



A Second Chance for Ex-Offenders

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD
From the New York Times
Published: June 19, 2013

The federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) took on an important issue last year when it reaffirmed and updated a ruling that barred employers from automatically denying people jobs based on arrest or conviction records. The guidance made clear that an arrest alone was not proof of illegal conduct or grounds for exclusion. It also explained that, when considering an applicant with a criminal conviction, the employer must take into account the seriousness of the offense, the time lapsed since the offense and the relevance of the crime to the specific job being sought.

The point is to eliminate unfair obstacles to employment for the 65 million Americans who have criminal records, including those based on minor convictions that might have occurred in the distant past.

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Devil worship in prison

By Dr. Jim Denison, President
Denison Forum on Truth and Culture
May 20, 2013

Daniel LaPlante is serving a life sentence in Massachusetts for murdering a teacher and drowning her two children. Now he is suing the state's Department of Corrections and a prison superintendent, claiming that he has been denied access to items he needs to practice his Wiccan faith. The list of 121 items he has requested includes dragon's blood, dandelion, carrot cake with frosting, and pens in seven different colors.

He also wants access to medallions such as "Thor's Hammer" and "Phases of the Moon." Of course, taxpayers would foot the bill as prison authorities hunt down such esoteric items and provide them free of charge

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Regional News by Richard Blake

California

California Governor Jerry Brown maintains that the state's prison crisis is over and is seeking an end to federal oversight. The completion and development of the New California Health Facility in Stockton is a major step in fulfilling the demands of the ruling. The facility will provide intermediate level medical care with a capacity for over 1,700 patients and will have a medical and support staff of approximately 2,500.

However, Brown's repeated delays to act on the federal court's order to reduce inmate population in line with the earlier demands has resulted in a ruling by a panel of three federal judges that now orders the state to take steps immediately to release approximately 10,000 inmates by the end of the year. The order also requires the state to report these steps to the court every two weeks or be considered in contempt of court. Governor Brown is quoted as saying "The state will seek an immediate stay of this unprecedented order to release almost 10,000 inmates by the end of this year."

On another note: California DJJ reports an increase in Juvenile offenders earning High School diplomas and GED equivalent at the Stockton Youth Correctional Facility. The Ventura Youth Correctional Facility has seen a similar trend in academic achievement. This advance ensures that these graduates are better prepared to return to their communities as more productive and respected citizens.

San Francisco Bay Area based Follow Up Ministries, International continues their emphasis on discipleship training within the prison community through the ministry of rebuilding lives. Recent weekend seminars at Folsom Prison, Susanville, Corcoran, and San Luis Obispo challenged and prepared men and women to return to the cell block with the life changing message of the Gospel and share it with other inmates. Reports also continue to come in from recently appointed FUMI President Tim Wagoner on the results of the One on One mentoring, Bible study, and Chapel service throughout the jails and prisons in the San Francisco Bay area, and in other cities and states throughout our country, as well as outreach at key locations around the world.

Colorado

The recent Institute for Defense and Government Advancement's (IDGA) annual Prisons and Correctional Facilities West Conference convened in Aurora, Colorado. Speakers included: Keynoter, Russell Pilcher CEO of Sierra Detention Systems, Don Head of the Correctional Service of Canada, Charles Ryan of Arizona Department of Corrections, and Colette Peters of Oregon's Department of Corrections.

In these informational and interactive sessions the participants discussed how correctional facilities will look in the year 2020 including security technology within the facilities and state of the art tracking equipment for monitoring inmate movement throughout the prison. The emphasis of the conference centered on innovation, change, rehabilitation, and lower recidivism through reentry programs.

Oklahoma

Recent changes in Oklahoma's Department of Correction's board have paved the way for moving forward with a revised plan for implementing the Justice Reinvestment Act which will allow for increasing the state's staff of probation

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A Word from the Executive Director

Every day at RJMN we receive phone calls and mail regarding aftercare facilities. We receive about 100 letters each month from inmates eligible for parole needing a place to stay, and phone calls from families needing transitional housing for loved ones on the verge of being released from prison.

I have volunteered as the Executive Director for The Huntsville Recovery Center for the past six years. I am very thankful for God allowing me to be part of restoring the lives of dozens of men and helping them reconcile their relationships with God and their families.

The following letter came from our friend Bob Maltz of Conroe. This letter exemplifies the caring nature of people in your neighborhood who are willing to sacrifice their time, energy, and resources to help restore lives in our communities.

Please pray for Bob and all the other folks involved with transitional housing. RJMN has a listing of over 250 faith based halfway houses across Texas. Please feel free to contact RJMN if you are interested in collecting clothes, food or other needed items for a facility near you.

Each individual who successfully transitions into our society saves us taxpayers \$35,000 per year.

Each individual who successfully transitions into our society saves us tax payers \$35,000 per year. Many halfway houses have given a hand-up to hundreds of individuals. 100 lives times \$35,000 equals a savings of 3.5 million dollars.

Give us a call at 1(800) 998-3004 if you would like to know more.

Sincerely,

Bill Kleiber, Executive Director
RJMN of Texas

Here is the letter we received from Bob Maltz:

Guys,

I wrote a quick request for info on the property right across the street and surprisingly got a response a few seconds later. The property is long and narrow with the major portion wooded but would hold a lot of trailers. The land has a lot of potential and the owner wants out.

If this is to be then GOD has to be in it. We all know that our place at Moving On Up Ministry (Helping X Offenders) is full with many, many more needing help every day. We could use a training building or maybe use the room that we already have at the Graceville Baptist Church to give residents more skills about how to deal with people, looking for jobs, using cell phones, where to find resources to better them selves. I need help in this area as I'm tied down somewhat to the carburetor shop and it's bills.

I once had a retired teacher call who was wanting to do something and I invited him to come out and see what we had but I didn't hear from him again. The time is here now, the men are here now, the construction part is done and help is needed to really make a difference. I know if we take on more property it may seem like more than we can handle but God hasn't let us down for a second so far. If we are to continue what we started then more space is needed.

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Thoughts on Spiritual Transformation and Offender Rehabilitation



Byron Johnson, Professor
Social Sciences, Baylor University

By Byron Johnson
May 2013

There are many stories of criminals and prisoners who have experienced dramatic turnarounds as a result of a spiritual conversion. Many of the ministries dedicated to working with prisoners, offenders, and drug addicts are based on the notion that a religious conversion is synonymous with reform or rehabilitation. If one accepts Jesus, then one's needs have been met – not only from an eternal, but temporal perspective.

However, I would argue that becoming “born again” does not exempt a prisoner from facing numerous and formidable challenges following release from prison. Most ex-prisoners struggle to find stable employment, acceptable housing, adequate transportation, and supportive family members. Unfortunately, many inmates who experience religious conversions in prison are either unable or unwilling once released from prison to get connected to local congregations. Because reentry is so difficult, not connecting to a church is a recipe for disaster – effectively separating former prisoners from the support they need in order to live a law-abiding and productive life following release from prison. Without faith-based connections ex-prisoners will not have, for example, a mentor to hold them accountable, and they will not have access to the vibrant networks of social support that exist in so many congregations. These networks and the faith-motivated individuals within these networks can touch each of the areas that are so problematic during prisoner reentry.

I have interviewed hundreds of inmates over the years and when asked about their faith journey many have told me with great disappointment, they simply strayed from the truth and abandoned the commitments they made in prison. Preaching the gospel message in prisons is important to be sure, but unless other faith-based ministries on the outside of prisons are willing to do more to intentionally work with ex-prisoners, it will be difficult for new converts to successfully transition back to society.

I am not suggesting religious conversions are meaningless or that “jailhouse religion” is of little value, and I am not arguing that religious conversions in prison will not stick. Here's why. One of the most well-known delinquency studies of all time was conducted by Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck. The Glueck's published the classic book *Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency* in 1950, where they studied among other things, 500 troubled boys raised in Boston who had already been involved in delinquent behavior and had been put into reform school. The Glueck's collected extensive records about the boys and tracked them through adolescence. Many years later, Robert Sampson and John Laub, two leading criminologists, would locate the original files from the Glueck's research and would follow-up with the original respondents, to see how they were doing at the age of 60. They found that some of the troubled boys, as one might expect, ended up in trouble with the law for the rest of their lives. Others, however, lived very normal lives and had no legal problems. They found that the troubled kids who would get straightened out experienced some sort of a turning point or event that was

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Thoughts on Spiritual Transformation and Offender Rehabilitation

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pivotal in bringing them out of a criminal lifestyle or path, and into a more traditional and law-abiding pattern of behavior. In other words, people can and do change. Just because a person starts out on the wrong track, does not mean that they are destined to stay on the wrong track the rest of their life.

Unfortunately, scholars have been reluctant to discuss how turning points within the individual may lead to the formation of important and positive social bonds. In recent years, however, several scholars have found that changes in the individual must take place before that person is ready to develop ties and connections to social institutions. Stated differently, the individual must change if the bond is to form. Peggy Giordano and her colleagues call this kind of change cognitive transformation. For them, these cognitive transformations are essential before a person is able to sustain a new way of life. Moreover, they suggest faith can be a source of external control over an individual's conduct as well as a catalyst for forming a new cognitive blueprint for how one is to proceed as a changed individual. This process of change is facilitated by faith or spirituality, whether through an affiliation with a religious congregation, or based more on personal spiritual experiences, or both. This process makes possible the development of a new and more positive identity to replace the old one associated with any or all of the following – failure, violence, abuse, addiction, heartbreak, and guilt.

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Religious experiences can be critical turning points or events in the lives of offenders and may put into motion a sequence of events that become pivotal in changing a person's behavioral trajectory. The conversion itself can provide a bridge to other faith-motivated individuals and resources that can prove instrumental in having a tipping effect in a person's life. Further, these religious conversion experiences – especially if nurtured – are foundational for spiritual transformation that develops over time. It is this process that can help offenders to start their lives over. Stated differently, offenders get a chance to rewrite their own narrative which can be a powerful and redemptive thing, giving ex-prisoners the hope and purpose they need to start a new and pro-social life, while at the same time, helping them come to grips with the anti-social life they have left behind.

Every year hundreds of thousands of prisoners participate in religious services and interact with faith-motivated volunteers and mentors. Many of these offenders have had religious conversions. In and of itself, this may not mean a great deal to criminologists, correctional practitioners, or policy-makers. However, faith-based prison programs, and more importantly, faith-based reentry and aftercare programs, have the potential to build upon these religious conversions. Religious conversions should not be viewed cynically as “jailhouse religion,” but rather as the opportunity to connect these converts to volunteers and faith-based networks that can facilitate and nurture spiritual transformation.

Byron Johnson is Distinguished Professor of the Social Sciences at Baylor University and author of [More God, Less Crime: Why Faith Matters and How it Could Matter More](#) (2011).

Restorative Justice Ministry Events Calendar

August 12, 2013, Annual Literacy Texas Conference,

Embassy Suites Spa and Conference Center, San Marcos, TX

For information: Julie.valentine@texasbaptists.org or phone: 512-473-2288

August 18, 2013, Chapel Services with Oil Of Joy

Carol Young Unit Texas City

For information: Phone: 800-610-8272

August 31-September 1, 2013, Chapel Services with Oil of Joy

Plane State Jail, Dayton, TX

For information: Phone 800-610-8272

September 7, 2013, Spirit Key Gala 2013, Western Swing

Carriage House Café, Houston, TX

For information: Phone 281-813-0093

September 21, 2013, More God, Less Crime Conference

Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, TX

For information: <http://www.gabcrcjm.org/>

October 9-11, 2013, COPE's 2013 International Conference

Theme: Your Ministry in Changing Times, Ft. Worth, TX

For information: <http://www.copeconnections.org/cope-2013-international-conference.htm>

October 10, 2013, Portal of Grace Oil of Joy Fundraising Banquet

Westin Oaks, Houston, TX

For information: Phone 800-610-8272

October 20, 2013, Chapel Service with Oil of Joy

Carol Young Facility, Texas City, TX

For information: Phone 800-610-8272

November 5-12, 2013, Worldwide Voice in the Wilderness

Mission Trip to Honduras

For information: Contact Johnny Moffitt 972-234-6009 or email johnnymoffitt@wviw.com

2014

February 19-21, 2014, 6th Annual National Prisoner's Family Conference

Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX

For information: email at info@prisonersfamilyconference.org and www.prisonersfamilyconference.org

**Let us place your
RJM events
on the Events Calendar!**

Send information to:
R.J.NEWS@restorativejusticenews.net

**Include the Type of Event, Date(s),
Location, Sponsor(s), and
Contact information**

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.
- Families on the Gallows of Criminal Justice - Roger Hollar** \$35.00 _____
This is a complete manual for churches on doing ministry with at-risk families and children of inmates.
- Ministry Action Awareness Clinic - Roger Hollar** \$13.00 _____
Develops awareness of the at-risk nature of families & children of inmates. Introduces the Mercy Heart model for ministry.

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** \$11.00 _____
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
- 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
- The Ex-offender's Re-Entry Success Guide - Drs. Ron & Caryl Krannich** \$10.00 _____
Smart choices for making it on the outside for good! Insights, advice, self-tests, examples and exercises.
- 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:** _____ *****

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
Carluke 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

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

CALIFORNIA

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

1,4,5,6,7,9 **Once Life Matters Miniseries, Inc.**
Marty Angelo
PO Box 1146
Frazier Park CA 93225
oncelifematters@yahoo.com
http://www.oncelifematters.com

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

1,2,6,10 **Set My Way Free Ministries**
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904-355-4190
904-355-4195 FAX
setmywayfree87@gmail.com
http://sites.google.com/site/setmywayfr
eeministries

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

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

1 **Horizon Communities Inc.**
Ike Griffin, President
2245 South Monroe
Tallahassee 32301

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407-252-6123 Mobile
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405 El Camino Real Ste
Menlo Park CA 94025
Ike@horizoncommunities.org
www.horizoncommunities.org
Blog: http://ikegriffin.blogspot.com

ILLINOIS

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

INDIANA

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

IOWA

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

LOUISIANA

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

MASSACHUSETTS

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

8 **The Bridge House, NEAM INC**
Tom Stevens, Exec Director
PO Box 136
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**
Ruth Karlsson
PO Box 94633
Lincoln 68509
402-806-0565
ruth@releasedandrestored.org
www.releasedandrestored.org

NEW MEXICO

1,6 **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
Author: Family Arrested: How to Sur-
vive the Incarceration of a Loved One

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

NORTH CAROLINA

10 **Christian Pen Pal**
PO Box 11296
Hickory 28603
828-256-6100
cppnews@hotmail.com
http://www.Christian-penpals.com

10 **Ruff Edge Ministries**
Frank Brickman
5164 Old Lexington Rd
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OHIO

1,7 **Restorative Justice Min. of Ohio**
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614-263-9097
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OKLAHOMA

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

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

1,2,5, 6,8(B) **Criminal Justice & Mercy
Ministry OK Methodist Conf.**
Stan Basler
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10

**Christian Motorsports Ministries
Prison Victory Magazine**
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Sapulpa 74066
607-742-3407
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www.christianmotorsports.com

PENNSYLVANIA

10 **PrisonMail.org**
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info@prisonmail.org
www.prisonmail.org

1

Narrow Path Prison Ministries
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1,3,7,8

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

1

**The Yokefellowship Prison Ministry
(YPM)**

8

New Person Center
Rev John L. Rush, Executive Director
PO Box 223
Reading 19607
610-777-2222
info@yokefellowship.org
www.yokefellowship.org

SOUTH CAROLINA

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1,9,10

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Use this Ministry ID Key to locate Ministry Emphasis:

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

1,2,8(M)	Prison Congregations of America Inc Mary Mortenson PO Box 1132 Mitchell 57301 605-990-8330 mary@prisoncongregations.org www.prisoncongregations.org	1	St Theresa Catholic Church Prison Ministry Rev. Justin Udomah 4311 Small Dr Austin 78731 512-451-5121 frjustin@sttaustin.org		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	7	COPE Fauhn Schierer PO Box 210992 Bedford, TX 76095 682-292-8009 682-292-0836 Fax office@copeconnections.org www.copeconnections.org
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	3,4,5,6,7,9,10	J.A.I.L. Ministry Inc Steve Cannon PO Box 634 Belton 76513-0634 254-933-8506 254-933-7569 Fax jailmin@vvm.com
1,2,7,9,10	TAX - Abilene Corrine Hansen 2657 Rountree Dr Abilene 79601-2034 325-676-5741	2,3	Compassion Christian Counseling Vande Derrick 1297B Calder Beaumont 77701 409-832-5772 409832-7224 Fax	2	Manasseh Ministries Muriel C. Roger 6705 FM 279 Ben Wheeler 75754-5205 903-852-4402 manassehministries7@juno.com
2	Mission Arlington 210 W South St Arlington 76010 817-277-6620	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	Holy Ground Prison Ministry Johnny T Horan PO Box 2526 Brenham 77833 979-836-6328 daphne@gcfchurch.us
1,2,4,6,8,10	Restorative Christian Outreach Min. Mack Bailey 7506 Ed Bluestein Blvd Austin 78723 512-926-2431 midway3060@yahoo.com	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10	Criminal Justice Ministry/Diocese of Beaumont Deacon Harry Davis PO Box 3948 Beaumont 77701-2802 409-924-4300 409-838-4511 Fax criminaljustice@dioceseofbmt.org www.dioceseofbmt.org	2	Harvest House 349 NW Renfro Burlson 76028 817-293-6252
1,6,7,9,10	Light for New Life Min Inc Rev Don Domeracki PO Box 170501 Arlington 76003-0501 817-572-5305 ddmeracki@tx.rr.com www.lightfornewlifeministries.org	1 6	Golden Triangle Baptist Assoc. Dion Ainsworth PO Box 7728 Beaumont 77726 409-898-8797 dion@gtba.org www.gtba.org	1	St John Baptist Church Rev R Michael Stromille 1508 S Broadway Dr Carrollton 75006 972-242-9194 SJBC@saintjohncarrollton.com www.saintjohncarrollton.com
		1,3,4	International Institute of Faith Based Counseling Debbie Marcantel PO Box 20723 Beaumont 77720 409-832-9060 409-832-7224 FAX	1,9,10	Redeemed Ministries Betty G Oates PO Box 891 Chico 76431-0891 940-644-5237 940-644-2982 Fax RedeemedMinistry@hotmail.com

1,2,3,5,6,7,9,10	Newlife Behavior Ministries Buck Griffith 3833 S Staples Ste S-101 Corpus Christi 78472-2188 361-855-3372 361-855-7469 Fax nlbcasa@yahoo.com www.nlbm.org	1,5,6,7	Ministry to Ministries Jim Lang PO Box 700023 Dallas 75370 214-215-6226 972-283-7871 jimlang41@aol.com	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	1,2,3,9	R O D Ministires Dale Truitt PO Box 710385 Dallas 75371-0385 214-827-8555 214-824-5355 Fax ddtruitt@hotmail.com www.rodministries.org	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	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10	St Francis Anglican Church Fr William Conner PO Box 140182 Dallas, 75201 972-900-7298 frwilliam@catholic.org www.angelfire.com/tx5/holycross	8 (M)	New Name Ministries Jon R. Cordeiro, National Director PO Box 11694 Fort Worth 76110 817-920-5886 newnameministries@sbcglobal.net www.newnameministries.org www.unprecedentedthebook.com
1,7,9	Care Center Ministries Mel Gipson PO Box 171059 Dallas 75217 214-824-9852 214-824-3499 pastormelvin@yahoo.com	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	Christian Fellowship Enrichment Jim Lang PO Box 700023 Dallas TX 75370 972-283-7871 jimlang41@aol.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	10	Write-way Prison Ministries Inc Rodger Turley PO Box 461582 Garland 75046-1582 972-840-9798 972-864-9692 Fax writewaypm@verizon.net www.writewaypm.org
1,2,4,5,7,9,10	First Baptist Dallas Prison Min. Jerry Bedison 1707 San Jacinto St Dallas 75201 214-969-7746 214-969-7720 Fax jbedison@firstdallas.org www.firstdallas.org	1,2,4,7	Worldwide Voice in the Wilderness Johnny Moffitt PO Box 740273 Dallas 75374 972-234-6009 972-234-6050 Fax info@wviw.com www.wviw.com	1,2,4,6,7,8(F),9,10	Cross Prison Ministries Inc Carole Ross PO Box 412 Gatesville 76528-0412 254-865-5163 crossprisonministry@earthlink.net www.liferow.org
1,7,9,10	Freedom Outreach Ministries Mel Gipson PO Box 180941 Dallas 75218 214-325-9583 214-824-3499 Fax pastormelvin@yahoo.com	5,6,	Air Chapel Terry Dyer 320 King Ave Denison 75020 903-786-5899 tdyer@mail.airchapel.org www.airchapel.org	1,7,9	Discipleship Unlimited Terry Strom PO Box 145 Gatesville 76528 254-831-0016 terjean@msn.com www.discipleshipunlimited.org
1,7	Inmate Discipler Fellowship/TX Baptist Men Mark Hollis 5351 Catron Drive Dallas 75227-9927 214-828-5347 Mark.hollis@texasbaptistmen.org www.inmatedisciplerfellowship.org	1	Prison Fellowship Ministries—TX Mercury Bynum PO Box 602 Desoto 75123 469-232-8013 682-222-7385 FAX Mercury_bynum@pfm.org	8 (F)	Spirit House Ministries Leslie Culver, MAC Executive Director PO Box 2474 Georgetown, TX 78627 512-591-4848 www.spirithouseministries.org

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1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10	Morning Star Jail/Prison Ministry Rev Robert L Buchanan 2251 El Paso Grand Prairie 75051 972-647-1445 setatliberty1@aol.com www.morningstar-baptist.org	6	Newgate Connection Wesley Stevens PO Box 96333 Houston 77213-9633 281-452-2352 wfstevens1@pdq.net	10120 Northwest Freeway, #200 Houston, TX 77092 713.984.9611 ptaul@workfaithconnection.org www.workfaithconnection.org
10	Encouraging Word Ministries Margaret Hackler PO Box 5148 Gun Barrel City 75147	1,2,5,7,8	Newgate UMC/Onesimus Journey Rev. Marvin Hood 3827 Broadway @I-45S Houston 77017 832-567-0758 marvelous272003@yahoo.com	2 Vision City Church Pastor Rick Vasquez 4300 W. Bellfort Houston 77035 Español /English 713-270-9434 visionchurch2011@gmail.com www.visionchurchhouston.com www.rickvasquez.org
10	Open Arms Ministry Steve & Diana Moore PO Box 529 Hillsboro 76645 254-580-2935 mrst24dbt@aol.com	1,7,9	Oil of Joy for Mourning Rev Rhonda Arias PO Box 720768 Houston 77272-0768 713-419-1214 oilofjoy@sbcglobal.net www.oilofjoyformourning.org	1,2,6 Covenant Fellowship Rev David Valentine PO Box 10769 Huntsville 77340 936-435-0993 dbhvalentine@suddenlink.net www.cf huntsville.org
1,3,	Bridges To Life John Sage PO Box 19039 Houston 77224 713-463-7200 jsage1@aol.com www.bridgestolife.org	1,2,6,9,10	Path to Freedom Ministry St. John's Downtown UMC Jonathan Chism 2019 Crawford Street Houston 77002 713-659-3237 ext 4020 713-659-2236 Fax jchism@stjohnsdowntown.org www.stjohnspathtofreedom.org	1 Elkins Lake Baptist Church Rev Ken Huggins 206 State Highway 19 Huntsville 77340-7152 936-295-7694 936-295-3388 Fax www.elbc.org
1,9	Crossover USA Gary R Nichols 911 Westmont Houston 77015 713-545-7991 713-455-7060 Fax gnichols@crossoverusa.com	1,2,3,5,7,9,10	Restored to Christ Harold Travis 14147 Ivy Bluff Ct Houston 77062 281-488-5110 281-488-8218 Fax harold@clearlakemethodist.org	1,2,3 Episcopal Diocese of TX RJM Edwin Davis 2003 Avenue P Huntsville 77340-5029 936-291-3153 edsalpc@yahoo.com
1,3,4,5,8,9,10	Epiphany Ministries of Texas Chuck Talbot PO Box 590578 Houston 77259 chucktal@msn.com www.texasepiphany.com	1,3,4,6,9,10	Servants of Christ Prison Ministry Sibble Knight PO Box 111275 Houston 77293-0275 281-449-2703	1,2 Faith Temple Holiness Church of God in Christ 2614 Montgomery Rd Huntsville 77340 936-438-8750
5,7,10	Initiatives for America's Youth Boone Vastine 15153 Kimberley Ct Houston 77079-5130 281-493-4556 layjjm@aol.com	1	Skills for Life Inc James Arnold PO Box 38553 Suite 113 Houston 77238 281-733-1223 arnojl@msn.com ww.skillsforlifepm.com	1,2,3, First Baptist Church First Contact Family Ministry 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340-4698 936-291-3441 www.fbchuntsville.org
9	Jail Chaplaincy Ministry Freddie Wier PO Box 30262 Houston 77249-0262 713-569-2929	8	Spirit Key Inc Allen Rice 13617 Kaltenbrun Rd Houston 77086 281-971-0014 office@spiritkey.org www.spiritkey.org	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
1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10	Morning Star Baptist Church 5110 Crane ST Houston 77026-3908 713-674-7170	2,7	The WorkFaith Connection Patricia Taul Community Partner Manager	

6	Hospitality House Debra McCammon 912 10th St Huntsville 77320-3937 936-291-6196 www.thehospitalityhouse.org	1,6,7	Prison Fellowship Ministries Kelly Purselley PO Box 54987 Hurst 76054 Kelly_purselley@pfm.org www.prisonfellowship.org	903-472-2762 Tandrus26@gmail.com
7	Restorative Justice Ministries Network Bill Kleiber, Exec Director 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340 936-291-2156 kleiber@sbcglobal.net www.rjmn.net www.restorativejusticeneeds.net www.rjmntexas.net Anita Parrish, Ministry Assistant arparrish@sbcglobal.net	1,6,10	Texas HOPE Literacy Inc Lucy Smith PO Box 905 Hurst 76053-0905 817-919-3161 hopeliteracy@sbcglobal.net www.hopelit.com	Lee P Brown C. J. Institute Dr. Tracy Andrus, Director Wiley College 711 Wiley Ave Marshall 75670 903-923-2420 tandrus@wileyc.edu
2,6,7	Bill Kleiber 800-998-3004 kleiber@sbcglobal.net www.thewelcomeback.org	1,2,7,100	Freedom in Jesus Ministries Don Castleberry PO Box 939 Levelland 79336 806-778-3923 806-897-0730 Fax fijm@nts-online.net	3
1	TDCJ Chaplaincy Operations Bill Pierce, Director 1060 State Hwy 190 E Huntsville 77340 936-437-4975 936-437-4988 Fax billy.pierce@tdcj.state.tx.us www.tdcj.state.tx.us	1	The Brotherhood of St Andrew Oliver Osborn PO Box 537 Lake Jackson 77566-0537 979-297-6217	Hope For Healing Ministries Inc Susan Edwards PO Box 9331 Midland 79708 214-477-2610 sedwards@hopeforhealingministries.org www.hopeforhealingministries.org
1	TDCJ Victim Services Jim Brazzil PO Box 949 Huntsville 77432 936-437-4941 jim.brazzil@tdcj.state.tx.us	1,2,3,7,8(B),9,10	Calvary Commission Joe Fauss PO Box 100 Lindale 75771-0100 903-882-5501 903-882-7282 joefauss@calvarycommission.org www.calvarycommission.org	P.T.C. Prison Ministry Bobby Griffin PO Box 633741 Nacogdoches 75963 936-559-0070 ptem_griffith@hotmail.com
3	The Old Time Religion Hour Inc Rev George Lupo PO Box 1225 Huntsville 73342 936-293-8000	2,7,10	Cristo Es La Roca Prison Ministry 6504 Quaker Ave #305A Lubbock 79413 512-709-9454 paulinagmz@yahoo.com	2,5,7,8(M),9,10 Freedom House Discipleship Jami Butts 1517 Custer Odessa 79761 432-661-9503 freedomhouse05@gmail.com www.odessadreamcenter.com
1,7	University Heights Baptist Church Bro Richard Rogers 2400 Sycamore Ave Huntsville 77340-6120 936-295-2996 office@uhbc.net www.uhbc.net	10	Exodus Prison Ministry Joyce Hargis 4243 34th Street Lubbock 79410 806-791-3673 806-780-9780 Fax joyce@exodusprisonministry.org www.exodusprisonministry.org	2,6,9,10 Loops (Loved Ones of Prisoners) Leland & Linda Maples PO Box 14953 Odessa 79768-4953 432-580-5667 432-580-8299 Fax leland@loopsministries.com www.loopsministries.com
2,5	Winner's Circle Juvenile Program Kent Lucas 550 Elkins Lake Huntsville 77340 936-436-9467 winnerscircletexas@sbcglobal.net	2	Simple Acts Ministry Ted M. Zobeck P. O. Box 6601 Lubbock, TX 79493 806-407-4726 806-928-8345 ted@simpleactsministry.org www.simpleactsministry.org	1,2,3,4,8(B),9 Mike Hooker Ministries Mike / Charlotte R Hooker PO Box 143 Queen City 75572-0143 903-796-5297 214-796-6592 Fax
3,4,5,6,7,10	Mercy Heart@ Christ Memorial Stephen Drake 241 W Bedford-Eules Rd Hurst 76053 817-285-1671 cmcc1999@sbcglobal.net www.CMCCfamily.org	2	Harvesting Inter'l Ministry Center 560 Easy Dr Mansfield 76063 817-453-3663	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	Marshall Re-Entry Ministries 1900 Olive St Marshall 75670	2 One Man's Treasure Clothes Closet Annette Jenkins 519 E I-30 #211 Rockwall 75087 888-433-9826 onemanstr@yahoo.com www.onemanstr.org

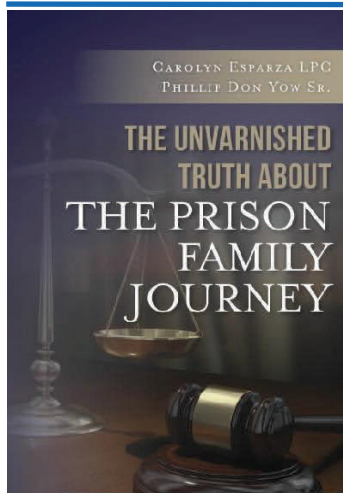
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- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1,10 Joy Prison Ministry
Ura White
PO Box 7324
Spring 77387-7324
281-253-8342</p> | <p>2,3,6 Bridging The Gap Ministries
7,10 Deb Chachere
PO Box 131747
Tyler 75713-1747
903-539-6797
bridgingthegap@flash.net
www.bridgingthegap.freesevers.com</p> | <p><i>VIRGINIA</i>
1,5,9, 10 Good News Jail & Prison Ministry
Dr Tom Beckner
PO Box 9760
Richmond 23228-0760
804-553-4090
804-553-4144 Fax
info@goodnewsjail.org
www.goodnewsjail.org</p> |
| <p>1,2,3,4,5, 6,7,8,9,10 C. J. Ministry Archdiocese of San Antonio
Deacon Bob Leibrecht
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1065 E Live Oak Rd
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210-658-4350
210-658-7051 FAX
leibrecht@sbcglobal.net
http://www.archsa.org</p> | <p>1,2,7 Christian Men's Job Corps of Tyler
Charles Smith
200 N Beckham Ave
Tyler 75702
903-593-8827
903-312-7298 Cell
info@cmjc-tyler.org
www.cmjc-tyler.org</p> | <p>8 (M&F) Loudoun Aftercare Program
Debora Lavin, President
44180 Riverside Parkway
Lansdowne 20176
703-554-8469
703-737-3017 FAX
www.loudownaftercare.org</p> |
| <p>1,2 Trinity RJM
Galynn Ferris
3919 Snag Ln
Spring 77388
281-352-3913
galynn@trinityrjm.com
www.trinityrjmn.com</p> | <p>1,9 Restorative Justice Ministry Green Acres Baptist Church
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903.593.8857
judyt@mail.gabc.org</p> | <p><i>WASHINGTON</i>
1,4 His Sufficient Grace Ministries
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ldgroom@comcast.net</p> |
| <p>1 Accepting Grace Ministries Inc
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325-773-2248
bettyj@camalott.com</p> | <p>8 House Where Jesus Shines
Pastor Nilsa Latimer
18320 Gholson Rd
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254-829-2100
254-829-0252 Fax
thwjs@msn.com
www.opendoorwaco.org</p> | <p>1 Prisoners for Christ Outreach Ministry
Greg Von Tobel
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425-467-1680 Fax
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www.pfc.com.org</p> |
| <p>1,4,6 Houston Trinity Prison Ministry
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r.pena@ssss.com</p> | <p>8(Deaf Men) Healing Hands Ranch
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Willis 77378
936-890-8562
www.deafprison.org
www.healinghandsranch.org</p> | |
| <p>1,9 Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry
Charles Sickles
P.O. Box 1130
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903-885-1424
903-348-6415
fruitfulharvest@verizon.net</p> | <p>1,3,4,6,7, 9 RJM Family Service and Mediation Center
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| <p>3,4,7,10 The Faith Based Counselor Training Institute
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254-231-4334
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woodvillecoc@sbcglobal.net</p> | |
| <p>1,2,7 Christian Restorative Justice Mentors Assoc
Murray Batt
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mail@crjma.org
www.crjma.org</p> | <p>1,7,9,10 Cornerstone Prison Ministry
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972-896-7081
cspmin@clearsail.net</p> | |

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your ministry listed
in the Ministries Directory
and on the RJMN website?
Contact Anita Parrish
at arparrish@sbcglobal.net**

New resource for prison families & those serving them



"The Unvarnished Truth about the Prison Family Journey", co-authored by conference chair, Carolyn Esparza, LPC and Phillip Yow, a Texas prisoner, is a bold, yet practical resource for prison family members and those serving them in such fields as criminal justice, mental health and social service, ministry and education.

Grace Bauer, Co-Director of Justice for Families and Keynote presenter at the 2012 Prisoner's Family Conference graciously reviewed the book saying, "The authors effectively weave personal, emotional and legal perspectives into a powerful guide with a significant amount of very valuable information. What is most impressive is the reality of it all. ... I believe the substance of this book is rare and very much needed."

The book can be ordered online at www.createspace.com/4169772.

A Word from the Executive Director

Continued from Page 3

The Parole people of Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) called last week and needed a place to put a young man of 21 years for a few days as they couldn't find a place for him at the time. They knew of us and had enough respect and trust that they called us for help. I told them we have one trailer that's temporarily empty because we were forced to ask a resident who is on parole to leave while we applied to TDCJ to get on their Alternate Housing List. The paperwork is in process now and should be hearing from TDCJ shortly but the trailer is available for now.

They came that same evening with Chris. Kathy and I and other residents made sure the trailer was stocked up with food and necessary items before they showed up. It makes a person feel good to know that someone who has nothing to feel welcome in a new surroundings. Chris is on a monitor with limited restrictions and is still allowed to go to church, stores etc. Parole asked if need be could Chris stay a little longer and we said sure. We have a good relationship with Parole already but this may be a door opening for better things to come.

Pray, pray, pray if you will. I'm not afraid if this doesn't go anywhere because I'm not stopping the search for God and where ever He goes and directs, that's where I want to be. Jesus has been more real to me and others here than any other time in our lives and I want more of Him.

May His Peace be with you,

Bob Maltz
Moving On Up Ministry

I'm not afraid if this doesn't go anywhere because I'm not stopping the search for God and where ever He goes and directs, that's where I want to be.

Texas man's evangelism tract reaching thousands

By David Roach/TEXAN
September 2012

HOUSTON (BP) -- A new gospel tract published by Houston businessman David Howell has been read by at least 15,000 people -- most of them prisoners -- since June, and many have reported that God used it to change their lives.

Titled "How to be a Child of God," the graphic, comic-book style booklet explains the concept of being crucified with Christ, presented by the apostle Paul in Galatians 2:20. An accompanying video presents its message online with automation and professional voiceover.

"You don't see any words like 'redemption' and 'salvation.' There's just plain talk about how to become a child of God," Howell told the TEXAN. "I try to keep it as simple as possible for those who haven't been around church and have never heard those terms."

Howell, a member of Houston's Second Baptist Church, began writing the tract more than five years ago after he became frustrated that other tracts leave out important points of the Gospel and basic Christian living. Often he found himself asking to meet with new believers who came to Christ through a different tract in order to explain more.

After Howell wrote the text, he asked a team to review it, including staff members at Second Baptist. Then he contracted artist Randy Rogers to produce drawings that illustrated the message. Eventually Howell produced the video as well.

He planned to print a limited supply of the tract and felt God leading him to send it to prisons and rehabilitation centers. But when he consulted a friend familiar with prison ministry, Howell realized God was opening a door for much wider distribution.

"He said, 'It's dynamite, man. It's colorful. It's exactly what [prison ministries] want -- easy to understand. You've got Bible verses already in it. They don't have to have a Bible ... It's perfect,'" Howell said.

His friend gave him the name of each prison chaplain in the state and told him to send 100 copies to each. With 114 prisons, that translated into 11,400 copies. So Howell printed 15,000 on the first run in June. When those ran out, he printed another 10,000 and has given out most of those, too.

Prison chaplains "have been calling and wanting more," Howell said. "I gave 3,000 to the Harris County jail and they wanted 11,000."

Howell regularly receives letters from prisoners and prison chaplains telling him how God used the tract.

It also proved popular at rehab centers. While visiting a 12-step recovery group recently, a man whom he had given a copy a month earlier told Howell the tract was "exactly what I needed."

The man went on to say, "I was looking for a spiritual connection of some sort ... I had grown up in the church, and I had a wife that used to take me and beat me over the head with the Bible -- I just never got it. And I got real resentful toward her and I just shunned the entire thing. But in that book that you gave me I saw how simple it was."

The video is designed to reach Internet users ages 25-40. One pastor liked it so much that he embedded it on his church's website. Howell encourages others to do the same.

Young adults "get their information from the Internet," he said. "So I said, 'I've got to get on the Internet. The only way to do that is with a video.' That brought me into doing the video based on the book."

In addition to introducing people to Jesus for the first time, Howell hopes his tract and video will help them persevere in their commitment by explaining that a Believer's old self must die with Christ and he must become a

Continued on Page 22

God's Feet in My Sandbox by Rick Anderson

As Reviewed by Richard R. Blake for Reader Views

Faith Chronicles of a Texas Death Row Chaplain

The Struggle to Reconciling Faith and Justice, Love and Hope

Author Rick Anderson openly chronicles his spiritual journey.

His story begins as a twenty-one year old loser with an alcohol problem contemplating suicide. He goes on to candidly share the events that led to divorce and remarriage. He describes how he surrendered to preach the Gospel. He relates the experiences behind a decision to adopt a Chinese orphan, of losing his wife to breast cancer, and of later finding love again.

In my review I have tried to go beyond the information shown on the back cover of the book to alert the potential reader that much of the story leads up to the highlights of his ministry on Death Row. For other readers, the subtitle "Faith Chronicles of a Texas Death Row Chaplain" may lead to similar expectations.

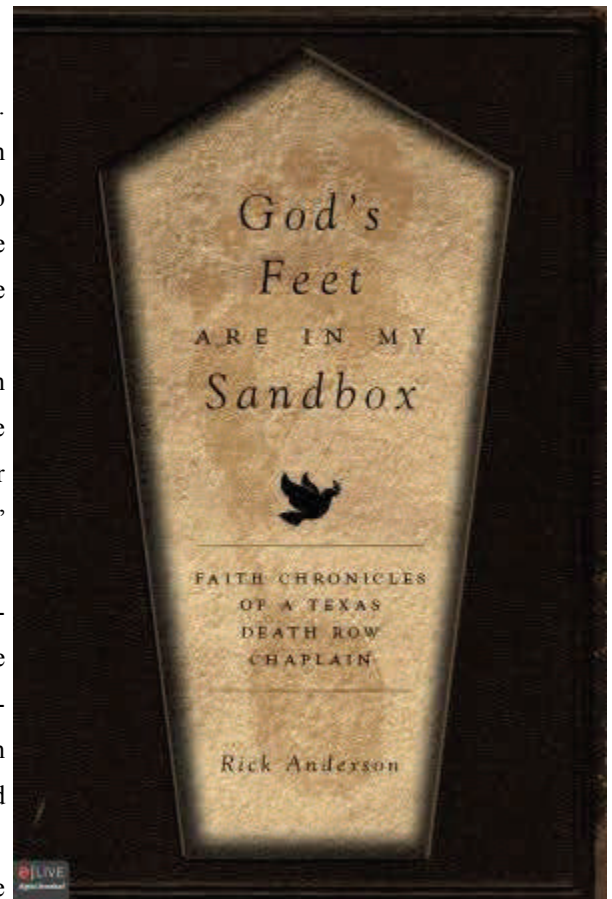
Rick tells of his experiences as a Chaplain ministering to condemned men on Death Row at the Polunsky Unit of a Texas prison. He details the events that led to his being made a scapegoat by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in their effort to place blame on him for an embarrassing death threat against a Texas State Senator which was posted on the internet.

I personally was drawn into Anderson's narrative right from the beginning. The prologue beautifully explains the basis of the title "God's Feet Are In My Sandbox." I also was very impressed with the way Anderson introduced encouraging words from the Psalms and other selected scripture passages that added spiritual insight and encouragement, promise, and inspiration to the incidents of the preceding narrative.

Many readers will appreciate the clarity with which Anderson presents the Gospel message. Other readers may be looking for more detailed insight into the role, duties, and policies applicable to prison chaplaincy. Anderson draws attention to ongoing discipline practices often prevalent behind the scenes in the prison environment, of the need for prison reform, restorative justice, and into the ongoing debate regarding the death penalty. I have been moved again to re-examine God's involvement in the "Sand Box" of my life.

Tate Publishing & Enterprises, LLC,
127 E. Trade Center Terrace,
Mustang, Oklahoma
73064, 978—1617398100, 2011, 226 pages

Editor's Note: You are invited to read Richard's blog at <http://richardrblake.wordpress.com/> and his quarterly article entitled Regional News by Richard Blake on Page 2 of this newsletter.



From the Inbox

Mercy Heart Chapel Program Seeks a Church

Mercy Heart Chapel Program is looking for a church to commit to offer support groups for the families of inmates at their church. These groups are Bible studies such as: Recovery Groups, Support Groups and Children Ministries set aside on a separate night specifically for the families of inmates. They are typically offered weekly, depending on the availability of the church. Training is available for interested churches through Mercy Heart. Check us out at www.mercyheart.org and like us on FACEBOOK at Mercy Heart National.

Mercy Heart is a place where Christian love, understanding, and acceptance are given to those deeply hurt by incarceration. Parents, spouses, and children are taught how to deal with feelings of hopelessness, guilt, defeat and discouragement by introducing them to a loving heavenly Father who cares for them. They can make the adjustment to incarceration in a safe, family-friendly environment. Instruction, prayer, worship, and ministry are made available without fear of condemnation.

Mercy Heart is a place where previously incarcerated citizens (PIC's) can successfully navigate re-entry back into their community; where he or she can reconnect with family through counseling and other community-based resources.

Mercy Heart also provides a service called Legacy Day with Dad – Day with Mom: A ministry with families “Behind the wire; inside the prison walls”. The purpose of this work is to share the legacy of Jesus Christ (His love, hope and comfort) with inmates, their elementary aged children, and the children’s caregivers (spouses, grandparents, guardians). This is a one day weekend event done inside the prison. It is designed to bring families together before release in an encounter that utilizes a series of activity-based exercises specific to the needs of the children of the family.

In His Service,

James Guerra, Director of Church/Community Programming
Mercy Heart
817-514-0290

Free Service — Please Subscribe

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Volunteer Services Department is piloting a new electronic communication system and asks that you take the time to subscribe to this free service, as we work together for a safer and better Texas. Your participation will help us to evaluate our efforts in determining a more effective way to communicate.

Upon subscribing, you will begin to receive valuable information as a TDCJ volunteer, member of a Faith/Community -Based organization or an agency staff member with oversight of volunteers. The information received will assist you in your service efforts and allow us to continue working towards a common goal.

You may subscribe at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXTDCJVS/subscriber/new>. If you have any questions, please contact Stacie Woods, Volunteer Services Director, Rehabilitation Programs Division at 936-437-3026.

Respectfully,

Marvin Dunbar, Manager of Support Service Rehabilitation Programs Division
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

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Share God's mercy and grace with others

Prayers: Please pray for Restorative Justice Ministries Network and all the ministry volunteers serving the largest mission field in Texas

Donations: RJMN will need to upgrade or replace 7 computers this next year. Donations of food, clothes, office supplies and water are gratefully accepted.

Volunteers: We are seeking volunteers to Welcome Back individuals returning from prison and minister to their families.

Invitation to Speak: Invite our Director to speak at your Church or Bible Study.

Cash Donations: Your kind donation can significantly change lives for the better. You can donate at www.rjmn.net or mail donation to RJMN 1229 Avenue J, Huntsville, TX 77340

Regional News by Richard Blake

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and parole offices. The Act is designed to reduce the growth rate of those incarcerated in the state by monitoring released prisoners.

Michigan

Similar to other states around the country Michigan is looking for ways of controlling prison costs and lower spending to reinvest the savings to reduce recidivism rates and preparing inmates to transition back into society. Recent changes include the increased use of probation and parole; and the use of electronic tethers for lower-level offenders in lieu of incarceration. Michigan has led the nation in length of average time inmates serve time in prison. State officials are calling for a look at long overdue sentencing reform.

Iowa

The Iowa Department of Human Rights' Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is the recipient of a three year \$750,000 federal grant. The funds will be used to provide resources to appraise current programs by comparing and measuring the effectiveness of other evidence based alternatives in an effort to improve services aimed at reducing recidivism and providing public safety at lower costs.

Ohio

In the aftermath of the school shootings in Connecticut and Colorado last year, the state of Ohio is directing significant federal grant money to community projects with a designed focus on at risk youth who have a history of belligerent or violent behavior. Crisis response and support intervention teams are other issues to be considered in an individual community's planning.

West Virginia

West Virginia reportedly has consistently seen an increase in its prison population resulting in housing approximately 1,700 prisoners in regional jails. The state Legislature recently passed Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's prison reform bill. The bill calls for early release for nonviolent offenders and reduces sentencing of probation violators. Provision is made for augmenting supervision of post-release inmates and those sentenced to drug treatment centers. These measures anticipate that this will halt prison growth rates saving millions of dollars each year.

From the Inbox

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Musician Needed for Upcoming Wings Parties

There are a few Wings Prison Parties where musicians/praise bands from the community would be most welcome to lead music. Please let me know if you're interested.

- 08-17-13 Denver Prison for Women—Denver, CO
- 09-21-13 The Farm— Los Lunas, NM
- 10-26-13 Florida—Waiting for confirmation
- 11-02-13 Springer Correctional Facility—Springer, NM

Music leaders may include:

1. Praise bands; Individuals on guitar/piano/keyboard; Liturgical dancers; Biblical “Drill Teams”; Hand bells & other instruments including percussion; or, a music leader using back-up music on tape/CD; Guests/volunteers may be invited up front to lead a song, play an instrument(s), act out certain motions, etc.

Contact: Ann Edenfield Sweet at AnnEdenfield@wingsministry.org or by phone at 505-291-6412 or 505-554-6698.

Little Children Big Challenges: Incarceration

The incarceration of a loved one can be very overwhelming for both children and caregivers. It can bring about big changes and transitions. A free downloadable guide for conversations and activities has been produced by Sesame Street, Inc., to guide parents and caregivers as they support the children through the many changes in their lives. The 22 page guide can be found at: http://www.sesamestreet.org/cms_services/services?action=download&uid=784d4f44-425b-445a-842b-86b5088cbcc5

RJNews publications are dependent upon contributions from readers.

Anyone wishing to make a donation may do so by sending a check or money order to:

Restorative Justice Ministries Network, 1229 Avenue J, Huntsville, TX 77340

Or you are welcome to make your donation online at

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



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

A Second Chance for Ex-Offenders

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Last week, the EEOC, stepped up enforcement in this area by filing discrimination lawsuits against two companies — the retail chain Dollar General, which operates more than 10,000 stores in 40 states, and the automaker BMW.

The suits charge the companies with violating Title VII of the Civil Rights Act by using discriminatory background-check policies that had disparate impacts on minority employees and applicants. The EEOC alleges that Dollar General disqualifies job applicants for a variety of crimes, including reckless driving or possessing drug paraphernalia, without considering the relevance of the offense to the job, as the commissions' guidelines require. According to the complaint, about 10 percent of conditionally hired black employees were discharged for failing background checks between 2004 and 2007 versus about 7 percent of others.

The complaint against BMW, which deals with a factory in Spartanburg, S.C., charges that in 2008 a new labor contractor hired by the automaker applied a company screening policy that had a disparate impact on minorities and denied employment to people who had worked at that plant for years without incident. The contractor dismissed 88 employees for having criminal records. The two companies said they would fight the lawsuits. The wiser approach would be to bring the screening policies in line with federal civil rights law.

Devil worship in prison

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to LaPlante. In addition, the prisoner wants outdoor space rather than the prison basement to perform Wiccan rituals, and a communal meal on feast days.

Do you sometimes wonder how far we should take religious freedom?

If this issue were restricted to Wiccans in prison, I wouldn't bring it up this morning. But it's part of a much larger debate that I predict will escalate in coming years: If one religion can be practiced in public, shouldn't all religions expect the same access?

What about Satanists in high schools? Atheist groups on college campuses (whose numbers are proliferating these days)? One recently sponsored "Blasphemy Day" and a "War on Christmas" Party. The "Secular Student Alliance" has been called "a sort of Godless Campus Crusade for Christ"; its chapters are multiplying across the country.

Here's my belief: In a debate on the merits, the gospel will win. If Christians will "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have . . . with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15), the Spirit will always use our words and witness to advance the Kingdom. As Jesus promised, "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

Can we exclude Satanist and atheist groups from the same campuses where we want to share our faith? Since the government allows Christians to worship in prison, can it forbid Wiccans? On the other hand, I cannot find any prisons that provide Bibles and other Christian resources free of charge to inmates (it seems that **churches donate these** or prisoners buy them); should we be made to pay for Wiccan worship elements?

We are in the front line of this in the Prisons of Texas. Can you afford to ignore this?

Texas man's evangelism tract reaching thousands

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new person who walks with Christ.

"If people could understand that early in their salvation experience, then they might get it and they might stay with it," he said.

"And they might later not have such a need for reassurance or counseling and lots of other things we do as Christians."

The booklet can be used as a 30-day devotional and meditation guide with all Scriptures written out in full.

Howell's passion for the idea of being crucified with Christ reflects his own testimony. After being saved in Alaska at age 41, he began reverting back to old ways of thinking. Then God impressed on him the reality expressed in Galatians 2:20 ("I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.").

In response, Howell repented of his sins and began to grow in his faith. Reflecting back years later, he wants to make sure other new believers have a chance to learn the importance of dying to self and "co-crucifixion" with Christ.

"I'm just trying to get the Word out," Howell said. "I'm not a for-profit kind of guy, and I'm not trying to make a living out of this. God's blessed me in other ways. I'm just wanting to get the message out."

To view the tract or to watch the video, visit <http://www.howtobeachildofgod.com/>. Printed copies of the tract are available for \$5.95 each with discounts for those wishing to buy in bulk. DVDs of the video may be purchased online as well.

David Roach is a correspondent for the Southern Baptist Texan (www.texanonline.net), the news-journal of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. Original copy of this story can be found at <http://www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?ID=38691>.

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

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

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

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