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Low cost of justice ministry

By Emmett Solomon

In a world where we are used to costs going up and where cost/value calculations are necessary, I want to direct your focus to a great value. From my experience I have noticed that when God calls a person to some form of justice ministry, He enables it.

I have many enquiries about availability of ministry jobs. I usually respond by saying, “ There is plenty of ministry to be done; however, I do not know of a single paying job. Yet somehow the ministry goes forward on many a “shoestring” budget. There are literally 100,000s of such volunteers across our nation.

In God’s economy, I challenge anyone to point out a more vital ministry with so little flow of cash. This was brought to my attention recently when I attended a celebration at the Burning Hope Baptist Church in Trinity, Texas. It was actually a celebration of the 5th Anniversary of the founding of the House of Hope, a transitional housing facility for women who are in transition from drug addiction to sobriety.

Jim and Anita Parrish lead that church. Jim is the pastor and I would call Anita the Comptroller. They make a great ministry team. *Continued on Page 16*

UK embraces restorative justice for juveniles

By Neil Puffett
Children & Young People Now
July 15, 2010

A landmark report has called for the introduction of restorative justice across Wales and England to halve the current number of juveniles in custody.

The Independent Commission on Youth Crime and Antisocial Behaviour reports that restorative justice in Northern Ireland should provide the model for major changes to the youth justice system.

The commission, which carried out an 18-month study into alternative responses to youth crime, concludes that restorative meetings known as "youth conferencing" are the way to deliver better justice for the victims of crime, while cutting re-offending rates and custody numbers.

Its report, *Time for a Fresh Start*, estimates the cost of dealing with youth crime and anti-social behaviour as being more than £4bn each year. (The British pound is currently *Continue on Page 15*

IN THIS ISSUE

Low cost of justice ministry	1
UK embraces RJ for juveniles	1
Latinos engaged in RJ	2
Mercy Heart Award	2
Ministry Resources	3
Regional News	4
PEW Charitable Trust findings	5
House of Hope safe harbor	6
Correctional Ministry online	7
Nominate for RJ prize	7
Ministries Directories	8-14
Removing youth from adult jails and prison	18
Dear Editor	19
History of juvenile justice	20
Heart of the Young Gladiator	20
Human suffering in Zambia	21
New Release from IPM	22

Latinos engaged in Restorative Justice

By Charito Calvachi-Meteyko

December 2010, Restorative Justice Online

Latinos are highly represented among the incarcerated population, but they are not just standing by while this happens. Their efforts to implement restorative justice to bring healing to their communities are being noticed and being supported by promoters in this field.

Statistics show the impact that mandatory sentences, three-strikes-you're-out, zero tolerance and the criminalization of undocumented immigrants have in this population. Lives, families and communities are being hurt forever with this situation. In Georgetown, Delaware, a family of five still is haunted by the memories of their hard-working-father being chained, detained and deported two years ago. Hope, represented in justice that heals, is brought to this community's thought.

The voices of those who learned to deal with crime and conflict in a non-violent way are also being heard to show new ways. Radio Centro, WLCH 91.3 FM, the Latino Public Radio in Lancaster, PA broadcasts in Spanish *For A Culture of Peace*, a 30 minute-program that tells the story of young people who have acknowledged their wrongdoing, have taken responsibility for it and have made amendments to right the wrong. Miguel Rosado is one of them. The manager of the store in which Miguel committed a crime, returned the money paid to him by Miguel as reparation, so Miguel could pay for his college tuition. Miguel is now on his way to complete his PhD so he can teach criminal justice. Miguel's right actions inspired his victim to see him as a human with great potential.

Spaces for restorative dialogue are also being created. The Latino Initiative on Restorative Justice, a not-for-profit organization, is promoting the dissemination of restorative justice in Delaware, Pennsylvania and even Latin America. Their first conference on April 14, 2010, was attended by 100 participants from diverse fields and counted with internationally known restorative justice theorists and practitioners such as Howard Zehr, Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, Kay Pranis, Barbara Toews, Nancy Reistenberg and Patty Noss.

Listening to the radio and discussing new ways to deal with crime among interdisciplinary groups is a small but significant way to redirect our punitive system to possibilities to heal the wounds of crime effectively.

Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award: Best Family Program 2010, Mercy Heart Legacy Day with Mom



Front Row, L-R: Dan Pierson; Mary Lee Pierson; Karen Kinnaird; and Van Kinnaird.
Back Row, L-R: TBCJ Chairman Oliver Bell; Stephen Wilson; Former TBCJ Chairman Carol S. Vance; Celeste Wilson; and TDCJ Executive Director Brad Livingston

The Mercy Heart Legacy Day with Mom program is designed to foster a sense of personal identity and self-worth for each member of the family, as well as, the need for cooperation so that each member may know where they belong within the family unit. Twice a year at the Halbert Unit in Burnet, Texas, Mercy Heart Legacy Day with Mom organizes a day for the incarcerated mother, her children, and the children's caretaker to spend together in activities that help build relationships and develop an understanding of how incarceration has affected their lives. The group provides volunteers, activities, a meal, and snacks for the day, and will assist with travel expenses for the family if necessary. One offender that participated in the program wrote: "The Legacy Day with Mom planted an awesome seed. I am eternally grateful for them and all they did for me and my son." For their commitment to the restoration of families, the Mercy Heart Legacy Day with Mom program has been awarded the Texas Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award 2010.

Ministry Resources from Restorative Justice Ministries Network

1229 Avenue J, Huntsville TX 77340

Recommended for ministry people:

- Restorative Justice Ministry for Pastors & Church Leaders - Emmett Solomon** \$12.00 _____
 Guidance for leaders interested in beginning RJM in the local congregation
- Challenging the Impossible: Discovering Beautiful Trophies for Jesus- Joe Fauss** \$12.00 _____
 The inspirational story of Joe and Charlotte Fauss, who have spent the past 31 years reaching out to prisoners.
- The Real World of Restorative Justice Ministry- Pastor Dave Umfreville** \$12.00 _____
 Timeless principles in a restorative justice ministry arena. Dedicated to those who labor in this field.

Recommended for ministry & offenders:

- Serving Time, Serving Others - Tom & Laura Lagana** \$17.00 _____
 Acts of kindness by inmates, prison staff, victims, and volunteers
- Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul -Canfield, Hensen, Oberst, Boal, Lagana** \$17.00 _____
 Stories to celebrate the spirit of courage, caring and community
- Chicken Soup for the Prisoner's Soul -Canfield, Hensen, Lagana** \$17.00 _____
 Stories to celebrate the spirit of courage, caring and community
- Karla Faye Tucker SET FREE-Linda Strom** \$12.00 _____
 Her Death-Row transformation captured the world's attention. Uplifting, good read
- Spanish version also available** \$12.00 _____

Recommended for offender's families and friends:

- What Is Jail, Mommy? - Jackie A. Stanglin** \$12.00 _____
 It is the author's firm belief that it is incumbent on each of us to provide age-appropriate facts to young inquiring minds. To do otherwise will be evident in future generations.
- Spanish version also available** \$12.00 _____
- Family Arrested: How to Survive the Incarceration of a Loved One - Ann Edenfiel** \$15.00 _____
 Ann Edenfield is Executive Director of Wings Ministry, a ministry to families of inmates.
- Audio tape book also available** \$22.00 _____
- An Inmate's Daughter - Jan Walker** \$10.00 _____
 Jan Walker taught parenting and family relationships to adult felons for eighteen years. She used her background and success with incarcerated dads to create this 'true fiction' novel

Recommended for offenders:

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

Total \$ _____

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

SEND BOOK(S) TO:

INSTITUTION: _____ **INMATE #:** _____

NAME: _____ **ADDRESS:** _____

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

PURCHASER: _____ **PHONE:** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Regional News by Richard Blake

West Sacramento, California

The Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice and the California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA) sponsored a series of meetings involving a group of the state's leading experts and stakeholders from all spectrums of the criminal justice system. Their goal was to develop a set of policy recommendations to elevate political discourse and provide sensible solutions to corrections for California's correctional crisis. Daryl Lee, CCPOA Vice President, Division of Juvenile Justice, brought the welcoming address.

Richmond, California

James Morgan of Eleventh Hour Evangelistic Association reports, "We are working with a Presbyterian church in Danville, to bring about some changes. Briefly recapping our goals, we are partnering with several Richmond pastors who are seeking new ways to collaborate in solving problems in the community that are primarily mostly focused on youth. All of us recognize that different approaches are needed to prevent kids from being attracted not only to drugs but to the social elements that come along with drug use. We know that many of the old solutions, which are simply the prescriptive nostrums of the past, have not worked. We also understand that there is strength in numbers where denominational ties are set aside to get things done. Our short term goals focus on what I like to call short-term victories: one child at a time regardless of background saved by the Holy Spirit...with a little help from His friends."

Castro Valley, California

Follow Up Ministries, Inc. featured a training center recently at the New Life Christian Church in Castro Valley, focusing on "Encouraging Inmates." God Squad members Ruben Martinez, Lee Fong, and Tim Wagoner shared ideas for how to better understand and meet the needs of the incarcerated. They shared from their personal experiences in jail and prison ministry from a Biblical perspective.

Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

Brooklyn Park's Police Academies provide a program geared toward teens. Participants learn about gang awareness, healthy relationships, self defense, juvenile laws and the K-9 swat team. It has been found that what the teens take away from the course is often a new respect for police officers, and improved self confidence, and specific information gleaned from the question and answer sessions. An important goal of the program is to encourage and motivate the participants toward successful meaningful lives.

Milacs Lake, Minnesota

Mark Ritchie, director of Timber Bay Camp reports on a recent opportunity for ministry through their Middle School Camps. Many community social and juvenile services have come to us, over the years begging we do something for younger pre-teens. They recognize the fact that the problems at-risk teens face are occurring at younger and younger ages. As a result of this request Timber Bay scheduled a series of Middle School Camps to address this need with an emphasis on relationship building and experiencing God's love.

Chicago, Illinois, Cook County Jail

Chicago's Cook County Jail was featured on Discovery Health's new TV series "Doctors Behind Bars". In an effort to show viewers how medical teams help patients under unusual conditions William Foley, CEO of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System cooperated with the producers of the "Doctors Behind Bars" television series.

Cermak Hospital is the facility that serves as the correction hospital serving the 10,000 inmates of the jail. The medical staff want people to understand the magnitude of the need for what they do. The inmates

Continued on page 5

PEW Charitable Trust findings about jails

Throughout the country, city and county officials are taking steps to reduce jail populations in ways intended to make the criminal justice system more efficient while maintaining public safety. For years, jails across the United States have grown in size and expense. But today, facing tighter budgets, communities big and small are reexamining established policies.

These efforts are having an impact. For the first time in three decades, the average daily jail population in large jurisdictions declined in 2009—down 2.3 percent from the previous year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics. It is too soon to tell whether this one-year dip is the start of a new trend, but many jurisdictions seem intent on reversing the population growth of prior years.

From 1999 to 2008, jail populations climbed by 30 percent nationally.

Cost concerns may be one factor behind this recent decline in local jail populations. In hard economic times, many cities and counties no longer view jail growth as sustainable or inevitable. From large metropolitan areas such as Cook County, Illinois, which includes Chicago, and Harris County, Texas, which includes Houston, to smaller places such as Lee County, Mississippi, and Spokane County, Washington, taxpayers are confronting the reality that more money for jails can mean less money for other government services. Earlier this year in Atlanta, officials debated curtailing an expansion

Continued on Page 14

Regional News by Richard Blake

Continued from Page 4

wanted their stories to be heard. The TV series highlights the work of doctors and psychologist who are treating inmates with chronic disease, substance abuse, and other diseases.

St. Joseph, Michigan, Berrien County Jail

Fresh Start Prevention Program gives female inmates helpful tools for changing thinking and behavioral patterns. Participants are resuming college classes, improving parenting skills, and growing in self confidence and in communication skills, as a result of the program. The program was developed by Abundant Life Ministries in Bentorn Harbor to provide encouragement and empowerment to find alternatives for dealing with substance abuse issues. Classes include interactive discussions, help with job skills and etiquette.

Volunteers and volunteer organizations add support to the program by providing their service, counseling in anger management, clothing, Bibles, job skill counseling, and re-entry guidance.

CEF Prison Ministry

At a recent missions conference at our local church I was surprised to learn the Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) has a Prison Ministry. CEF recognizes that there is a vicious cycle in America. Many of the men and women in jails and prisons today are parents who never intended to be there. The hardest part of their incarceration is that their children are now at a higher risk of becoming inmates themselves.

CEF provides statistics that indicate “Children of prisoners are 7 times more likely to end up behind bars than other children who grow up in the same environment. That means 6.2 million children are at risk.” In an effort to reverse these results, CEF provides a series of age-specific lessons through their “Mailbox Club.” These lessons contain solid information on God, Jesus, and salvation providing an opportunity for the student, whether adult inmate or a child, to receive Christ as Savior. In addition resources are provided that encourage new converts to grow in their faith.

Information provided indicates that there are currently over 255,000 enrolled in the course and that 27,000 of these are incarcerated adults who have been evangelized and discipled through this ministry. Volunteer opportunities are available by contacting CEF.

House of Hope provides safe harbor for shipwrecked lives

By George Henson, Baptist Standard
September 10, 2010

Trinity— Pastor Jim Parrish’s church and its ministry to women both offer the same thing, and they put it right on the sign out front — hope.

People at Burning Hope Baptist Church know all too well their need for a better way, Parrish said.

“What we are is a New Testament church that has grasped what the bible says—‘go into the hedges and byways.’ That’s what we do, and that’s why we are a hedges and byways people,” he said. “We’re basically a safe harbor for wrecked ships.”

Parrish retired from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice after 22 years and still works part-time for the prison system in Huntsville two days a week. His wife, Anita, has worked extensively in restorative justice ministries.

“One of the things I saw in working in the prison system is that when (inmates) get out, they need some place to go. They need someone to turn to and come around them as a support system,” Parrish said.

Burning Hope has tried to offer that support. The church operates a soup kitchen twice a week. It began Third Cross, a Christ-centered 12-step program that ministers to people with various addictions.

Burning Hope also launched the local Loaves and Fishes food pantry, but that now is a communitywide program supported by several churches.

“We didn’t want to be a traditional church. We wanted to be a ministry that included a church,” Parrish said of his congregation that numbers about 140 each Sunday morning.

“Then about four years ago, God said, ‘What about women?’” he said. That question marked the beginning of House of Hope, Burning Hope’s ministry to women whose lives have gone off track.

Parrish approached a Methodist layman in Trinity who owned a shell of a house. Parrish told the man if he would let the church use the house, members would finish the inside.

Now women flock to the home to get their lives together—spiritually and otherwise. They live together, study the Bible together, pray together and serve together. They also receive health care, clothing and food.

Lisa Stewart became the ministry’s administrator in January 2008, soon after she was released from a rehabilitation center herself, recovering from alcoholism. In the beginning, the ministry used the house for group meetings and classes, but women were referred to other long-term recovery centers.

Now the classes continue, but women also live there. They also attend Third Cross meetings, and faith-based counseling is available to them.

“All our classes are centered around Christ and the love and grace and mercy that he has for us,” Stewart said.

Rebecca Dowers, assistant house administrator, likewise came to House of Hope after battling an addiction and several years living on the streets.

She came to the house in Trinity after four months of sobriety from her crack cocaine addiction, on referral from the Good Shepherd Mission in Huntsville.

Both women agreed—the support women receive from their relationship with Christ and from the church sets House of Hope apart from secular programs.

“Addiction is a symptom of something else that is wrong,” Dowers said. “This program is about taking the word of God and showing people how to live and have a better way of life.”



Lisa Stewart (left), administrator of House of Hope in Trinity, and her assistant, Rebecca Dowers, understand first-hand the importance of providing a place of refuge where women with substance abuse issues can find support in a Christ-centered context.

Continued on page 17

Study Correctional Ministry online

The School for Correctional Ministries Credential Program (SCM) at Wheaton College is designed for people serving in correctional ministry to remain fully engaged in their ministry, while participating in college accredited courses in chaplaincy, reentry or correctional ministry. SCM students create a learning community (face-to-face and online) with their peers from around the nation and are guided by our expert faculty.

Spring 2011 · Online Courses:

Correctional Ministry Program

Development and Evaluation

January 10 to March 4, 2011

Addresses planning, administration, and learning experiences for offenders/ex-offenders.

Organization and Administration of

Non-Profit Correctional Ministries

January 10 to March 4, 2011

An overview of the principles and practices for leading and managing a not-for-profit organization.

For information and to apply go to <http://www.bgcprisonministries.com/index.php?id=89>

Nominate a public official for the 2011 International Prize for Restorative Justice

The Prison Fellowship International (PFI) Centre for Justice and Reconciliation has announced that it will award the fourth International Prize for Restorative Justice in June 2011. The \$5,000 (US) award was first presented in 2003 to Howard Zehr for his individual leadership and influence in the field. The second recipients, in 2005, were Kim Workman and Jackie Kaitounas, for their work as practitioners and programme leaders in New Zealand. The third award was presented to Peace Foundation Melanesia (Bougainville) for its work in peace building in Bougainville after ten years of civil war.

The fourth prize will be awarded to a **public official whose work has led to significant advances in the implementation of restorative justice.**

1. The significance of the advances may be demonstrated in terms of scale, innovation, or other ways of measuring societal impact.
2. The focus is on implementation of the advances, although conceptual, design, promotional or other work preceding or following implementation may be considered in awarding the prize.
3. Finally, the criterion of substantial responsibility acknowledges that most achievements in restorative justice are the result of activity by many people. The recipient public official should have played a uniquely significant role within the joint effort.

Nominations may be submitted between November 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011. Nomination Guide is available at <http://www.restorativejustice.org/RJOB/2011rjprize>

The Centre is the justice reform arm of Prison Fellowship International, an association of Non-Governmental Organizations in 120 countries. One of the Centre's projects is to develop and maintain Restorative Justice online (<http://www.rjonline.org>).

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

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1 **Christian Prison Ministries Scotland**
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7 **Mothers Against Methamphetamine**
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5 **Youth Transformation Center**
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4 **Desert Waters**
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2,3,6, 7,9 **Northeast Dream Center**
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MICHIGAN

6 **Crossroad Bible Institute**
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1,2,3,7 **Beyond the Fences Ministries
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NEBRASKA

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NEW MEXICO

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1,9 **Volunteers In Corrections
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PENNSYLVANIA

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 843-558-2350
 www.justiceministries.com

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 sdpchaplains@juno.com

6 **Family Connection/Children's
 Connection**
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 605-357-0777
 605-357-0780 **Fax**
 familyconnect@hotmail.com

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6 **Eunice Chambless Hospitality House**
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<p>2 Mission Arlington 210 W South St Arlington 76010 817-277-6620</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 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>1,2,3,6,7,9,10 Diocese of Beaumont Criminal Justice Ministry Deacon Harry Davis PO Box 3948 Beaumont 77704-3948 409-838-0451 409-838-4511 Fax hdavis@dioceseofbeaumont.org www.dioceseofbmt.org</p>	<p>1,2,7,2,3,6,7,9 Operation Rebound Young Adults Healed John W Harrington 801 Delaware Dr Bridge City 77611-2423 409-738-3800 jharrington003@gt.rr.com</p>
<p>1,6,7,9,10 Light for New Life Min Inc Rev Don Domeracki PO Box 170501 Arlington 76003-0501 817-516-0406 skyking273@sbcglobal.net www.lightfornewlifeministries.org</p>	<p>1 2 3 5 7 God’s Friends Ministries Inc Jack McClelland PO Box 5421 Beaumont 77726 409-988-3865 GodsFriend@gt.rr.com</p>	<p>2 Harvest House 349 NW Renfro Burlison 76028 817-295-6252</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 St John Baptist Church Rev R Michael Stromille 1508 S Broadway Dr Carrollton 75006 972-242-9194 SJBC@saintjohnncarrollton.com www.saintjohnncarrollton.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>1,3,4 International Institute of Faith Based Counseling Debbie Marcantel PO Box 20723 Beaumont 77720 409-832-9060 409-832-7224 FAX info@iifbc.com www.iifbc.com</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>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 77703-4921 409-898-8797 409-892-9534 Fax mary@gtba.org www.gtba.org</p>	<p>1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10 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>
<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>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</p>
<p>6 Christian Life Crisis Intervention Dion Ainsworth PO Box 7728 Beaumont 77726-7728 409-736-3980 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>1,7,9 Care Center Ministries Mel Gipson PO Box 171059 Dallas 75217 214-824-9852 214-824-3499 pastormelvin@yahoo.com</p>

1	Christian Fellowship Enrichment Jim Lang PO Box 700023 Dallas TX 75370 972-283-7871 jimlang41@aol.com	1,2,4,7	Worldwide Voice in the Wilderness Johnny Moffitt PO Box 740273 Dallas 75374 972-234-6009 972-234-6050 Fax johnnymoffitt@sbcglobal.net	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
1,2,4,5,7,9,10	First Baptist Dallas Prison Min. Jerry Bedison 1707 San Jacinto St Dallas 75201 214-969-7746 214-969-7720 Fax jbedison@firstdallas.org www.firstdallas.org	5,6,	Air Chapel Terry Dyer 320 King Ave Denison 75020 903-786-5899 tdyer@mail.airchapel.org www.airchapel.org	1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10	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
1,7,9,10	Freedom Outreach Ministries Mel Gipson PO Box 180941 Dallas 75218 214-325-9583 214-824-3499 Fax pastormelvin@yahoo.com	7	C O P E Fauhn Schierer 1001 W Euless Blvd Ste 212 Euless 76040-5032 817-684-7870 817-684-7876 Fax office@copeministries.org www.copeministries.org	10	Encouraging Word Ministries Margaret Hackler PO Box 5148 Gun Barrel City 75147
1,7	Inmate Discippler Fellowship/TX Baptist Men Mark Hollis 5351 Catron Drive Dallas 75227-9927 214-828-5347 Mark.hollis@texasbaptistmen.org www.inmatediscipplerfellowship.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	10	OpenArms Ministry Steve & Diana Moore PO Box 529 Hillsboro 76645 254-580-2935 mrst24dbt@aol.com
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	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 roger@mercyheart.org www.mercyheart.org	1,9	Crossover USA Gary R Nichols 911 Westmont Houston 77015 713-545-7991 713-455-7060 Fax gnichols@crossoverusa.com
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10	St Francis Anglican Church Fr William Conner PO Box 140182 Dallas, 75201 972-900-7298 frwilliam@catholic.org www.angelfire.com/tx5/holycross	1,6,7	Parents and Children Together (PACT) Rev Suzanne Boeglin 2836 Hemphill St Fort Worth 76110-3214 817-924-7776 pact1924@sbcglobal.net	1,3,4,5,8,9,10	Epiphany Ministries of Texas Chuck Talbot PO Box 590578 Houston 77259 chucktal@msn.com www.texasepiphany.com
1,3,6,7,9,10	Texas Baptist Men Don Gibson 5351 Catron Dr Dallas 75227-9927 214-828-5353 214-232-1856 Don.gibson@texasbaptistmen.org www.texasbaptistmen.org	7	World Bible Translation Center Glenn Peden 4028 Daley Ave Fort Worth 76180-8600 817-595-1664 817-589-7013 Fax glenn@wbtc.com www.wbtc.org	5,7,10	Initiatives for America's Youth Boone Vastine 15153 Kimberley Ct Houston 77079-5130 281-493-4556 layjjm@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 Ralph Nichols PO Box 461582 Garland 75046-1582 972-840-9798 972-864-9692 Fax writewaypm@juno.com	9	Jail Chaplaincy Ministry Freddie Wier PO Box 30262 Houston 77249-0262 713-569-2929
				1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10	Morning Star Baptist Church 5110 Crane ST Houston 77026-3908 713-674-7170
				6	Newgate Connection Wesley Stevens PO Box 96333 Houston 77213-9633 281-452-2352 wfstevens@pdq.net

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1,2,5,7,8	Newgate UMC/Onesimus Journey Rev. Marvin Hood 3827 Broadway @I-45S Houston 77017 832-567-0758 marvelous272003@yahoo.com	1	Elkins Lake Baptist Church Rev Ken Huggins 206 State Highway 19 Huntsville 77340-7152 936-295-7694 936-295-3388 Fax www.elbc.org	1	TDCJ Chaplaincy Operations Bill Pierce, Director 1060 State Hwy 190 E Huntsville 77340 936-437-4975 936-437-4988 Fax billy.pierce@tdcj.state.tx.us www.tdcj.state.tx.us
1,7,9	Oil of Joy for Mourning Rev Rhonda Arias PO Box 720768 Houston 77272-0768 713-419-1214 oilofjoy@sbcglobal.net www.ojfm.org	1,2,3	Episcopal Diocese of TX RJM Edwin Davis 2003 Avenue P Huntsville 77340-5029 936-291-3153 edsalpc@yahoo.com	3	TDCJ Victim Services Jim Brazzil PO Box 949 Huntsville 77432 936-437-4941 jim.brazzil@tdcj.state.tx.us
1,2,3,5,7,9,10	Restored to Christ Harold Travis 14147 Ivy Bluff Ct Houston 77062 281-488-5110 281-488-8218 Fax harold@clearlakemethodist.org	1,2	Faith Temple Holiness Church of God in Christ 2614 Montgomery Rd Huntsville 77340 936-438-8750	1,7	The Old Time Religion Hour Inc Rev George Lupo PO Box 1225 Huntsville 73342 936-293-8000
1,3,4,6,9,10	Servants of Christ Prison Ministry Sibble Knight PO Box 111275 Houston 77293-0275 281-449-2703	1,2,3,	First Baptist Church First Contact Family Ministry 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340-4698 936-291-3441 www.fbchuntsville.org	1,5	University Heights Baptist Church Bro Richard Rogers 2400 Sycamore Ave Huntsville 77340-6120 936-295-2996 office@uhbc.net www.uhbc.net
1	Skills for Life Inc James Lynn Arnold PO Box 38553 Suite 113 Houston 77238 281-733-1223 281-447-1784 Fax arnojl@msn.com	1,2,4	First Baptist Church Welcome Back Ministry 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340-4698 936-291-3441 www.fbchuntsville.org Bill Kleiber 800-998-3004 kleiber@sbcglobal.net www.thewelcomeback.org	2,5	Winner's Circle Juvenile Program Kent Lucas 550 Elkins Lake Huntsville 77340 936-436-9467 winnerscircletexas@sbcglobal.net
2	Spirit Key Inc Allen Rice 13617 Kaltenbrun RD Houston 77086 281-813-0093 Allen.rice@spiritkey.org www.spiritkey.org	6	Hospitality House 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
1,2,6	Covenant Fellowship Rev David Valentine PO Box 10769 Huntsville 77340 936-435-0993 dbhvalentine@suddenlink.net www.cfhuntsville.org	7	Restorative Justice Ministries Network Emmett Solomon, Exec Director 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340 936-291-2156 esolomon@sbcglobal.net esolomon@rjmnTexas.net www.rjmn.net www.restorativejusticenews.net	1,6,10	Texas HOPE Literacy Inc Lucy Smith PO Box 905 Hurst 76053-0905 817-729-6567 817-207-9483 Fax lucysmith@hopelit.com www.hopelit.com
1	Director of Chaplaincy Support Richard Lopez 1060 St Hwy 190 E Huntsville 77340 936-437-4973 936-437-4988 Richard.lopez@tdcj.state.tx.us www.tdcj.state.tx.us	2,6,7	Bill Kleiber 800-998-3004 kleiber@sbcglobal.net www.thewelcomeback.org	1	The Brotherhood of St Andrew Oliver Osborn PO Box 537 Lake Jackson 77566-0537 979-297-6217 eosborn@brazosport.cc.tx.us

<p>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>	<p>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</p>	<p>3,10 The Faith Based Counselor Training Institute Dr. Michael Haynes PO Box 5253 Temple 76502-5253 254-231-4334 254-231-4336 Fax FBCTI@aol.com www.FaithBasedCounseling.com</p>
<p>10 Exodus Prison Ministry Joyce Hargis PO Box 6363 Lubbock 79410 806-791-3673 806-780-0023 Fax joyce@exodusprisonministry.org www.exodusprisonministry.org</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>2,3,6 7,10 Bridging The Gap Ministries Deb Chachere PO Box 131747 Tyler 75713-1747 903-539-6797 bridgingthegap@flash.net www.bridgingthegap.freesevers.com</p>
<p>1,2,7,10 Freedom in Jesus Ministries Don Castleberry PO Box 6525 Lubbock 79493-6525 806-897-0729 806-897-00730 Fax fijm@windstream.net</p>	<p>2 One Man's Treasure Mary Carter 519 E I-30 #211 Rockwall 75087 888-433-9826 onemanstr@yahoo.com</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Harvesting International Ministry Center Mansfield 76063 817-453-3663</p>	<p>1,2,7 Christian Restorative Justice Mentors Assoc Murray Batt PO Box 131412 Spring 77393-1412 281-292-0442 murray@crjma.org www.crjma.org</p>	<p>8(Deaf Men) Healing Hands Ranch Johnny McCollum PO Box 1455 Willis 77378 936-890-8562 www.deafprison.org www.healinghandsranch.org</p>
<p>3 Hope For Healing Ministries Inc Susan Edwards PO Box 9331 Midland 79708 214-477-2610 sedwards@hopeforhealingministries.org www.hopeforhealingministries.org</p>	<p>1,10 Joy Prison Ministry Ura White PO Box 7324 Spring 77387-7324 281-253-8342</p>	<p>1,3,4,6,7, 9 Restorative Justice Ministry Family Service and Mediation Service John Morrison PO Box 581 Woodville 75979 409-283-2877 rjmfsc1@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p>5,7 LifeChange Mentoring Shirley Orr Smith PO Box 9535 Midland 79708-9535 sos@lifechangementoring.org www.lifechangementoring.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>1,7,9, 10 Woodville Church of Christ Prison Ministry PO Box 276 Woodville 75979-0276 409-283-5977 woodvillecoc@sbcglobal.net</p>
<p>P.T.C. Prison Ministry Bobby Griffin PO Box 633741 Nacogdoches 75963 936-559-0070 ptc_m_griffith@hotmail.com</p>	<p>1 Accepting Grace Ministries Inc Joe / Betty Waggoner PO Box 983 Stamford 79553-0983 325-773-2248 bettyj@camalott.com</p>	<p>1,7,9, 10 Cornerstone Prison Ministry Chaplain Al Gibbons PO Box 1672 Wylie 75098-1672 972-896-7081 cspmin@clearsail.net</p>
<p>1,2,5,8(M) 9,10 Freedom House Discipleship Jami Butts 3542 Mercury Ave Odessa 79764 432-381-5453 freedomhouse@clearwire.net www.odessadreamcenter.com</p>	<p>1,4,6 Houston Trinity Prison Ministry Romeo Pena PO Box 1411 Sugar Land 77487-1411 713-906-3407 r.pena@ssss.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>1,2,4, 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</p>	<p>1,9 Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry Charles Sickles P.O. Box 1130 Sulphur Springs 75483-1130 903-885-1424 903-348-6415 fruitfulharvest@verizon.net</p>	

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WASHINGTON

1,4

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Prisoners for Christ Outreach Ministry

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425-467-1680 Fax
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Would you like to have your ministry listed in the Ministries Directory and the RJMN website www.rjmn.net?

Contact Anita Parrish at arparrish@sbcglobal.net

PEW Charitable Trust findings about jails

Continued from Page 5

of the police force in part to keep pace with a growing jail budget.

Voters in rural Murray County, Georgia, approved a tax increase to fund an \$11-million jail expansion and then found that the county could not afford the staff needed to run it. So the new facility sits empty.

And in Corpus Christi, Texas, where the county has experienced a 14-percent increase in local incarceration, headlines in the local paper highlight how taxpayers are “paying the price for locking ’em up.”

Over the past decade, county jails—facilities for defendants awaiting trial and sentenced offenders serving short-term sentences or awaiting transfer to state prisons—have consumed a greater and greater share of local tax dollars. Harris County, Texas, spends 14 percent of its entire budget on jails.

What lies behind the rising and falling number of inmates in jails? The number of arrests is one factor.

But in many places, the size of the jail population is determined largely by a series of policies and procedures that answer the following questions:

- Who should be detained prior to trial, and who should be allowed to remain in the community while his or her case proceeds?
- How long does it take to try a case?
- Are other sanctions besides jail time used to punish those who break the rules governing their probation or parole?
- Which convicted inmates serve out their sentences in the local jail and which are sent to state prisons?

Strapped for money, many jurisdictions are reexamining these policy choices and asking whether there are different practices that could reduce the jail population and save money without endangering public safety. Some are finding that the answer is “yes.”

In Cook County, after years of overcrowding, the jail now has empty beds—so many of them that Sheriff Tom Dart has announced the closure of two jail units.

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

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

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

UK embraces restorative justice for juvies

Continued from Page 1

currently equivalent to \$1.56 U.S.)

It also argues that many millions of pounds are being wasted each year on custody for under-18s with each place costing taxpayers between £69,000 (\$107,779 U.S.) and £193,000 (\$301,471 U.S.) a year, but as many as three out of four young offenders are being re-convicted within a year of completing their sentence.

The commission sets a target for the current use of custody to be halved to fewer than 1,000 young offenders at any one time without adding to crime rates or compromising public safety.

And it urges a significant reinvestment of resources in early intervention to tackle serious anti-social behaviour among children, prevent later offending and save more money for the taxpayer.

Anthony Salz, who chaired the commission, said: "Continually tinkering with the response to youth crime over a quarter of a century has contributed to its growing incoherence.

"Investment in proven, cost-effective, preventive interventions has been too low and children at risk of becoming prolific and serious offenders have missed out on timely help.

"Worse still, those who do become chronic offenders in their teens are treated in ways that do little to help them return to lead law-abiding adult lives – and may even serve to deepen their offending."

The report also calls for an end to the long-running "arms race" between politicians attempting to sound tougher on youth crime.

Another key recommendation is that anti-social behaviour orders (Asbos) should only be sought against children and young people as a last resort.

"Our reform proposals are positive and constructive in promoting cost-effective prevention; they are fair to the victims of crime in seeking redress and they are demanding on young offenders who will be made more aware of the human consequences of criminal and anti-social behaviour," Salz added.

"We need a fresh start to turn round the damaged lives of children and young people who risk becoming our most serious and prolific offenders and to spare society the unacceptably high costs of failure."

Penny Nicholls, director of children and young people at The Children's Society, said: "We believe that restorative and community-based interventions should underpin all policy and practice when working with children in trouble with the law. We believe prevention and early intervention should be the focus of our efforts to ensure that children are not criminalised."

The charity has welcomed the commission's call for a distinct system for working with children in trouble that takes into account their developmental needs and a custody threshold to ensure that detention is a last resort for children.

However, Nicholls said that The Children's Society wants to see measures go further to include an increase in the age of criminal responsibility, which is one of the lowest in Europe.

"We also believe that we need to go much further to eliminate the mass criminalization of young people by reforming approaches to 'anti-social' behaviour by young people — for example using Asbos. Such measures are counterproductive and do more to alienate children within the community rather than creating cohesion and mutual respect," she added.

Low cost of justice ministry

Continued from Page 1

About 15 years ago, they felt the Call of God to do ministry among the poverty ridden people in Trinity County Texas. It is one of the poorest counties in the state. A Baptist Pastor said to Jim, “the last thing we need in Trinity is another Baptist Church.” Jim replied in his loving manner, “Sir, we will not be taking anybody that you would have at your church.”

For many years very little ministry had been going forth from the Middle Class Churches to the impoverished of Trinity. Jim and Anita joined a fledgling Baptist Church there. When the founding pastor was called away to another ministry, the fellow congregants asked Jim to be the pastor. After much prayer he accepted the pastorate of Burning Hope. It has had four incarnations in its 15 years. They began in a dilapidated dwelling in Trinity, moved to a store front, then to an abandoned restaurant and finally after ten years to a New Building with 100 people attending regularly.

Jim did not let the new building quince his vision for ministry to the community. In the new facility, they continued the Soup Kitchen Ministry along with the Third Cross Substance Abuse Ministry. That is in addition to the standard church ministries, Sunday School, Youth Ministry and Worship, etc. They had already begun the Food Pantry ministry and turned it over to the community. A little more than 5 years ago, he received God’s Call to build a House of Hope. Soon he received the use of an abandoned house near the church. It, of course, needed rehabilitating. Jim waded in with great enthusiasm using his considerable carpentry skills and as always bringing other of God’s people along, sharing the vision with them. One pastor in town said to me, “I wish that I could launch out that way. I have to have two years of financing in hand before I begin anything, therefore I do not start anything.”

Listening to the testimonies of the women who are currently at the House of Hope along with those who have graduated confirmed that indeed God had called Jim and he had received the call.

The most amazing part is that Jim and Anita have contributed of their own finances to this ministry. They are working class people. Anita works part-time at Restorative Justice Ministries Network. Jim has been bi-vocational through the years. Rather than taking funds out for their personal use, they continually give to people.

The really great thing about them is that they are not “hirelings.” They are God called servants, doing the ministry to which God called them.

Restorative Justice Ministries Network is similar. I personally take nothing out of the ministry, but continually give to it. God has blessed me with an adequate retirement and a loving wife who has great ambition, teaching yet at Sam Houston State University, even though she is in her 70s.

Do not think that these examples are unique. All across the spectrum of justice ministries you will find the same thing. You will find people with high vision and low finances. They do much with what they have.

I fully expect that God is going to exact His judgment on the millions of retirees in America who waste their time and great resources playing golf or participating in other pleasure palaces at the same time that such great need goes unmet in our country.

I pray that God’s people will listen to His Call, act on His call, and with God’s help make their last years their very best years. I remember Ellis Pratz, who went to be with his Lord twenty five years ago. Ellis had been a Business Man, a Banker and finally a Prison Ministry Volunteer. He told me on many occasions that his ministry years were the very best years of his life. At his funeral you could see his life’s pilgrimage. Other than his family, on one side were the business friend acquaintances, on the other were his banker friends and in the middle were the ministry volunteers and ex-convicts.

Little Money but Great Reward!

Editor’s note: See related story “House of Hope provides safe harbor for shipwrecked lives” on page 6 and 17.

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

House of Hope provides safe harbor for shipwrecked lives

Continued from page 6

It teaches them how to protect themselves from the things they were led into and that they were trapped in—to deliver them from that lifestyle and to show them a better way.”

That includes showing each woman that God has a purpose for her life, she continued.

“So, we want to focus not on just the emotional issues of each individual woman, but also the path God has for that woman and help her get on that path before she leaves this house,” Dowers said.

Both Stewart and Dowers said they had grown up in church, but they had not realized God’s care for them.

“A lot of times, people who are going through addictions and are living that way have some misunderstandings about God. They’ve had a lot of people tell them about God’s love but not show them God’s love,” Dowers said.

Every woman who has participated in the House of Hope ministry has made a profession of faith in Christ, she reported.

While the small house in the rural community does not have excess resources, “God always provides—sometimes the day before we need it,” Dowers said.

She envisions a day where more people will be helped—both men and women.

“We don’t want to change the home environment, but we know more people have needs. And as God blesses the ministry, we will build more houses. And we’ll have many houses instead of one,” Dowers said.

“I believe that Jesus Christ is the answer for drug and alcohol addiction. ... I believe if we can work as God leads us to help the individuals we come into contact with that this will be a revival.

“This is not a simple program. This is practice. We’re practicing what God has given us. We’re reaching out and helping those that no one wants.”

“A lot of times, people who are going through addictions and are living that way have some misunderstandings about God. They’ve had a lot of people tell them about God’s love but not show them God’s love,” Dowers

“There was not one person that I knew living on that street who didn’t know that they needed a change, but they had lost all hope in trying to find it.”

The House of Hope ministry follows the example Christ gave, Dowers said.

“In Luke, he said: ‘I did not come for the healthy. I came for the sick. I did not come for the religious, but those who know they are a sinner,’” she said.

“There was not one person that I knew living on that street who didn’t know that they needed a change, but they had lost all hope in trying to find it.”

“The message they had been given was not the message that I have received. The one I have received has changed my life, and he’s changed Lisa’s life. And one person at a time, it’s growing.”

The other women at the house have found that same message of hope.

Another Lisa now living in the house was homeless on the streets of Houston more than six years before coming to House of Hope a little more than two months ago. That time of sobriety is the longest she’s had—without being incarcerated—in more than 38 years, she said.

“From the minute I got here, I’ve felt a sense of belonging. It’s called House of Hope, and this is my family now. This is my home,” she said.

How long she will stay at the house is not predetermined. The program lasts six to nine months, but a timetable is not the deciding factor.

“We don’t want them to leave because they’ve finished their six or nine months,” Dowers said.

“We don’t want them to leave this house until they’re in a good situation and we know that God has gone before them. We’re not rushing them out the door.

Removing youth from adult jails and prisons

The following is a post by Liz Ryan, President and CEO of the Campaign for Youth Justice.

Five years ago this week, 17-year-old David Burgos took his life at Manson Youth Institute, one of Connecticut's adult prisons for younger offenders. David had been detained on a simple probation violation.

The Connecticut General Assembly immediately responded with legislation to end the practice of automatically prosecuting all 16- and 17-year-olds in adult criminal court and to ban the placement of most of these youth in adult facilities.

In 2006, David Burgos' mother, Diana Gonzalez, testified before the Connecticut Legislature about the danger of treating youth like adults. As she stated, "I know first-hand the consequences...Whose child is next? It could be my neighbor's child, it could be your neighbor's child, it could be your child. Put yourselves in these shoes. What decision would you make for your child? How would you want your child treated?"

Other states have initiated similar reforms like Connecticut's. Just this year, a new law went into effect in Illinois that prevents 17-year-olds from getting automatically prosecuted in adult criminal court. It also removes such youth from detention in adult jails. Mississippi passed similar legislation this session that will take effect in January. And last week, a new law went into effect in Virginia that ends the placement of pre-trial youth in adult jails.

Evidence about the dangers youth face in adult jails and prisons is abundant.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), 21% and 13% of all substantiated victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual violence in jails in 2005 and 2006 respectively, were youth under the age of 18. That's a surprisingly high figure, considering only 1% of jail inmates are juveniles. Youth also have the highest suicide rates of all inmates in jails. Youth are 36 times more likely to commit suicide in an adult jail than in a juvenile detention facility, and 20 times more likely to commit suicide in an adult jail than youth in the general population.

Congress and the Administration now have a critical opportunity to make sure that youth are removed from adult jails nationwide. Will you join the Campaign for Youth Justice in taking a stand? For information: http://www.change.org/campaign4youthjustice/petitions/view/tell_the_senate_pass_juvenile_justice_reform_now

Last December, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act (S. 678), a bill to remove youth from adult jails and prisons. Currently, it's awaiting Senate floor action. In an April 15th letter, Department of Justice (DOJ) officials told Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy that the administration "strongly supports the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act." (The House held hearings this year and the Education & Labor Committee has not introduced a committee bill yet.)

Six former DOJ officials who previously led the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) have likewise made their support of the bill known, writing in a letter to House and Senate leadership last December that "reauthorizing the JJDP at this time underscores the critical role of OJJDP and affords us the opportunity to use and build on this knowledge to create greater justice for youth and to make our communities safer and healthier."

It's time to take youth out of adult prisons. The research is compelling, and opinion polls overwhelmingly show that the public vehemently opposes placing youth in adult jails and prisons. Public safety would be increased, and taxpayers would no longer see their tax dollars invested in a failed approach.

After all, the human toll of this failed policy can't be measured in dollars and cents.

As David Burgos' mother asked the Connecticut legislature after her son's suicide, "What's it going to take for us to make the change? Why do we wait for a tragedy? Why does someone like my son have to die before we make a change we know is right? It's time for us to stop talking about making this change and do it."

Youth also have the highest suicide rates of all inmates in jails. Youth are 36 times more likely to commit suicide in an adult jail than in a juvenile detention facility, and 20 times more likely to commit suicide in an adult jail than youth in the general population— U. S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics

Dear Editor

Hello everyone,

It's been a while since I've sent testimonies of how Bridges To Life (BTL) is affecting those in white (uniforms) and their family and friends. I just received a letter (below) from a Mother of an inmate in BTL and I know you would enjoy reading it.

Blessings,
Margie Blazier
www.bridgestolife.org

My 25 year old son is incarcerated at Hamilton Unit for his 4th DWI. I just received a letter from him stating that he is in the Bridges to Life program there and is very excited about it. My husband and I have served as volunteers in Kairos, a prison ministry for adults, and for the past 8 years have worked in Epiphany, a similar prison ministry for incarcerated youth. I have seen firsthand what a difference volunteers with a heart for people can make in the lives of these offenders. I just never expected my child to be on the receiving end of that kind of service. Now I understand both sides - the joy in giving and also now the joy of receiving. This seems like an amazing program and I applaud you for it. I am overcome with joy and deep sense of gratitude for what you are doing for my son right now. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

*God bless you!
A Loving Mother*

Dear Editor,

Both during my 25 months in TDCJ and in the 17 months since my release, I have spent a great deal of time reflecting upon my experience as a Christian inmate. Today I am writing in hopes that you will consider sharing with your readers my thoughts on Christian worship behind bars.

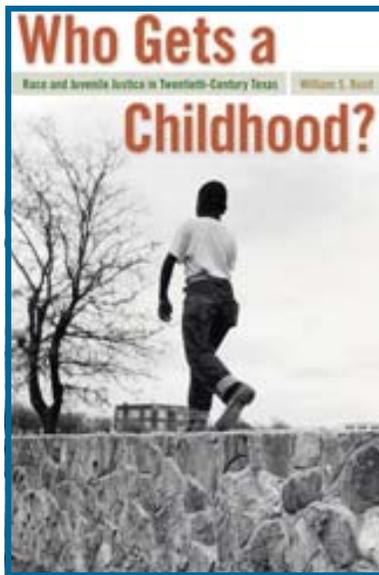
I had certainly enjoyed emotionally stirring worship experiences before prison, but it was during my imprisonment that I found a peculiarly lucid vision of what eschatological worship might look like. I remember at first feeling supremely “out of place” in prison chapel services because I was used to orderly, “tame” programs of worship—not the relatively unstructured and joyfully noisy services we had behind the razor wire. It took me awhile to realize, of course, what I had been missing out on in the free world. Prison gave me an authentic REASON for worship, helping me to deeply experience my depravity while relishing the Savior’s extravagant grace in a powerful new way. Then, unencumbered by so many of the preoccupations that interfere with our free world church services, I discovered that church attendance is not so much a matter of dutiful obligation as a desperate yearning for an encounter with the living God.

I would not say that prison worship is superior to free world worship, of course. But I do believe that our brothers and sisters behind bars may have a uniquely edifying perspective on the Good News we celebrate each time we gather to worship together. Restorative justice ministry is too myopic if it focuses on the many flaws of our massive prison complex and thereby fails to perceive and honor the mysterious ways God remains at work behind bars. Prison worship is simply one such place where the in breaking kingdom of God is especially apparent.

I hold a Doctor of Biblical Studies from Liberty Bible College and Seminary (Homosassa, FL), a degree program I began while incarcerated and finished earlier this year. My special interest is in educating and nurturing inmates in Christian discipleship behind bars

In Christ,
Johnathan Kana, DBS

New Book details the history of juvenile justice in Texas



A new book detailing the history of Juvenile Justice in Texas has just been released and we highly recommend it! The book titled "Who Gets a Childhood? Race and Juvenile Justice in Twentieth-Century Texas," was written by William S. Bush, Ph.D.

Using Texas as a case study for understanding change in the American juvenile justice system over the past century, William S. Bush tells the story of three cycles of scandal, reform, and retrenchment, each of which played out in ways that tended to extend the privileges of a protected childhood to white middle- and upper-class youth, while denying those protections to blacks, Latinos, and poor whites.

On the forefront of both progressive and "get tough" reform campaigns, Texas has led national policy shifts in the treatment of delinquent youth to a surprising degree. Changes in the legal system have included the development of courts devoted exclusively to youth, the expanded legal application of psychological expertise, and the rise of the children's rights movement. At the same time, broader cultural ideas about adolescence have also changed. Yet Bush demonstrates that as the notion of the teenager gained currency after World War II, white, middle-class teen criminals were increasingly depicted as suffering from curable emotional disorders even as the rate of incarceration rose sharply for

black, Latino, and poor teens. Bush argues that despite the struggles of reformers, child advocates, parents, and youths themselves to make juvenile justice live up to its ideal of offering young people a second chance, the story of twentieth-century juvenile justice in large part boils down to "the exclusion of poor and nonwhite youth from modern categories of childhood and adolescence."

William Bush earned his Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin and currently teaches history at Texas A&M University-San Antonio.

Heart of the Young Gladiator—Latest Release by Don Smarto

The *Heart of the Young Gladiator* was released on August 6, 2010. This is Don Smarto's tenth book. It is a captivating and powerful look into the thoughts and feelings of incarcerated youth.

For six years, Don presented over thirty Creative Writing Seminars to youth in juvenile facilities in several states including Texas, Florida, Illinois, Colorado, and Pennsylvania.

Don selected 55 poems, written by these youth and added 40 photos of prisoners he has photographed in facilities across America and Russia. (Don was a cameraman for NBC News covering news events in the late sixties and early seventies).

The purpose of the book according to Don "is to show the great potential of youth who often carry negative labels. They may be the communities' 'throw aways' but these poems demonstrate their incredible talent and creativity."

Although many of the youth represented by these poems were school drop outs, it is clear they have skills and the ability to express a broad range of thoughts and emotions. The poems range from simple to complex in structure.

Readers will enter the world-view of youth in custody and hear, in their own voices, the futility of gangs, the impact of missing fathers, optimism, faith, depression, and hope. You will not be able to put this book down without renewed compassion and a fresh understanding of the impact of rejection and the withholding of love on young lives.

The book is available by going to [www.http://youthdirect.org](http://www.youthdirect.org) and clicking Resources.



**Don Smarto, President
Youth Direct Ministries**

Prison ministry witnesses human suffering in Zambia

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA 18 October 2010 - Following a visit to the country, Crossroad Bible Institute announces the opening of CBI Zambia, its eleventh distribution center worldwide. Amidst the overcrowded squalor of Zambian prisons, where malnutrition, disease, violence and injustice run rampant, CBI studies offer hope and respite from suffering.

Due to failures of the criminal justice system, thirty-five percent of Zambian inmates are awaiting trial. This contributes to severe overcrowding; the country's prisons house nearly three times their intended capacity.

CBI's Cynthia Williams observed Zambian prison conditions firsthand on her recent visit to Lusaka Central Prison, where the CBI program operates. For sixteen hours a day, cells built for fifteen prisoners are filled instead with one hundred. The men sleep sitting in rows, pressed between one another's knees.

Infectious diseases, particularly HN, tuberculosis and dysentery, spread quickly in these conditions, further propelled by insufficient medical facilities.

As of 2009, the health staff of the Zambia Prisons Service numbered just fourteen. Only fifteen of the country's eighty-six prisons had a clinic.

Prisoners often experience cruel treatment and do not receive soap, toiletries or sufficient food. Each day, they receive one meal weighing a mere 400 grams. Those without an outside contact to supplement the meal starve or resort to using sex or labor to barter for food.

Thankfully, CBI Zambia actively and compassionately responds to inmates' needs. Several members of the Zambian leadership team have served time in their country's prisons, and they now return with a crucial message of hope. Director Gilbert Mutale Mwamba states, "Many lives in our prisons will be transformed through the Bible study lessons, and I can assure you that prisoners here in Zambia are very much excited to become students of CBI."

The distribution center celebrated its official launch with a ceremony attended by Williams, the leadership team, instructors, religious leaders and government officials.

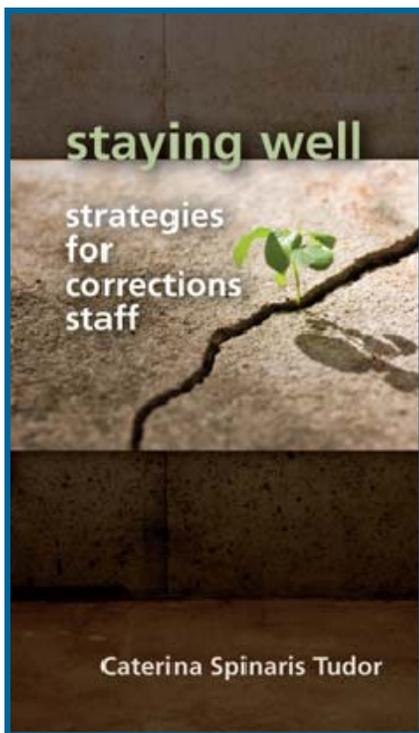
CBI President Dr. David Schuringa notes, "Though sobered by the appalling conditions of Zambian prisons and the country's flawed criminal justice system, we are hopeful about the future as we observe the dedication, determination and passion of the CBI Zambia leadership team."

Crossroad Bible Institute is a prison ministry in its twenty-sixth year of operation. With over 40,000 students, CBI now has eleven international distribution centers and two openings pending. Visit [www.http://crossroadbibleinstitute.org](http://crossroadbibleinstitute.org) for more information. CBI's program is provided at no cost to prisoners and their families.

For sixteen hours a day, cells built for fifteen prisoners are filled instead with one hundred. The men sleep sitting in rows, pressed between one another's knees.

**R J News publications are dependent upon contributions from readers.
Anyone wishing to make a donation may do so by sending check or money order to:
Restorative Justice Ministries Network, 1229 Avenue J, Huntsville, TX, 77340.**

New Release from Institute for Prison Ministries — Staying Well, Strategies for Corrections Staff



Staying Well—Strategies for Corrections Staff written by Dr. Caterina Spinaris Tudor is an excellent resource for anyone working in corrections, their family members, or anyone providing assistance to a correctional professional.

Correctional workers are the most misunderstood of all law enforcement professionals.

This booklet offers techniques and skills to ensure that the correctional worker career is enjoyed and that stresses of the job are mitigated.

Dr. Tudor is a licensed professional counselor and the founding director of Desert Waters Correctional Outreach, a non-profit organization with the mission to increase the occupational, personal, and family well-being of staff of all disciplines within the corrections profession.

This book is the fourth in the IPM Library, a booklet series of the Institute for Prison Ministries (IPM) at the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College. IPM is a training and resource center for those who share the Gospel with offenders and their families.

For more information, visit

<http://www.bgcprisonministries.com>

- Book Sections:**
- 1. The Toll of the Job**
 - 2. Corrections Fatigue**
 - 3. Taking back your life**
 - 4. Professional Boundaries with Offenders**
 - 5. Families in Corrections**
 - 6. Psychological Trauma**
 - 7. Substance Abuse**
 - 8. Correctional Staff Suicide**
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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 Conference of the United Methodist Church and reader donations.

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

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

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