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## Greg Wilhoit: The story of an innocent man

By Lisa Rhea

Restorative Justice Online

March 17, 2010- I have a friend whose name is Greg Wilhoit. His story is a remarkable one. He is an exoneree who was freed from death row in Oklahoma after having served time for a crime he did not commit. He was convicted and sent to death row for the killing of his wife. The only incriminating "evidence" which convicted Greg Wilhoit was teeth marks found on the victim's body. Dental "experts" said the teeth marks matched Greg's.

His story is on the website of The Journey of Hope (<http://www.journeyofhope.org/pages/index.htm>). Greg is active with the Journey, as are many exonerees, as he tells his story of America's broken criminal justice system.

Greg was fully exonerated and released from prison in 1993. Best seller author, and former trial attorney, John Grisham writes about Ron Williamson and Greg Wilhoit in his excellent book *The Innocent Man* (Bantam Dell; 2006). Williamson and Wilhoit were cell mates on Oklahoma's death row and became best friends. Both were innocent men.

Life has not been easy for Greg since his release. But life is often not easy for those who have suffered such miscarriages of justice. *continued on page 7*

## Evangelicals call for prison-rape reform

By Ankita Rao  
Religion News Service  
Ethicsdaily.com

Evangelicals are calling on the Obama administration to enact long-promised prison reforms, saying the incarcerated deserve protection from violence and rape.

In 2003, former president George W. Bush signed the Prison Rape Elimination Act, which aimed to lower the estimated 13 percent of inmates sexually assaulted each year.

The bill called for the Department of Justice to research prison rape and requires prisons to establish prevention programs.

Now, the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) is urging the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission to follow up on the standards proposed.

NAE President Leith *continue on page 14*

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# Forgiving my daughter's killer

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By Linda L. White  
June 11, 2010

One of the two 15-year-old boys who killed my 26-year-old daughter Cathy was released from prison last month after serving 23 years of a 54-year sentence. Gary Brown was released from prison one week before the Supreme Court decided in *Graham v. Florida* to end the practice of sentencing juveniles to life without parole for crimes other than murder.

Until November of 1986, I was not very knowledgeable about or interested in criminal or juvenile justice matters. I spent most of 1987 in limbo awaiting the trials of Gary Brown and his co-defendant. All I knew about them was that they were certified to stand trial as adults and had long criminal records as juveniles. At the time they seemed to be non-persons. It would take years for me to get over my indifference toward them, to eventually discover their humanity.

Ten years ago I found out that Gary was willing to meet me in a mediated dialogue through the sponsorship of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. I had never laid eyes on him and had, over the years, gradually come to ignore his existence. As the time approached for us to meet, I know that Gary became more and more apprehensive, but not me. I wanted to see him and tell him how grateful I was for his remorse. I know that this was an unusual response, but it was only possible through my discovery of restorative justice and, of course, by the grace of God. I strongly believe that most of my journey over the last 23 years has been through grace. Otherwise, I have no explanation for it.

When I met with Gary, I discovered a young man whose life had been one of abuse and neglect, a world apart from that of my childhood and that of my children's. Though he offered no excuses for his actions, what he told me helped me to place my daughter's murder in a larger context and helped me to understand how he could have done such a tragic deed. His total remorse was an incredibly healing encounter for me.

I think it's the love shown him by an adopted family that transformed Gary and made him the person he is today. He wants us to go and talk to kids about our experiences, and I hope we can do that. My experience with Gary has taught me that we have a responsibility to protect our youth from the kind of childhood that Gary had, from treatment that recklessly disregards their inherent vulnerability. He is proof that young people, even those who have done horrible things, can be transformed.

When my daughter was killed, I would have supported a sentence of life without parole for the juveniles who killed her. Today, I am glad the Supreme Court ruled that young offenders must be treated differently from adults even for heinous crimes.

We cannot afford to lose our young people to desolation and cruelty. The Supreme Court has taken one small step, but we must go further. Our policies should reflect what I truly believe is God's will for forgiveness. We must end the practice of sentencing youth to prison for the rest of their lives without hope of release, because people should never be declared worthless and stripped of the opportunity for rehabilitation due to crimes committed in their youth.

*Linda L. White was an adjunct faculty member at Sam Houston State University in the department of Psychology and Philosophy, where she taught upper level college courses in the Department of Psychology and Philosophy, and occasionally in Criminal Justice.*

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## New App for learning about Texas inmates

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The Texas Tribune has created an application (<http://www.texastribune.org/library/data/texas-prisons/>) to explore Texas' numerous prison units, and learn more about the 160,000 inmates housed inside them. Search for inmates by name or explore this app by crime types and specific prison units . You can also view all Death Row inmates.

If you have knowledge of apps of this kind for other States, please email their website addresses to the Editor of the RJNEWS at [R.J.NEWS@restorativejusticenews.net](mailto:R.J.NEWS@restorativejusticenews.net).

# Ministry Resources from Restorative Justice Ministries Network

## 1229 Avenue J Huntsville TX 77340

**Recommended for ministry people:**

- Restorative Justice Ministry for Pastors & Church Leaders - Emmett Solomon** \$12.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guidance for leaders interested in beginning RJM in the local congregation
- Challenging the Impossible: Discovering Beautiful Trophies for Jesus- Joe Fauss** \$12.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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** \$12.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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** \$17.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Acts of kindness by inmates, prison staff, victims, and volunteers
- Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul -Canfield, Hensen, Oberst, Boal, Lagana** \$17.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stories to celebrate the spirit of courage, caring and community
- Chicken Soup for the Prisoner's Soul -Canfield, Hensen, Lagana** \$17.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Recommended for offender's families and friends:**

- What Is Jail, Mommy? - Jackie A. Stanglin** \$12.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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** \$12.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- Family Arrested: How to Survive the Incarceration of a Loved One - Ann Edenfiel** \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ann Edenfield is Executive Director of Wings Ministry, a ministry to families of inmates.
- Audio tape book also available** \$22.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- An Inmate's Daughter - Jan Walker** \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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

**Recommended for offenders:**

- Behind The Walls A Guide For Families and Friends of Texas Prison Inmates-J. A. Renaud** \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 A practical guide for inmates' families, and new inmates, to understand the system.
- A Map Through the Maze - Rollo, Adams** \$12.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Overview of the correctional experience of offenders and their families
- Man, I Need a Job- Ned Rollo** \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Provides offenders the insights and skills they need to find and keep a job following release
- 99 Days and a Get Up - Ned Rollo** \$12.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 A guide to success following release for inmates and their loved ones.
- Life Without A Crutch - Ingraham, Bell, Rollo** \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 An introduction to recovery form 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Regional News by Richard Blake

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By: Richard R. Blake

## **Complications Arising from Early Release of Prisoners**

Inmate overcrowding, increased drug laws, stricter sentencing legislation, and the budget crunch experienced since the economic crisis of 2008 have created early release programs in state prisons and country jails around the nation.

Current projections indicate that by 2011 the U.S. prison population will increase by another 13%. Statistics indicate that prison population has quintupled over the last thirty years, this during a time when there has been a reduction in violent crime for three straight years. California and Michigan led the way in prisoner reductions over the last two years.

While parolees are seeking second chances through education and reentry programs, California, Illinois, and Michigan parole boards are meeting with criticism for releasing prisoners under their states early release programs. Three individual incidences have been in the headlines. Parole violations and subsequent violent crime committed by these offenders are being highly publicized. Hundreds of other model prisoners are now in jeopardy of early release and millions of dollars continue to drain state and local governments as long over due prison policy and programs are not resolved. Addiction treatment, crime reduction, families of prisoners and mandatory sentences are all important issues that must be addressed in any reform measures being considered.

## **The U.S. Supreme Court Will Consider California's Suit Against a Lower Court's Order**

The U. S. Supreme court has agreed to make a decision on whether federal judges had the authority to force California to lower its prison population by 40,000 to reduce overcrowding and to improve health care of prisoners. This decision delays action on the required reduction while the Supreme Court considers the case.

## **Impact of Immigration Law Creates a Challenge for Arizona Jails**

New immigration laws have put a stress on Arizona officials. Under the new law people without immigration documents can be arrested on misdemeanor charges. The charge may include twenty days in jail and a \$100 fine. The cost of this twenty day detainment to the arresting agency is estimated to be about \$1,600 for each person arrested. State Treasurer, Dean Martin, is calling for tent cities across the state to house these detained illegal immigrants.

## **Michigan is Actively Seeking Proactive Ways to Reduce Crime and Recidivism Throughout the State**

At a time when Berrien County Sheriff, Paul Bailey is calling for a timetable for a \$ 3.9 million plan to expand the prisoner receiving and booking area of Berrien' county jail in St. Joseph plans are also being made to expand the "Fresh Start Prevention Program" to include male inmates. This is a reentry program to help inmates adjust as they reenter the community to reduce recidivism.

In Van Buren County Sheriff Dale Gribler is coaching the Lawrence High school varsity baseball team. By teaching good citizenship and providing this example of leadership Gribler is establishing a unilateral bridge to forming a better working environment between the community and the law enforcement officers serving them.

Benton Harbor Police Chief Roger Lange is using another tool to establish a rapport between his officers and the community. Surveys have been sent to Benton Harbor residents who have requested help from the people to evaluate their experience with the way representatives of the police force solved their issues. Personnel are graded on courteousness, helpfulness, professionalism, and respect as well as response time and their overall experience. Additional police patrols are being added to help keep peace during the hot summer months in a proactive measure to provide visibility in attempt to reduce street crime.

## **Minnesota Correctional Facility-Faribault**

Readers of this column will be interested to learn of a recent report telling of a unique

*continued on page 17*

# Reversing incarceration trends: A national perspective

Grits for Breakfast

March 17, 2010

A reversal of trends in Texas, reports the Pew Center on the States (<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/pew-survey-shows-state-prison-population-dropped-in-2009-88170882.html>), contributed to the first recorded decline in the national prison population since *The Godfather* won Oscar for best picture. Here's why:

**Texas:** In January 2007, Texas faced a projected prison population increase of up to 17,000 inmates in just five years. Rather than spend nearly \$2 billion on new prison construction and operations to accommodate this growth, policy makers reinvested a fraction of this amount (\$241 million) in a network of residential and community-based treatment and diversion programs. This has greatly expanded sentencing options for new offenses and sanctioning options for probation violators. Texas also increased its parole grant rate and shortened probation terms. As a result, this strong law-and-order state not only averted the large new prison expenditures but reduced its overall prison population as crime rates declined in the state.

Nationally, this was the first time the overall prison population declined since 1972, when there were only 174,379 prisoners in the country, by Pew's count. By contrast, today Texas alone has 155,000 or so locked up in prison and another 70,000+ in county jails. However:

For the first time in nearly 40 years, the number of state prisoners in the United States has declined, according to *Prison Count 2010*, a new survey by the Pew Center on the States.

As of January 1, 2010, there were 1,403,091 persons under the jurisdiction of state prison authorities, 5,739 (0.4 percent) less than on December 31, 2008. This marks the first year-to-year drop in the nation's state prison population since 1972.

While the overall state prison population dropped, the Pew survey revealed great variation among the states. The population declined in 27 states, with some posting substantial reductions. At the same time, the number of prisoners continued to grow in the other 23 states, several with significant increases.

"After so many years on the rise, any size drop is notable. What's really striking is the tremendous variation among the states," said Adam Gelb, director, Public Safety Performance Project of the Pew Center on the States. "These numbers highlight just how much the decisions by state policy makers impact the size and cost of prison systems."

In absolute numbers, California's state inmate count fell the most, shedding 4,257 prisoners in 2009. This follows a decline of 612 prisoners in 2008. Five other states experienced total reductions of more than 1,000 prisoners: Michigan (3,260), New York (1,699), Maryland (1,315), Texas (1,257) and Mississippi (1,233).

"The decline is happening for several reasons, but an important contributor is that states began to realize there are research-based ways they can cut their prison populations while continuing to protect public safety," said Gelb. "In the past few years, several states have enacted reforms designed to get taxpayers a better return on their public safety dollars."

Some states, however, are going even further:

In proportional terms, the steepest decline occurred in Rhode Island, where the prison population tumbled 9.2 percent. Other states with substantial declines included Michigan (6.7 percent), New Hampshire (6.0 percent), Maryland (5.6 percent) and Mississippi (5.4 percent). Michigan's contraction follows a three percent drop during 2008.

These data further fuel my belief that Texas could safely reduce its prison population even more aggressively, continuing the welcome reversal of this ignominious, intractable trend.

**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.**

# Calendar of Restorative Justice Events

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## July 25-28, 2010

**OUT4LIFE - Richmond, VA**

<http://www.out4life.com/virginia2010>

## August 2— 6, 2010

**Straight Ahead Ministries—Quincy, MA**

<http://www.straightahead.org>

## August 18—20, 2010

**Coalition of Prison Evangelists COPE - Keizer, OR**

<http://copeconnections.org/html/event.php?id=143>

## August 28, 2010

**RJMN Texas — San Antonio, TX**

<http://rjmntexas.net/SAAug2010.pdf>

## October 6—8, 2010

**Coalition of Prison Evangelists COPE - Warrenton, MI**

<http://copeconnections.org/html/event.php?id=134>

## October 7—10, 2010

**Christian Association for Prison Aftercare (CAPA) - Milwaukee, WI**

<http://www.capaassociation.org/>

## October 9, 2010

**RJMN Texas —Georgetown, TX**

Contact arparrish@sbcglobal.net for details

## October 15—16, 2010

**Global Voices Summit –Austin, TX**

<http://www.globalwomengo.org>

*Would you like to place your restorative justice event on the Events Calendar?*

Send information to :

**R.J.NEWS@restorativejusticenew.net**

Include the following information:

- **Date(s) of event**
- **Location**
- **Sponsor**
- **Contact information**

## In Juvenile Justice, less is often more

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By Marc Levin

Texas has made remarkable progress in lowering juvenile crime while reducing costs. Policymakers can build on these gains for public safety and taxpayers by continuing to strengthen community-based programs that hold juveniles accountable through proven supervision and treatment strategies, ensuring that the most costly destination for Texas youths is truly the last resort.

## Study claims reducing MI inmate count has not affected public safety

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Grand Rapids Press—As Michigan state lawmakers decide whether to reinstate “good-time” credits for prisoners, studies by a national organization show the state has lowered its prison population while maintaining public safety.

“More recent efforts by managers at the Michigan Department of Corrections are helping to reduce prison admissions, increase parole release, and provide a statewide re-entry initiative to increase parole success and avoid returning people to prison,” a report said.

The studies, released by Justice Strategies and The Sentencing Project, said Michigan, Kansas, New Jersey and New York have reduced their prison population by 5 to 20 percent since 1999, without showing increases in crime.

# Good advice on managing volunteers

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By Lucy Smith  
HOPE Literacy

I am extremely “picky” about who volunteers with HOPE Literacy. We have claimed Dawson State Jail for Jesus Christ, and ever since, more volunteers have been added to the HOPE roster. God is bringing them.

I recommend that ministries claim the entire prisons they are serving in for Jesus Christ (staff and offenders). God will open these doors. The next level is...select the cream of the crop, and harvest the rest. . .be sure to weed out those that have their own “agenda.” Prison ministry is hard enough without having to watch every move a volunteer makes. Those who won’t follow rules. . .simply have to find another place to serve. I do a one-time visit for “newbies”. . .those who stand with their arms folded and are afraid to interact, I rule out. Those that catch God’s vision are the only ones I’m looking for. This has worked for 13years with HOPE. Often ministries take anyone because they are worn out doing all the work. Never a good plan. It’s MORE WORK!

## Greg Wilhoit: The story of an innocent man

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*continued from page 1*

Though exonerated the state of Oklahoma has refused to compensate Greg for the five years he spent on death row. However, there was an encouraging update about his case in an Oklahoma newspaper at the end of 2009.

The Oklahoma Supreme Court agrees that Wilhoit 's case has merit as he and his family have pressed on seeking compensation for his years of incarceration. However, Greg Wilhoit will need a pardon from the Governor for a crime he did not commit in order to be eligible for state compensation under a state law passed in 2003. This link to the Oklahoma paper explains this tortured reasoning ([http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_qn4182/is\\_20091112/ai\\_n42084714/](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qn4182/is_20091112/ai_n42084714/)).

**Though exonerated the state of Oklahoma has refused to compensate Greg for the five years he spent on death row.**

**The Innocence Project report states that 23 states in the U. S. do not offer any compensation to the exonerated.**

The facts are bleak for the wrongfully convicted nationwide in the U.S. According to the Innocence Project, a U.S. based nonprofit that works to free innocent men and women from prison, of the 240 people (to date) exonerated through DNA testing nationwide 40% have received no form of assistance after their release. (December 2009 Innocent Project report) The report states that 23 states in the U.S. do not offer any compensation to the exonerated. This would be the case of Greg Wilhoit.

Today Greg Wilhoit is in a California hospital struggling for his life. He has battled many things since 1993 including being hit by a car as he rode his bicycle in the summer of 2009. Will another miracle save him? I pray for that miracle as do all his many friends around the country, many exonerates themselves but many advocates for systemic justice reform. But as prayers are needed for Greg there is also a cry for justice for him and others like him who deserve compensation for crimes they never committed. They also need services to help them get back on their feet once released. Not surprisingly, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is common among this growing group of exonerates. Fair compensation for the years lost plus other assistance as needed (e.g. counseling, drug and alcohol treatment, and other re-entry services) must be provided. It is the least we can do as a civil society. Then, God willing, we will learn that convicting an innocent man to prison has its consequences.

In a system of justice based on restorative justice principles offenders are held accountable for their actions. Victims, or victims' family members and communities, are restored as much as possible. In the cases of those wrongfully convicted what happens to the victim (or the victim's family) when an innocent man is convicted? Where is the real offender? Justice has been denied and denied twice. In addition, who holds the prosecuting attorney, and the legal system, accountable after an innocent man is exonerated? I believe that is the role of a society that believes that justice is achievable. Real justice should not be denied any human being.

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*

**1,2,3,4,5,6,7 Restorative Justice Outreach Ministries**  
Rev Larry Dewolf  
Box 55  
Drumheller  
Alberta TOJ OYO  
403-823-4736  
403-823-5995 Fax

**1,2,3,6,7,9 Bridges to New Life Society**  
Rob Baskin  
15654 Oyama Rd  
Lake Country  
BC V4V 2E1  
1-866-548-9242  
1-250-548-9271 Fax  
hope@bridgestnl.org  
www.bridgestnl.org

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

*\*SCOTLAND*

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

*ALABAMA*

**7 Mothers Against Methamphetamine**  
Director  
PO Box 8  
Arab 35016-0008  
256-498-6262  
256-498-6263 Fax  
Office@mamasite.net  
www.mamasite.net

*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  
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Castro Valley 94546-0514  
510-881-1178  
510-881-8043 Fax  
Fumi2000@msn.com  
www.followupministries.org

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**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

**1,2,4,6,7,8,10 Set My Way Free**  
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Jacksonville 32202  
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904-355-4195 FAX  
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http://setmywayfreeministries.giving.  
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www.matthew25ministries.org

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407-657-1828  
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mgriffin@kairoshorizon.org  
www.kairospisonministry.org

*ILLINOIS*

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

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www.wingsofhopeprisonministry.org

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**7,10 ECS Ministries**  
Alan Stoltz  
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563-585-1660 Fax  
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*MASSACHUSETTS*

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toms@bridgehouseneam.org  
www.bridgehouseneam.org  
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jeans@bridgehouseneam.org

**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**  
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MissionGateMinistry@msn.com  
www.MissionGateMinistry.org

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Al Hanson Prison Ministry**  
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alhanson@ylm.org  
http://www.ylm.org/prisonministry

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www.releasedandrestored.org

## NEW MEXICO

**6** **Wings Ministry**  
Ann Edenfield Sweet  
2270 D Wyoming Blvd. NE #130  
Albuquerque 87112  
505-291-6412  
505-291-6418 **FAX**  
AnnEdenfield@WingsMinistry.org  
www.WingsMinistry.org

## 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

**1,2,3,5,7,9,10** **Ruff Edge Ministries**  
Rev Frank Brickman  
231 Northpoint Ave #K  
High Point 27262-1018  
336-841-5869  
ruffedgemistry@hotmail.com

## OHIO

**1,7** **Restorative Justice Ministries 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  
odelljrg@aol.com

**1,2,5,9,10** **Casa Recovery Ministry/  
New Starts Prison Ministry**  
Rev Ricky Thompson  
PO Box 19352  
Oklahoma City 73144-0352  
405-420-3192  
Revrick73010@aol.com

**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

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

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> St  
Emporium 15834  
nppm4him@cameroncounty.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

## 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

**1,7,9,10** **Justice Ministries/  
Prison Evangelism Outreach**  
Sid Taylor  
PO Box 3353  
Pawleys Island 29585-3353  
843-558-2350  
www.justiceministries.com

## SOUTH DAKOTA

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

**6** **Family Connection/Children's  
Connection**  
Dawn Brenda  
303 N Minnesota Ave  
Sioux Falls 57104-6012  
605-357-0777  
605-357-0780 **Fax**  
familyconnect@hotmail.com

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\*7=Resources for other RJMs \*8=Residential Aftercare \*9=Jails \*10=By Mail

<b>1,2</b>	<b>Prison Congregation of America Inc</b> Ed Nesselhuf PO Box 415 Vermillion 57069-0415 605-624-8330 605-624-3123 Fax Pastored@iw.net www.Prisoncongregations.org	<b>1</b>	<b>St Theresa Catholic Church Prison Ministry</b> Rev. Justin Udomah 4311 Small Dr Austin 78731 512-451-5121 frjustin@sttaustin.org	<b>1,3,4</b>	<b>International Institute of Faith Based Counseling</b> Debbie Marcantel PO Box 20723 Beaumont 77720 409-832-9060 409-832-7224 FAX info@iifbc.com www.iifbc.com
<i>TEXAS</i>		<b>3</b>	<b>Victim Services Division-TDCJ</b> Angie McCown, Director PO Box 13401 Austin 78711-3401 800-848-4284 512-406-5417 Fax	<b>6</b>	<b>Shepherd's Inn Gaspard Center</b> Mary Green PO Box 20618 Beaumont 77703-4921 409-898-8797 409-892-9534 Fax mary@gtba.org www.gtba.org
<b>6</b>	<b>Eunice Chambless Hospitality House</b> Billy Wilson 13378 Fm 3522 Abilene 79601-8770 325-548-2180 325-675-5414 Fax echhdir@netscape.com	<b>,3,5,8,9</b>	<b>Wheless Lane Christian Brothers Restorative Ministry</b> Robert Mitchell/Robert Sephus 2702 Wheless Ln Austin 78723 512-926-2988 c-mitchell@webtv.net www.whelesscoc.org	<b>3,4,5,6,7,9,10</b>	<b>J.A.I.L. Ministry Inc</b> Steve Cannon PO Box 634 Belton 76513-0634 254-933-8506 254-933-7569 Fax jailmin@vvm.com
<b>1,2</b>	<b>TAX - Abilene</b> Corrine Hansen 2657 Rountree Dr Abilene 79601-2034 325-676-5741 jtaxloop@taylortel.net	<b>6</b>	<b>Christian Life Crisis Intervention</b> Dion Ainsworth PO Box 7728 Beaumont 77726-7728 409-736-3980 409-736-3983 Fax dion@gtba.org www.gtba.org	<b>2</b>	<b>Manasseh Ministries</b> Muriel C. Roger 6705 FM 279 Ben Wheeler 75754-5205 903-852-4402 manassehministries7@juno.com
<b>1</b>	<b>Good Hope Prison Ministries The God of Hope Ministries</b> Robert Dorrrough 4220 Monterey Oaks Blvd Austin 78749 512-891-1649 rdorrrough@TheGodofHope.org  Linda Dueker—Women's Director ldueker@TheGodofHope.org	<b>2,3</b>	<b>Compassion Christian Counseling</b> Vande Derrick 1297B Calder Beaumont 77701 409-832-5772 409832-7224 Fax	<b>1</b>	<b>Holy Ground Prison Ministry</b> Johnny T Horan PO Box 2526 Brenham 77833 979-836-6328 daphne@gcfchurch.us
<b>1,6,7,9,10</b>	<b>Light for New Life Min Inc</b> Rev Don Domeracki PO Box 170501 Arlington 76003-0501 817-516-0406 skyking273@sbcglobal.net www.lightfornewlifeministries.org	<b>1,2,3,6,7,9,10</b>	<b>Diocese of Beaumont Criminal Justice Ministry</b> Deacon Harry Davis PO Box 3948 Beaumont 77704-3948 409-838-0451 409-838-4511 Fax hdavis@dioceseofbeaumont.org www.dioceseofbmt.org	<b>1,2,7,9</b>	<b>Operation Rebound</b> John W Harrington 801 Delaware Dr Bridge City 77611-2423 409-738-3800 jharrington003@gt.rr.com
<b>2, 8</b>	<b>Network for Life of Austin Inc</b> Cheryl R Selby 2101 E Ben White Blvd #104 Austin 78741 512-707-7161 512-707-7116 FAX office@networkforlife.org www.networkforlife.org	<b>1 2 3 5 7</b>	<b>God's Friends Ministries Inc</b> Jack McClelland PO Box 5421 Beaumont 77726 409-988-3865 GodsFriend@gt.rr.com	<b>2,3,6,7,9</b>	<b>Young Adults Healed</b> John W. Harrington 801 Delaware Dr Bridge City 77611-2423 jharrington003@gt.rr.com
<b>1,2,4,6,8,10</b>	<b>Restorative Christian Outreach Min.</b> Mack Bailey 7506 Ed Bluestein Blvd Austin 78723 512-926-2431 midway3060@yahoo.com	<b>1 6</b>	<b>Golden Triangle Baptist Assoc.</b> Dion Ainsworth PO Box 7728 Beaumont 77726 409-898-8797 dion@gtba.org www.gtba.org	<b>1,2,8 (F),9</b>	<b>New Beginnings / TAX Bryan &amp; College Station</b> Pat Howard PO Box 3785 Bryan 77805 979-219-0671 979-361-4291 Fax phoward@co.brazos.tx.us

<b>1</b>	<b>St John Baptist Church</b> Rev R Michael Stromille 1508 S Broadway Dr Carrollton 75006 972-242-9194 SJBC@saintjohnncarrollton.com www.saintjohnncarrollton.com	<b>1,7</b>	<b>Inmate Discipler Fellowship/TX Baptist Men</b> Mark Hollis 5351 Catron Drive Dallas 75227-9927 214-828-5347 Mark.hollis@texasbaptistmen.org www.inmatedisciplerfellowship.org	<b>7</b>	<b>C O P E</b> Fauhn Schierer 1001 W Euleess Blvd Ste 212 Euleess 76040-5032 817-684-7870 817-684-7876 <b>Fax</b> office@copeministries.org www.copeministries.org
<b>1,9,10</b>	<b>Redeemed Ministries</b> Betty G Oates PO Box 891 Chico 76431-0891 940-644-5237 940-644-2982 <b>Fax</b> RedeemedMinistry@hotmail.com	<b>5</b>	<b>Juvenile Justice Ministries Network of TX</b> Weldon Fox PO Box 765156 Dallas 75376-5156 214-696-7834 info@jjmnt.org www.jjmnt.org	<b>2,6,7,9</b>	<b>Mercy Heart</b> Roger Hollar 4805 NE Loop 820 Fort Worth 76137 817-838-7534 817-281-7413 <b>Fax</b> roger@mercyheart.org http://prisonministry.net/mh
<b>1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10</b>	<b>Newlife Behavior Ministries</b> Buck Griffith 3833 S Staples Ste S-101 Corpus Christi 78472-2188 361-855-3372 361-855-7469 <b>Fax</b> nlbcasa@yahoo.com www.nlbm.org	<b>1,2,3,9</b>	<b>R O D Ministries</b> Dale Truitt PO Box 710385 Dallas 75371-0385 214-827-8555 214-824-5355 <b>Fax</b> ddtruitt@hotmail.com www.rodministries.org	<b>1,6,7</b>	<b>Parents and Children Together (PACT)</b> Rev Suzanne Boeglin 2836 Hemphill St Fort Worth 76110-3214 817-924-7776 pact1924@sbcglobal.net
<b>1,9</b>	<b>Prayer-Life Seminars Inc</b> Hugh White 630 Meadowbrook Dr Corpus Christi 78412-3019 361-993-7651 361-985-8615 <b>Fax</b> hughwhite@aol.com www.prayer-lifeseminars.org	<b>1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10</b>	<b>St Francis Anglican Church</b> Fr William Conner PO Box 140182 Dallas, 75201 972-900-7298 frwilliam@catholic.org www.angelfire.com/tx5/holycross	<b>7</b>	<b>World Bible Translation Center</b> Glenn Peden 4028 Daley Ave Fort Worth 76180-8600 817-595-1664 817-589-7013 <b>Fax</b> glenn@wbtc.com www.wbtc.org
<b>1,7,9</b>	<b>Care Center Ministries</b> Mel Gipson PO Box 171059 Dallas 75217 214-824-9852 214-824-3499 pastormelvin@yahoo.com	<b>1,3,6,7,9,10</b>	<b>Texas Baptist Men</b> Don Gibson 5351 Catron Dr Dallas 75227-9927 214-828-5353 214-232-1856 Don.gibson@texasbaptistmen.org www.texasbaptistmen.org	<b>10</b>	<b>Write-way Prison Ministries Inc</b> Ralph Nichols PO Box 461582 Garland 75046-1582 972-840-9798 972-864-9692 <b>Fax</b> writewaypm@juno.com
<b>1</b>	<b>Christian Fellowship Enrichment</b> Jim Lang PO Box 700023 Dallas TX 75370 972-283-7871 jimlang41@aol.com	<b>1,7,8,9,10</b>	<b>The Salvation Army</b> James Guerra 6500 Harry Hines Blvd Dallas 75235 214-956-6276 214-956-6059 <b>Fax</b> james_guerra@uss.salvationarmy.org www.salvationarmytexas.org	<b>1,2,4,6,7,8(F),9,10</b>	<b>Cross Prison Ministries Inc</b> Carole Ross PO Box 412 Gatesville 76528-0412 254-865-5163 crossprisonministry@earthlink.net www.liferow.org
<b>1,2,4,5,7,9,10</b>	<b>First Baptist Dallas Prison Min.</b> Jerry Bedison 1707 San Jacinto St Dallas 75201 214-969-7746 214-969-7720 <b>Fax</b> jbedison@firstdallas.org www.firstdallas.org	<b>1,2,3,5,9,10</b>	<b>Walking Through the Light Prison Ministry, Inc.</b> Eleuterio Z Adame PO Box 4761 Dallas 75208-0761 972-365-5103	<b>1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10</b>	<b>Morning Star Jail/Prison Ministry</b> Rev Robert L Buchanan 2251 El Paso Grand Prairie 75051 972-647-1445 setatliberty1@aol.com www.morningstar-baptist.org
<b>1,7,9,10</b>	<b>Freedom Outreach Ministries</b> Mel Gipson PO Box 180941 Dallas 75218 214-325-9583 214-824-3499 <b>Fax</b> pastormelvin@yahoo.com	<b>5,6,</b>	<b>Air Chapel</b> Terry Dyer 320 King Ave Denison 75020 903-786-5899 tdyer@mail.airchapel.org www.airchapel.org	<b>10</b>	<b>Encouraging Word Ministries</b> Margaret Hackler PO Box 5148 Gun Barrel City 75147

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<b>1,2,3,5,6,7,9,10</b>	<b>C O O L Ministries Inc</b> Boyd Harrell 5005 West 34th Street, St 130C Houston 77092 866-992-2665 713-956-0355 <b>Fax</b> we.cool@cfaith.com www.coolministries.net	<b>1,2,3,5,7,9,10</b>	<b>Restored to Christ</b> Harold Travis 14147 Ivy Bluff Ct Houston 77062 281-488-5110 281-488-8218 <b>Fax</b> harold@clearlakemethodist.org	<b>1,2,3</b>	<b>Episcopal Diocese of TX RJM</b> Edwin Davis 2003 Avenue P Huntsville 77340-5029 936-291-3153 edsalpc@yahoo.com
<b>1,9</b>	<b>Crossover USA</b> Gary R Nichols 911 Westmont Houston 77015 713-545-7991 713-455-7060 <b>Fax</b> gnichols@crossoverusa.com	<b>1,3,4,6,9,10</b>	<b>Servants of Christ Prison Ministry</b> Sibble Knight PO Box 111275 Houston 77293-0275 281-449-2703	<b>1,2</b>	<b>Faith Temple Holiness Church of God in Christ</b> 2614 Montgomery Rd Huntsville 77340 936-438-8750
<b>1,3,4,5,8,9,10</b>	<b>Epiphany Ministries of Texas</b> Chuck Talbot PO Box 590578 Houston 77259 chucktal@msn.com www.texasepiphany.com	<b>1</b>	<b>Skills for Life Inc</b> James Lynn Arnold PO Box 38553 Suite 113 Houston 77238 281-733-1223 281-447-1784 <b>Fax</b> arnojl@msn.com	<b>1,2,3,</b>	<b>First Baptist Church First Contact Family Ministry</b> 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340-4698 936-291-3441 www.fbchuntsville.org
<b>5,7,10</b>	<b>Initiatives for America's Youth</b> Boone Vastine 15153 Kimberley Ct Houston 77079-5130 281-493-4556 layjjm@aol.com	<b>2</b>	<b>Spirit Key Inc</b> Allen Rice 13617 Kaltenbrun RD Houston 77086 281-813-0093 arice3@ev1.net www.spiritkey.org	<b>1,2,4</b>	<b>First Baptist Church Welcome Back Ministry</b> 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340-4698 936-291-3441 www.fbchuntsville.org
<b>9</b>	<b>Jail Chaplaincy Ministry</b> Freddie Wier PO Box 30262 Houston 77249-0262 713-569-2929	<b>2</b>	<b>UMC TX Conference Restorative Justice Ministries</b> Allen Rice 13617 Kaltenbrun RD Houston 77086 281-813-0093 www.spiritkey.org	<b>6</b>	<b>Hospitality House</b> 912 10th St Huntsville 77320-3937 936-291-6196 www.thehospitalityhouse.org
<b>1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10</b>	<b>Morning Star Baptist Church</b> 5110 Crane ST Houston 77026-3908 713-674-7170	<b>2</b>	<b>Covenant Fellowship</b> Rev David Valentine PO Box 10769 Huntsville 77340 936-435-0993 dbhvalentine@suddenlink.net www.cfhuntsville.org	<b>7</b>	<b>Restorative Justice Ministries Network</b> 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
<b>6</b>	<b>Newgate Connection</b> Wesley Stevens PO Box 96333 Houston 77213-9633 281-452-2352 wfstevens@pdq.net	<b>1,2,6</b>	<b>Director of Chaplaincy Support</b> 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	<b>2,6,7</b>	Bill Kleiber 800-998-3004 kleiber@sbcglobal.net www.thewelcomeback.org
<b>1,2,5,7,8</b>	<b>Newgate UMC/Onesimus Journey</b> Rev. Marvin Hood 3827 Broadway @I-45S Houston 77017 832-567-0758 marvelous272003@yahoo.com	<b>1</b>	<b>Elkins Lake Baptist Church</b> Rev Ken Huggins 206 State Highway 19 Huntsville 77340-7152 936-295-7694 936-295-3388 <b>Fax</b> www.elbc.org	<b>1</b>	<b>TDCJ Chaplaincy Operations</b> Bill Pierce, Director 1060 State Hwy 190 E Huntsville 77340 936-437-4975 936-437-4988 <b>Fax</b> billy.pierce@tdcj.state.tx.us www.tdcj.state.tx.us
<b>1,7,9</b>	<b>Oil of Joy for Mourning</b> Rev Rhonda Arias PO Box 720768 Houston 77272-0768 713-419-1214 oilofjoy@sbcglobal.net www.ojfm.org	<b>1</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>TDCJ Victim Services</b> Jim Brazzil PO Box 949 Huntsville 77432 936-437-4941 jim.brazzil@tdcj.state.tx.us

<b>1,7</b>	<b>The Old Time Religion Hour Inc</b> Rev George Lupo PO Box 1225 Huntsville 73342 936-293-8000	<b>2,6</b>	<b>Encompassing Reentry Ministries Outreach</b> John Cook PO Box 851587 Mesquite 75185-1587 jcook@encompassingreentry.org http://prisonministry.net/ermo	<b>1,2,3,6,7,10</b>	<b>Operation Oasis</b> Michael Lee 302 Centennial Blvd Richardson 75081-5057 972-437-3801 972-437-3139 <b>Fax</b> mlee@operation-oasis.org www.operation-oasis.org
<b>1,5</b>	<b>University Heights Baptist Church</b> Bro Richard Rogers 2400 Sycamore Ave Huntsville 77340-6120 936-295-2996 office@uhbc.net www.uhbc.net	<b>3</b>	<b>Hope For Healing Ministries Inc</b> Susan Edwards PO Box 9331 Midland 79708 214-477-2610 sedwards@hopeforhealingministries.org www.hopeforhealingministries.org	<b>1,2,4,7</b>	<b>Worldwide Voice in the Wilderness</b> Johnny Moffitt 1221 Abrams Rd Ste 250 Richardson 75081-5580 972-234-6009 972-234-6050 <b>Fax</b> johnnymoffitt@sbcglobal.net
<b>2,5</b>	<b>Winner's Circle Juvenile Program</b> Kent Lucas 550 Elkins Lake Huntsville 77340 936-436-9467 winnerscircletxas@sbcglobal.net	<b>5,7</b>	<b>LifeChange Mentoring</b> Shirley Orr Smith PO Box 9535 Midland 79708-9535 sos@lifechangementoring.org www.lifechangementoring.org	<b>2</b>	<b>One Man's Treasure</b> Mary Carter 519 E I-30 #211 Rockwall 75087 888-433-9826 onemanstr@yahoo.com
<b>1,6,7</b>	<b>Prison Fellowship Ministries</b> Kelly Purselley PO Box 54987 Hurst 76054 Kelly_purselley@pfm.org www.prisonfellowship.org	<b>10</b>	<b>OpenArms Ministry</b> Diana B Moore PO Box 1808 Mission 78573-0031 956-445-2333 956-585-3113 <b>FAX</b> mrst24dbt@aol.com	<b>1,2,7</b>	<b>Christian Restorative Justice Mentors Assoc</b> Murray Batt PO Box 131412 Spring 77393-1412 281-292-0442 murray@crjma.org www.crjma.org
<b>1,6,10</b>	<b>Texas HOPE Literacy Inc</b> Lucy Smith PO Box 905 Hurst 76053-0905 817-729-6567 817-207-9483 <b>Fax</b> lucysmith@hopelit.com www.hopelit.com	<b>1</b>	<b>P.T.C. Prison Ministry</b> Bobby Griffin PO box 633741 Nacogdoches 75963 936-559-0070 ptcm_griffith@hotmail.com	<b>1,10</b>	<b>Joy Prison Ministry</b> Ura White PO Box 7324 Spring 77387-7324 281-253-8342
<b>1</b>	<b>The Brotherhood of St Andrew</b> Oliver Osborn PO Box 537 Lake Jackson 77566-0537 979-297-6217 eosborn@brazosport.cc.tx.us	<b>1,2,5,8(M) 9,10</b>	<b>Freedom House Discipleship</b> Jami Butts 3542 Mercury Ave Odessa 79764 432-381-5453 freedomhouse@clearwire.net www.odessadreamcenter.com	<b>1,2</b>	<b>Trinity RJM</b> Galynn Ferris 3919 Snag Ln Spring 77388 281-352-3913 galynn@trinityrjm.com www.trinityrjmn.com
<b>1,2,3,7,8(B),9,10</b>	<b>Calvary Commission</b> Joe Fauss PO Box 100 Lindale 75771-0100 903-882-5501 903-882-7282 joefauss@calvarycommission.org www.calvarycommission.org	<b>1,2,4,6,9,10</b>	<b>Loops (Loved Ones of Prisoners)</b> Leland & Linda Maples PO Box 14953 Odessa 79768-4953 432-580-5667 432-580-8299 <b>Fax</b> leland@loopsministries.com www.loopsministries.com	<b>1</b>	<b>Accepting Grace Ministries Inc</b> Joe / Betty Waggoner PO Box 983 Stamford 79553-0983 325-773-2248 bettj@camalott.com
<b>10</b>	<b>Exodus Prison Ministry</b> Joyce Hargis PO Box 6363 Lubbock 79410 806-791-3673 806-780-0023 <b>Fax</b> joyce@exodusprisonministry.org www.exodusprisonministry.org	<b>1,2,3,4,8(B),9</b>	<b>Mike Hooker Ministries</b> Mike / Charlotte R Hooker PO Box 143 Queen City 75572-0143 903-796-5297 214-796-6592 <b>Fax</b>	<b>1,4,6</b>	<b>Houston Trinity Prison Ministry</b> Romeo Pena PO Box 1411 Sugar Land 77487-1411 713-906-3407 r.pena@ssss.com
<b>1,2,7,10</b>	<b>Freedom in Jesus Ministries</b> Don Castleberry PO Box 6525 Lubbock 79493-6525 806-897-0729 806-897-00730 <b>Fax</b> fijm@windstream.net	<b>1,5,7,9,1</b>	<b>From Pain to Joy Prison Ministries</b> Henry M Sorelle 14 Canyon Creek Vlg #44 Richardson 75080-1602 972-231-9606 972-392-0446	<b>1,9</b>	<b>Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry</b> Charles Sickles P.O. Box 1130 Sulphur Springs 75483-1130 903-885-1424 903-348-6415 fruitfulharvest@verizon.net

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**3,10 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

**2,3,6 7,10 Bridging The Gap Ministries**  
Deb Chachere  
PO Box 131747  
Tyler 75713-1747  
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Restorative Justice Ministries Network website [www.rjmn.net](http://www.rjmn.net)?  
Contact Anita Parrish at [arparrish@sbcglobal.net](mailto:arparrish@sbcglobal.net)**

## Evangelicals call for prison-rape reforms

*Continued from page 1*

Anderson and Director of Government Affairs Galen Carey wrote on May 10 to Attorney General Eric Holder that “those behind bars deserve the same protections against violence as those on the outside.”

The NAE pushed for the rape commission to adopt the standards from the 2003 act regardless of the government’s tight budget, suggesting that the reforms will reduce recidivism and lead to cost savings.

In 2003, the bill drew support from varied religious and advocacy groups including the Southern Baptist Convention, the Christian Coalition of America, the NAACP and Human Rights Watch.

Like the NAE, the Human Rights Watch’s Jamie Fellner reaffirmed the organization’s stance in a Jan. 5 letter to Attorney General Holder—saying that “tens of thousands of adults and juveniles are still sexually abused each year because officials have not instituted basic measures to protect them.”

According to the Department of Justice Web site, Holder appointed members to the review panel on Jan. 1 in order to assist the Bureau of Justice Statistics in identifying common characteristics of prison systems and prisoners involved in prison rape.

# New options for defendants with mental illness

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AUSTIN, May 3, 2010 –The Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense released a study today showing that criminal offenders with mental impairments who are treated for their illness instead of being jailed are less likely to commit crimes again for up to eighteen months. Moreover, offenders suffering from one of the three serious mental illnesses--major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia--were twice as likely to receive probation rather than jail time if represented by a mental health public defender, compared to other defendants with similar criminal and mental-health backgrounds.

The two-year study examined mental health courts and mental health public defender offices in three Texas counties: Tarrant, Dallas and Travis. These programs create means through which an arrest can be used to address therapeutic needs. From its findings the study concludes that these specialty interventions offer good alternatives to incarceration that save money and address fundamental problems leading to criminal behavior.

“It’s really a win-win for everyone involved,” said Jim Bethke, Task Force director. “The defendant gets linked in to the local treatment system and that reduces their chance of re-offending. The county ends up putting fewer people in jail, which saves money.”

Many repeat offenders suffer from mental illness. In many cases, the criminal behavior is more a symptom of the illness than an intention to do harm, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness and local criminal justice officials.

Mental-health public defenders are specialist attorneys who represent people with relatively complex criminal histories. Social workers assist the public defenders by helping clients stay mentally stable as they prepare for court and can supervise defendants’ compliance with court-ordered treatment.

Mental health courts are often created by a single judge and typically accept people who have committed relatively minor offenses. Offenders can have charges dismissed if they complete the treatment program recommended by the judge and a team that includes a defense attorney, prosecutor and case managers. Together mental health courts and mental health public defenders offer a continuum of resources capable of helping defendants treat the causes of their problems, rather than the criminality that is often symptomatic of larger issues. “People with mental illness are much more likely to have a publicly appointed lawyer,” said Sharon Keller, Presiding Judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and Indigent Defense Task Force Chair. “This is why we think it makes so much sense to develop specialized defense capacity. This study shows that specially trained defense attorneys get better results for clients with mental impairments.”

**The study found that both mental health courts and mental health public defenders change the way the criminal justice system thinks about people with special needs.**

The study found that both mental health courts and mental health public defenders change the way the criminal justice system thinks about people with special needs. Travis County’s misdemeanor Mental Health Public Defender’s Office offers training and makes social-work services available to private attorneys who represent indigent defendants with mental health problems. In Dallas County, the Public Defender’s Mental Health Unit serves as a resource to judges, private defense attorneys and other criminal-justice workers who encounter defendants with mental illness.

The research was funded in part by a grant from the State Justice Institute and conducted by the Public Policy Research Institute at Texas A&M University in collaboration with the National Center for State Courts and the Council of State Governments, Justice Center. The full report may be downloaded from the Task Force website at: <http://www.courts.state.tx.us/tfid/resourcesresearchstudies.asp>

# Virginia okays bill to let violent crime victims meet with death row inmates

Dena Potter, wtvr.com  
April, 27, 2010

Lorraine Whoberry tried for years to meet face-to-face with her daughter's killer before he was executed last month. She was repeatedly denied.

So the day after she witnessed his execution, Whoberry sat down with Gov. Bob McDonnell and asked for his help. A bill was making its way through the Virginia General Assembly that would allow victims of violent crime to meet with the perpetrators, but it excluded those on death row and juveniles.

McDonnell amended the bill to allow victims to meet with inmates on death row. On Wednesday, the General Assembly unanimously approved the change.

Although more than half of the states have victim-offender mediation programs, advocates said Virginia would be one of the first to cement it in state law. Virginia also becomes one of only a handful that allow meetings with death row inmates.

"Even though it's not going to affect us, at least we've got something done," Whoberry said when told about the change.

Even in states that offer victim-offender meetings, "there are a thousand bureaucratic road blocks put in the way," said Pat Nolan, vice president of Prison Fellowship, a national prison ministry.

"The system has a paternalistic view that they know better than the victim, they're trying to protect the victim," he said. "In most cases, the victims have great difficulty getting in to see the offenders."

And while many states allow the meetings only for nonviolent offenses, more are warming to the idea of letting victims of violent crimes visit with inmates, even on death row, said Lisa Rhea, a California restorative justice consultant and founder of The Justice and Reconciliation Project.

One reason, she said: More and more victims are demanding the right.

Currently, victims must request a meeting in writing, and requests are approved or rejected based on the type of crime committed, the inmate's behavior and security level, mental health issues and the reason for the visit. On average, the department receives 10 to 15 such requests a year, and half are approved.

But meetings with condemned inmates are forbidden.

That came as a shock to Whoberry when she was denied after her daughter's killer, Paul Warner Powell, agreed to meet with her. Powell attempted to rape her 16-year-old daughter, Stacie Reed, and then stabbed her when she fought him off in 1999. He waited for her 14-year-old sister to come home and then raped and stabbed her, but she lived.

"I was under the impression I had rights," she said. "But I keep finding out I don't. The offender has more rights than we do."

Powell's attorney, Jonathan Sheldon, tried to arrange a meeting, but also was denied. In the end — a day before Powell died by electrocution March 18 — Sheldon arranged to have Whoberry and her family come to his office and talk to Powell for more than two hours over the phone.

For Whoberry, "it brought that monster into being a human being," she said.

They talked about his newfound faith, his life in prison and how he dealt with what he had done. The family asked questions, and Whoberry said she left with a feeling of peace that had avoided her in the 11 years since her daughter Stacie's murder.

"As a victim and survivor there's things you want to say to them that only you can say to them, and they need to hear it," Whoberry said. "They need to hear it from you." The more serious or violent the crime, the more the victims benefit from meeting with the offender, Nolan said. Often, criminals take plea bargains. Even if they go to trial, victims often never really get their questions answered.

**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.**

# Democracy Toolkit introduction

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By Peter Wagner

When the Census counts prisoners as residents of the counties where they are incarcerated, counties with prisons look bigger than they actually are. Legislators see their political power enhanced when they're not actually representing more constituents: generally, prisoners can't vote and don't participate in the communities where they are incarcerated. When released, they immediately return to their previous homes. Many state constitutions therefore state that prison cannot qualify as a residence.

Two groups lose political power because of the Census methodology: the urban communities where the prisoners come from, and rural communities without prisons. When one district in a county takes up more than its fair share of political power, residents in other districts are underrepresented and the whole county's democracy is distorted, sometimes severely.

This manual is intended to help residents of rural communities with prisons determine whether including prisoners in the population base harms their access to government, to quantify that harm, and to advocate for a better democracy. The language in this manual is targeted at county legislatures, but it is also applicable to other forms of district-based government at the regional, county and local level including city councils and school boards.

The easiest way to find out if prison populations are included in county's legislative districts is *continued on page 21*

## Regional news

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*continued from page 4*

donation made by the Restorative Justice Committee at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Faribault, Minnesota to the Minnesota Safe & Sober Drivers and Parents of Murdered Children. \$ 2,500 gifts were given to each organization from funds collected through money raised from offenders.

### **Illinois Prison Work Crews Help Clean Up After Tornado Hits**

Illinois Department of Corrections prison work crews have been called on to help citizens hit hard by recent tornadoes in Dwight, Streator, Magnolia and Elmwood Counties. The Department of Corrections provide the manpower needed and the Illinois Department of Transportation provide the trucks to clean up and remove the debris in a team effort with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

### **Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) Midwest Region Conference**

This year's conference is being held July 9 - 11 and will be held at the Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago. Among the topics to be considered are the role of restorative justice in Disproportionate Minority Contact reduction, reforming Juvenile Justice from the inside-out, and adolescent brain development including the implications for Juvenile Justice policy and practice.

### **Follow Up Ministries International 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet Scheduled**

Glenn L. Morrison, President of Follow Up Ministries of Castro Valley, California announced plans for the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet of the FUMI ministry to be held on October 9. Alvin F. Worthley, former Assistant Administrator of Chaplaincy Services for the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Washing D. C. will be the keynote speaker. Worthley currently serves as Director of Chaplaincy Ministries and oversees the ministries of over 534 chaplains in various settings throughout the world. Chaplain Worthley states, "My goal is to place chaplains among people who do not have the conventional opportunities to attend church due to incarceration, employment or physical restrictions."



**Alvin F. Worthley**

# Maryland enacts law to count incarcerated people at their home addresses

By Peter Wagner

## First-in-nation law will improve fairness and accuracy of the Census data used for redistricting

April 13, 2010 – Today, Governor Martin O’Malley signed into law a bill ensuring that incarcerated persons will be counted as residents of their home addresses when new state and local legislative districts are drawn in Maryland. .

The U.S. Census counts incarcerated people as residents of the prison location. When state and local government bodies use Census counts to draw legislative districts, they unintentionally enhance the weight of a vote cast in districts that contain prisons at the expense of all other districts in the state. Maryland is the first state to pledge to collect the home addresses of incarcerated people and correct the data state-wide.

The new law will help Maryland correct past distortions in representation caused by counting incarcerated persons as residents of prisons, such as the following:

\* 18% of the population currently credited to House of Delegates District 2B (near Hagerstown) is actually incarcerated people from other parts of the state. In effect, by using uncorrected Census data to draw legislative districts, the legislature granted every group of 82 residents in this district as much political influence as 100 residents of every other district.

\* In Somerset County, a large prison is 64% of the 1st County Commission District, giving each resident in that district 2.7 times as much influence as residents in other districts. Even more troubling is that by including the prison population as “residents” in county districts, the county has been unable to draw an effective majority-African American district and has had no African- American elected to county government, despite settlement of a vote dilution lawsuit in the 1980s.

**In Somerset County, a large prison is 64% of the 1st County Commission District, giving each resident in that district 2.7 times as much influence as residents in other districts .**

The problem is national as well. One legislative district in New York includes 7% prisoners; a legislative district in Texas includes 12% prisoners; and 15% of one Montana district are prisoners imported from other parts of the state. Indeed, the 2010 Census will find five times as many people in prison as it did just three decades ago. To address this problem, eight other states have similar bills pending in the current session or being prepared for reintroduction in the next legislative session: Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin.

“The Maryland legislature has taken a much-needed step to ensure fairness in redistricting and reflect incarcerated populations in a more accurate way. Maryland’s action should pave the way for other states to end the distortions caused by counting incarcerated persons in the wrong place,” said Peter Wagner, Executive Director of the Prison Policy Initiative.

“Maryland’s ‘No Representation without Population’ Act will bring the state’s redistricting practices in line with the rules Maryland uses for determining legal residence of incarcerated persons for other purposes. We applaud this common-sense solution to a growing problem of fairness in representation,” said Brenda Wright, Director of the Democracy Program at Demos.

The legislation, passed as H.B. 496 and S.B.400 , applies only to redistricting and would not affect federal funding distributions.

The Prison Policy Initiative (PPI) and Demos have a national project to end prison-based gerrymandering, seeking to change how the U.S. Census counts incarcerated people and how states and local governments use prison counts when drawing districts. The two groups provided technical assistance to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Maryland and the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland who led this effort.

In addition, Mr. Wagner and Ms. Wright both testified in support of Maryland’s new law at legislative hearings this spring. Their testimony pointed out that HB496/SB400 has precedent in the practice of more than 100 rural counties around the country that currently revise the Census Bureau’s prison counts for internal districting purposes, and in the laws of states such as Kansas that adjust the Census for other purposes.

*continued on page 22*

# Poverty, lack of transportation cause probation revocation

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From Grits For Breakfast Blog  
Wednesday, April 21, 2010

A reader forwards this ruling (<http://www.2ndcoa.courts.state.tx.us/opinions/html/opinion.asp?OpinionId=21280>) from Texas Second Court of Appeals affirming a two-year sentence for a woman for violating her probation terms. What were the violations? She:

- \* failed to timely notify her probation officer of an address change
- \* failed to complete anger-control classes
- \* failed to attend the Personal Money Power Program, and
- \* failed to pay required fees

The circumstances around these violations, though, were poverty and a lack of transportation. According to the opinion:

She did not report to her probation officer one month and did not attend the Personal Money Power Program because she did not have transportation. She also said that she could not afford the anger-control classes. Soliz testified that she is responsible for seven children, six of her own children and one grandchild, and that she and the children live with her mother. Soliz explained that she works at a Days Inn and recently purchased a car for \$1,300. She said that the trial court had placed her on community supervision for the underlying offense because she had slapped her daughter after her daughter had called her a bitch.

Judge George Gallagher in the 396th District Court in Tarrant County determined she had violated her conditions of probation and sentenced Ms. Soliz to two years incarceration. The appellate court affirmed the decision, citing case law to the effect that "proof of any one violation is sufficient to support revocation order."

So now a mother of six who had a job, was paying taxes, and who had just purchased a car to solve her transportation issues, will have taxpayers foot the bill for her room and board for two years while the kids go to grandma or foster care. This arguably punishes her kids and her mother even more than her!

What's more, as the reader who pointed this out to me opined, "This has absolutely NOTHING to do with what this woman took the plea for! This has NOTHING to do with the crime she was charged with! Where is the public outrage on sending people to prison over being poor? Not owning a car?"

This case highlights how so much of the "strong probation" trend in Texas has been a function of Texas judges exercising discretion to use progressive sanctions instead of revoking offenders to prison over unpaid fees or missed meetings. But when there's no new crime, maybe some of that discretion should be reined in. There has to be some intermediate sanction short of prison available in such instances, and there has to be a way to get judges to use them.

## Senate Judiciary Committee approves Justice Reinvestment Bill

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*WASHINGTON*—The Senate Judiciary Committee on March 15, 2010 voted 15-4 to advance legislation that would help state and local governments reduce corrections spending and increase public safety.

*The Criminal Justice Reinvestment Act of 2009* will help state and local governments better address many states' top criminal justice challenges—corrections expenditures, probation and parole policies and data analysis for criminal justice systems. The bill would authorize the U.S. Attorney General to make grants to state and local governments and tribes to help jurisdictions analyze criminal justice trends to understand what is driving the growth in their local jail and prison populations and develop tailored policy options to reduce corrections expenditures and increase the effectiveness of current spending and reinvestment that can make communities safer.

For more information, visit [http://www.justicereinvestment.org/federal\\_legislation/](http://www.justicereinvestment.org/federal_legislation/).

# Dear Editor

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From Margie Blazier a volunteer with Bridges To Life:

Hi everyone, here's a letter a Bridges To Life (BTL) graduate sent to the Central Texas Regional Coordinator. I love these letters that tell how our efforts are not in vain. Gal. 6:9:

“Hey, just a much overdue update for you. As you might remember I was rear ended last February and after my neck surgery woke up paralyzed on my right side. And typed you a letter with my left hand only. (I am right handed) and things were not going well for me. Well on August 2nd I will have graduated from BTL 5 yrs ago. Now you also might remember that I also received a brain injury in that accident. I was told that I would never be allowed to work in my chosen field of trim carpentry. The old me would of went back to using and selling drugs to cope with that but the new BTL graduate chose to make wine out of my sour grapes so to speak. I am now in college taking classes to be a physical therapist assistant. I have exemptions I could use because of my accident. I took the options but informed my teachers that I will not use them unless I fall behind in class. I was scared. I'd hadn't been in school in over 30 years. My brain function is only slowed by reaction time my IQ is 118 it just takes me time to process info. I mean this part with all my heart I did not possess the strength to face this kind of pressure. That was the me before BTL. The me now uses the strength that the volunteers who shared their stories and taught me what being strong really means. I am passing in all of my classes even in the top 1% of a class. I have gotten back partial use of my right shoulder and over time might get most of it back. I don't cry over spoilt milk I try to make y'all proud. And by the way I continue to pay it forward by telling my story to the people at the Freeman center (drug rehab). I might of actually helped a few. But the strength I now possess is from y'all. God bless you and yes you can share this letter. “

Love, Mark from Waco.

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my total gratitude to Mr. Bill Kleiber and the staff at the RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MINISTRIES NETWORK.

Bill has been a true blessing. Facing the hurtles I was facing, I was sitting on the concrete ledge at the bus station wondering what I was going to do, when Bill came out of nowhere and started talking with me. In just moments I was saved from a long, and somewhat out of the way bus trip, which I was dreading. Bill was going my way, and the offer of a ride saved me hours literally. By bus I would not have arrived at my destination until 10pm. What luck, or was it ? I thought several times this is to good to be true. As time went by Bill never really left me alone, kept coming back to where I was sitting, and reassuring me that I was going to be alright. Just relax and go slow. That we would be leaving soon. That ride gave us a more personal time to talk. An offer of help which I never expected was truly overwhelming, and very thankful that GOD put Bill in my life. There has not been one discrepancy in anything Bill has said and has continued to help me still to this day. If you need help; it's there for you.

Dale  
Christians Against Substance Abuse Transitional Facility  
Conroe, Texas

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David Valentine, Pastor of Covenant Fellowship Church in Huntsville TX, who pioneered a Faith Based Dorm at the Wynne unit was asked by Warden Vernon Pittman to see if he could work with the men on a G4 wing. He began weekly visits. He instructed them on how to do "Life Change Groups." (Each man received a "Life Change Instruction Card.") That card encourages groups of 2 or 3 men to ask accountability questions and encourages Bible reading. It indeed did promote life change and many bought into the concept. Those men were allowed to live near to each other on one end of the row. That group grew and their behavior changed enough for many of them to promote out of that wing and classification to minimum custody.

Note from Executive Director: Hopefully other administrators will allow similar efforts.

# Democracy Toolkit introduction

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*continued from page 7*

to ask. If they are excluded, no harm has been done to your local democracy. You can **STOP** and just make sure your county does the same thing in the future. (If your county says that they "included the prisoners but ...." check some of the common explanations in the *District population deviations & split prisons* (<http://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/toolkit/deviations.html>).

This manual is written for people who know that prisoners are included in their county's legislative districts and want to calculate the harm done to their local democracy. Because of the complexity of this issue and the time that has passed since the most recent redistricting cycle, you can also use these instructions and tools -- although you may have to skip around -- to verify what you were told by the county legislature. Readers in this situation may find the *Determining whether prisoners were included or excluded from districts with known populations* helpful. (<http://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/toolkit/determining.html>)

The first section will cover some preliminary questions about the type of local government you have. This will determine how to measure the population distortion. Some kinds of local government will not be affected by prisoner miscount.

The second section of this manual will help you access and understand Census Bureau data on prison populations. We've developed an online tool that will help you identify the state and federal prisons in the Census Bureau data. This section will tell you which types of correctional facilities to include in your analysis and what to do about mistakes in the Census Bureau data. This will determine which prison populations are big enough to be significant in your county's population, and where the Census counted them. After getting this information, you will be able to work out which Census blocks in your county contain prisons.

The third section will help you determine which districts contain the Census blocks with the prisons. Then you will compare the number of actual residents in those districts with the number of prisoners, and determine whether political power in those districts has been distributed fairly. This will tell you how much your democracy has been affected by Census methodology.

**The fourth section will discuss your options for activism and advocacy**

The fourth section will discuss your options for activism and advocacy. Now that you know how much your local democracy has been affected, you can ask your leaders to redistrict so that everyone is represented fairly, and to make sure they do so after the next Census.

**This manual is written for people who know that prisoners are included in their county's legislative districts and want to calculate the harm done to their local democracy.**

## Acknowledgements

The creation of the Democracy Toolkit was supported by a grant from The After Prison Initiative of the Open Society Institute. Bill Cooper of FairData2000 generously provided us with the population and geographic coordinates of every census block with a correctional facility which constitutes the central piece of our Correctional Facility Locator. Tracy Huling, Dan Jenkins, Kelsey Kauffman and Greg Wright provided the critical inspiration to create a system that would allow rural residents to determine on their own -- without special software or training -- just how local democracy is distorted by the Census Bureau's inclusion of state and federal prisoners in rural county census blocks. The democracy toolkit has been in development for more than a year. We thank our interns, Arla Berman, JooHye DellaRocco, William Goldberg, Aleks Kajstura, Yugo Nakai, Meghan Peel, Justine Sheffler and Allison Tompkins for their hard work beta-testing earlier versions of the toolkit and Will Goldberg for his assistance improving the text.

See related article "Maryland enacts law to count incarcerated people at their home addresses" on page 18.

# Maryland enacts law to count incarcerated people at their home addresses

continued from page 18

The Prison Policy Initiative (PPI) and Demos long have advocated for the Census Bureau to change its practices so that incarcerated persons would be counted at their home residences on a nationwide basis. While it is too late for that change to be made for the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau's recent decision to accelerate the release of its prison count data so that states can more readily identify prison populations in the Census will be helpful to states such as Maryland that wish to make their own adjustments.

PPI and Demos applaud the lead sponsors of the legislation, Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk and Senator Catherine Pugh, who deserve special credit for their leadership on this issue. Although both represent legislative districts that contain large prison populations currently counted as part of their districts, both recognized that the issue of fairness and accuracy in statewide redistricting should take precedence over individual concerns. PPI and Demos are also encouraged by the bi-partisan support for the bill including that of Republican Senators J. Lowell Stoltzfus and Donald F. Munson.

Related articles on page 17 "Democracy Toolkit introduction".

## Big business 155,000 prisoners

Texas inmates collectively spend more than \$100 million per year at Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) commissaries. Nearly all that money comes from inmate families.

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

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The board of the non-profit corporation includes: Jerry Groom, Larry Frank, Ed Davis, Richard Lopez, Roger Hollar, Mark Hollis, Mark Pickett, and David Umfreville. 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](mailto:esolomon@rjmn.net). Articles are subject to space available.

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