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When the church stepped up!

By Emmett Solomon

I was never so proud to see the Church in action as I have been in the last six months. State governments are all in stress because of the great recession and now the federal government is cutting back on grants to the states.

All states are being required to cut back on expenditures. As they look at cutting criminal justice budgets, the temptation is to cut programming and keep their prison capacity high. One such program comes under scrutiny quickly by the budget cutters, Chaplaincy Services. In January the initial budget proposal by the Texas House of Representatives eliminated Chaplaincy Services as a line item. Zero funding for chaplains.

That served to activate the Church in Texas. Thousands of Texans contacted their legislators and statewide officials supporting state funded chaplains, pointing out that Texas has had State funded chaplains since 1888. At the Capitol, spokesmen for Texas Churches, were strong in support of Correctional Chaplains. Newspapers ran front page articles. We now have indications that the Chaplaincy Service has been restored fully in the House Budget.

Continued on page 15

Free to worship

By Dr. Johnathan Kana

Nearly two years after my release, I find that I still miss one thing about prison. I miss the chapel services, where I learned for the first time what it means to worship “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

Outwardly speaking, a prison is an unlikely place for authentic worship. You will find no stained glass windows, only harsh fluorescent lights. Instead of being kindly greeted by an usher, you will be rudely searched and seated by a uniformed officer. Your “Sunday best” (if you are well-connected with the laundry workers) will be nothing more than a slightly cleaner pair of uniform whites. But these dismal surroundings may be part of what makes prison worshipers peculiarly attentive to what really matters when we come to church: an earnest longing for God’s real presence.

Convicts are certainly not the only ones who want to meet God *Continued on page 17*

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Preaching jailhouse religion

By Ruth Chodniewicz

People often have “come to Jesus” moments in times of crisis, like while lying in a hospital bed with a critical illness or while holding on for dear life during an earthquake. These moments can instantly illuminate the frailty and brevity of life, causing a sudden realization of our dependence on God. One might question the authenticity of a faith conversion made in such dire circumstances: Is the decision genuine or is it spurred only by fear in a last ditch effort to “make it into heaven?”

As one can imagine, a similar phenomenon happens behind prisons walls—to such an extent that it’s been coined “jailhouse religion.” Men and women get locked up and, in a moment of regret and despair, come to faith. Although we at Prison Fellowship rejoice along with you when any inmate comes to know Jesus, we must also be aware of the tendency to make rash decisions without fully understanding the commitment—and use this awareness to better minister to the inmates.

Spiritual Jackets

Over many years of prison ministry, Sam Dye has seen his fair share of jailhouse spirituality. Dye is the national program director of the InnerChange Freedom Initiative[®], a values-based reentry program developed by Prison Fellowship. As he trains staff and volunteers in effective prison ministry, he has learned the importance of not only preaching and teaching, but also allowing room for real transformation to occur.

According to Dye, if faith-based volunteers are not careful, they can unknowingly create “spiritual criminals.”

“A spiritual criminal is one who wears religious values like a coat,” explains Dye. “It’s external. You can take it on and take it off at will, depending on who’s around. It’s really not a part of you.”

This “spiritual jacket” can actually do more harm than good, because it gives the volunteer false joy, and it denies the inmate the chance for a real, life-altering transformation. In order to avoid the trap of enabling inmates to fake spirituality, volunteers must continue to watch for the signs, and be ready to combat them.

“We have to marry two things together in order to be effective,” says Dye. “We have to target the behaviors that contribute to criminal behavior and recidivism. But we also have to deliver this content in such a way that the ‘Aha!’ moment comes. The paradigm shifts and the new grid is in place so that new content can go on the new grid and the heart is changed. Otherwise, we’re just handing out jackets.”

Continued on page 16

Gene Woodard with the Lord!

Copied from the Blanco Baptist Association Newsletter

The Lord called Bro. Gene Woodard home to his reward on December 15, 2010. Gene was instrumental in the formation of South Texas Restorative Justice Ministry in 1997 and served as the Director for eleven years. He coordinated Bible and discipleship classes taught at Garza East, Garza West, and the McConnell Unit in Beeville, Texas and the Federal Prison at Three Rivers. He also coordinated the ministry to inmates’ families at the Garza Visitor's Center along with Visitor's Center Director Elaine Woofford.

Gene never tired of serving His Lord. In addition to his prison ministry, he served for many years as volunteer Chaplain for the Nueces County Jail, holding weekly Bible studies and counseling inmates. He was also committed to spreading God's word through his work with Gideon's International, making many trips domestic and abroad to distribute the Bible.

Bro. Gene and his wife Margaret were members of First Baptist Church, Taft, Texas where he was a Deacon.

"Well done good and faithful servant....Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!" Matthew 25:23.

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 Edenfiel \$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 rethink drug laws

Treatment gains favor over long prison terms; a new look at rehabilitation

By Nathan Koppel and Gary Fields

March 5, 2011

A growing number of states are renouncing some of the long prison sentences that have been a hallmark of the war on drugs and instead focusing on treatment, which once-skeptical lawmakers now say is proven to be less expensive and more effective.

Kentucky on Thursday became the latest to make the shift when Gov. Steve Beshear signed into law a measure increasing spending on rehabilitation programs and intensive drug testing. The law also reduces penalties for many drug offenses and may allow some traffickers and users of smaller amounts of drugs to avoid prison.

Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania are among those that have pending bills to reduce penalties for drug offenders, in some cases by directing defendants into treatment programs. Similar laws have taken effect in South Carolina, Colorado and New York in recent years. States have maintained stiff penalties for more-serious drug crimes.

While the changes are part of broader belt-tightening efforts, they also reflect a growing belief among state lawmakers that prosecuting drug offenders aggressively often fails to treat their underlying addiction problems and can result in offenders cycling in and out of prisons for years—a critique long voiced by groups that advocate in favor of defendants' rights.

"If you just throw everyone in jail, it's terribly expensive and they get out and they are in the same boat," said Tom Jensen, a Republican state senator in Kentucky who voted in favor of the law.

He said he had long "bought into the tough-on-crime concept" and adapting to a more rehabilitative model has been "an education process."

Lawmakers, Mr. Jensen said, had access to data indicating that drug offenders are less likely to reoffend if they receive intensive community treatment in lieu of prison.

But others argue such changes send the wrong message.

"You need to have serious consequences or repercussions in place if people use heroin, Oxycontin" and other drugs, said Scott Burns, executive director of the National District Attorneys Association.

The Pew Center on the States, a nonpartisan group that advises on corrections and sentencing policy, assembles state-by-state data that it has shared with legislators. Pew presented research indicating some community supervision and treatment programs have significantly reduced recidivism rates for substance abusers and nonviolent offenders.

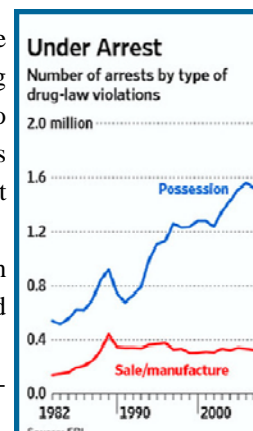
"We know so much more today than we did 30 years ago when we started down the prison-building path about what works to stop the cycle of crime and addiction," said Adam Gelb, a senior policy analyst at Pew.

Some who have seen Pew's figures, however, aren't persuaded. "Crime will go up in five to 10 years and people will wonder why," said Aaron Negangard, chairman of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council. "It's because we are letting too many people out of prison."

The state measures mark a sharp retreat from the war on drugs, which gathered steam in the 1980s and '90s with mandatory-minimum and three-strikes prison sentences that resulted in some drug offenders being locked up for decades. Drug arrests nationwide climbed from about 580,000 in 1980 to about 1.6 million in 2009, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Although some states started rethinking drug punishment before the recession, many more states have come on board in the past two years.

In 2007, Texas began shifting more drug offenders away from prison, which helped hold down the inmate population. The changes cost \$241 million, less than half what the state anticipated it would have spent to build three new prisons. The impact on the crime rate isn't clear.

While putting offenders on probation is far cheaper than sending them to prison, the cost differences may narrow in states that plan to spend more on community-supervision and treatment programs.



A merger in Texas juvenile justice

The Texas Legislature's Sunset Advisory Commission believes it was the perfect time for a way to trim the size of state government.

The panel did that in a unanimous vote to merge the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) into the single Texas Juvenile Justice Department.

"This is an excellent opportunity for this Legislature to create a model agency that will not only service the youth that are referred to them but also be fiscally responsible," State Senator John Whitmire said, "The timing could not be better. It could save Texas \$200 million."

Marc Levin, director of the Texas Public Policy Foundation's (TPPF) Center for Effective Justice, said the key benefit of the move is the money to fund the system will follow the youth offender. Levin said it not only streamlines Texas juvenile justice, but it would allow some youth facilities to be taken over by cities or counties. The youth would move from the cost of \$320 per youth per day with the state to \$150 per youth per day when it is operated by a city or county.

The function of the TYC and TJPC will merge into the new Texas Juvenile Justice Department after a one-year phase-in period ending with creation of the Department on September 1, 2012.

A good place to start cutting

New York Times

January 6, 2011

Gov. Andrew Cuomo struck just the right tone on both adult prison reform and juvenile justice reform in his first State of the State address in January. He said that New York could no longer afford to keep hugely expensive but unneeded facilities open to serve as "an employment program" for upstate residents.

To get the Legislature to agree to shut these facilities, Mr. Cuomo will have to push back hard against the corrections workers' unions that have thwarted sound closure proposals from all three of his predecessors.

The case for closures is laid out in a new analysis by the Correctional Association of New York, a nonprofit group. New York's prison population has dropped from about 71,500 at its peak in 1999 to around 56,000 today. This has left more than 8,000 empty beds, meaning that the state could close or significantly downsize eight to 10 of the 67 units in the system and still have ample room to handle any unexpected spike in the population. The savings would be \$220 million in the first year.

The state could also save money by reversing misguided criminal-justice policies. In 1995, Gov. George Pataki prohibited people convicted of violent crimes from participating in work-release programs. That order cut the number of participants from nearly 28,000 in 1994 to about 2,500 in 2007, the most recent year for which the association has data.

The point of Mr. Pataki's order was to protect the public from violent offenders, but it may well have had the opposite effect. Once they had done their time, inmates were dumped onto the streets without any chance to reacclimate and find their place in the community. Work-release programs cost about \$7,500 per participant annually, as opposed to about \$55,000 to keep one person behind bars. Increasing the number of participants in the work-release program to just 5,000 would save more than \$80 million a year.

The state also needs to reform a parole system that returns as many as 8,000 inmates a year to prison for technical violations like breaking curfew. Other states have shown that they can keep the prison count down, at no risk to the public, by increasing supervision of violators instead of reflexively bouncing them back to jail.

These will be tough political fights. But for the sake of both fiscal sanity and sound public policy, they are ones that Governor Cuomo needs to fight and win.

Work-release programs cost about \$7,500 per participant annually, as opposed to about \$55,000 to keep one person behind bars. Increasing the number of participants in the work-release program to just 5,000 would save more than \$80 million a year.

Restorative Justice Ministry Events Calendar

April 13-15, 2011—2011 South Central (Angola) Conference

Miracle Place Church, Baker (Raton Rouge), LA

Sponsored by: Coalition of Prison Evangelists (COPE)

For information: <http://www.copeconnections.org/html/event.php?id=158>

May 21, 2011—Prison, Jail, Juvenile Awareness Conference

First Baptist Church North Tonawanda, New York

Sponsored by: Prison-to-Praise International, Chaplain Fellowship Ministries, Sundoulos, COPE, Prison Fellowship and Restorative Justice Ministries Network of North America

For information: <http://www.copeconnections.org/html/event.php?id=163>

May 23-27, 2011—Effective Juvenile Justice Aftercare Models

Gordon College Ministry Center, Lynn MA

Sponsored by Straight Ahead Ministries

For information: <http://www.copeconnections.org/html/event.php?id=163>

June 6-17, 2011—School for Correctional Ministries (Online Courses)

Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois

Sponsored by: Institute for Prison Ministries Billy Graham Center

For information: <http://www.bgcprisonministries.com>

June 28-July 2, 2011—Prison Fellowship World Convocation

Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto, Ontario

Sponsored by: Prison Fellowship International

For information: <http://www.pfi.org/about-us/pfi-2011-convocation>

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

Atlanta, GA

Sponsored by Christian Association for Prison Aftercare (CAPA)

Contact: lwatkins@nccolinc.org

October 15, 2011—Faith Based Ex-Offender Celebration

Prison Museum Conference Room, Huntsville, TX

For information: arparrish@sbcglobal.net

November 1-4, 2011—COPE International Conference

Orlando, FL

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

State-by-State justice reform

By Kristin Turner
Inside Out, March 2011

Prison Fellowship has been a leader in legislative reform for many years. Through its justice reform arm, Justice Fellowship®, the organization has fought for and celebrated many legislative successes, such as the Second Chance Act and the Prison Rape Elimination Act. Many are unaware, however, that Justice Fellowship has also been active on the state level, helping officials around the country cut crime while also decreasing spending on corrections.

South Carolina Saves \$400 Million

In 2010, with the help of a broad coalition including the Pew Center on the States, Justice Fellowship (JF) was able to help pass the Omnibus Crime Reduction and Sentencing Reform Act of 2010 in South Carolina. This significant piece of legislation will cut the state's corrections costs by \$400 million over five years, while also improving safety through the implementation of various proven strategies.

Specifically, this law reserves prison space for offenders who pose a real danger to the community, while also enforcing the use of alternative punishments proven to hold low-risk offenders accountable and help them avoid future criminal behavior.

HOPE for Successful Reentry

States are also beginning to take a look at the success of Judge Steven Alm's HOPE Probation program in Hawaii. (The acronym stands for Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement.) The program was started in 2004 when Judge Alm realized that the same offenders came back to his courtroom time after time. He concluded that he should take the same skills that he learned from parenting to his courtroom, and provide swift and certain sanctions for those who violate the terms of their probation.

The success of this program has been remarkable. The National Institute of Justice has completed a study that showed that after one year, HOPE probationers were:

- 55 percent less likely to be arrested for a new crime;
- 72 percent less likely to use drugs;
- 61 percent less likely to skip appointments with their supervisory officer; and
- 52 percent less likely to have their probation revoked.

One of the ways the HOPE Probation program is different from many others is that it allows probation violators to serve time on the weekends. This gives them the opportunity to focus on their jobs during the work week, which is critical for successful reentry. By serving these immediate sanctions and holding offenders accountable while also allowing them to provide for their families, this common sense approach has understandably been quite successful.

State-by-State Success

The news about these critical reforms has spread to many other states, and currently Justice Fellowship is working on legislative efforts in Indiana, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Alabama to ensure that similar commonsense measures are implemented across the nation.

Studies have shown that rising corrections costs are not due to a crime wave that has hit our nation. Instead, these high costs are primarily due to the rising number of non-violent offenders who are being sent to prison. Additionally, costs rise from the prolonged delays of parole transfers and from longer terms handed to offenders.

Along with many federal reforms, these state reforms are also important to Prison Fellowship. Just as the organization seeks to repair the broken lives of offenders, Prison Fellowship also works to repair this nation's broken criminal justice system at all levels of government.

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
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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
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dickwitherow@comcast.net
www.matthew25ministries.org

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Palm Beach Gardens 33410-9650
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2 **Christlike Ministries**
Charles Patrick
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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

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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

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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
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prbarclay@aol.com

8 **The Bridge House, NEAM INC**
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Framingham 01704-0136
508-872-6194
toms@bridgehouseneam.org
www.bridgehouseneam.org
Jean Sullivan, Intake Coordinator
jeans@bridgehouseneam.org

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**
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www.releasedandrestored.org

NEW MEXICO

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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**
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5140 Main St Suite 303-139
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716-867-6737
davidumf@live.com

OHIO

1,7 **Restorative Justice Min. of Ohio**
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jhuns333@yahoo.com

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Ministries**
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10 **Letters for the Lord**
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PO Box 593
Harrah 73045-0593
godell5@cox.net

1,2,5,6,8(B) **Criminal Justice & Mercy
Ministry OK Methodist Conf.**
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10 **Christian Motorsports Ministries
Prison Victory Magazine**
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PENNSYLVANIA

10 **PrisonMail.org**
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1 **Narrow Path Prison Ministries**
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1 **The Yokefellowship Prison Ministry
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8 **New Person Center**
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1,7,9,10 **Justice Ministries/
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| 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 |
| <i>TEXAS</i> | | 1,3,5,8,9 | Wheless Lane Christian Brothers 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 |
| 6 | Eunice Chambless Hospitality House 13378 Fm 3522 Abilene 79601-8770 325-548-2180 325-675-5414 Fax echhdir@netscape.com | 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 |
| 1,2,7,9,10 | TAX - Abilene Corrine Hansen 2657 Rountree Dr Abilene 79601-2034 325-676-5741 | 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@gcfcchurch.us |
| 2 | Mission Arlington 210 W South St Arlington 76010 817-277-6620 | 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 Burleson 76028 817-295-6252 |
| 1 | Good Hope Prison Ministries The God of Hope Ministries Robert Dorrough 4220 Monterey Oaks Blvd Austin 78749 512-891-1649 rdorrough@TheGodofHope.org Linda Dueker—Women's Director ldueker@TheGodofHope.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 |
| 1,6,7,9,10 | 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 | | | 1,9,10 | Redeemed Ministries Betty G Oates PO Box 891 Chico 76431-0891 940-644-5237 940-644-2982 Fax RedeemedMinistry@hotmail.com |
| 1,2,4,6,8,10 | Restorative Christian Outreach Min. Mack Bailey 7506 Ed Bluestein Blvd Austin 78723 512-926-2431 midway3060@yahoo.com | | | | |

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| 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 |
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| 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 |

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| 1,9 | Crossover USA Gary R Nichols 911 Westmont Houston 77015 713-545-7991 713-455-7060 Fax gnichols@crossoverusa.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 |
| 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 | Skills for Life Inc James Arnold PO Box 38553 Suite 113 Houston 77238 281-733-1223 arnojl@msn.com ww.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 |
| 5,7,10 | Initiatives for America's Youth Boone Vastine 15153 Kimberley Ct Houston 77079-5130 281-493-4556 layjjm@aol.com | 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 |
| 9 | Jail Chaplaincy Ministry Freddie Wier PO Box 30262 Houston 77249-0262 713-569-2929 | 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.restorativejusticeneews.net Anita Parrish, Ministry Assistant arparrish@sbcglobal.net |
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| 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 | 1,2 | Trinity RJM Galynn Ferris 3919 Snag Ln Spring 77388 281-352-3913 galynn@trinityrjm.com www.trinityrjmn.com |
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| 10 | Exodus Prison Ministry Joyce Hargis PO Box 6363 Lubbock 79410 806-791-3673 806-780-0023 Fax joyce@exodusprisonministry.org www.exodusprisonministry.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 |
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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

10 ways to live restoratively

By Howard Zehr

1. Take relationships seriously, envisioning yourself in an interconnected web of people, institutions and the environment.
2. Try to be aware of the impact - potential as well as actual - of your actions on others and the environment.
3. When your actions negatively impact others, take responsibility by acknowledging and seeking to repair the harm - even when you could probably get away with avoiding or denying it.
4. Treat everyone respectfully, even those you don't expect to encounter again, even those you feel don't deserve it, even those who have harmed or offended you or others.
5. Involve those affected by a decision, as much as possible, in the decision-making process.
6. View the conflicts and harms in your life as opportunities.
7. Listen, deeply and compassionately, to others, seeking to understand even if you don't agree with them. (Think about who you want to be in the latter situation rather than just being right.)
8. Engage in dialogue with others, even when what is being said is difficult, remaining open to learning from them and the encounter.
9. Be cautious about imposing your "truths" and views on other people and situations.
10. Sensitively confront everyday injustices including sexism, racism and classism.

Indiana's answer to prison costs

For states that are serious about trimming deficits, out-of-control prison costs are a good place to start cutting. The expenses of housing and caring for more than one million state prison inmates has quadrupled in the last decade from about \$12 billion a year to more than \$52 billion a year. This, in turn, has squeezed budgets for essential programs like education.

Governors seeking wisdom on how to proceed could start by looking at what Gov. Mitch Daniels, a Republican, is trying to accomplish in Indiana.

The centerpiece of Mr. Daniels's approach is a set of reforms governing sentencing and parole. Judges would be allowed to fit sentences to crimes and have the flexibility to impose shorter sentences for nonviolent offenses. A poorly structured parole system would be reorganized to focus on offenders who actually present a risk to public safety.

Addicts would be given drug treatment to try to make them less likely to be rearrested. And there would be incentives for towns to handle low-level offenders instead of sending them into more costly state prisons.

Mr. Daniels devoted the last year to building a wide political consensus behind these ideas, beginning with a study from the Council of State Governments Justice Center, a prison policy group that has helped several states revise their corrections strategies.

In partnership with the Pew Center on the States' Public Safety Performance Project, the council discovered that Indiana's prison count had grown by 41 percent between 2000 and 2009 — an increase three times that of neighboring states. It also found that the increase had been caused not by violent criminals but by drug addicts — who needed treatment, not jail — and by low-level, nonviolent criminals. Indiana, the study found, was punishing both groups much more severely than neighboring states.

Unless current policies were changed, the study said, the state prison population would rise by another 21 percent by 2017, forcing lawmakers to come up with an estimated \$1.2 billion for new prisons. Indiana could cut its inmate count significantly and save almost all of that money if it invested a modest sum — about \$28 million — in the kinds of changes that Mr. Daniels has now included in his reform package.

A legislative package containing these reforms has been introduced in the Indiana Legislature. If it passes, as it should, Indiana will show the nation what good things can happen when leaders apply good sense.

When the church stepped up!

Continued from page 1

A larger issue is the threat that the legislators will opt to keep prison capacity high by cutting the programming which works to help people improve. If the legislators choose this easy route, they are likely choosing a path which will lead to more prison building.

States now over incarcerate. Up to one-third of the prisoners could be better managed in ways other than locking them up. We need to lock away people we are scared of and send to treatment people at whom we are just angry.

We now have empirical evidence regarding what works to change human behavior. Treatment always is better than incarceration. It also costs less. Locking people up is very expensive and simultaneously is destructive. Overuse of prisons will unravel the fabric of our society. Where it has been used most, there are already indications of that unraveling effect.

Wherever we live, I encourage all to contact their State Legislators and ask them to expand programming and close prisons. It will save money and make your state a better place at the same time. Together we can help our states be better places by lowering expenditures and being more like Christ by enabling more healing.

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.

Preaching jailhouse religion

Continued from page 2

On the Lookout

Dye has several tips for volunteers dealing with jailhouse religion. These tips will help volunteers recognize the signs of fake spirituality and address the issues immediately. By doing so, inmates will be afforded the opportunity to truly assess their beliefs and allow room for Christ-centered transformation.

- **Do not allow inmates to speak in “Christianese.”** When faking spirituality, inmates may speak in Bible lingo or overused Christian terms. Remember to always speak plainly with them. This will help them understand and grasp the concepts at hand.
- **Don’t accept statements at face value.** When an inmate says something—especially if it’s something you want to hear—it’s easy to just nod and move on with the discussion. Remember to stop and probe further, prodding them to rationalize their responses.
- **Don’t be impressed with Bible knowledge.** Lots of inmates may know a lot of Scripture, especially considering they have so much time to read it. Don’t mistake this memorization for actual understanding and application. Ask them to connect these principles to their behavior and real life situations.
- **Ask good questions and allow time for responses.** Don’t just give information. This is not only boring, but ineffective. Ask questions that cause the inmates to think and reflect on their own lives and choices.
- **Relationships are primary, resources secondary.** Inmates often seek to gain “things” from volunteers, so they fake spirituality to make volunteers happy. Remember to always give of yourself by caring, volunteering, and praying. Don’t ever give money or things to prisoners, but rather focus on their internal transformations. This is for your safety and for their spiritual benefit.
- **Pray for the Spirit’s discernment.** When dealing with jailhouse religion, it’s important to ask God to help you realize the difference between fake and real transformations. God can give you wisdom in this area—Ask for it!

Staying Focused

In ministering to inmates, it’s important to remember that the ministry is about the prisoner, not the volunteer. Prisoners will often want to please volunteers, and this can steer the ministry away from its goal—bringing prisoners to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

“This is true in grade school, it’s true in universities, and it’s true in prisons,” says Dye. “It’s even more true when you’re dealing with faith-based programs. The guys and gals in prison want so much to please us, they will say the words they want us to hear.”

As we focus on inmates, it is essential that we aim to see the real change that only God can bring. Romans 12:2 speaks of this very transformation: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing, and perfect will.”

So, perhaps there is a positive side to jailhouse religion. Every one comes to faith for different reasons, in different circumstances. For inmates, we pray that even during their darkest hour they find the peace and love that can only be found in Jesus Christ. And, as responsible volunteers and mentors, we strive to walk with them as they discover their newfound faith, so it becomes an authentic, lifetime commitment.

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Free to worship

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in the church house, but several aspects of the prison experience uniquely elicit the kind of worship I fear many of us miss in the freeworld.

FINDING OASIS.

Prison is never a safe place. Inmates survive only by nursing a chronic paranoia that keeps them on guard at all times. The cell blocks are squalid places to live, where everyone and everything around the convict remind him of the basic privileges and human dignity he forfeited by committing his offense. For the penitent, this is a place of perpetual oppression—incessant noise, spontaneous violence, abusive treatment—from which worship offers a blessed reprieve. In the freeworld, we have plenty of distractions to worship because we may very well have plenty of other things we would rather be doing at that moment. Not so in prison: the only thing awaiting the convict after worship is another interminable week of regimented inhumanity. Is it any wonder that Christian inmates find themselves especially eager to enter the church house—and especially reluctant to leave?

ONE CONGREGATION

In the freeworld, when parishioners have petty disputes, they might form new congregations. If you dislike the style of music or preaching at your church, you can probably find another that suits you just fine. And have you ever noticed how we gravitate to churches full of other people just like us? But in prison there are no alternative congregations. There are no worship style debates, no cries for special accommodations, no denominational agendas to promote. If you want to go to church in prison, you must learn to be content with what you have. When the alternative is the loneliness of their cells, Christian inmates of all backgrounds and spiritual temperaments learn to worship together despite their differences, often growing relationships that cross the lines arbitrarily separating us in the freeworld. Mode and logistics of worship fade into the background as believers instead come to value their unity before the Savior.

FINDING FREEDOM

There is nothing an incarcerated person longs for more than freedom. Christian inmates deeply resonate with Paul's saying, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3:17). They hear Jesus' words as if he were speaking directly to them: "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, penitent convicts grieve the consequences of their crimes and then, receiving God's immeasurably gracious offer of forgiveness in spite of their crimes, come to experience an inner freedom that is quite difficult for a non-offending citizen to grasp. This is no "jailhouse religion" conversion. The transformation that takes place when an utterly depraved miscreant comes to Christ in prison compels him to worship in reckless abandon. Oh, that we might likewise know the depths of mercy Jesus has shown us!

Authentic worship demands a kind of surrender that is incongruous with the privileges and comforts of American life. Those of us who long to worship "in spirit and in truth" might take a lesson from the unlikely example of our incarcerated brethren. They come to the church free of worldly preoccupations, united in spirit with their brothers and sisters in Christ by the experience of God's abundant grace, feeling a sense of worth rooted not in their achievements or social status but in being treasured as precious by the Most High. Worship under such conditions is akin to that eternally taking place around the heavenly throne, the kind of divine fellowship that enables us to appreciate the profundity of the psalmist's words, "Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere" (Psalms 84:10).

Editor's Note: We ran a *Dear Editor* message from Dr. Kana in the December 2010 RJNews on the subject of prison worship. We asked Dr. Kana to write an article about his prison worship experience. Inspired by his own experience in prison, freelance writer Johnathan Kana has begun compiling a comprehensive study Bible for Christian inmates.

Lynn youth outreach group makes pitch for funds

By Rotin Kaminski
The Daily Item, Lynn, MA
March 9, 2011

With his imposing stature and steely glare, Francisco Paulino, a former leader in Lynn's Crips gang, used to spend his days stirring up trouble on city streets.

Now, with the help of Straight Ahead Ministries, he has transformed into a role model for city youth who may be leaning toward following in his violent footsteps.

"I realized that maybe I didn't have to wear blue when I got out of jail, or gang bang...that I didn't have to do none of that anymore," he said. "I felt like they gave me hope and talked to me about things that I didn't see possible."

Hundreds of kids like Paulino have been helped by Straight Ahead since it was founded in 1991, but with looming budget cuts, the program, and others like it, may be headed toward a dead end. With that in mind, city leaders gathered at Lynn Police Dept. headquarters Wednesday to stress the importance of garnering additional funding.

"We're pleading for more money to make sure these programs remain a priority," said Maroli Licardie, executive director at Family & Children's Service of Greater Lynn. "Potential budget cuts might mean these programs won't exist next year. We want to continue them and provide the youth with programs so that the city will become a better place to live."

Gang-involved arrests in the city are on the rise, according to attorney Barbara Kaban of the Children's Law Center on Union Street, with 288 tallied in 2009 and 333 in 2010.

"The average age of kids being inducted into gangs is 11-13 years old and they stay involved way into their 20s," she said. "We're all working hard to reduce violence, but we still have a bad gang problem in Lynn."

In an effort to curb those numbers, city programs have been created through the Shannon Anti-Gang Violence program, which funds 28 municipalities for law enforcement suppression of gangs, intervention with youth in the juvenile justice system as well as those currently in gangs. However, funding has slowly begun to dwindle. In fiscal 2009, the program was funded at \$13 million, which plummeted to \$6.5 million in fiscal 2010 and \$4 million in 2011.

Equally hit hard are the Youth Violence Prevention Programs run statewide, which are funded by the Department of Public Health. Fiscal 2009 was at \$3.9 million, which dropped to \$2 million in 2010 and \$1.5 million in 2011.

Still, day or night, Antonio Gutierrez of Straight Ahead is out on the streets at all hours, talking to kids about steering away from gangs and directing them down the path to positive activities.

"It hurts, because it will leave these kids without another option," he said. "But we can't turn our backs if the money gets cut because the battle continues and we're just getting started."

Other groups on hand at the meeting included Teen Scene, a violence prevention drop-in center at Family & Children's Service and KAYA (Khmer Americans Youth in America), which is offered at the Lynn Community Health Center. Police chief Kevin Coppinger stressed the importance of the youth groups remaining in the city.

"Every bit of help that we can get to make the city a safer place is a win-win for everyone," he said.



From left, Francisco Paulino, Jairo Fernandez, Jimmy Long and Antonio Gutierrez pose for a photo after a meeting with officials at the Lynn Police Station Wednesday. (Item Photo / Reba M. Saldanha)

See related article on page 20, *Reconciliation of Bloods and Crips* .

Dear Editor

Getting the job done!

To Bill Kleiberr, RJMN and Welcome Back Ministry:

Greetings!!! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for your part in Chris's successful reentry...we were actually able to hook him up with another seventh day Sabbath keeping ministry out of state that had a place for him...a new beginning for the new creation in Christ that he is.

You played such a critical role, Bill. Well done, good and faithful fellow servant.

Chris wanted to email you himself with an interesting encounter he had in the Dallas greyhound bus station that had to do with your ministry directly, so I've passed your email on to him. If you are anything like me, the first hand testimonies mean much...some days its why we get out of bed, isn't it?

I also wanted to pass on the good news that I have recruited another volunteer for you...Rebekah has Thursdays off, so that day would work better for us, instead of on Mondays - that way we can ride over from Bryan together. How's that sound? She is an ex-inmate, part of our fellowship, and anxious to give back. Let me know -

Also, Chris went through his minutes trying to make job connections and we're trying to help him get minutes on his phone. I called the 1-866 number on the sheet he had, but they couldn't help me as they are apparently the finance company associated with this phone plan - can you give me some guidance on how as a ministry we can put some minutes on his phone? I went to a Western Union as the sheet said to do, but they were clueless and couldn't help me. Another Western Union needed an "account" number???? Obviously me nor Chris had a clue...

Again, thank you, friend, for kneeling in the ditch and getting the job done as Luke 10 speaks about. No judgment, no questions, just care at your own expense.

May the Father multiply your fishes and loaves,

Raquel

Re: Dear Editor, December 2010 RJNews

I appreciated Dr. Johnathan Kana's thoughts and insights on worship in prison As a prison Chaplain, I would agree that prison worship is one "place where the in breaking kingdom of God is especially apparent."

From my perspective, what makes prison worship unique is that it is one of the few places in prison where offenders, of all races and denominations, come together freely to express something beautiful and positive through prayer, testimony, praise, singing, and attentiveness to God's word.

Many offenders have told me that the worship service is the highlight of their week, and that it is a necessity for their spiritual survival. It is this "necessity," and as Dr. Kana says, a "desperate yearning for an encounter with the living God," that fosters the passion observed in many prison worship services.

These attitudes are also evident in the "free-world" church, but not always to the degree that they exist in prison. As Dr. Kana movingly testifies, "Prison gave me an authentic reason for worship, helping me to deeply experience my depravity while relishing the Savior's extravagant grace in a powerful new way." In my experience, those who are forgiven much have much to celebrate; and in prison, offenders celebrate in worship with much passion and enthusiasm.

Let me add that in the prison community, worship is also a living testimony to offenders and staff that God is present and working to accomplish His great purposes. These offenders are the leaven in the lump, the light on the hill, declaring a hope and faith that God does not forget his people, even the lowliest; and that He is busy changing lives, even in prison.

Thank you, Dr. Kana, for reminding us of how important worship is to our Christian walk, and that it is one of the "mysterious ways" God is at work in our world.

Chaplain, TDCJ

P.S. You haven't heard "Amazing Grace" until you've heard it sung *a cappella* by 300 Spirit-filled offenders.

Reconciliation of the Bloods and Crips

Young former gang members are making history in Lynn, MA following the reconciliation of Bloods and Crips at the 2008 Ready4Life program sponsored by Straight Ahead Ministries. Thirty-two young men have successfully reentered the community and none have reoffended. A recently released documentary by Dan Tocchini of Ready4Life including interviews with graduates of the program who are now living, working and attending college in Lynn can be watched at <http://www.straightahead.org> or at <http://vimeo.com/19343286>.

This year Straight Ahead Ministries will facilitate four Ready4Life events at the Essex County House of Corrections in Middleton, MA.

See related article on page 18, *Outreach groups make pitch for funds*

Right on Crime—conservative stance on criminal justice policy

In December 2010, the nation's conservative leaders launched the Right on Crime (ROC) campaign to increase public awareness of the truly conservative stance on criminal justice policy. Led by the conservative Texas Public Policy Foundation, the project was launched to offer an improved approach to criminal justice that is both tough and smart.

Many prominent conservative leaders have signed the statement of principles for the Right on Crime campaign. Among them are former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former U.S. Attorney General Ed Meese, and Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist.

” One reason Right on Crime is needed, say Scott Henson, Grits for Breakfast Blog, “ is that taxpayers have not been getting a good return on their investment when it comes to criminal justice spending, and historically few have held the system accountable for that – not even conservatives. In most cases, funding for prison facilities is allocated according to volume, rather than outcomes. In other words, more prisoners mean more money.

As a result, we have created a system that grows when it *fails* rather than one with incentives to deliver the best public safety return for every taxpayer dollar spent. ”

Twenty-two states throughout the nation are finding innovative ways to increase public safety while trimming burdensome corrections costs as a result of Right on Crime initiatives. To read about what is happening in your state go to the State Initiative Map on the Right of Crime website (<http://www.rightoncrime.com/reform-in-action/state-initiatives/>).

For more information go to <http://www.rightoncrime.com/>.

VINELink—National Victim Resources

VINELink is the online version of VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday), the National Victim Notification Network. This service allows crime victims to obtain timely and reliable information about criminal cases and the custody status of offenders 24 hours a day. Some states have the ability to display their website in Spanish.

Victims and other concerned citizens can also register to be notified by phone, email, text message (SMS) or TTY device when an offender's custody status changes. Users can also register through their participating state or county toll-free number.

To locate the national map go to <https://www.vinelink.com/vinelink/initMap.do>.

“Support your family 5 days a week, but give us the other 2 ...”

By Vikrant R Reddy
Right on Crime

According to The Arkansas News, the Arkansas prison system is bursting at the seams. 14,200 prisoners have been stuffed into state prison facilities that can only accommodate 13,000 — and another 1,600 state prisoners are locked up in county facilities. Things have gotten so dire that Arkansas is now looking into shipping some prisoners to open prison beds in northern Louisiana.

Last week, however, Governor Mike Beebe floated a different idea: rather than searching for more prison space outside Arkansas, why not ask whether the space within Arkansas is being properly prioritized? “Save the beds for the rapists, the armed robbers and the people who are violent, as well as the more-severe drug offenders,” Beebe told sheriffs today. “Save the beds for the people who need to be there a long time, or in some cases forever.”

If prison beds are reserved for truly violent criminals, then what happens to the non-violent ones? Gov. Beebe believes that they could be placed under probation, with reasonable supervision and requirements to work for the state (picking up trash, painting public buildings, etc.) on the weekends. “We need to tell offenders,” said Beebe, “Support your family five days a week, but give us the other two days a week.”

Beebe’s ideas, if properly implemented, would save money for Arkansas taxpayers, they would allow non-violent offenders to keep providing for their families, and they would even allow offenders a better opportunity to pay restitution to their victims. (Research from the Texas Public Policy Foundation has found that probationers are 98 times more likely to pay restitution.)

Most importantly, though, Beebe believes that all these benefits can be realized with no detriment to public safety. “Whatever we do,” the governor said, “we have to protect public safety first, but let’s do that in a very smart way.”

States grapple with the costs of juvenile courts

By Joseph A. Adams
March 17, 2011

Studies have indicated that minors benefit more from systems focused on treatment rather than incarceration, according to this New York Times article (http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/06/nyregion/06juvenile.html?_r=1), and by the end of the year, “New York might be the only state where adulthood, in criminal matters, begins on the 16th birthday.” However, with states pushing to increase the age of criminal responsibility, many are beginning to question the costs of such a move. Since prosecution is more expensive in juvenile court, “opponents of the changes are questioning the costs at a time when states are facing deep budget deficits.”

An interesting study by the Vera Institute, on the other hand, shows that the benefits of raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction might very well exceed the costs. The study looked at a plan that would transfer low-level, 16- and 17-year old offenders to the juvenile system, while keeping violent offenders of the same age in the adult system. While the policy change would generate an annual net cost of \$49.2 million to the taxpayer, from the youth perspective, the policy change would generate \$97.9 million in long-term benefits. The study concluded that the benefits of the plan to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction outweigh the costs and “that, from a cost-benefit standpoint, the policy change merits consideration.”

If the juvenile system is indeed better suited to “redirect the behavior of youthful offenders”, as one Wisconsin report found, in light of the substantial benefits, raising the juvenile age does, at the very least, seem to merit consideration.

A joy to be free

During his 30 years in prison, Cornelius Dupree Jr. twice rejected his chance for freedom because an admission of guilt for rape and robbery was the price of parole. “Whatever your truth is, you have to stick with it,” Mr. Dupree explained this month after a Texas judge exonerated him of the 1979 crime on the basis of DNA evidence kept in long-term county storage.

Mr. Dupree’s freedom highlighted the fact that Dallas County, unlike so many other jurisdictions, bothered to retain DNA samples across decades. No less a factor is an exemplary change in the attitude of the district attorney’s office. For the last four years, under the leadership of District Attorney Craig Watkins, it has cooperated in the DNA exoneration of 21 wrongly convicted citizens who lost decades of their freedom.

All but one were convicted on the basis of incorrect eyewitness testimony. Faulty IDs account for three of four of the 265 convictions overturned nationally by DNA evidence, according to Barry Scheck of the Innocence Project, the advocacy group helping Mr. Dupree.

“It’s been proven that the system needs to be fixed,” Mr. Watkins declared. The former defense attorney is urging the Texas Legislature to combat a “convict at all costs” mentality by enacting a precise protocol to curb the kind of zealous identification shortcuts taken against Mr. Dupree. State lawmakers are reported to be open to the idea. The Legislature faced up to the increase in DNA exonerations two years ago when it enacted the nation’s most generous compensation law, providing \$80,000 for each year of freedom unjustly lost.

Texas, with its crowded death row, has hardly been the model of criminal justice. But the lessons of the Dupree case cry out for mandating long-term storage of DNA evidence nationwide, and reform of patently unjust identification methods. “It’s a joy to be free again,” Mr. Dupree said as a dozen other exonorees observed a new Texas tradition of gathering to greet the latest person proved innocent.

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