



Ready4Life facilitates saving lives - spiritual and physical

Dan Mesher,
Massachusetts State Coordinator
Straight Ahead Ministry
February 2012 Ministry Letter

Khan, a former Crip, has been on the Bloods' hit list several times and has been stabbed and shot as a result. This month I share what he did when he came face to face with his attempted killers.

Three years ago I took part in *Ready4Life*, a three-day transformational training for gang members locked up in a prison near Boston. You may remember that widespread reconciliation resulted from that weekend, both in the jail and on the streets. Because *Ready4Life* made such an impact, the prison extended the invitation for Straight Ahead to run the program each of the last three years.

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R J N E W S

Honorable in Harris County Jail

Oil of Joy Newsletter

"T" heard about how God was working in the Oil of Joy class from her cell-mate in Harris County Jail. She wondered if she could get help. She was desperate to get a healing because crack cocaine was destroying her life.

When she heard the guard call out another inmate's name, "T" knew that the inmate who was called was already released, so she forged her name on the call-out sheet and was allowed to come to class. In small group session, she was the first to speak up. In prayer we asked Jesus to show her why she was destroying herself with drugs. Through childhood sexual abuse she learned to believe that her most intimate thoughts and feelings were unimportant. She'd never known honor as a woman.

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Prison visits make inmates less likely to commit crimes after release, study finds

Just a single visit from a family member or a friend can make a big difference in whether or not a prisoner ends up back behind bars after their release, a new study finds.



The study, by researchers with the Minnesota Department of Corrections, determined that prisoners who received at least one personal visit at any time during their incarceration were 13 percent less likely to commit another felony and 25 percent less likely to end up back in prison on a technical parole violation. Data showed that the more visits prisoners received, the lower their chance of re-offending after release.

The study tracked 16,000 prisoners over nearly five years, making it the largest such study of its kind, according to Grant Duwe, director of research for the Minnesota Department of Corrections, who led the research team. The study will be published in the *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, a peer-reviewed academic journal.

Duwe said prison officials in Minnesota were already weighing how to apply its results to the state's corrections policies. "I think the completion of this study gives us some tangible evidence to show that if we can increase visitation, we can give offenders more of the social support they need to succeed," he said.

Several previous, smaller-scale studies have found an even larger correlation between prison visitation and inmates' likelihood of re-offending. But most state prison systems continue to see visitation as a privilege, not a tool to help inmates establish law-abiding lives after their release, Duwe said.

"I think visitation has been largely viewed as a concession that's given to inmates," he said. "I don't know if there has been a great deal of thought given to the public safety benefits that visitation might have."

As the economic slowdown has bitten into state budgets, some prison systems have already altered visitation policies in order to save money. In Minnesota, a temporary government shutdown earlier this year led to the suspension of all prisoner visitation as a cost-saving measure.

In July, Arizona lawmakers imposed a one-time \$25 fee on all adult visitors to inmates. Funds from the fee are to be directed to maintenance of state prisons. Middle Ground Prison Reform, an advocacy group, filed suit against the state, calling the fee an "unconstitutional tax."

"If this policy results in delaying or diminishing or eliminating prison visitation for anyone, the state is shooting themselves in the foot in terms of rehabilitation," Donna Hamm, a retired municipal court judge and executive director of the group, said in September, according to the Associated Press. "That's a very short-sighted view of public safety policy."

John Kavanagh, the Republican legislator who wrote the provision, scoffed at the idea that the fee would discourage prison visitors, however.

"If a one-time charge of \$25 is enough to dissuade you from visiting your loved one, then I'm wondering how much of a loved one he or she is," he told the *Arizona Daily Star*.

Duwe declined to comment specifically on the Arizona policy. But he said the results of the Minnesota study clearly suggested that states have a fiscal incentive to encourage visitation, not discourage it.

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Ready4Life facilitates saving lives— spiritual and physical

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The most recent *Ready4Life* training is especially noteworthy. The same impact was made and powerful reconciliations took place between the rivals, but one young man stands out among the rest.

On the final day of the training the participants are seated in a large circle. One by one, if they choose, they enter the circle and invite a rival gang member to meet them there in the middle. Then they ask their rival to forgive them for crimes they have perpetrated on them and their loved ones.

One young man entered the circle and called Khan into the center with him. Years earlier he had ambushed Khan, held him down and stabbed him twenty-seven times then left him for dead. This was the first time the two had been face to face since. Then, in front of over thirty gang members, the attacker apologized for his actions and asked for Khan's forgiveness, which he granted. The two exchanged hugs; it was an emotional moment for all.



Khan/ Sokhan

But that was not the end of the circle for Khan. Another participant made his way to the center of the circle and called Khan back in. This time the young man confessed to a plot that involved taking Khan's life once and for all. Unbeknownst to Khan, the Bloods had put out a "hit" on him. For an entire year the young man standing opposite him in the circle had been searching for him to take his life. It wasn't until *Ready4Life* that he realized his sin and the extent of his hatred. It was eating him up inside and he knew he had to confess to it and ask Khan for forgiveness. Again, it was granted.

Some of you may wonder how Khan could look bitter enemies in the face and extend forgiveness to them. He'd say it is only possible because he, too, has been forgiven. Once a Crip, Khan received forgiveness for his sins through his faith in Jesus Christ's saving work on the cross. Shortly thereafter, Khan left his gang life behind and now lives to serve the Lord. He is a colleague of mine at Straight Ahead and works exclusively with other gang members. As you can imagine he has a powerful ministry to them.

As you remember him, pray for Khan's protection even as others may be plotting to take his life.

Honorable in Harris County Jail

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The Lord Jesus came to heal the hurt that had been buried for over 20 years. The truth of her worth was revealed by a man called TRUTH. Her experience with Him became a greater reality than her experience with her perpetrator. Her tormentors left her and she realized the love of God that night in Harris County Jail. "T" hung back after the class to confess to me that she lied to get in. She thanked me and told me she wanted to make it right with me. Of course I told her she was forgiven. I told her about a woman who broke rabbinical law because she was desperate to touch the hem of Jesus' garment. I think He honored that. Then she told me her real name. Her real name means "Honorable".

COLUMBUS, OHIO

Faced with an \$8 billion budget challenge the state of Ohio recently announced plans to sell Lake Erie Correctional Institution in northeastern Ohio to Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), the nation's largest private prison operator. This marks the first sale of a state prison in the nation to be sold to corporate industry. CCA operates 60 facilities with a capacity of 80,000 beds throughout the country. A lawsuit has been filed challenging the constitutionality of the transaction.

Ohio is currently housing approximately 51,000 inmates in 31 institutions built to hold about 38,000. The state is following the trend of many other states in their attempt to reduce their prison population by reducing the number of nonviolent offenders incarcerated by increasing the sentencing options given to judges. Projections indicate that these changes could reduce the state's prison population by 47,000 over a three year period.

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

The Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) actively reaches out to people in need in their communities throughout the year. IDOC director, S. A. Godinez, commended employees for their generous participation over the holiday season as an example of this spirit of support reaching out to thousands of families.

Working with organizations like Head Start, the Salvation Army, the Angel Tree program, and many others, correction facilities staff were able to help their communities with monetary gifts, by providing clothing, food, and by sponsoring toy drives. Other unique approaches included Adopt-A-Family program, the Lutheran Children and Family Services, and the U. S. Marine Corps League.

COOK COUNTY JAIL CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

In a new program at the Cook County Jail, Larry Roberts Jr. is working with men during their incarceration by providing a nine month course in barbering which will provide them with a certificate allowing them to attain a skill preparing them for reentering the work force after serving their sentence. Larry is owner of Larry's Barber College, two other barber colleges and three barber shops. The program gives the participants a sense of hope and confidence for starting over as they return to their community.

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Anticipating budget cuts upcoming in the 2013 federal budget, California is faced with the impact of a reduction of \$170 million in grants for the states alien assistance program. Approximately 13 percent of the jail and prison population of the state is made of illegal immigrants at a cost of an estimated \$1 billion.

Over the last ten years the state has closed 8 of its juvenile facilities and turned treatment for holding non-violent offenders over to the counties in an effort to meet their ongoing budget crisis. Governor Jerry Brown is now proposing to phase out the three remaining state facilities that hold over 1,000 more serious young offenders. Objections to the plan are concerns for handling juveniles convicted of serious crimes, and violent offenders, and the concern that the courts will try more of these offenders as adults.

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Smart Justice is on the agenda in Florida

Emmett Solomon
RJMN Executive Director

I just spent 4 days in Florida at the invitation of Bridges of America. Bridges of America was founded by my good friend Frank Costantino about thirty years ago. Frank died a few years ago; his daughter, Lori Costantino Brown, is leading that great organization into the 21st Century. There has been creative aftercare going on at Bridges for all of its years.

I was greatly encouraged to find that there is a considerable move toward Smart Justice around the Capitol in Tallahassee. Their fiscal short fall has the state leaders scratching around for money. They understand that the best place to cut state government is to cut criminal justice. There is a concerted effort to close 6 or 7 prisons. Reducing the size of the Department of Corrections makes good sense several ways:

1) It reduces the size of government and lowers the economic drain that criminal justice puts on the citizens.

2) It seeks to minimize destructive forces. One thing that the empirical studies of the past 20 years has taught us: On the average prisons make people worse. A year or more in prison often produces Prolonged Stress Disorder. In many cases PSD actually increases the antisocial behavior of former prisoners.

3) While the prisoner is away, the family often goes through disintegration, further unraveling the fabric of our society.

All of these factors together produce great negative forces that we need to seek to minimize. So many prisoners could be better managed in the community than in these institutions of destruction.

"Best Practices" is the term that professionals use for affective programming. Traditional justice practices majored on retribution and fostered much destruction in our society. The great prison expansions of the past 30 years have enlarged the criminal justice system to the point that it has both become a major drain on state budgets and a major destructive force in society.

We need to lock up the people we are afraid of and handle the people whom we are mad at with treatment programs in our communities.



Emmett Solomon, Executive Director

Many in U.S. are arrested by age 23, study finds

From New York Times
by Erica Goode

By age 23, almost a third of Americans have been arrested for a crime, according to a new study that researchers say is a measure of growing exposure to the criminal justice system in everyday life.

The study, the first since the 1960s to look at the arrest histories of a national sample of adolescents and young adults over time, found that 30.2 percent of the 23-year-olds who participated reported having been arrested for an offense other than a minor traffic violation.

Restorative Justice Ministry Events Calendar

March 17, 2012 –More God, Less Crime Conference

Truevine Missionary Baptist Church, 3732 Miller Ave, Fort Worth, TX

For information: <http://rjmntexas.net/moregodlesscrimemarch1012.pdf> or Register <http://rjmntexas.net/march17.htm>

April 13-14, 2012, Historical First Russian-American Prison Ministry Conference

Location: Sacramento, CA

For information write to: Slavic@prisonministry.net

April 17—May 29, 2012, Oil of Joy Training for Recovery Program (each Tuesday for 6 weeks)

Harris County Jail, Houston TX

For more details and to register contact: Rhonda Arias, rhonda.arias@att.net

April 19, 2012—6:30pm—First Contact/Welcome Back/Huntsville Recovery Center Celebration Dinner

Elkins Lake Baptist Church, 3641 Highway 19, Huntsville, TX 77340

See brochure at www.rjmntexas.net/celebrationapril2012.pdf or contact Anita Parrish arparrish@sbcglobal.net

June 4-8, 2012 –Summer Residential Semester, *Dimensions of Correctional Ministry*, School for Correctional Ministries

Institute for Prison Ministries, The Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

For information: ipm@wheaton.edu

June 11-15, 2012—Summer Residential Semester, *Care & Counseling in Correctional Ministry*,

School for Correctional Ministries, Institute for Prison Ministries, The Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

For information: ipm@wheaton.edu

June 18, 2012—Summer Online Semester, *Dynamics of Working with Offenders*,

School for Correctional Ministries, Institute for Prison Ministries, The Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

For information: ipm@wheaton.edu

July 17—August 21, 2012, Oil of Joy Training for Recovery Program (each Tuesday for 6 weeks)

Harris County Jail, Houston TX

For more details and to register contact: Rhonda Arias, rhonda.arias@att.net

Oct. 9—Nov. 13, 2012, Oil of Joy Training for Recovery Program (each Tuesday for 6 weeks)

Harris County Jail, Houston TX

For more details and to register contact: Rhonda Arias, rhonda.arias@att.net

October 20, 2012, Ex-offender Faith Based Celebration

Prison Museum, Huntsville, Texas

For details contact Anita Parrish by phone: 936-291-2156 or by email: arparrish@sbcglobal.net

Let us place your restorative justice event on the Events Calendar!

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

Include the following information: Type of Event, Date(s), Location, Sponsor(s), Contact information

More God, Less Crime Conference

Truevine Missionary Baptist Church

3732 Miller Avenue

Fort Worth TX 76119

817-534-3764

www.tmbcfw.org

March 17, 2012, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.

Conference Brochure at

<http://www.rjmntexas.net/moregodlesscrimemarch1012.pdf>

Conference Fee (includes lunch): \$25

ONLINE registration available at www.rjmntexas.net/march17.htm

If you prefer you may *mail the following registration form with check or money order made payable to RJMN to:*

RJMN, 1229 Ave J, Huntsville, TX 77340

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Ministry: _____

I want to exhibit my ministry ____

Questions - contact Anita at 936-291-2156 or

by email at arparrish@sbcglobal.net

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

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

CALIFORNIA

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

COLORADO

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

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

FLORIDA

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

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

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

1,8(M),10 **Matthew 25 Ministries Inc**
Dick Witherow
PO Box 5690
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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
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Tallahassee 32301
650-561-4013 Office
407-252-6123 Mobile
Administrative Office
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
318-742-9304
318-752-3159 **Fax**
kmoorelife@aol.com
www.moorelifeinstitute.com

MASSACHUSETTS

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

8 **The Bridge House, NEAM INC**
Tom Stevens, Exec 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
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NEW MEXICO

6 **Wings Ministry**
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505-291-6412
505-291-6418 **FAX**
AnnEdenfield@WingsMinistry.org
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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
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1,2,3,4, 5,6,7,9 **Pastor Dave's Prison Ministry**
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716-867-6737
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NORTH CAROLINA

10 **Ruff Edge Ministries**
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5164 Old Lexington Rd
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336-740-2963
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OHIO

1,7 **Restorative Justice Min. of Ohio**
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614-263-9097
jhuns@wowway.com

OKLAHOMA

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

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

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

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

PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

SOUTH CAROLINA

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

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

SOUTH DAKOTA

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

1,2,8(M) **Prison Congregations of America Inc**
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Use this Ministry ID Key to locate Ministry Emphasis:

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

<p>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</p>	<p>1 St Theresa Catholic Church Prison Ministry Rev. Justin Udomah 4311 Small Dr Austin 78731 512-451-5121 frjustin@sttaustin.org</p>	<p>409-832-7224 FAX info@iifbc.com www.iifbc.com</p>
<p><i>TEXAS</i></p> <p>6 Eunice Chambless Hospitality House 13378 Fm 3522 Abilene 79601-8770 325-548-2180 325-675-5414 Fax echhdir@netscape.com</p>	<p>3 Victim Services Division-TDCJ Angie McCown, Director PO Box 13401 Austin 78711-3401 800-848-4284 512-406-5417 Fax</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>1,2,7,9,10 TAX - Abilene Corrine Hansen 2657 Rountree Dr Abilene 79601-2034 325-676-5741</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>2 Mission Arlington 210 W South St Arlington 76010 817-277-6620</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>2 Manasseh Ministries Muriel C. Roger 6705 FM 279 Ben Wheeler 75754-5205 903-852-4402 manassehministries7@juno.com</p>
<p>1 Good Hope Prison Ministries The God of Hope Ministries Robert Dorrrough 4220 Monterey Oaks Blvd Austin 78749 512-891-1649 rdorrrough@TheGodofHope.org</p> <p>Linda Dueker—Women's Director ldueker@TheGodofHope.org</p>	<p>2,3 Compassion Christian Counseling Vande Derrick 1297B Calder Beaumont 77701 409-832-5772 409832-7224 Fax</p>	<p>1 Holy Ground Prison Ministry Johnny T Horan PO Box 2526 Brenham 77833 979-836-6328 daphne@gcfchurch.us</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>1 St John Baptist Church Rev R Michael Stromille 1508 S Broadway Dr Carrollton 75006 972-242-9194 SJBC@saintjohncarrollton.com www.saintjohncarrollton.com</p>
<p>1,2,4, 6,8,10 Restorative Christian Outreach Min. Mack Bailey 7506 Ed Bluestein Blvd Austin 78723 512-926-2431 midway3060@yahoo.com</p>	<p>1 6 Golden Triangle Baptist Assoc. Dion Ainsworth PO Box 7728 Beaumont 77726 409-898-8797 dion@gtba.org www.gtba.org</p>	<p>1,9,10 Redeemed Ministries Betty G Oates PO Box 891 Chico 76431-0891 940-644-5237 940-644-2982 Fax RedeemedMinistry@hotmail.com</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>1,3,4 International Institute of Faith Based Counseling Debbie Marcantel PO Box 20723 Beaumont 77720 409-832-9060</p>	<p>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</p>

1,9	Prayer-Life Seminars Inc Hugh White 630 Meadowbrook Dr Corpus Christi 78412-3019 361-993-7651 361-985-8615 Fax hughlwhite@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	1,2,5,9,10	Deep In The Word Prison Ministry Partner in Christ, James Guerra PO Box 4752 Fort Worth 76164 214-883-3601 jguerra789@aol.com
1	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	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
1,7,9	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
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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	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
1,5,6,7	Ministry to Ministries Jim Lang PO Box 700023 Dallas 75370 214-215-6226 972-283-7871 jimlang41!@aol.com	7	COPE Fauhn Schierer 1001 W Eules Blvd Ste 212 Eules 76040-5032 817-684-7870 682-292-0836 Fax office@ccopecoconnections.org www.copeconnections.org	1,2,3,4, 5,6,9,10	Morning Star Jail/Prison Ministry Rev Robert L Buchanan 2251 El Paso Grand Prairie 75051 972-647-1445 setatliberty1@aol.com www.morningstar-baptist.org

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<p>10 Encouraging Word Ministries Margaret Hackler PO Box 5148 Gun Barrel City 75147</p>	<p>1,2,6 Covenant Fellowship Rev David Valentine PO Box 10769 Huntsville 77340 936-435-0993 dbhvalentine@suddenlink.net www.cf huntsville.org</p>
<p>10 Open Arms Ministry Steve & Diana Moore PO Box 529 Hillsboro 76645 254-580-2935 mrst24dbt@aol.com</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>1,3, Bridges To Life John Sage PO Box 19039 Houston 77224 713-463-7200 jsage1@aol.com www.bridgestolife.org</p>	<p>1,2,6, Path to Freedom Ministry</p> <p>9,10` 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</p>
<p>1,9 Crossover USA Gary R Nichols 911 Westmont Houston 77015 713-545-7991 713-455-7060 Fax gnichols@crossoverusa.com</p>	<p>1 Director of Chaplaincy Support Richard Lopez 1060 St Hwy 190 E Huntsville 77340 936-437-4973 936-437-4988 Richard.lopez@tdcj.state.tx.us www.tdcj.state.tx.us</p>
<p>1,3,4,5, Epiphany Ministries of Texas 8,9,10 Chuck Talbot PO Box 590578 Houston 77259 chucktal@msn.com www.texasepiphany.com</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>5,7,10 Initiatives for America's Youth Boone Vastine 15153 Kimberley Ct Houston 77079-5130 281-493-4556 layjim@aol.com</p>	<p>1,2,3,5, Restored to Christ 7,9,10 Harold Travis 14147 Ivy Bluff Ct Houston 77062 281-488-5110 281-488-8218 Fax harold@clearlakemethodist.org</p>
<p>9 Jail Chaplaincy Ministry Freddie Wier PO Box 30262 Houston 77249-0262 713-569-2929</p>	<p>1,2 Faith Temple Holiness Church of God in Christ 2614 Montgomery Rd Huntsville 77340 936-438-8750</p>
<p>1,2,3,4,5, Morning Star Baptist Church 6,9,10 5110 Crane ST Houston 77026-3908 713-674-7170</p>	<p>1,2,3 Episcopal Diocese of TX RJM Edwin Davis 2003 Avenue P Huntsville 77340-5029 936-291-3153 edsalpc@yahoo.com</p>
<p>6 Newgate Connection Wesley Stevens PO Box 96333 Houston 77213-9633 281-452-2352 wfstevens1@pdq.net</p>	<p>1,3,4, Servants of Christ Prison 6,9,10 Ministry Sibble Knight PO Box 111275 Houston 77293-0275 281-449-2703</p>
<p>1,2,5, Newgate UMC/Onesimus Journey 7,8 Rev. Marvin Hood 3827 Broadway @I-45S</p>	<p>1 Skills for Life Inc James Arnold PO Box 38553 Suite 113 Houston 77238 281-733-1223 arnojl@msn.com ww.skillsforlifepm.com</p>
	<p>2 Spirit Key Inc Allen Rice 13617 Kaltenbrun Rd Houston 77086 281-971-0014 office@spiritkey.org www.spiritkey.org</p>
	<p>1,2,4 First Baptist Church Welcome Back Ministry 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340-4698 936-291-3441 www.fbchuntsville.org</p>
	<p>2 Vision City Church—Bilingual Español /English Pastor Rick Vasquez 4300 W. Bellfort Houston 77035 713-270-9434 visionchurch2011@gmail.com www.visionchurchhouston.com www.rickvasquez.org</p>
	<p>6 Hospitality House Debra McCammon 912 10th St Huntsville 77320-3937 936-291-6196 www.thehospitalityhouse.org</p>

7	<p>Restorative Justice Ministries Network Emmett Solomon, Exec Director 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340 936-291-2156 esolomon@sbcglobal.net esolomon@rjmnTexas.net www.rjmn.net www.restorativejusticeneews.net</p> <p>Anita Parrish, Ministry Assistant arparrish@sbcglobal.net</p>	Kelly_purselley@pfm.org www.prisonfellowship.org	2,5,7,8(M) 9,10	<p>Freedom House Discipleship Jami Butts 3542 Mercury Ave Odessa 79764 432-381-5453 FreedomHouse05@gmail.com www.odessadreamcenter.com</p>
2,6,7	<p>Bill Kleiber 800-998-3004 kleiber@sbcglobal.net www.thewelcomback.org</p>	1,6,10	1	<p>Texas HOPE Literacy Inc Lucy Smith PO Box 905 Hurst 76053-0905 817-919-3161 hopeliteracy@sbcglobal.net www.hopelit.com</p> <p>The Brotherhood of St Andrew Oliver Osborn PO Box 537 Lake Jackson 77566-0537 979-297-6217</p>
1	<p>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</p>	1,2,7,100	1,2,3,4, 8(B),9	<p>Freedom in Jesus Ministries Don Castleberry PO Box 939 Levelland 79336 806-778-3923 806-897-0730 Fax fijm@nts-online.net</p> <p>Mike Hooker Ministries Mike / Charlotte R Hooker PO Box 143 Queen City 75572-0143 903-796-5297 214-796-6592 Fax</p>
3	<p>TDCJ Victim Services Jim Brazzil PO Box 949 Huntsville 77432 936-437-4941 jim.brazzil@tdcj.state.tx.us</p>	1,2,3,7, 8(B),9,10	1,2,3, 6,7,10	<p>Calvary Commission Joe Fauss PO Box 100 Lindale 75771-0100 903-882-5501 903-882-7282 joefauss@calvarycommission.org www.calvarycommission.org</p> <p>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</p>
1,7	<p>The Old Time Religion Hour Inc Rev George Lupo PO Box 1225 Huntsville 73342 936-293-8000</p>	10	2	<p>Exodus Prison Ministry Joyce Hargis 4243 34th Street Lubbock 79410 806-791-3673 806-780-9780 Fax joyce@exodusprisonministry.org www.exodusprisonministry.org</p> <p>One Man's Treasure Clothes Closet Annette Jenkins 519 E I-30 #211 Rockwall 75087 888-433-9826 onemanstr@yahoo.com www.onemanstr.org</p>
1,5	<p>University Heights Baptist Church Bro Richard Rogers 2400 Sycamore Ave Huntsville 77340-6120 936-295-2996 office@uhbc.net www.uhbc.net</p>	2	1,10	<p>Harvesting International Ministry Center 560 Easy Dr Mansfield 76063 817-453-3663</p> <p>Joy Prison Ministry Ura White PO Box 7324 Spring 77387-7324 281-253-8342</p>
2,5	<p>Winner's Circle Juvenile Program Kent Lucas 550 Elkins Lake Huntsville 77340 936-436-9467 winnerscircletexas@sbcglobal.net</p>	3	1,2	<p>Hope For Healing Ministries Inc Susan Edwards PO Box 9331 Midland 79708 214-477-2610 sedwards@hopeforhealingministries.org www.hopeforhealingministries.org</p> <p>Trinity RJM Galynn Ferris 3919 Snag Ln Spring 77388 281-352-3913 galynn@trinityrjm.com www.trinityrjmn.com</p>
3,4,5,6, 7,10	<p>Mercy Heart@ Christ Memorial Stephen Drake 241 W Bedford-Euleess Rd Hurst 76053 817-285-1671 cmcc1999@sbcglobal.net www.CMCCfamily.org</p>	1,5,7,9	1	<p>LifeChange Mentoring Shirley Orr Smith PO Box 9535 Midland 79708-9535 sos@lifechangementoring.org www.lifechangementoring.org</p> <p>Accepting Grace Ministries Inc Joe / Betty Waggoner PO Box 983 Stamford 79553-0983 325-773-2248 bettyj@camalott.com</p>
1,6,7	<p>Prison Fellowship Ministries Kelly Purselley PO Box 54987 Hurst 76054</p>	P.T.C. Prison Ministry Bobby Griffin PO Box 633741 Nacogdoches 75963 936-559-0070 ptcm_griffith@hotmail.com	1,4,6	<p>Houston Trinity Prison Ministry Romeo Pena PO Box 1411 Sugar Land 77487-1411 713-906-3407 r.pena@ssss.com</p>

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903-348-6415
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3,4,7,10 The Faith Based Counselor Training Institute
Dr. Michael Haynes
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254-231-4334
254-231-4336 **Fax**
FBCTI@aol.com
www.FaithBasedCounseling.com

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mail@crjma.org
www.crjma.org

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

8 House Where Jesus Shines
Pastor Nilsa Latimer
18320 Gholson Rd
Waco 76705-5823
254-829-2100
254-829-0252 **Fax**
thwjs@msn.com
www.opendoorwaco.org

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

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8 (M&F) Loudoun Aftercare Program
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703-737-3017 **FAX**
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1,4 His Sufficient Grace Ministries
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1 Prisoners for Christ Outreach Ministry
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425-467-1680 **Fax**
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Regional News

Continued from Page 2

CASTRO VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Follow Up Ministries, International (FUMI) announces plans for an Advanced God Squad Training Course open to all God Squad Volunteers. The course, created by Founder Rev. Glenn Morrison, includes six advance lessons, and six Truth Project Lessons by Dr. Del Tackett of Focus on the Family. The series will be covered in six three hour sessions scheduled to be held monthly February through October at the Redwood Chapel Community Church in Castro Valley. For additional information on the course materials or to sign up to register for the class – call the FUMI office at 510.881.1178. Topics include Spiritual Warfare, Productive Christian Living, and God’s Word in My Heart, Prayer, God’s Will, and Follow-Up. Truth project topics include: Truth, God, Social Order, Man, God and Man, and History. FUMI equips and trains ordinary people to go where pastors and other parishioners may not be able to go – into the juvenile centers, prison yards, and solitary cells – where spiritual help and nurture are desperately needed.

LANSING, MICHIGAN

In an effort to reduce the cost of operating Michigan’s prison operations a plan for using contractors for health and food services has been proposed. The plan estimates a savings of \$1.25 million through privatization. Governor of Michigan, Rick Snyder, is faced with Michigan laws that may delay these plans. The laws require minimum wage for prison inmates and the requirement of contractors to pay for the use of state property.

...the laws require minimum wage for prison inmates...

Editor’s Note: You are invited to read Richard Blake’s blog at <http://richardblake.wordpress.com>

Prison visits make inmates less likely to commit crimes after release, study finds

Continued from Page 2

A single parole violation that returns a released inmate to prison, even briefly, costs upwards of \$9,000. A prisoner who commits a new felony and spends additional years behind bars will cost far more.

"The benefits we could see from a reduction in recidivism could vastly outweigh the cost of increasing visitation," he said.

A few states, such as Idaho and Virginia, are already experimenting with a novel and cost-effective way to boost interaction between inmates and their loved ones: internet-based video visitation systems, (<http://www.correctionsone.com/products/facility-products/inmate-visitation/articles/2075432-Internet-video-visitation-Why-and-how-to-make-the-switch>) which have proven popular with inmates and administrators.

Yet while a growing body of research shows that overall, visits by family, friends, religious figures and community mentors are overwhelmingly positive for inmates, data from the Minnesota study shows that one type of visitor should probably be avoided. Visits by an ex-wife or ex-husband, it found, can actually lead inmates to commit more crime after their release.

"Visits from ex-spouses could do more harm than good," Duwe said. "That was kind of an interesting finding."

Freedom begins in the heart

By Johnathan Kana

Given the stern demands and outwardly meager dividends of ministering to the imprisoned, it would not surprise me to learn that some volunteers routinely struggle with doubts as to the real value of their efforts. Perhaps an insider's word of encouragement is in order.

“You shall know the truth,” Jesus says, “and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32 NKJV).

“Free.” What an achingly beautiful word that is to the prisoner. What a tantalizing promise Jesus makes to the captives of the world: know the truth, discover your freedom.

But what kind of knowledge are we talking about here? The Greek root *ginosko*, translated “know” in our English Bibles, is actually used in two distinct ways. On the one hand, it may simply refer to accurate comprehension of information, as in John 7:51: “Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?” If we speak of knowing the truth in this sense, then we are simply referring to our discernment of reality from falsehood. The “freedom” gained is liberation from ignorance, doubt, and deception.

But it is also possible to read John 8:32 in much the same way as John 10:15, where Jesus remarks, “As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father.” Here, we see that the emphasis is less on factual comprehension and more on the reciprocal intimacy that results from personal encounter. Jesus knows the Father intimately; He is personally acquainted with the Father's ways, fully knowledgeable of the Father's character, the things that evoke His love and the things that break His heart. This is not mere information; it is relationship. So when we speak of knowing the truth in this sense, we are talking about forming a personal relationship with Truth—capital “T”—in the person of Jesus Christ.

What an incredible paradigm shift this is! It would seem there is an innate connection between mind and heart, between learning and fellowship. It would seem that real freedom begins, not with the loosening of our handcuffs, but with our wholehearted embrace of godly knowledge, the kind that comes only as we cultivate a personal relationship with the risen Lord. That is the context in which Jesus Himself—the divine, personal Truth—makes us free.

Free from fear and condemnation. Free from sin and death. Free from ourselves.

That is the real engine that drives our efforts to disciple offenders. We know that there are hundreds of lonely prisoners languishing in their cells who might begin to experience inward freedom this very moment, if only someone would point them toward the sacred pages of God's love letter to the world. We know that people in love are continually learning more about each other, and they use that knowledge to build intimacy. Their relationship never stagnates; it becomes ever more resilient as they grow in appreciation for one another.

We recognize that this is what studying the Word of God should be like. We should emerge from each session feeling newly in love with the Truth who releases us from the chokehold of loneliness and despair. We respect the progression: study yields understanding; understanding enriches love; love prompts obedience; and obedience issues in abundant life—a freedom far sweeter than any the parole board might grant. This is the message we long to bring behind the prison walls.

And we want to help offenders avoid those two deadly mistakes we too often make with regard to our Bibles. On the one hand, we might remain biblically illiterate, leaning on our favorite verses and settling for an incomplete portrait of Truth. We thereby entertain a relationship with God only as we individually conceive of Him—on our terms, to fill our own pet desires. On the other hand, we might go to the opposite extreme, intellectually eviscerating the Scriptures in our determination to systematically map out God's spiritual anatomy. Such study yields a vivid, but clinically sterile portrait of the living Word. We may come to know who He is, but we will never really *know* Him.

**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
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:

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.

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NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PURCHASER: _____ **PHONE:** _____

Honorable in Harris County Jail

Continued from Page 1

The Lord Jesus came to heal the hurt that had been buried for over 20 years. The truth of her worth was revealed by a man called TRUTH. Her experience with Him became a greater reality than her experience with her perpetrator. Her tormentors left her and she realized the love of God that night in Harris County Jail. "T" hung back after the class to confess to me that she lied to get in. She thanked me and told me she wanted to make it right with me. Of course I told her she was forgiven. I told her about a woman who broke rabbinical law because she was desperate to touch the hem of Jesus' garment. I think He honored that. Then she told me her real name. Her real name means "Honorable".

Pictures from More God, Less Crime Conference - January 14, 2012—Sugar Land, TX



Dr. Byron Johnson keynote speaker and author of More God, Less Crime.



And of course GOOD food!



Inspiring ministry displays with lots of handouts!!

Please enjoy these pictures from the More God, Less Crime Conference held in Sugar Land TX, on January 14, 2012. One hundred and four attendees listened learned and gave standing ovations to the speakers. The testimonies were powerful. Dr. Bryon Johnson's book More God, Less Crime sold out. Fifty-one attendees went on the Freedom Bus to tour the Carol Vance facility and witness God's power behind the bars. It was a great day. Make plans to attend the conference on March 17.

More God, Less Crime, March 17, 2012, Ft Worth, TX

If you are looking at the pictures above that were taken at the More God, Less Crime Conference in January wishing you had attended, you have another chance on March 17, at the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Dr. Bryon Johnson, author of the book More God, Less Crime, will be the keynote speaker at the conference in Ft. Worth. Other personalities on the program are Ms. Dee Wilson, Director of Reentry and Integration for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and Rev. Jack Crane, pastor of Truevine Baptist Missionary Church, Ft. Worth.

You will be blessed by hearing the ex-offender testimonies!

Register early and take advantage of the early registration savings.

For more information take a look at the <http://rjmntexas.net/moregodlesscrimemarch1012.pdf>

To register online go to <http://rjmntexas.net/march17.htm>. To register by mail see page 7 in this newsletter.

Don't miss the March 17th, More God, Less Crime Conference at the Truevine Missionary Baptist Church in Ft. Worth.

Longest serving Texas prison inmate paroled

Grits for Breakfast Blog

Via Michael-Graczyk at Associated Press(AP), Texas' longest serving inmate has finally been paroled, at age 83:

When Harvey Stewart first went to prison 60 years ago, gasoline was 20 cents a gallon, a postage stamp cost three pennies and Harry Truman was president.

Now, as perhaps one of the longest-serving inmates in US history, the convicted killer is looking forward to the perks of freedom when he is released on parole in the coming weeks or months.

An iPod or cell phone perhaps? Not for this 83-year-old. Stewart simply wants a root beer and a good meal.

"Imagine that! Sixty years being down in this damn hole," Stewart recently told The Associated Press from the Beto Unit in East Texas, one of his many stops in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. "I wouldn't recommend it. Man's a damn fool to even stick his foot in here."

Stewart, awaiting his release to a halfway house or nursing home after being granted parole earlier this year, recalled his youthful days of robbing brothels in Southeast Texas for quick \$3,000 pay days, of getting shot in the back while holding up a junk yard and murdering a man in what he insists was a self-defense killing.

But the six decades in prison haven't been nearly as eventful. He counts among his highlights his brief escape in 1965 and a recurring headache from a prison van wreck a couple years ago. Besides those short-lived respites from monotony, Stewart has served his time isolated from the outside world. He doesn't recall receiving a single visitor in more than a decade. He's outlived most or all his immediate family.

His parole was approved in April, with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles considering his recent history of good behavior, his age and declining health.

"I'm too damn old to do any robbing," said Stewart, his blond hair now a balding gray brush cut. "I think I am anyway. My old ticker might kick out on me."

Stewart is the longest-serving inmate among the 155,000 prisoners in the Texas system, though it's unclear if he is the nation's longest-serving inmate now or ever. Prison officials and historians say they're unaware of any agency or organization that keeps track of all inmates' jail time.

Suffice it to say if AP could find nobody currently in an American prison who'd served longer than this fellow, that's a pretty remarkable statement. Imagine the difficulties associated with leaving prison alone in the world at 83 years old! At least they're facilitating some transition stage via a halfway house. I can't fathom what it would be like to enter an alien, new world with no support after so long behind bars. His crimes were committed before President Kennedy was assassinated, before Hawaii was a state, before Sputnik launched, before Khrushchev said, "We will bury you" - before Elizabeth II became Queen of England, for heaven's sake.

Now that Texas has hundreds of inmates serving life without parole sentences (an option only available since 2005), our grandkids will see prisoners serving longer sentences, even than Mr. Stewart. These prisoners will stay in that "damn hole" until they die, but, does that really make sense? Does anybody think Texas would be safer keeping Stewart and other so-called "lifers" in prison to the bitter end? The biggest complicating factor from life without parole is who pays for end-of-life care: Parole elderly offenders and the federal government picks up most of the tab via Medicaid and Medicare. Keep them in prison and their end-of-life care is paid for out of state general revenue funds,

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Bi-partisan support kills prison *privatization* *Sweetheart deal in Florida*

The Florida state Senate killed Senate Bill 2038: Privatization of Correctional Facilities, which would have instigated the largest mass privatization of prisons in the nation's history. Private corrections corporations gave Florida lawmakers almost \$900,000 in the last campaign cycle. Florida lawmakers pulled out all the stops - trying to bypass both public and media scrutiny - to get it passed. In an extraordinary move, nine Republicans broke ranks, defied their leadership and joined with their Democratic colleagues to stop the bill.

SB 2038 was fast tracked through the Senate. Despite powerful testimony against the bill in the Rules Committee, it was rushed through to the Budget Committee - circumventing the committees that would ask the hard questions about this legislation. Senate President Mike Haridopolos thought he had the votes he needed. But a second reading saw a handful from his own party questioning the bill. And it all fell apart.

Haridopolos fired Senator Mike Fasano, R-New Port Richey, from his chairmanship of the budget panel in charge of prisons because Fasano dared to suggest an amendment that would require real study and real thought about this unprecedented move. Fasano publicly stated that SB2038 was payback to GEO Group and Corrections Corporation of America, which flooded the last campaign cycle with so much corporate money. And, he called Haridopolos a bully.

The once-smug Senate President scrambled for support, scrounging for the 21-senate votes he needed in order to deliver to the multi-million-dollar private prison corporations what had been promised - and paid for.

And then on Valentine's Day, senator after senator stood up with courage and tenacity and voted "no". They stood up for public safety and against human freedom becoming a commodity to be bought and sold. They stood against the lobbying of a multi-billion dollar industry and they stood with the four thousand state workers who would have lost their jobs in the privatization. The bill was defeated.

On the same day, the CCA, Corrections Corporation of America, through its Corrections Investment Initiative, offered to buy Florida prisons in a public-private partnership in which CCA would assume ownership and management of existing facilities, with guaranteed occupancy rates and payments. The ink was barely dry on the defeat of SB 2038, when the industry found and offered a new scheme to profit on incarceration in Florida.

The bill is dead. But the movement to expand into the prison market is alive and well, with offers to buy prisons and proffer other services associated with these facilities; such as food services, transportation, health services, mental health services, electronic surveillance - and, in one state, the infrastructure for holding and willingness to engage in executions.

Grassroots Leadership, along with a coalition - faith based groups, labor, small non-profits and researchers - came together and dismantled the private prison sweetheart deal.

Lets keep breaking the heart of the prison industry

Dear Editor

From Doots Dufour:

From 1972 until 2006 the incarcerated population increased 500%. The crime rate was not appreciably affected. Like Ed Latessa says, "Putting people in jail does not affect the crime rate."

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Transformed from glory to glory

By Sheila Klein,
PF Volunteer at Carole Young Prison

Most people at age 34 are fairly well established with their family and career or at least have a vision of where they would like to go in life. For Tracey Sims, at age 34 she found herself staring at a 40 year prison sentence for theft. Leaving her 4 children with her mother to raise, she could have thought her life was over. After all, she could be 74 by the time she was released. But God had other plans.

...at age 34 she found herself staring at a 40 year sentence for theft.

After pleading guilty to the theft charges and hearing her sentence pronounced, Tracey decided only God could intervene and give her back the life she was about to lose. Once behind bars, determination took over and Tracey began to take classes and join groups that would help her become the person she knew God had created her to be. In 2009 when the Sisterhood of Ruth was formed at the Carole Young Unit, Tracey was among the first to sign up.

The Sisterhood of Ruth is a Christ based volunteer study group teaching Biblical life skills. In addition to the learning opportunities, the ladies are learning to hold each other responsible for their actions. Tracey should be the poster child for RUTH. The only time she ever missed class in over two and a half years was when she had to have knee surgery. But the week after her surgery, there she was hobbling in on her crutches, back in class!

In May 2011, Tracey was part of the first graduating class of the Sisterhood of Ruth. That summer she was trained by Prison Fellowship to be one of the first women officially recognized as an inmate facilitator for RUTH. No matter what

was needed - setting up the sound system, getting the DVD player to work, etc. – Tracey was there ready, willing and able to serve. If we needed someone to encourage another member, we called on Tracey. If we asked someone to pray, Tracey eagerly volunteered. Tracey had definitely become the woman God created her to be!

Just before Christmas 2011, the parole board voted to release Tracey within the following thirty days. There was never any doubt that God chose His birthday to give Tracey her new birthday – her freedom day. Tracey has made it very clear to all the ladies in the Sisterhood that ONLY GOD can accomplish what has happened in her life. And by keeping Him first, even when the circumstances look impossible, even when the world says you will grow old in prison, even when the pain of missing your family is almost more than you can bear, there is ALWAYS hope. God is faithful! God is merciful! And best of all, God restores life to the lost!

Serving only six years of a forty-year sentence is unheard of. But with Faith and Prayer God accomplishes miracles. Through Tracey's release, God has restored Hope for the other ladies who felt Hopeless. And in her last class before her release, Tracey was quick to remind the ladies ... BUT GOD!



Tracey and her mentor

Longest serving Texas prison inmate paroled

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except the Legislature didn't allocate enough.

Without knowing the details, it seems that young Mr. Stewart at 23 was a dangerous man traveling a bad road. But did Mr. Stewart at 65, 70, 80 years of age, pose the same threat? What do you think? Would justice have been better or worse served if he'd been released a decade or so ago when he still had family alive? Would the price of his atonement have seemed any less devastating? Would the public be any less safe?

Dear Editor

Continued from Page 20

From Anita Pool,

Educate, Don't Incarcerate.

Tonight I went to panel discussion at St. Stephens Episcopal Church on the School-to-Prison Pipeline. Did you know? "The school-to-prison pipeline is a disturbing 'disciplinary' system that funnels children out of public schools and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Many of these children have learning disabilities or histories of poverty, abuse or neglect, and would benefit from additional educational and counseling services." Many students are acquiring records as young as 10 years old. "Most Class C misdemeanor tickets written by school police officers are for low-level, non-violent misbehavior."

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

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