affecting the Incarcerated, Formerly Incarcerated and Their Families

New York City, New York, The Riverside Church
For information: www.thinkoutsidethecell.org

October 15, 2011—Faith Based Ex-Offender Celebration

Prison Museum Conference Room, Huntsville, TX
For information: arparrish@sbcglobal.net

October 13-16, 2011—10th Annual National Prisoner

Reentry Conference, Westin Airport Hotel, Atlanta, GA
Sponsored by Christian Association for Prison Aftercare (CAPA)
For information: <http://www.capaassociation.org/>

November 1-4, 2011—COPE International Conference

Hilton Melbourne Beach Oceanfront Hotel, Indialantic, Florida
For information: <http://copeconnections.org/html/event.php?id=159>

Let us place your restorative justice event on the Events Calendar?
Send information to :
R.J.NEWS@restorativejusticenew.net
Include the following information: Type of Event, Date(s) , Location, Sponsor(s), Contact information

Celebration for Ex-offenders-Huntsville, TX

Saturday, October 15, 2011, at the Prison Museum in Huntsville, Texas, a one day celebration for ex-offenders will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Program speakers will address the importance of faith to the successful re-entry of ex-offenders into the community. Many ex-offenders came to embrace faith while incarcerated and have continued in their faith walk upon re-entering the community. It is this faith that carries a person through difficult times and sustains them through transition that will be celebrated.

Tom Mechler, Vice-Chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, will be a speaker on the program. Mr. Mechler is a volunteer prison chaplain and a strong advocate of faith-based programs in the prison system.

The local steering committee has designed a program that will address some of the issues of re-entry and the vital role that faith played in managing to live successfully upon returning home to the daily joys and pressures of living in a family and community. The local steering committee are ex-offenders who have made the transition to family and community successfully after incarceration as well as some seasoned volunteers who have mentored offenders and ex-offenders. The committee members are: Johnny Flowers, Delmon Cude, Bill Kleiber, Gary Zachary, Jean and Rodney Still, George Nelson, Anita Parrish, and Emmett Solomon.

Early mail-in registration is encouraged in order to take advantage of a reduced rate. Conference check-in and on site registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will end at 3:00 p.m.

Ministries are encouraged to bring displays and exhibit information that will give a condensed view of their ministry. We do request that no food or drinks be included in the display. The exhibit space is included in the registration fee. To exhibit, you must register. See conference registration form on Page 7.

Faith-Based Ex-offender Celebration

Texas Prison Museum

491 Hwy 75 N

Huntsville TX 77320

October 15, 2011

10:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.

Registration opens at 9:30 a.m.

Conference Fee: \$5 (includes lunch) received by 9/16

\$10 rec'd by 10/10

\$15 after 10/10 thru day of meeting

Please mail registration form with check or money order made payable to RJMN to:

RJMN, 1229 Ave J, Huntsville, TX 77340 or

Register online at <http://rjmntexas.net/celebrationoct15.htm>

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Ministry: _____

I want to exhibit my ministry. Must register to exhibit.

I plan to attend Friday evening fellowship.

Registration questions may be addressed by contacting Anita Parrish at 936-291-2156 or by email at arparrish@sbcglobal.net

Special rate for October 14, 2011 at Best Western Inn, Huntsville, of \$49 for 2 people. Call 936-295-9000 and ask for the Kairos rate.

Program and speakers subject to change. Conference Brochure: <http://www.rjmn.net/exoffendercelebration2.pdf>

Use this Ministry ID Key to locate Ministry Emphasis:

*1=Prison *2=Non-residential Aftercare *3=Victim *4=Professionals *5=Juvenile Offenders *6=Family
*7=Resources for other RJMs *8=Residential Aftercare *9=Jails *10=By Mail

**CANADA*

1,2,3,6,7,9 **Bridges to New Life Society**
Rob Baskin
1197 Sutherland Ave
Kelowna
BC V1V 5Y2
1-250-448-6975
1-250-448-6977 **Fax**
hope@bridgestnl.org
www.bridgesTNL.org

1,7 **Restorative Justice Ministry Network of Canada**
Darryl McCullough
89 Kimberley Avenue
Bracebridge on P1L 2A4
705-646-2657
705-646-5828 **Fax**
darryl.mccullough@sympatico.ca

**Canadian School of Peacebuilding.
Canadian Mennonite University**
500 Shaftesbury Blvd
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3P2N2
204-487-2200

**SCOTLAND*

1 **Christian Prison Ministries Scotland**
Colin Cuthbert
PO Box 8806
Carlisle ML8 4RJ
015-557-71157

ALABAMA

7 **Mothers Against Methamphetamine**
Mary Holley, M.D.
PO Box 8
Arab 35016-0008
256-498-6262
256-498-6263 **Fax**
drholley@mamasite.net
www.mamasite.net

10 **Anti-drug Correspondence Course**

ARKANSAS

Cornerstone Baptist Jail Chaplaincy
Ron Faught
PO Box 93
Cave City 72521
ronfaught3@aol.com

CALIFORNIA

1,5,9,10 **Follow up Ministries**
Glenn L Morrison
PO Box 2514
Castro Valley 94546-0514
510-881-1178
510-881-8043 **Fax**
Fumi2000@msn.com
www.followupministries.org

COLORADO

5 **Youth Transformation Center**
Jeannette Holtham
PO Box 38074
Colorado Springs 80937
719-440-1983
www.youthtransformationcenter.org

4 **Desert Waters**
Ventline for Correctional Staff & Families
PO Box 355
Florence 81226
866-968-8368
youvent@desertwaters.com
www.desertwaters.com

FLORIDA

1,4,9,10 **Christ To Inmates**
Rev Perry Davis
PO Box 309
DeLand 32721
386-734-4383
christtoinmates@cfl.rr.com

8(M) **Prisoners of Christ**
Daniel O Palmer
PO Box 28159
Jacksonville 32226-8159
904-358-8866
904-358-8829 **Fax**

2,3,6,7,8,10 **Set My Way Free**
James Gossaid
221 N Hogan St #141
Jacksonville 32202
877-344-8035
904-355-4195 **FAX**
setmywayfree87@gmail.com
http://setmywayfreeministries.giving.
officelive.com/default.aspx

1,8(M),10 **Matthew 25 Ministries Inc**
Dick Witherow
PO Box 5690
Lake Worth 33466
561-432-9072
dickwitherow@comcast.net
www.matthew25ministries.org

1 **Diocese of Palm Beach**
Sr Betty Franscino OSF
PO Box 109650
Palm Beach Gardens 33410-9650
561-775-9543

2 **Christlike Ministries**
Charles Patrick
3011 Orient Dr
Tampa 33619
813-623-1099
charlespatrick@christlikeministries.org
www.christlikeministries.org

1

Horizon Communities Inc.
Ike Griffin, President
PO Box 2547
Winter Park 32790-2547
407-252-6123
650-561-4013 Office
407-629-2668 **Fax**
Ike@horizoncommunities.org
www.horizoncommunities.org
Blog: http://ikegriffin.blogspot.com
www.kairosprisonministry.org

ILLINOIS

8 **Koinonia House National Ministry for families**
Manny Mill
PO Box 1415
Wheaton 60189-1415
630-221-9930
630-221-9932
info@koinoniahouse.org
www.koinoniahouse.org

INDIANA

8 **Wings Of Hope**
Linda Kluczinske, Exec Dir
2720 Fairfield Ave
Fort Wayne 46807
260-745-1005
bhlthLamb@aol.com
www.wingsofhopeprisonministry.org

IOWA

7,10 **ECS Ministries**
Alan Stoltz
PO Box 1028
Dubuque 52004-1028
563-585-2070
563-585-1660 **Fax**
astoltz@ecsministries.org
www.ecsministries.org

LOUISIANA

1,2 **Moore Life Institute**
Katherine M Spears
PO Box 6433
Bossier City 71171-6433
318-742-9304
318-752-3159 **Fax**
kmoorelife@aol.com
www.moorelifeinstitute.com

MASSACHUSETTS

2 **Scotland Congregational Church**
Rev Peter Barclay
1000 Pleasant St
Bridgewater 02324-2211
508-697-7402
prbarclay@aol.com

8 **The Bridge House, NEAM INC**
Tom Stevens, Exec Dir
PO Box 136
Framingham 01704-0136
508-872-6194
toms@bridgehouseneam.org

www.bridgehouseeam.org
Jean Sullivan, Intake Coordinator
jeans@bridgehouseeam.org

505-291-6418 FAX
AnnEdenfield@WingsMinistry.org
www.WingsMinistry.org

10 **Christian Motorsports Ministries**
Prison Victory Magazine
Roland Osborne
1006 W Taft #225
Sapulpa 74066
607-742-3407
roland@christianmotorsports.com
www.christianmotorsports.com

MAINE

2,3,6,7,9 **Set Free in Maine**
Kenneth Stephens
249 Cushnoc Rd
Vassalboro 04989
207-622-4709
207-512-2010 **Fax**

2,3,6,7,9 **Northeast Dream Center**
Pastor Ken Stevens
18 Lithgow St
Winslow 04901-7149
207-692-2128

MICHIGAN

6 **Crossroad Bible Institute**
Dr David Schuringa
PO Box 900
Grand Rapids 49509-0900
616-530-1300
616-530-1302 **Fax**
david@cbi.fm

MISSOURI

1,2,6,8 **Mission Gate Prison Ministry**
Rick Mathes
PO Box 6644
Chesterfield 63006
636-391-5860
636-391-6611 **Fax**
MissionGateMinistry@msn.com
www.MissionGateMinistry.org

1,2,3,5,7,,9 **Lutheran Prison Ministry/
Al Hanson Prison Ministry**
Chaplain Allen Hanson
PO Box 168
Concordia 64020-0168
660-463-7596
alhanson@ylm.org
http://www.ylm.org/prisonministry

1,2,3,7 **Beyond the Fences Ministries
of Restorative Justice**
Rev. Harold Johnson
4120 SW James Younger Dr
Lee's Summit 64082
816-537-5696
hmjohnso@sbcglobal.net
www.morjc.org

NEBRASKA

1,2,7 **Released and Restored**
Ruth Karlsson
PO Box 94633
Lincoln 68509
402-806-0565
ruth@releasedandrestored.org
www.releasedandrestored.org

NEW MEXICO

6 **Wings Ministry**
Ann Edenfield Sweet
2270 D Wyoming Blvd. NE #130
Albuquerque 87112
505-291-6412

NEW YORK

1,9 **Volunteers In Corrections
Assemblies of God Prison/Jail
Ministries**
Chaplain Don Snyder
12111 Ridge Rd
Medina 14103
dsnyder01@rochester.rr.com

1,2 **New Beginnings for Women**
Karen Lafina Alo
1350 Five Mile Line Rd
Penfield 14526
585-746-7730
newbeginnings@rochester.rr.com

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9 **Pastor Dave's Prison Ministry**
Dave Umfreville
5140 Main St Suite 303-139
Williamsville 14221
716-867-6737
davidumf@live.com

NORTH CAROLINA

10 **Ruff Edge Ministries**
Frank Brickman
5164 Old Lexington Rd
Asheboro 27205-9647
336-740-2963
missty337@hotmail.com

OHIO

1,7 **Restorative Justice Min. of Ohio**
Jeff Hunsaker
34 Glencoe Rd
Columbus 43214-3710
614-263-9097
jhuns333@yahoo.com

OKLAHOMA

1,3,4,5,7,9,10 **Institutional Restorative Justice
Ministries**
Charles Holybee
PO Box 123
Eufaula 74432-0123
918-689-4903
918-478-5539 **Fax**
cholybee@hotmail.com

10 **Letters for the Lord**
c/o Linda Odell
PO Box 593
Harrah 73045-0593
godell5@cox.net

1,2,5,6,8(B) **Criminal Justice & Mercy
Ministry OK Methodist Conf.**
Stan Basler
1501 NW 24th
Oklahoma City 73106
405-530-2015
sbasler@okumc.org

PENNSYLVANIA

10 **PrisonMail.org**
Earl Garber
PO Box 1602
Altoona 16603
814-742-7500
info@prisonmail.org
www.prisonmail.org

1 **Narrow Path Prison Ministries**
Rev Gordon Coppersmith
240 E 4th St
Emporium 15834
nppm4him@cameronty.org
http://prisonministry.net/nppm

1,3,7,8 **Justice & Mercy Inc**
Rev John Rush, MCL
PO Box 223
Reading 19607
610-777-2222
rushjoes@aol.com
www.justicemercy.org

1 **The Yokefellowship Prison Ministry
(YPM)**
8 **New Person Center**
Rev John L Rush, Executive Director
PO Box 223
Reading 19607
610-777-2222
info@yokefellowship.org
www.yokefellowship.org

SOUTH CAROLINA

5,10 **Epiphany Ministry Inc**
Peggy New
PO Box 1923
Conway 29528-1923
843-248-3677
843-248-8835 **Fax**
pnew@epiphanyministry.org
www.epiphanyministry.org

1,9,10 **Justice Ministries/
Prison Evangelism Outreach**
Sid Taylor
PO Box 3353
Pawleys Island 29585-3353
843-458-4664
staylor73@sc.rr.com

SOUTH DAKOTA

1,2,3,10 **Prison Lighthouse**
Rev Reagan Beauchamp
45794 266th St
Humboldt 57035-6815
605-363-3784
sdpcaplain@juno.com

Use this Ministry ID Key to locate Ministry Emphasis:

*1=Prison *2=Non-residential Aftercare *3=Victim *4=Professionals *5=Juvenile Offenders *6=Family
*7=Resources for other RJMs *8=Residential Aftercare *9=Jails *10=By Mail

1,2,8(M)	Prison Congregations of America Inc Mary Mortenson PO Box 1132 Mitchell 57301 605-990-8330 mary@prisoncongregations.org www.prisoncongregations.org	1	St Theresa Catholic Church Prison Ministry Rev. Justin Udomah 4311 Small Dr Austin 78731 512-451-5121 frjustin@sttaustin.org	1,3,4	International Institute of Faith Based Counseling Debbie Marcantel PO Box 20723 Beaumont 77720 409-832-9060 409-832-7224 FAX info@iifbc.com www.iifbc.com	
6	Family Connection/Children's Connection Dawn Brende 303 N Minnesota Ave Sioux Falls 57104-6012 605-357-0777 605-357-0780 Fax familyconnect@hotmail.com	3	Victim Services Division-TDCJ Angie McCown, Director PO Box 13401 Austin 78711-3401 800-848-4284 512-406-5417 Fax	6	Shepherd's Inn Gaspard Center Mary Green PO Box 20618 Beaumont 77720-0618 409-898-8797 409-892-9534 Fax mary@gtba.org www.gtba.org	
TEXAS			1,3,5,8,9			
6	Eunice Chambless Hospitality House 13378 Fm 3522 Abilene 79601-8770 325-548-2180 325-675-5414 Fax echhdir@netscape.com		Restorative Ministry Robert Mitchell/Robert Sephus 2702 Wheless Ln Austin 78723 512-926-2988 c-mitchell@webtv.net www.whelesscoc.org	3,4,5,6,7,9,10	J.A.I.L. Ministry Inc Steve Cannon PO Box 634 Belton 76513-0634 254-933-8506 254-933-7569 Fax jailmin@vvm.com	
1,2,7,9,10	TAX - Abilene Corrine Hansen 2657 Rountree Dr Abilene 79601-2034 325-676-5741		6	Christian Life Crisis Intervention Dion Ainsworth PO Box 20618 Beaumont 77720-0618 409-898-8797 409-736-3983 Fax dion@gtba.org www.gtba.org	2	Manasseh Ministries Muriel C. Roger 6705 FM 279 Ben Wheeler 75754-5205 903-852-4402 manassehministries7@juno.com
2	Mission Arlington 210 W South St Arlington 76010 817-277-6620		2,3	Compassion Christian Counseling Vande Derrick 1297B Calder Beaumont 77701 409-832-5772 409832-7224 Fax	1	Holy Ground Prison Ministry Johnny T Horan PO Box 2526 Brenham 77833 979-836-6328 daphne@gcfchurch.us
1	Good Hope Prison Ministries The God of Hope Ministries Robert Dorrrough 4220 Monterey Oaks Blvd Austin 78749 512-891-1649 rdorrrough@TheGodofHope.org Linda Dueker—Women's Director ldueker@TheGodofHope.org		1,2,3,4, 5, 6,7,8,9,10	Criminal Justice Ministry/Diocese of Beaumont Deacon Harry Davis PO Box 3948 Beaumont 77701-2802 409-924-4300 409-838-4511 Fax criminaljustice@dioceseofbmt.org www.dioceseofbmt.org	2	Harvest House 349 NW Renfro Burlson 76028 817-295-6252
1,6,7,9,10	Light for New Life Min Inc Rev Don Domeracki PO Box 170501 Arlington 76003-0501 817-572-5305 ddmeracki@tx.rr.com www.lightfornewlifeministries.org		1 6	Golden Triangle Baptist Assoc. Dion Ainsworth PO Box 7728 Beaumont 77726 409-898-8797 dion@gtba.org www.gtba.org	1	St John Baptist Church Rev R Michael Stromille 1508 S Broadway Dr Carrollton 75006 972-242-9194 SJBC@saintjohnncarrollton.com www.saintjohnncarrollton.com
1,2,4,6,8,10	Restorative Christian Outreach Min. Mack Bailey 7506 Ed Bluestein Blvd Austin 78723 512-926-2431 midway3060@yahoo.com				1,9,10	Redeemed Ministries Betty G Oates PO Box 891 Chico 76431-0891 940-644-5237 940-644-2982 Fax RedeemedMinistry@hotmail.com

1,2,3,5, 6,7,9,10	Newlife Behavior Ministries Buck Griffith 3833 S Staples Ste S-101 Corpus Christi 78472-2188 361-855-3372 361-855-7469 Fax nlbcasa@yahoo.com www.nlbm.org	1,2,3,9	R O D Ministries Dale Truitt PO Box 710385 Dallas 75371-0385 214-827-8555 214-824-5355 Fax ddtruitt@hotmail.com www.rodministries.org	1,2,5,9,10	Deep In The Word Prison Ministry Partner in Christ, James Guerra PO Box 4752 Fort Worth 76164 214-883-3601 jguerra789@aol.com
1,9	Prayer-Life Seminars Inc Hugh White 630 Meadowbrook Dr Corpus Christi 78412-3019 361-993-7651 361-985-8615 Fax hughwhite@aol.com www.prayer-lifeseminars.org	1,2,3,4,5, 6,7,9,10	St Francis Anglican Church Fr William Conner PO Box 140182 Dallas, 75201 972-900-7298 frwilliam@catholic.org www.angelfire.com/tx5/holycross	1,2,6,7,9	Mercy Heart State Office Roger Hollar, Director Pastor PO Box 163783 Fort Worth 76161 817-514-0290 Office 817-281-7413 Fax info@mercyheart.org www.mercyheart.org
1	The Ministry Church, Inc Therapon, Belief Therapy® & Prisoners of Hope® Dr Paul Carlin, President PO Box 1168 Crockett 75835 936-544-5400 theraponinst@earthlink.net www.theministrychurch.org	1,3,6, 7,9,10	Texas Baptist Men Don Gibson 5351 Catron Dr Dallas 75227-9927 214-828-5353 214-232-1856 Don.gibson@texasbaptistmen.org www.texasbaptistmen.org	1,6,7	Parents and Children Together (PACT) Rev Suzanne Boeglin 2836 Hemphill St Fort Worth 76110-3214 817-924-7776 pact1924@sbcglobal.net
1,7,9	Care Center Ministries Mel Gipson PO Box 171059 Dallas 75217 214-824-9852 214-824-3499 pastormelvin@yahoo.com	1,7,8,9, 10	The Salvation Army 6500 Harry Hines Blvd Dallas 75235 214-956-6276 214-956-6059 Fax www.salvationarmytexas.org	7	World Bible Translation Center Tom McGregor 4028 Daley Ave Fort Worth 76180-8600 817-595-1664 817-589-7013 Fax tom@wbtc.com www.wbtc.org
1	Christian Fellowship Enrichment Jim Lang PO Box 700023 Dallas TX 75370 972-283-7871 jimlang41@aol.com	1,2,4,7	Worldwide Voice in the Wilderness Johnny Moffitt PO Box 740273 Dallas 75374 972-234-6009 972-234-6050 Fax johnnymoffitt@sbcglobal.net	10	Write-way Prison Ministries Inc Rodger Turley PO Box 461582 Garland 75046-1582 972-840-9798 972-864-9692 Fax writewaypm@verizon.net www.writewaypm.org
1,2,4,5, 7,9,10	First Baptist Dallas Prison Min. Jerry Bedison 1707 San Jacinto St Dallas 75201 214-969-7746 214-969-7720 Fax jbedison@firstdallas.org www.firstdallas.org	5,6,	Air Chapel Terry Dyer 320 King Ave Denison 75020 903-786-5899 tdyer@mail.airchapel.org www.airchapel.org	1,2,4,6,7, 8(F),9,10	Cross Prison Ministries Inc Carole Ross PO Box 412 Gatesville 76528-0412 254-865-5163 crossprisonministry@earthlink.net www.liferow.org
1,7,9, 10	Freedom Outreach Ministries Mel Gipson PO Box 180941 Dallas 75218 214-325-9583 214-824-3499 Fax pastormelvin@yahoo.com	1	Prison Fellowship Ministries—TX Mercury Bynum PO Box 602 Desoto 75123 469-232-8013 682-222-7385 FAX Mercury_bynum@pfm.org	1,2,3,4, 5,6,9,10	Morning Star Jail/Prison Ministry Rev Robert L Buchanan 2251 El Paso Grand Prairie 75051 972-647-1445 setaliberty1@aol.com www.morningstar-baptist.org
1,7	Inmate Discipler Fellowship/TX Baptist Men Mark Hollis 5351 Catron Drive Dallas 75227-9927 214-828-5347 Mark.hollis@texasbaptistmen.org www.inmatedisciplerfellowship.org	7	COPE Fauhn Schierer 1001 W Eules Blvd Ste 212 Eules 76040-5032 817-684-7870 682-292-0836 Fax office@copecoconnections.org www.copecoconnections.org	10	Encouraging Word Ministries Margaret Hackler PO Box 5148 Gun Barrel City 75147
				10	Open Arms Ministry Steve & Diana Moore PO Box 529 Hillsboro 76645 254-580-2935 mrst24dbt@aol.com

Use this Ministry ID Key to locate Ministry Emphasis:

*1=Prison *2=Non-residential Aftercare *3=Victim *4=Professionals *5=Juvenile Offenders *6=Family
*7=Resources for other RJMs *8=Residential Aftercare *9=Jails *10=By Mail

1,9	Crossover USA Gary R Nichols 911 Westmont Houston 77015 713-545-7991 713-455-7060 Fax gnichols@crossoverusa.com	1,2,3,5, 7,9,10	Restored to Christ Harold Travis 14147 Ivy Bluff Ct Houston 77062 281-488-5110 281-488-8218 Fax harold@clearlakemethodist.org	1,2	Faith Temple Holiness Church of God in Christ 2614 Montgomery Rd Huntsville 77340 936-438-8750
1,3,4,5, 8,9,10	Epiphany Ministries of Texas Chuck Talbot PO Box 590578 Houston 77259 chucktal@msn.com www.texasepiphany.com	1,3,4, 6,9,10	Servants of Christ Prison Ministry Sibble Knight PO Box 111275 Houston 77293-0275 281-449-2703	1,2,3,	First Baptist Church First Contact Family Ministry 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340-4698 936-291-3441 www.fbchuntsville.org
5,7,10	Initiatives for America's Youth Boone Vastine 15153 Kimberley Ct Houston 77079-5130 281-493-4556 layjjm@aol.com	1	Skills for Life Inc James Arnold PO Box 38553 Suite 113 Houston 77238 281-733-1223 arnojl@msn.com www.skillsforlifepm.com	1,2,4	First Baptist Church Welcome Back Ministry 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340-4698 936-291-3441 www.fbchuntsville.org Bill Kleiber 800-998-3004 kleiber@sbcglobal.net www.thewelcomeback.org
9	Jail Chaplaincy Ministry Freddie Wier PO Box 30262 Houston 77249-0262 713-569-2929	2	Spirit Key Inc Allen Rice 13617 Kaltenbrun Rd Houston 77086 281-971-0014 office@spiritkey.org www.spiritkey.org	6	Hospitality House Debra McCammon 912 10th St Huntsville 77320-3937 936-291-6196 www.thehospitalityhouse.org
1,2,3,4,5, 6,9,10	Morning Star Baptist Church 5110 Crane ST Houston 77026-3908 713-674-7170	1,2,6	Covenant Fellowship Rev David Valentine PO Box 10769 Huntsville 77340 936-435-0993 dbhvalentine@suddenlink.net www.cfhuntsville.org	7	Restorative Justice Ministries Network Emmett Solomon, Exec Director 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340 936-291-2156 esolomon@sbcglobal.net esolomon@rjmn.texas.net www.rjmn.net www.restorativejusticenews.net Anita Parrish, Ministry Assistant arparrish@sbcglobal.net
6	Newgate Connection Wesley Stevens PO Box 96333 Houston 77213-9633 281-452-2352 wfstevens1@pdq.net	1	Director of Chaplaincy Support Richard Lopez 1060 St Hwy 190 E Huntsville 77340 936-437-4973 936-437-4988 Richard.lopez@tdcj.state.tx.us www.tdcj.state.tx.us	2,6,7	Bill Kleiber 800-998-3004 kleiber@sbcglobal.net www.thewelcomeback.org
1,2,5, 7,8	Newgate UMC/Onesimus Journey Rev. Marvin Hood 3827 Broadway @I-45S Houston 77017 832-567-0758 marvelous272003@yahoo.com	1	Elkins Lake Baptist Church Rev Ken Huggins 206 State Highway 19 Huntsville 77340-7152 936-295-7694 936-295-3388 Fax www.elbc.org	1	TDCJ Chaplaincy Operations Bill Pierce, Director 1060 State Hwy 190 E Huntsville 77340 936-437-4975 936-437-4988 Fax billy.pierce@tdcj.state.tx.us www.tdcj.state.tx.us
1,7,9	Oil of Joy for Mourning Rev Rhonda Arias PO Box 720768 Houston 77272-0768 713-419-1214 oilofjoy@sbcglobal.net www.oilofjoyformourning.org	1,2,3	Episcopal Diocese of TX RJM Edwin Davis 2003 Avenue P Huntsville 77340-5029 936-291-3153 edsalpc@yahoo.com	3	TDCJ Victim Services Jim Brazzil PO Box 949 Huntsville 77432 936-437-4941 jim.brazzil@tdcj.state.tx.us

1,7	The Old Time Religion Hour Inc Rev George Lupo PO Box 1225 Huntsville 73342 936-293-8000	7,10	Freedom in Jesus Ministries Don Castleberry PO Box 939 Levelland 79336 806-778-3923 806-897-0730 Fax fijm@nts-online.net	1,10	Joy Prison Ministry Ura White PO Box 7324 Spring 77387-7324 281-253-8342
1,5	University Heights Baptist Church Bro Richard Rogers 2400 Sycamore Ave Huntsville 77340-6120 936-295-2996 office@uhbc.net www.uhbc.net	2	Harvesting International Ministry Center 560 Easy Dr Mansfield 76063 817-453-3663	1,2	Trinity RJM Galynn Ferris 3919 Snag Ln Spring 77388 281-352-3913 galynn@trinityrjm.com www.trinityrjmn.com
2,5	Winner's Circle Juvenile Program Kent Lucas 550 Elkins Lake Huntsville 77340 936-436-9467 winnerscircletexas@sbcglobal.net	3	Hope For Healing Ministries Inc Susan Edwards PO Box 9331 Midland 79708 214-477-2610 sedwards@hopeforhealingministries.org www.hopeforhealingministries.org	1	Accepting Grace Ministries Inc Joe / Betty Waggoner PO Box 983 Stamford 79553-0983 325-773-2248 bettyj@camalott.com
3,4,5,6,7,10	Mercy Heart@ Christ Memorial Stephen Drake 241 W Bedford-Euleess Rd Hurst 76053 817-285-1671 cmcc1999@sbcglobal.net www.CMCCfamily.org		P.T.C. Prison Ministry Bobby Griffin PO Box 633741 Nacogdoches 75963 936-559-0070 ptcm_griffith@hotmail.com	1,4,6	Houston Trinity Prison Ministry Romeo Pena PO Box 1411 Sugar Land 77487-1411 713-906-3407 r.pena@ssss.com
1,6,7	Prison Fellowship Ministries Kelly Purselley PO Box 54987 Hurst 76054 Kelly_purselley@pfm.org www.prisonfellowship.org	2,5,7,8(M)9,10	Freedom House Discipleship Jami Butts 3542 Mercury Ave Odessa 79764 432-381-5453 freedomhouse@clearwire.net www.odessadreamcenter.com	1,9	Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry Charles Sickles P.O. Box 1130 Sulphur Springs 75483-1130 903-885-1424 903-348-6415 fruitfulharvest@verizon.net
1,6,10	Texas HOPE Literacy Inc Lucy Smith PO Box 905 Hurst 76053-0905 817-919-3161 hopeliteracy@sbcglobal.net www.hopelit.com	2,6,9,10	Loops (Loved Ones of Prisoners) Leland & Linda Maples PO Box 14953 Odessa 79768-4953 432-580-5667 432-580-8299 Fax leland@loopsministries.com www.loopsministries.com	3,4,7,10	The Faith Based Counselor Training Institute Dr. Michael Haynes PO Box 5253 Temple 76502-5253 254-231-4334 254-231-4336 Fax FBCTI@aol.com www.FaithBasedCounseling.com
1	The Brotherhood of St Andrew Oliver Osborn PO Box 537 Lake Jackson 77566-0537 979-297-6217	1,2,3,4,8(B),9	Mike Hooker Ministries Mike / Charlotte R Hooker PO Box 143 Queen City 75572-0143 903-796-5297 214-796-6592 Fax	1,2,7	Christian Restorative Justice Mentors Assoc Murray Batt PO Box 131412 The Woodlands 77393-1412 281-292-0442 mail@crjma.org www.crjma.org
1,2,3,7,8(B),9,10	Calvary Commission Joe Fauss PO Box 100 Lindale 75771-0100 903-882-5501 903-882-7282 joefauss@calvarycommission.org www.calvarycommission.org	1,2,3,6,7,10	Operation Oasis Michael Lee 302 Centennial Blvd Richardson 75081-5057 972-437-3801 972-437-3139 Fax mlee@operation-oasis.org www.operation-oasis.org	2,3,6,7,10	Bridging The Gap Ministries Deb Chachere PO Box 131747 Tyler 75713-1747 903-539-6797 bridgingthegap@flash.net www.bridgingthegap.freesevers.com
10	Exodus Prison Ministry Joyce Hargis 4243 34th Street Lubbock 79410 806-791-3673 806-780-9780 Fax joyce@exodusprisonministry.org www.exodusprisonministry.org	2	One Man's Treasure Clothes Closet Annette Jenkins 519 E I-30 #211 Rockwall 75087 888-433-9826 onemanstr@yahoo.com www.onemanstr.org	8	House Where Jesus Shines Pastor Nilsa Latimer 18320 Gholson Rd Waco 76705-5823 254-829-2100 254-829-0252 Fax thwjs@msn.com

Use this Ministry ID Key to locate Ministry Emphasis:

*1=Prison *2=Non-residential Aftercare *3=Victim *4=Professionals *5=Juvenile Offenders *6=Family
*7=Resources for other RJMs *8=Residential Aftercare *9=Jails *10=By Mail

8(Deaf Men) Healing Hands Ranch
Johnny McCollum
PO Box 1455
Willis 77378
936-890-8562
www.deafprison.org
www.healinghandsranch.org

1,7,9, 10 Cornerstone Prison Ministry
Chaplain Al Gibbons
PO Box 1672
Wylie 75098-1672
972-896-7081
cspmin@clearsail.net

WASHINGTON

1,4 His Sufficient Grace Ministries
Larry Groom
2424 130th Pl SE
Everett 98208-6708
425-357-8596
ldgroom@comcast.net

1,3,4,6,7, 9 RJM Family Service and Mediation Service
John Morrison
PO Box 581
Woodville 75979
409-283-2877
rjmfs1@sbcglobal.net

VIRGINIA

1,5,9, 10 Good News Jail & Prison Ministry
Dr Tom Beckner
PO Box 9760
Richmond 23228-0760
804-553-4090
804-553-4144 **Fax**
info@goodnewsjail.org
www.goodnewsjail.org

1 Prisoners for Christ Outreach Ministry
Greg Von Tobel
PO Box 1530
Woodinville 98072-1503
425-483-4151
425-467-1680 **Fax**
gvt@pfcom.org
www.pfcom.org

1,7,9, 10 Woodville Church of Christ Prison Ministry
PO Box 276
Woodville 75979-0276
409-283-5977
woodvillecoc@sbcglobal.net

**Would you like to have your ministry listed in the Ministries Directory and the RJMN website www.rjmn.net?
Contact Anita Parrish at arparrish@sbcglobal.net**

New publication- *Helping Victims of Crime*

Helping Victims of Crime, Pathways toward healing edited by Lisa Barnes Lampman & Jayne G. Crisp, is a practical reference guide to help you provide appropriate and needed assistance and support to victims of crime, their families, and close friends.

This booklet can assist you in reaching out to others who may be experiencing a crisis related to crime and victimization—those who have experienced a burglary, robbery, physical or sexual assault, identity theft or fraud, or lost a family member or friend to homicide.

Helping Victims of Crime offers an amazing collection of sight, wisdom, and advice in a very easy and accessible form. This is essential reading for Christians walking with those who have been victims.” Howard Zehr, professor of restorative justice, Center for Justice & Peace building, Eastern Mennonite University.

Helping Victims of Crime is a new publication of the Institute for Prison Ministries (IPM). It can be purchased online at <http://www.emisdirect.com/store/ipm-library/helping-victims-of-crime>.

For other booklets in the IPM Library go to <http://www.emisdirect.com/store/ipm-library>. IPM is a networking, training, and resource center for those who share the gospel within the correctional world.

The views and/or opinions expressed in the articles of guest writers do not necessarily reflect the views and/or opinions of the Restorative Justice Ministries Network, the Restorative Justice News or the RJMN Board of Directors.

Dear Editor

Thank you for your Christian leadership in changing the face of our Texas Criminal Justice System.

Eight years ago, when you first took me under the wing of the Restorative Justice Ministries Network, Texas had the number one incarceration rate in our nation.

Today, Texas is number four behind Louisiana, Mississippi, and Georgia. Historically Texas has always been in the top three states for locking up individuals, and throwing away the key. Now we are diverting folks from prison, restoring their lives through treatment & faith based initiatives, and watching crime rates plummet down-hill.

As I read down the following laundry list of changes it is evident that your Christian leadership played a key role in every issue listed, and many more.

Texas now enjoys being touted nationwide for being a leading reformer of our Criminal Justice System. Texas is even cited by Justice Scalia with the Supreme Court of The United States.

Justice Scalia states it best in his recent release order to the State of California, "This case, of course, never should have come this far. There was an alternative solution. Texas, for example, faced a looming overcrowding crisis in 2007, but state legislators *confronted the crisis directly*, made targeted changes that focused on diversion programs for nonviolent offenders, and ultimately prevented a "California-type" catastrophe. Texas, in fact, was actually able to *close a prison* this year. The state also enjoys the lowest crime rate it has had since 1973."

Don't stop now! God bless you, your families, and the progressive visions God places on your hearts.

Bill Kleiber, Ministry Assistant, RJMN

**R J News publications are dependent upon contributions from readers.
Anyone wishing to make a donation may do so by sending check or money order to:
Restorative Justice Ministries Network, 1229 Avenue J, Huntsville, TX, 77340
or you are welcome to make your donation online at
<http://www.rjmn.net/donation.htm>**



RJMN is a 501 c3 religious organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Life to Life Fund

Restorative Justice Ministries Network gratefully acknowledges a grant from the **Life to Life Fund** which will sustain the ministry for about 6 months. The grant enables the ministry to continue the day to day activities of encouraging ministry folks, giving information to ex-offenders re-entering their communities, and offering guidance for new ministries just getting started in this vast mission field, just to name a few of the outreach efforts of RJMN. Thank you, **Life to Life Fund** board members, for believing this ministry is worthy of your financial support and prayers.

Tough on Crime

Continued from Page 1

the problems that brought people to jail.”

Evidence is mounting that the overuse of incarceration has not improved public safety. It only satisfied a revenge minded public. If our leaders would quit pandering to these revengeful people and get serious about efficient government, we will see the length of prison sentences reduced, many prisons closed and our citizens provided programming which will improve our lives. Apparently the Supreme Court is beginning to understand the truth about "Tough on Crime" methodology as indicated by the above quote from Justice Kennedy. The most recent report from the Texas Department of Public Safety, seems to confirm what we are beginning to understand about our criminal justice system. A summary of the report came from a conservative policy group in Austin TX, the Texas Public Policy Foundation. I encourage you to read it.

Texas Public Policy Foundation reports that evidence confirms that "Tough on Crime" approach is counter productive:

May 24, 2011

By Henry Joel Simmons

According to the most recent annual report from the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Texas experienced a drop in both violent and non-violent crime rates across the board last year. This is newsworthy on its own, but it is particularly notable that the drop in crime coincides with a statewide drop in incarceration, and an increase in unemployment.

Statewide, violent crime fell 8.3% and non-violent crime fell 5.7%. Specifically, robbery fell a stunning 14.9% and rape fell by 9.2%. Adult arrests dropped 4.6% and juvenile arrests dropped a huge 9.3%.

Dallas is an especially interesting case study. In 2005, Dallas was given the FBI's "most unsafe city in America" distinction, but it responded by abandoning its tough-on-crime approach. Now, in the DPS report, Dallas led the state with a 10.2% drop in crime – and Big D is currently #52 on the FBI's list. Grits for Breakfast, a website that follows criminal justice developments in Texas, observes that numbers like this are "calling into question quite a few assumptions about incarceration and crime."

Houston, San Antonio, Fort Worth, Austin, and El Paso all saw declines in crime rate as well, all coupled with lower incarceration rates than previous years. Meanwhile Round Rock, which stubbornly adheres to the antiquated "lock 'em up and throw away the key" approach, saw an 8% *increase* in crime.

Community services and supervision save money

Grits for Breakfast

Marc Mauer, head of the National Sentencing Project said, "...if we cut drug treatment programs and employment assistance and other services like that, it's a real risk of becoming a revolving door. We seem to save money at first by releasing people from prison, but so many people are going to fail it's not going to get us very far. So what we need to do, I think, is to take some of those savings and target that to community services and community supervision to increase the odds that people who are released can remain safely in the community, can get reconnected to the community. That's the way to really save money in the long run."

God's Way Works

Review by Johnathan Kana

The following article is a brief review of Byron R. Johnson, *MORE GOD, LESS CRIME: WHY FAITH MATTERS AND HOW IT COULD MATTER MORE* (West Conshohocken, PA: Templeton Press, 2011).

The first line of Byron Johnson's latest book says it all: "Faith-motivated individuals, faith-based organizations, and the transformative power of faith itself are proven keys in reducing crime and improving the effectiveness of our criminal justice system." Put the word out: God's way works, and now we have the data to prove it!

Advocates of restorative justice will treasure this volume for its comprehensive and altogether favorable assessment of the church's partnership in solving the American prison crisis. Johnson, director of the Institute for Studies of Religion, has artfully exposed the statistical momentum of something the church has long recognized: Criminal offenders are more than antisocial citizens in need of correction; they are sinners in need of regeneration.

Johnson's data validate some restorative justice instincts while challenging others. He documents, for instance, how religious involvement in prison reduces recidivism when it helps offenders reconcile bad choices in the past with a new sense of purpose going forward. But Johnson also sees plenty of room for the church to improve its historically piecemeal approach to offender reintegration. It seems we are good at converting prisoners but generally drop the ball when it comes to ongoing offender care and support, particularly during the crucial weeks and months post-release.

From Johnson's findings we begin to discern one critical reason why many well-intentioned social programs fail to reduce crime: They sever the delivery of tangible resources from the process of spiritual transformation. Johnson shows why both are necessary and why no single organization--religious or secular--is properly equipped to address the full scale of the problem. Johnson predicts that achieving this goal will require the cooperation of public and private entities, plus an unprecedented level of collaboration between government agencies and faith-based organizations.

Before this can happen, however, secular leaders must overcome what Johnson calls "the last acceptable prejudice"--namely, that largely unsubstantiated secular aversion to highly religious people becoming involved in social issues. Meanwhile, the church must temper its paranoid suspicion of secular oversight and objectively scrutinize its social ministries to improve their public effectiveness. Working together, Johnson argues, church and state can achieve a shared social agenda without necessarily compromising their legitimately independent domains. Only foolhardy stubbornness tolerates an ideological stalemate where there is demonstrated potential for meaningful collaboration.

Regrettably, Johnson stops short of working out a normative theological rationale for his data. His use of terms like "religion" and "faith" therefore seems equivocal at times, as though the enthusiasm to discover "what works" has obscured the significance of Christ as the proper object of faith. Data notwithstanding, I hope Johnson's Christian readers will agree that it is not "religion" that offenders need, but Jesus Himself.

Editor's note: See related article *More God, Less Crime: The Evidence is There* by Chuck Colson on Page 19.

Execution Day at Huntsville Hospitality House

Continued from Page 5

On the execution day, the family and others arrive at the house by 9 a.m. McCammon has seen as many as 32 people come, and she has also seen days when no one comes. Whoever comes is going to be fed and cared for throughout the day, she said.

TDCJ drives up to 12 of the visitors to the Polunski Unit for a visit with the prisoner between 10 a.m. and noon. Afterward, the visitors return to the Hospitality House, where a meal has been prepared.

Not all, however, can eat. “So many are nauseated because of nerves and don’t feel like eating,” McCammon said. By about 3 p.m., most have eaten. About this same time, the prisoner arrives at the “Death House,” a separate facility of the Walls Unit where the execution will occur. It’s about two blocks from the Hospitality House.

Chaplains from TDJC have been a part of the whole day of activities, shuttling between the Hospitality House and the prison.

At 4 p.m., the visitors receive a call from the prisoner, who has one last hour to talk. “They pass the phone around” from one person to another, McCammon said. The conversations elicit a wide range of emotions from laughter to hysteria. Stories, the sharing of memories, are also a common element of the final call.

Only five people selected by the prisoner can witness the execution. They are escorted to the Walls Unit at 5 p.m. Witnesses representing the crime victims will be there as well; but they never encounter the witnesses chosen by the prisoner.

The others remain at the Hospitality House. They can hear the megaphones of protesters in the streets—some for and some against capital punishment. Media vans are parked near the Walls Unit, and helicopters sometimes fly overhead.

The atmosphere in the House changes. Until the late afternoon, the day is filled with hope as the family prays and hopes for a stay of execution, McCammon said.

“That hope continues all day, but reality sets in at about 5. You see the expressions change. They walk around with this heaviness of spirit.”

Debra McCammon, executive director of Hospitality House, Huntsville, Texas



Hospitality House is a place of comfort for people whose lives have been turned upside down by the actions of a loved one

“That hope continues all day, but reality sets in at about 5,” she said.

“You see the expressions change. They walk around with this heaviness of spirit.”

The life of their loved one is over at 6 p.m. or shortly thereafter.

Most days, of course, do not include executions. Seven days a week, the Hospitality House provides lodging and meals for families visiting inmates. The House is a place of comfort for people whose lives have been turned upside down by the actions of a loved one.

“Hospitality House is like a home,” McCammon says. “It makes it easier for families to relax. And it’s also a place where hurting people can hear the ultimate message of love, peace, hope and forgiveness of sins.”

More God, Less Crime: The Evidence is There

Continued from Page 1

I think I shocked some of the dignitaries, who no doubt thought I was being a bit cheeky.

I was deadly serious. I told the Prince, “Professor Christie Davies at the University of Reading conducted a study that showed when Sunday school attendance was highest in England, crime was lowest. Conversely, when Sunday school attendance declined, the crime rate increased.” So I said to him, “Send young boys to Sunday school so they can be taught the basics of Christian morality.”

“Pretty good idea!” Prince Philip replied.

A pretty good idea, indeed. And it’s an idea that is being proved right again and again. In Monday’s [May 9, 2011] *Wall Street Journal*, the eminent social scientist James Q. Wilson reviewed Baylor professor Byron Johnson’s new book, *More God, Less Crime*.

In researching his book, Johnson looked for every study “that measured the possible effect of religion on crime” published between 1944 and 2010. In case you were wondering, there were 273 of them.

Wilson noted that according to 90 percent of those studies “more religiosity resulted in less crime.” While Wilson cautioned that a lack of statistical controls makes these numbers hard to evaluate, Wilson wrote that the sheer number of studies showing the positive effect on religion offsets their potential weaknesses in methodology.

Wilson, the preeminent man in the field, pointed to a landmark 1986 study conducted by Harvard economist Richard Freeman, who found that “going to church is associated with substantial differences in how young men behave. More churchgoing, less crime, less alcohol and fewer drugs.”

When you compared a group of similar Texas prisoners to the InnerChange Freedom Initiative graduates, you see that after two years the re-incarceration rate is 8 percent for our graduates against 20.3 percent for the matched comparison group.

And, Wilson suggests, among studies of actual prisoners the “strongest results” come from Prison Fellowship, particularly Johnson’s own study of our InnerChange Freedom Initiative in Texas.

When you compared a group of similar Texas prisoners to the InnerChange Freedom Initiative graduates, you see that after two years the re-incarceration rate is 8 percent for our graduates against 20.3 percent for the matched comparison group.

These results, and the mountain of evidence showing that religion makes a difference, are enough for great scholars like Wilson to take notice.

Unsurprisingly enough, it’s not enough for many of our secularist, academic elite. Johnson was dismissed some years ago from the University of Memphis because his research on crime and religion—and his Christian views—meant that he “simply didn’t fit in.”

But what Johnson’s book *More God, Less Crime* shows so clearly, is that we’ve been right all along: The Gospel changes lives, and it’s the best hope for keeping men and women out of prison.

The evidence is clear, and it’s a great testimony. We just need eyes to see it.

Editors Note: See related article *God’s Way Works* by Johnathan Kana on Page 17.



Chuck Colson

Regime's antagonism is increasing Christianity's appeal

By Trevor Persaud
Christianity Today, June 1, 2011

A major spike in the harassment and arrest of Iranian Christians in recent months is revealing just how nervous the Islamic republic is about the prodigious success of house churches, say Iranian Christian leaders.

At least 202 Christians in 24 cities faced "arbitrary" arrest between June 2010 and January 2011, according to Elam Ministries. Elam, run by Iranian expatriates, counted 80 arrests over 2008 and 2009 combined.

"[Iran] has been substantially more public in its oppression of Christianity," said Todd Nettleton, a spokesman for Voice of the Martyrs. "Announcing it on the news, having the mullahs talk about it in their Friday sermons—it's just become a lot more out in the open."

"Persecution has escalated to an unprecedented level," said Abe Ghaffari, executive director of Iranian Christians International. While Iran's historic Armenian and Assyrian congregations usually enjoy freedom of worship, Farsi-speaking house churches hosting converts from Islam work under significant threat.

"In effect, recognition of Christians in the laws of Iran has now become basically recognition of an ethnicity rather than faith," said Hussein Jadidi, a human rights lawyer who recently fled Iran after he became a target in a Christmas sweep that caught 70 other Christians.

The government is concerned, observers say, because more and more Iranian Muslims are converting to Christianity. The house church movement is booming, with converts estimated in the hundreds of thousands. Evangelists are distributing large numbers of New Testaments, and satellite television continually beams Christian programs into the country.

"The government always used to deny that Iranians become Christians," said Elam's David Yeghnazar, but now the church has become too strong to ignore. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei declared the house church network "enemies of Iran" in an October speech, which analysts labeled a rare public acknowledgement of the movement.

"Religion is regarded as part of your national identity," said Issa Dibaj, an Iranian Christian who works as an Elam translator. "If you turn away from your religion ... it's as if you have betrayed your country."

"In the past, [the government] would emphasize apostasy as the crime," Jadidi said. "They've changed their tactics; now evangelism, witnessing, and changing religion have become a security crime."

But now analysts say Islam is losing credibility after 30 years of theocracy. Resentment against the reigning regime is spreading and deepening—especially since the disputed 2009 national elections.

"Before the [1979] revolution, the clerics were promising that once Iran becomes an Islamic state, it would be utopia, it would be brotherhood, and everything would be fine," Dibaj said. But since then, Iranians "have seen nothing but war and fighting and international isolation and hatred, [and] they are thirsting for change."

"The Iranian public basically doesn't trust the government anymore," Ghaffari said, "and they don't trust the Muslim clergy anymore, because they have seen a lot of double standards and hypocrisy."

Converts in smaller communities still risk persecution from their own families, but tolerance is growing in urban areas and among the younger generation. "In fact," said Dibaj, "in places like Tehran and more educated communities, if you say, 'I have become a Christian,' they will respect you because of your courage and your independent thinking."

If anything, government persecution has made Christianity much more attractive, said Yeghnazar. "When government officials are on television telling people not to read the Scriptures, that generates more interest in the Scriptures."

Texas judge models probation on Hawaii's HOPE program

Grits for Breakfast

July 10, 2011

In Tarrant County, District Judge Mollee Westfall has launched a strong probation docket modeled after the much-praised HOPE program out of Hawaii, reports the Fort Worth Star-Telegram ("[Judge kicks off strict probation program in Tarrant County](http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/07/09/3211044/judge-kicks-off-strict-probation.html)," July 9 <http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/07/09/3211044/judge-kicks-off-strict-probation.html>. "The concept is simple: Every time they mess up, they go to the county jail for a short stay. Lie or hide and their stay will be longer." Said the judge:

" - it will require less prison space, it will lead to less revocations, and it will pay us back tenfold any money that we put into it."

**District Judge Mollee Westfall
Tarrant County**

"It will require more jail space in the short run, but in the long run -- if it works the way we expect it to and the way it did in Hawaii -- it will require less prison space, it will lead to less revocations, and it will pay us back tenfold any money that we put into it." The county hopes to get a federal grant to pay for the program, but after researching the HOPE program, Judge Westfall has decided to launch a small, model program in the meantime.

Westfall said she jumped at the chance to help implement the program after Leighton Iles, director of Tarrant County's Supervision and Corrections Department, arranged for Angela Hawken, an assistant professor of economics and policy analysis at Pepperdine University, to come talk to the judges about Hawaii's HOPE program.

"I was very taken with it," Westfall said. "It's all upside and no downside, as far as I can see."

Hawken and Mark Kleiman, a professor of public policy at UCLA, researched and evaluated HOPE and found that probationers in the program were less likely to commit new crimes, fail drug tests, miss probation appointments and have their probation revoked.

"The current system fails because it lacks credibility," Hawken said. "Probationers are given a long list of probation conditions that they are told to comply with. But these are rarely monitored and even if violations are detected, punishment is usually inconsistent and delayed. Probationers learn that they can get away with violating the rules.

"When punishments are meted out they are usually too severe. We've now learned that small doses of punishment, meted out for every violation, is much more effective than sporadically lowering the boom."

Iles said people often question why Tarrant County would implement a program aimed at keeping problematic probation violators out of prison.

"Our prison system is at capacity," explained Iles. "There is no room at the inn. If you want the rapists and the robbers and the murderers to stay locked up, we can't put in our one-time drug possessor who has tested positive one time. We have to be more effective."

Tarrant County's Supervision and Corrections Department has applied for an \$850,000 federal grant from the Justice Department, which is awarding four such grants to replicate Hawaii's program. If Tarrant County receives the grant, 400 probationers will be assigned to the program.

But for now, Westfall said, they will sign up as many probationers as they can -- around 10 a month -- and use available resources and volunteer staff.

"When punishments are meted out they are usually too severe. We've now learned that small doses of punishment, meted out for every violation, is much more effective than sporadically lowering the boom."

**District Judge Mollee Westfall,
Tarrant County**

The Success of Gavel Clubs In Prison

By Jim Arnold

In August of 2000, Toastmaster Darrell Oakland (one of ten Toastmasters to participate, myself included) gave a demonstration meeting for the inmates at the Central prison unit in Sugar Land. The club filled up immediately with 20 inmates. The following week they arrived with a list of 35 inmates wanting to participate. By the end of that year (according to the chaplain) every inmate was wanting into the program. A second club was started in 2001. To this day, every club brought into existence (Central unit, Carol Vance unit and Jester III) has a waiting list. The clubs at Plane State jail, Terrell unit, Clemens unit (a maximum security unit with 2 clubs - - one for adults and one for youth) were discontinued for medical and financial reasons in June 2007. Currently with the people and resources I could be in nine prisons. That is one measure of success.

By the end of that year (according to the chaplain) every inmate was wanting into the program. A second club was started in 2001. To this day, every club brought into existence (Central unit, Carol Vance unit and Jester III) has a waiting list.

Another measure of success is the changes seen in inmates' lives. A club was started at the Carol Vance unit in July 2005. Based on the changes the staff saw in inmates' behavior, in May 2006, the program became part of the curriculum and made mandatory for every inmate going through that unit. Michael, a member of one of the clubs at Central, arrived in prison unable to read or write. He learned to do so. When Michael joined the club he had to undergo time on the waiting list of one year. He said he prayed for that year to get into Toastmasters. Why? Because at the age of 47 he was unable to carry on a conversation with his own mother. Michael recently gave his 32nd speech. At Plane State jail the women were blossoming and growing in self-confidence in as little as 2 to 3 months. Monica had been in the program for 7 months and had become president. On the outside, her boyfriend was the gang leader of the largest Latino gang in the state of Texas. As you can imagine, her language was pretty rough. One day she stood in front of the women and said, "You will never hear me curse again." Working with over 2,000 inmates over the last 10 & 1/2 years, I have only heard 5 curse words. They are serious about wanting a better life.

The third measure of success is the camaraderie that develops. At the Central unit, Jason was giving his tenth speech. As you know, the purpose is to inspire your audience. The men at Central knew his background. In the 1990's, Jason was a paratrooper. He and his comrades were standing on the tarmac at Ft. Pope, North Carolina. They were within 5 minutes of departure when Jason decided he had time to run the bathroom. He started running. When he was about 100 feet from his buddies an F-16 crashed into the tarmac, killing 24 soldiers and injured 100, including Jason. He was the last man taken from the tarmac with burns over a large part of his body. He lost his left leg above the knee so he wore a prosthesis. He said to his club members, "You know, when I got out of the military the only thing, the only thing I missed was the camaraderie. That was the greatest experience I had ever had. I was sick to death I would never again have that experience. You guys need to know I found it here in the gavel club."

I invite club members to go in and experience the excitement. District Governor Jan Poscovsky, Lt. Gov. of Education, Richard Ruchhoeft and area governor Michael Williams did just that on March 6th.

A Word from the Executive Director of RJMN

Dear Ministry Partner,

We attempted to focus some of the gigantic energy of the Church onto the criminal justice system. It is making a difference in many lives. It is amazing that a third of the unchurched people can be reached through these justice ministries.

Our network is now 18 years old. In the last few years much of the funding has been picked up by grants from private foundations. Those foundations are running dry and we received word that we need to look else where for 2012. Of course we look to Texas churches to continue to help us. Perhaps at even a greater level. What we do is indeed the work of the Church.

This is a high energy, low cost ministry. Last year our expenditures were just under \$75,000. We have two employees. I am retired and draw no money from this organization. Part time Ministry Assistant Anita Parrish is the office manager and keeps up our data bases which contain more than 85,000 names and addresses of interested citizens, most of whom have done hands-on ministry. This year she is overseeing the development of the first ever Ex-offender Faith Based Celebration to be held at the Prison Museum in Huntsville on October 15. Ministry Assistant Bill Kleiber is himself a Previously Incarcerated Person. God has gifted him to be an outstanding minister and a master telephone counselor. We distribute our 800 telephone number to all of the releasing prisoners. He manages the bus station ministry, and the Recovery Center Ministry. The Recovery Center Ministry is a 6 bed transitional housing facility in Huntsville. Ronny Goodwin is the resident program director.

This year we have added the *cell phone ministry*. Bill found a government program which provides free cell phones to poor people. It was resting there largely unused because noone wanted to do the paperwork involved. Bill and our volunteers saddled up to doing the paperwork. We now distribute free cell phones to any releasing prisoner who wants one. It has proven to be such a wonderful blessing for them. They get 150 free minutes each month for the first 6 months. They now can contact their families and have a call back number to leave with potential employers.

We are in need of churches to include us in their Missions Budget. We also know that is not likely to happen without a person of that congregation who will become a *Champion* for us. My request to you is that if possible please become that person for us in your church. Budget planning is beginning soon in most churches. This is Kingdom Ministry. If we are to continue it, we need support from churches which are interested in ministering to the hurting and disenfranchised. We minister to such people everyday as part of Christ's Church.

One note of appreciation from another ministry in our network:

Emmett, I recently talked to an inmate (released from the Vance Unit) who had a cell phone and some pre-paid minutes from your ministry at the Huntsville bus station. Wow! You guys are constantly inventing new ministries. Way to go! PTL! Ron Brigmon

So far in 2011, we have distributed almost 12,000 cell phones. This last year the staff and volunteers in this ministry contacted and did a Welcome Back Program for more than 12,000 prisoners at the time of their release from Texas prisons. We also ministered to about 10,000 prisoner family members as they waited for their loved ones outside of the prison at the time of release. In a new program this year, the Front Door Ministry met with many of the men entering prison.

Continued on Page 24



**Emmett Solomon, Executive Director
Restorative Justice Ministries Network**

A Word from the Executive Director of RJMN

Continued from Page 24

If they asked that church people reach out to their families, contact information was collected and emailed to people in our network around the nation. Thousands of email messages regarding these ministries were sent from this office to churches and ministries. Here is a response from one such ministry:

“Emmett, I greatly appreciate these contacts. I don’t always respond back to you on them, but I do make contact with them all. This family is in the crisis mode regarding a home church, the mother is not able to be honest with others there about what has happened to her family member. We will be able to help this family! Thanks again! Michael”

We hope that you will be able to look favorably upon this ministry as your church prepares its budget for next year. I assure you that your help will indeed make a difference to some hurting person in your community.

Grace and Peace,

Emmett Solomon, Executive Director
Restorative Justice Ministries Network
1229 Avenue J, Huntsville TX 77340
(936) 291-2156
esolomon@sbcglobal.net
[http:// www.rjmn.net](http://www.rjmn.net)



Make your donations online at

<http://www.rjmn.net/donation.htm>

Emmett Solomon, Publisher
Anita Parrish, Ministry Assistant
Shirley Orr Smith, Editor

The Restorative Justice News (R. J. News) e-newsletter is published periodically throughout the year by Restorative Justice Ministries Network of Texas, Inc. The RJM Network is an information resource for Restorative Justice Ministries. Inquiries about any kind of Restorative Justice Ministry are welcome. Currently there is no subscription fee for the R. J. News. The publication cost is being subsidized by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, the Texas Baptists and reader donations.

The board of the non-profit corporation includes: Ed Davis, Richard Lopez, Roger Hollar, Mark Hollis, and Mark Pickett. Emmett Solomon is Executive Director of RJMN Texas.

Comments, questions and news articles may be sent to Emmett Solomon, Executive Director at esolomon@rjmn.net. Articles are subject to space available.

Restorative Justice Ministries Network
1229 Avenue J, Suite 360
Huntsville, TX 77340
Telephone: 936-291-2156
<http://www.rjmn.net>
<http://www.rjmntexas.net>
<http://www.rjweek.com>
<http://www.restorativejusticeneeds.net>

Please complete the form and return to Restorative Justice Ministries Network, 1229 Avenue J, Suite 360, Huntsville, TX 77340.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____