



The Role of the Church in Reaching Ex-Prisoners

By Steve Mays

I know their pain, their needs. I know how much God loves them, and I know how much the Church needs to step up and embrace them.

I know, because many people gave up on me during some rebellious years of my life. My drug abuse, violent behavior and gang lifestyle devastated my parents, their home, and many other people. But deep inside, I was crying for help. I desperately needed someone to show me true life.



Sometimes we forget that people can change. Worse, we often give up on them. And in the case of those incarcerated and on parole, the notion of “out of sight, out of mind” certainly applies. Our avoidance of prisoners and ex-prisoners reveals the real problem—our selfish hearts. Too many of us just don’t care enough to help out.

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24/7 Ventline for Corrections Professionals

By Shirley Orr Smith

Corrections officers (COs) serve society by keeping incarcerated offenders securely in prison and by aiding in offender rehabilitation. Yet corrections professionals are probably the least appreciated branch of criminal justice.

Corrections staff get exposed to violence and other traumatic or emotionally toxic events. Over time, such hardships take their toll on employees and eventually their families as well. DWCO came into being to specifically address the well-being of corrections workers at the

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2009 Regional RJM Conferences - Texas

Restorative Justice Ministries Network of Texas (RJMNT) will be partnering with local ministries and churches to present regional conferences in 2009. The Network along with various ministries and churches co-sponsored seven such conferences in 2007 with great success. The conferences served as a venue for volunteers to become better informed about restorative justice ministry, as well as allowing seasoned ministry folks to get acquainted with one another and the services that each ministry provides.

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Mentoring Pilot Program a Success—Pikeville, TN

The LifeChange Mentoring Bible Study program was introduced into the Taft Youth Development Center, Pikeville, Tennessee in February, 2008. It was the initial pilot program and the first one-on-one mentoring program of its type to be offered in that facility.

The Superintendent, Chaplain and Youth Service Manager of Treatment all recognized the need for such a program and, after a thorough review of the LifeChange Mentoring curriculum and process, and an explanation of the emphasis this program places on the mentoring relationship and the power of God, they agreed to begin the pilot program immediately with one mentee and one LifeChange mentor, Mr. Tim Shally.

All parties, the staff, the mentor and the mentee lived up to the expectations and commitments of the six-month program agreed upon prior to getting started. The program was deemed a success by all those involved.

“The mentee has since left the facility,” stated Mr. Shally “and rejoined his family who will be providing the encouragement, support and accountability he needs as he makes this most vital life change and begins an earnest walk with Christ.”

Prior to leaving, a recognition celebration was held for the mentee. In attendance were three of his friends (fellow students at Taft), his two teachers, his two counselors, his therapist, the Superintendent, Chaplain, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor and his mentor, Mr. Shally.

On his last weekend at Taft, Mr. Shally was permitted to take the mentee to a local church for Bible study and Sunday worship followed by lunch in town.

“I had spoken with my mentee’s father as the mentoring relationship developed and I actually had the privilege of meeting him on the day of the young man’s release.” Shally said, “We shared breakfast before they headed home. Although I have passed the baton to his father and the rest of his family, I look forward to staying in touch with this young man who has changed my life as much as I hope the Lord, working in and through me, has changed his – it really has been a blessing.”

As a result of the success of the pilot program, Taft Youth Development Center has approved the expansion of the mentoring program. More volunteers have been trained and more young men are being given the advantage of having a spiritually mature Christian mentor with whom to share their needs, concerns, hope, fears and so much more.

For information contact Tim Shally at tim@lifechangementoring.org

TDCJ 2007 Prison Statistics

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) annual statistical report for Fiscal Year 2007 can be seen at: <http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/publications/executive/Fiscal%20Year%202007%20Statistical%20Report.pdf> .

In broad overview, at the end of FY 2007 TDCJ held 152,661 offenders in prisons and state jails and supervised 431,495 people on probation and 103,122 parolees. Tack on the 71,000+ currently incarcerated in county jails, and Texas' criminal justice system presently has more than three-fourths of a million people under its control - about one out of every twenty-one adults.

Just under half of TDCJ inmates were convicted of violent offenses (49.7%). Another 17.1% of inmates committed property crimes (mostly burglary) and 19.6% are incarcerated for drug offenses, mostly possession only; 3.8% are incarcerated for DWI.

TDCJ received 73,525 new prisoners in FY 2007 and released 72,032, representing significant growth but a much slower rate than in recent years. **The youngest offender who entered TDCJ last year was 15 years old; the oldest was 88.**

The good news: the parole board clearly has plenty of leeway to manage the inmate population. Of those incarcerated in prison (as opposed to state jails or SAFP programs), a whopping 66% are currently eligible for parole.

The six largest counties account for just more than 50% of TDCJ residents: Harris 19.5%; Dallas 12.5%; Tarrant 7.3%; Bexar 6.4%; Travis 3.4%; El Paso 1.6%.

An interesting capital punishment note ... Texas only recently implemented an option of Life Without Parole (LWOP) as an alternative to the death penalty in capital cases. In 2007, TDCJ received 51 new capital convicts, 37 of them received sentences of LWOP, while just 14 went to death row.

Ministry Resources: 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:

Reflections of Life: Through the Eyes of a Convict - **Blake Holmes** \$15.00 _____
 Written with the intent to educate, inspire and motivate the reader to lead a positive and productive life.

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 Edenfield** \$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**
 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. \$10.00 _____

Recommended for offenders:

Behind The Walls A Guide For Families and Friends of Texas Prison Inmates \$15.00 _____
J. A. Renaud - 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: _____



Note from the Editor:

If you enjoy Richard Blake's *California News* section in each issue of the Restorative Justice News, you will also enjoy reading his insightful analysis on book reviews which can be found on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Reader Views, and Midwest Book Review.

Just Google his name: Richard R. Blake and it will bring up several sites where his book reviews are posted. If you put "prison ministry" after his name it will bring up extra websites where his articles are posted.

Richard is a gifted writer. We appreciate his faithful support for the R. J. News.

Sacramento

California voters will again have the opportunity to vote on a measure that may divert funds from schools, healthcare, and firefighters to funding surveillance, arrest, incarceration, and prison construction. Proponents of **Proposition 6** claim to promote crime prevention programs; however only 3% of these funds are designated to go to youth targeted alternatives. Those opposing the measure point out that Proposition 6 provides over 50 changes to criminal law in California which would result in increased arrests, sentencing, and incarceration in a state where prisons are already experiencing 198% capacity.

Juvenile Prisons: The Little Hoover Commission, a non partisan independent state agency set up to monitor and analyze prison conditions continues to advocate reform in the state's Juvenile Justice System. They are calling on the governor to close California's Juvenile prisons as they are considered to be costly, ineffective, and antiquated. The commission is proposing a network of regional facilities to be administered by the counties. CJJ Executive Director Daniel Macallair, Youth Law Center Attorney Sue Burrell, and David Steinhart gave testimony calling for the state to adopt the county plan and to create a new state office of justice to manage the new decentralized system.

California Death Penalty: Opinion polls continue to call for reform of the death penalty in California. The state Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice sees the system as dysfunctional. The commission emphasizes that the time involved in due process is too long, that funding for legal representation be upgraded, and that a change as to the number and/or types of crimes resulting in the death penalty sentence be limited, or that the death penalty system be eliminated.

Alameda County

Captain Carla Kennedy has recently assumed the role of the first female commanding officer of Santa Rita Jail. The jail is the fifth-largest county jail in the country. Kennedy replaces Captain Bert Wilkinson who has been with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department for thirty-seven years. Kennedy has a twenty-two year career in the sheriff's department and is looking forward to the challenge of overseeing the 4,000 inmate jail. She has set a priority to expand inmate programs that will better help them to return to society with the skills needed to make a fresh start.

Redwood Chapel Community Church of Castro Valley recently hosted the 9th annual Night of Honor where the church and its members reached out to the community to show appreciation for those who serve in public safety. Personnel from the sheriff's department, county fire department, municipal police agencies and emergency medical staff were recognized and honored. Church members served the honorees and their families a barbecue dinner as a way to thank them for their service and to help build bridges with the community.

Oakland

Mayor Ron Dellums is being pressured to remove the box in the city employment application that asks if the applicant has committed a felony. Two groups are asking the mayor to speed up the process. They advocate that a key to success when re-entering society for the ex-felon is to find employment. San Francisco, Boston, and Hawaii have successfully implemented these changes. Rose Braz, director of "Critical Resistance" is calling for quicker action on the part of the mayor. Although the city has recently removed

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24/7 Ventline for Corrections Professions

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individual, family, and organizational levels.

The people at Desert Waters Correctional Outreach (DWCO) desire to come alongside corrections professionals and join hands with them in fighting the good fight against crime behind the walls.

Desert Waters, founded in 2003 is a Colorado 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation with the mission to increase the occupational, personal and family well-being of staff of all disciplines within the corrections profession. They operate independently of any government agencies or correctional corporations. DWCO focuses exclusively on corrections staff and their families. No services are offered to offenders or their families.

“Effective coping-skills trainings can empower staff and boost morale,” said Dr. Caterina G. Spinaris Tudor, Executive Director, “Education for the staff’s significant others may help maintain a healthy family life which, in turn, would enable staff to function well at work. To date, there are no other organizations in the U. S. that serve corrections staff and their families in this manner.”

Desert Waters serves staff and their families in several ways. Their 24/7 hotline, the [Corrections Ventline™](#), is anonymous, confidential and at no charge. It includes one free phone consultation with a counselor. For instructions and further information on the Corrections Ventline™ go to <http://www.desertwaters.com/b-ventline.htm>.

Face-to-face counseling is offered on a cash basis using a sliding scale. Coping and interpersonal skills trainings are offered to facilities or groups for a fee or through grants. Consultations are aimed to build staff resilience and solidarity with management, co-workers, and family members. Their monthly educational newsletter is offered free of charge. For further information concerning these services go to <http://www.desertwaters.com>.

DWCO offers its services thanks to the financial support of concerned individuals, corporations and foundations, and thanks to the dedicated labor of a non-compensated board and other volunteers. Fees are also received from trainings, professional counseling and consultations.

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.

California News

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the question within some jobs and departments, Dellums is faced with the fact that budget limitations and a selective hiring freeze have further slowed down the process.

Oakland Attorney Sujatha Baliga advocates Restorative Justice as a means to make juvenile justice work. Baliga received a Soros Justice Fellowship to put her ideas for criminal justice reform into practice. She learned of the effectiveness of restorative justice ten years ago in Dharamsala, India. She recognizes the importance of focusing on reconciliation and reducing anger on both sides of a dispute. She is hoping to be recognized by the county to set up new programs for young offenders.

Laney College in Oakland will host an anti-prison conference where ex-prisoners, family members, organizers, and policy makers will strategize on how to assimilate people returning from prison to communities plagued by poverty, indifference, and racism. To find the answer they will also address ways of engaging and empowering communities to face squarely both the problems existent and the challenge this opportunity affords.

Los Angeles

Jail Immigration Screening has become a priority for the L. A. County’s Sheriff’s Department. The department has received funding to hire more interviewers to screen for illegal immigrants. The program helps free up jail beds and ensures that illegal immigrants who commit crimes are turned over to Customs Enforcement and are deported to their country of origin and not released back into the community.

Operation Second Chance - Iraq

Inside Out Magazine

By Zoe Sandvig

Growing up, Angelo Vaccaro was no angel.

"My brother got into some bad stuff," his brother, Ray Vaccaro, told the American Forces Press Service. "Drugs, crime, hanging out with the wrong people."

At a fork in the road, Angelo considered his options—continue down the path to crime or try something new. That something new was enlistment as a medic with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan. Vaccaro proved to be a fast learner with a competitive edge that drove him to try to become the best combat medic in his battalion. His mantra: "If you can do it better, then show me how!"

Last year offered second chances to many other Angelo Vaccaros. Although the U.S. military doesn't officially enlist anyone with a criminal record, every year it issues a small number of "conduct waivers" to those who can demonstrate that they have been rehabilitated.

In 2007, the military issued more waivers than usual to enlistees with felonies and misdemeanors. Aware of this trend, U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) sent a letter to Undersecretary of Defense David Chu requesting exact numbers. He learned that the Army issued 511 conduct waivers in 2007 to applicants with felonies, compared with 249 in 2006. The Marines issued 350 in 2007, up from 208 in 2006. The Navy issued about 40 both years. The majority of waiver-recipients had convictions for drug possession, burglary, larceny, and aggravated assault.

"We're letting in people who made mistakes in their youth, who paid their penance for those mistakes, and who have been able to prove to the Army that they merit a second chance and we can use them," said Lt. Col. Val Siegfried. "We look at the full, whole person concept. We realize these individuals have made mistakes, but we evaluate what have they done after the mistake was made."

The Army doesn't actively recruit those with criminal records. To be considered for a waiver, applicants must piece together a portfolio that shows how they have turned their lives around. Then the request goes up the chain of command, sometimes as far up as the major general level. Then, a few select waivers are granted.

Many think the growing number of waivers is the response of a tired military that is forced to lower its standards to meet war needs. It's probably simpler than that. Since more than 70 percent of America's youth are not fully qualified to serve in the Army—because of medical conditions, lack of educational credentials, or a criminal record—recruiters are forced to consider those who might typically be disqualified for these reasons.

Still, many are uneasy about sending a former felon to fight with our troops. From one anonymous soldier commenting on a blog: "I don't know if I want to have felons among my ranks—personally I don't want to have to look over my shoulder every day to see if they're up to something or even just stealing my stuff!"

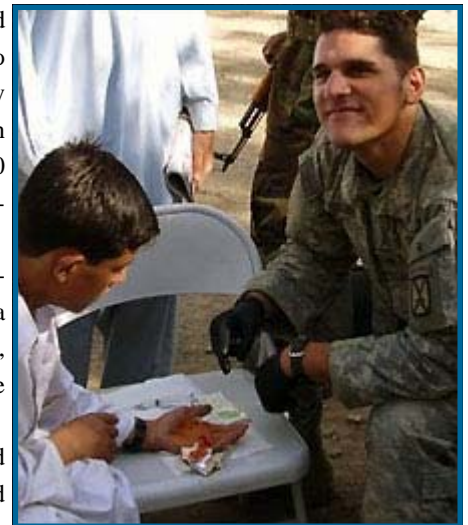
Sometimes this is a valid concern. Once in a while, extending a conduct waiver backfires, as in the case of a soldier in the 101st Airborne Division who had enlisted with a waiver for at least three drug-related or alcohol-related offenses. He was charged with rape and quadruple murder in Iraq.

But this is not the norm. Increasingly, recruiters are beginning to see that military service not only helps to fill the ranks, but also offers a second chance to those who can prove they have changed.

"I think all young people deserve a second and even a third chance," said Morten Ender, a sociologist at the United States Military Academy. "I'm proud of my country when it reaches out to all of America's sons and daughters. If not the military, then who?"

Army spokespeople insist that the military has not lowered its standards—they have just started looking outside of the box.

"America is about opportunity—not about denying opportunity. The Army has always been a vehicle for advancement in America," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Bostick at a U.S. House of Representatives hearing hosted by the Federal Workforce Subcommittee on June 10.



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Dear Editor—Bridges to Life

Tuesday we had our graduation at the Hamilton Unit, Bryan , TX, and it was great! Here's some of what the men expressed:

- "The forgiveness tape with Linda is the greatest forgiveness I've ever seen in my life. My father was murdered and now I'm confronted with forgiving the man that killed him. Can I do that like Linda did?... Bridges to Life (BTL) has opened my eyes to that question."
- "I will keep in touch with BTL, do something in BTL because I need you."
- "I'm a drunk. I didn't hurt anyone, that's what I thought till BTL. I've left many victims behind, my family mostly, and myself."
- "I signed up for the donuts. I thought we'd have them every week. These are the most expensive donuts I've ever had... because I've had to leave a part of me back there."
- One man who had been a professional rodeo rider said: "I want to thank you not for your time but for your love! You can be physically strong but if you don't strengthen your mind and heart you're nothing. I still don't understand why you come here to spend time with us, but the love you've shown is healing."
- "Through BTL I've learned that if I can help one person, one peer not to come in here then I've done alot."
- "My BTL facilitator knows how to get to a killers heart! I was told I needed to go to BTL to see the victims side. I was accused of eight murders and beat them all except for one. I've been in here 18 years and I never thought of the victims side. BTL is an eye opener." Choked up and fighting back tears he said, "I apologize to all of you for all my killings, please pray for me."

Amazing!!!

I invite you to come and experience this life changing program yourself. Contact me to find out more on how you can participate as a facilitator or as a victim speaker and help change one person and make a difference in their life and others.

Blessings,

Margie Blazier

Margie@bridgestolife.org
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Operation Second Chance

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"The Army continues to transform people from all walks of life into quality soldiers, leaders and heroes imbued with a warrior and winning spirit," he said, before presenting the results of a three-year study that compared the performance of 258,270 soldiers who didn't need waivers to 17,961 who did. The study showed that those with waivers re-enlisted at a higher rate than those without. They also advanced to the position of sergeant faster and had a higher ratio of awards for valor. They also had more instances of misconduct. Overall, the study concluded that soldiers with waivers performed equally to other soldiers.

"These men and women are raising their hand, asking for a chance to serve their country," he explained. "They are asking for a chance to be a productive member of society."

Sometimes they get the chance to be even more than that.

On October 3, 2006, former "bad boy" Cpl. Angelo Vaccaro died while rescuing fellow soldiers from enemy fire. He became the first service member to receive two Silver Star medals in the global war on terror.

In August 2007, a renovated building at Washington, D.C.'s Walter Reed Medical Center was renamed "Vaccaro Hall" in honor of the fallen soldier. At the building's dedication ceremony, Army Maj. Gen. Eric Schoemaker commented that the rejuvenated building was "the embodiment of Angelo Vaccaro, a man who put his life back together and became a combat medic and found meaning."

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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SOUTH DAKOTA

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sdpchaplains@juno.com

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

1,2 **Prison Congregation of America
Inc**
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Vermillion 57069-0415
605-624-8330
605-624-3123 Fax
Pastored@iw.net
www.Prisoncongregations.org

TEXAS

6 **Eunice Chambless Hospitality
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1,2 **TAX - Abilene**
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1,6,7, 9,10 **Light for New Life Min Inc**
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skyking273@sbcglobal.net
www.lightfornewlifeministries.org

2, 8 **Network for Life of Austin Inc**
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office@networkforlife.org
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1,3,5,8,9	Wheless Lane Christian Brothers Restorative Ministry Robert Mitchell/Robert Sephus 2702 Wheless Ln Austin 78723 512-926-2988 O-Mitchell@webtv.net www.whelessococ.org	3,4,5,6,7,9,10	J.A.I.L. Ministry Inc Steve Cannon PO Box 634 Belton 76513-0634 254-933-8506 254-933-7569 Fax jailmin@vvm.com	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10	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
2,3	Compassion Christian Counseling Vande Derrick 1297B Calder Beaumont 77701 409-832-5772 409832-7224 Fax	2	Manasseh Ministries Chaplain Muriel Roger PO Box 202 Ben Wheeler 75754 903-852-4402 manassehministries7@juno.com	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
1,2,3,6,7,9,10	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	1	Holy Ground Prison Ministry Johnny T Horan 207 N Saeger Brenham 77833 979-836-6328 daphne@gcfchurch.us	1,2,3,9,10	"Be Free" Jail & Prison Ministry Chaplain Inga Davis 3236 Golfing Green Place Dallas 75234 972-247-1769 972-247-8487 Fax Befree@comcast.net
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	1,2,7,9	Operation Rebound John W Harrington 409-735-3800	1,5	Chapel of Hope Ministries Inc Frank E Graham Jr 6030 W White Rose Trl Dallas 75248-4934 972-980-1009 972-503-5392 Fax Frank@chapelofhope.org www.chapel-of-hope.org
6	Shepherd's Inn Gaspard Center Mary Green PO Box 20618 Beaumont 77703-4921 409-898-8797 409-892-9534 Fax shepherdsinn@gtba.org www.gtba.org	2,3,6,7,9	Young Adults Healed John W Harrington 801 Delaware Dr Bridge City 77511 409-738-7355 jwhfaye@yahoo.com	1,2,8 (F),9	Christian Fellowship Enrichment Jim Lang PO Box 700023 Dallas TX 75370 972-283-7871 jimlang41@aol.com
	More than Conquerors Kelley Purselley PO Box 210936 Bedford TX 76095 817-343-0492 www.conquerorsthroughchrist.com rrpandktp@sbcglobal.net	1,9,10	New Beginnings / TAX Bryan & College Station Pat Howard PO Box 3785 Bryan 77805 979-219-0671 979-361-4291 Fax phoward@co.brazos.tx.us	1,2,4,5,7,9,10	First Baptist Dallas Prison Min. Jim Pence 1707 San Jacinto St Dallas 75201 214-969-2421 214-969-7847 Fax jpence@firstdallas.org www.firstdallas.org
1,2,6,7,9	Regional CJM Center of S Texas Gene Woodard PO Box 4056 Beeville 78104 361-358-9699 gwoodard@cableone.net	2	New Awakenings Bryan Boyd/Barbara Abbe 203 W 2nd Ave Ste B Corsicana 75110 903-654-0003	1,7,9,10	Freedom Outreach Ministries Mel Gipson PO Box 180941 Dallas 75218 214-325-9583 214-824-3499 Fax pastormel@affinity4.net

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214-477-2610
sedwards@hopeforhealingministries.org</p> | <p>1,2,3, 5,9,10</p> | <p>Walking Through the Light Prison Ministry, Inc.
Eleuterio Z Adame
PO Box 4761
Dallas 75208-0761</p> | <p>1,2,3,4, 5,6,9,10</p> | <p>Morning Star Jail/Prison Ministry
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| <p>5 Kingdom Visions
Dr. Dana Brockway
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Dallas 75734
469-633-0221
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817-684-7870
817-684-7876 Fax
office@copeministries.org
www.copeministries.org</p> | <p>1,2,3,5, 6,7,9,10</p> | <p>C O O L Ministries Inc
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Houston 77092
713-592-0134
1-866-992-COOL
we.cool@cfaith.com
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| <p>1,2,3,4,5, 6,7,9,10</p> | <p>St Francis Anglican Church
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www.angelfire.com/tx5/holycross</p> | <p>2,6,7,9</p> | <p>Mercy Heart
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| <p>5</p> | <p>Juvenile Justice Ministries Network of TX
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| <p>1,2,3,9</p> | <p>R O D Ministires
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www.rodministries.org</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>World Bible Translation Center
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817-589-7013 Fax
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www.wbtc.org</p> | <p>5,7,10</p> | <p>Initiatives for America's Youth
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281-493-4556
Iayjjm@aol.com</p> |
| <p>1,3,6, 7,9,10</p> | <p>Texas Baptist Men
Don Gibson
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dgibson@bgct.org
www.baptistmen.org</p> | <p>10</p> | <p>Write-way Prison Ministries Inc
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972-840-9798
972-864-9692 Fax
writewaypm@juno.com</p> | <p>9</p> | <p>Jail Chaplaincy Ministry
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| <p>1,7,8,9, 10</p> | <p>The Salvation Army
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crossprisonministry@htcomp.net</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>Newgate Connection
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| <p>1</p> | <p>Discipleship Unlimited
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www.liferow.org</p> | <p>1,2,5, 7,8</p> | <p>Newgate UMC/Onesimus Journey
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marvelous272003@yahoo.com</p> | | |

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1,7,9	Oil of Joy for Mourning Rev Rhonda Arias PO Box 720768 Houston 77272-0768 713-419-1214 281-879-8433 oilofjoy@sbcglobal.net www.ojfm.org	1,2,3, 4,6	First Baptist Church 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340-4698 936-291-3441 www.fbchuntsville.org	2,5	Winner's Circle Juvenile Program Kent Lucas 550 Elkins Lake Huntsville 77340 936-436-9467 winnerscircletxas@sbcglobal.net
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	First Baptist Church "Welcome Back" Ministry 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340-4698	1,6,10	Texas HOPE Literacy Inc Lucy Smith PO Box 905 Hurst 76053-0905 817-282-9489 lucysmith@hopelit.com www.hopelit.com
1,3,4, 6,9,10	Servants of Christ Prison Ministry Sibble Knight PO Box 111275 Houston 77293-0275 281-449-2703	6	Hospitality House Freddy Walters 912 10th St Huntsville 77320-3937 936-291-6196 freddy.walters@thehospitalityhouse.org www.thehospitalityhouse.org	1	The Brotherhood of St Andrew Oliver Osborn PO Box 537 Lake Jackson 77566-0537 979-297-6217 eosborn@brazosport.cc.tx.us
1	Skills for Life Inc James Lynn Arnold PO Box 38553 Houston 77238 281-733-1223 281-447-1784 Fax arnojl@msn.com	7	Restorative Justice Ministries Network Emmett Solomon, Exec Director 1229 Avenue J, Suite 360 Huntsville 77340-4698 936-291-2156 936-291-6260 Fax esolomon@sbcglobal.net www.rjmn.net Anita Parrish, Ministry Assistant arparrish@sbcglobal.net Bill Kleiber kleiber@sbcglobal.net	1,2,3,7, 8(B),9,10	Calvary Commission Joe Fauss PO Box 100 Lindale 75771-0100 903-882-5501 903-882-7282 Fax joefauss@calvarycommission.org www.calvarycommission.org
1	TDCJ Chaplaincy Operations Bill Pierce, Director 1060 State Hwy 190 E Huntsville 77340 936-437-4975 936-437-4988 Fax Director of Chaplaincy Support Richard Lopez 936-437-4973	3	TDCJ Victim Services Jim Brazzil PO Box 949 Huntsville 77432 936-437-4941 jim.brazzil@tdcj.state.tx.us	10	Exodus Prison Ministry Joyce Hargis PO Box 6363 Lubbock 79493 806-791-3673 joycehargis@yahoo.com
1	Elkins Lake Baptist Church Rev Ken Huggins 206 State Highway 19 Huntsville 77340-7152 936-295-7694 936-295-3388 Fax elbc@lcc.net www.elbc.org	1,7	The Old Time Religion Hour Inc Rev George Lupo PO Box 1225 Huntsville 77342 936-293-8000	1,2,7, 10	Freedom in Jesus Ministries Don Castleberry PO Box 6525 Lubbock 79493-6525 806-778-3923 806-791-5853 Fax fijm@nts-online.net
1,2,3	Episcopal Diocese of TX RJM Edwin Davis 2003 Avenue P Huntsville 77340-5029 936-291-3153 edsalpc@yahoo.com	1,5	University Heights Baptist Church Bro Richard Rogers 2400 Sycamore Ave Huntsville 77340-6120 936-295-2996	1	Encouraging Word Ministries Margaret Hackler 2401 N McColl Rd McAllen 78501 956-686-7728 rmont55@aol.com
				5,7	Lifechange Mentoring Shirley Orr Smith Midland 79707 sos@lifechangementoring.org www.lifechangementoring.org

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| <p>10 OpenArms Ministry
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956-585-3113 FAX
mrst24dbt@aol.com</p> | <p>1,2,4,7 Worldwide Voice in the Wilderness
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936-326-4229 Fax
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888-433-9826
dca7704051@aol.com</p> | <p>8 House Where Jesus Shines
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254-829-0250 Fax
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www.opendoorwaco.org</p> |
| <p>1,2,5,8,9,10 Freedom House Discipleship
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432-377-1922 Fax
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www.odessadreamcenter.com</p> | <p>1,2,7 Christian Restorative Justice Mentors Assoc
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murray@crjma.org
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Woodville 75979-0276
409-283-5977
woodvillecoc@sbcglobal.net</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>1,10 Joy Prison Ministry
Ura White
PO Box 7324
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281-253-8342</p> | <p>1,7,9, 10 Cornerstone Prison Ministry
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cspmin@clearsail.net</p> |
| <p>1,2,3,5,7 God's Friend Ministries Inc
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| <p>1,2,3,4,8(B),9 Mike Hooker Ministries
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903-796-5297
214-796-6592 Fax</p> | <p>7 UMC TX Conference Criminal Justice & Mercy Ministries
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1,4 His Sufficient Grace Ministries
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ldgroom@comcast.net</p> |
| <p>1,5,7,9,1 From Pain to Joy Prison Ministries
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Romeo Pena
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713-906-3407</p> | |

To list your ministry contact Anita Parrish, arparrish@sbcglobal.net

Abortion Recovery - 2009 Texas Life Mission Trips

By Shirley Orr Smith

She's never talked about her abortion to anyone. Not even her best friend. Now the destructive lifestyle that followed that decision has led her to incarceration. Now the pain of those memories won't go away.

Do you have a heart to heal the broken-hearted? Are you willing to go where they are isolated in their pain?

Oil of Joy For Mourning carries Abortion Recovery programs to women's prisons throughout Texas.



"Over two-thirds of incarcerated women polled said their abortion was a pivotal point of their downward spiral that led them to incarceration." said Rev. Rhonda Arias, Director Oil of Joy for Mourning, "They believed the lie that abortion could bring them freedom. Now their lives are characterized by painful bondage. We come with the truth, and the truth makes them free. It's a Man. His Name is Jesus."

"Thank you for the changes your efforts have brought to my life through the "Oil of Joy". When I came to this class, I was so broken from years of guilt and shame... You taught me where these feelings came from, and you helped me to heal. You held my heart in your hand, and you allowed me to trust in this process. Now today because of your efforts, I understand the origin of my suffering, which has caused me to make all these bad choices and remain in my addiction all these years coming in and out of these prison walls. The entire time was a direct result of my abortions and the emotions and mourning I experienced. I feel like a new woman today, a woman with a hope of a better tomorrow. I now understand my pain, and I am so amazed with this process. It's so clear to me now. I am Free; I am alive again!" Bridget Storm, Lane Murray graduate of **Oil of Joy**

Oil of Joy surveys have found that abortion is significantly linked to female offenders' subsequent drug abuse. Concerned people on both sides of the issue will admit that abortion is, at the very least, stressful and emotionally difficult for most women. It is not surprising then, to find that alcohol and drug abuse is one of the ways that women tend to "cope" with the event. This may be especially true for women who may be already operating at a low level of functionality, and whose struggle for survival has been plagued with injustice upon injustice. Participants in the Oil of Joy surveys specifically attributed their drug or alcohol abuse to stress related to their abortion. Most reported that their abortion was either a starting point, or a landmark of increased usage. Lowered self-esteem, the pain of a loss that no one seems to understand, nowhere in society to grieve, feelings of guilt and shame, and anger toward themselves and others, are some of the reasons women gave for "medicating" their pain through drug or alcohol abuse after their abortions.



Volunteer leaders are needed for the 2009 Texas Life Mission Trips. Leaders must be certified in abortion recovery, approved by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and complete an internship with Oil of Joy For Mourning. Their leadership development program makes it easy for you to establish your own abortion recovery ministry using the tools that have been accepted in the TDCJ programming for over eight years. Start by attending a ministry training seminar and completing your internship in one of Oil of Joy's scheduled outreaches. You can find outreach and training information on our website <http://www.oilofjoyformourning.org> or by calling 281-879-9902. Join the Joy!

2009 Regional RJM Conferences—Texas

Continued from page 1

RJMNT is looking forward to partnering with ministries and churches in and around the following areas: Austin, Beaumont, College Station, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston - Southwest side, Lubbock, San Antonio, Temple-Belton-Waco-Georgetown-Gatesville, Marshall and The Woodlands. Initial ground work has already begun on the conferences for College Station, Dallas, and Marshall. If a church or ministry is interested in hosting a conference, contact Anita Parrish at 936-291-2156 or arparrish@sbcglobal.net. Anyone having an interest in serving on a planning committee for one of the regional conferences should also contact Anita.

The conference for Central Northeast Texas has been scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2009 at Edwards Conference Center, East Texas Baptist University, Marshall, Texas.

The Role of the Church in Reaching Ex-Prisoners

Continued from page 1

But Jesus commands us to love our neighbors, no exceptions.

These particular neighbors have tremendous needs. Prisoner and ex-prisoners need a refuge. They need a place to turn to, people they can count on, and a place to go where they will not be judged for who they were in the past. Ultimately, they need a place that gives them a great hope for a better future in Christ.

Certainly the corrections system itself offers little hope, or help, for a positive future. In 2007 my home state of California incarcerated 173,312 citizens and illegal immigrants. Nearly 70 percent of parolees in the state end up back in prison. That is the highest rate in the nation. Two-thirds of parolees struggle with substance abuse. The budget of the prison system has grown 80 percent over five years to \$10 billion. However, the state spends less than 10 percent of that amount trying to keep people from returning to prison.

The Press Enterprise reported, “More than half of California inmates need treatment for drug addiction, yet only a tiny fraction receive such counseling. The picture is similar for alcoholism.” The article went on to say that, “Giving inmates with no job skills and untreated addictions \$200 upon release—and little else—is a recipe for failure.”

Tired of such failure, but stifled by their own limited resources, government officials are increasingly looking to the Church as a resource. In Alabama, for example, Gov. Bob Riley has asked the state’s churches to shoulder the burden of caring for newly released inmates, saying the state lacks the flexibility and funds to help them successfully reenter society. Leaders from churches and charitable groups were asked to provide a wide range of services to former inmates, including employment assistance, housing, clothing, health care, and cash. Riley said the state’s churches can rise to the challenge just as they do in response to natural disasters, such as hurricanes.

I agree that local churches can, and should, rise to the challenge. But what does that involve?

We have to be aware of ex-prisoners’ individual needs and address them personally—just as we do with anybody else coming through our doors. Organizations like Prison Fellowship stand ready to assist in equipping churches to approach the unique factors common to people exiting prison. We should prepare ourselves accordingly, and then get in the game.

At Calvary Chapel South Bay, we have a ministry called Free Indeed for people struggling with all forms of addiction, such as alcohol, drugs, pornography, and others. Many of the people attending these meetings have done time in jail. They wonder if God has a purpose for them and if their lives are not a waste. Charlie Woods described his participation this way:

I don’t know where I would be without Free Indeed! This isn’t an encounter group. This isn’t psycho-babble and phony behavior modification. This is family. A loving environment of brothers and sisters struggling with the same junk from the past, but at the same time knowing that God’s Holy Spirit is living in us. He sets us free from our guilt and shame. We are Free Indeed!

We also assist ex-prisoners in numerous transitional ways—helping them learn how to contact family, how to find a halfway house or other housing, how to get a job, how to serve others.

Finally, the church’s outreach to prisoners and ex-prisoners has to be ongoing—a constant presence of tough love, accountability, and attentiveness to personal needs, backed by sound teaching from the Word of God.

Along the way there will be trials, of course. Some people play games with the church and try to manipulate others to get what they want. We must wait on the Lord and allow Him to work in these individuals’ lives. Jesus didn’t say ministry would be safe and easy. In fact, He calls us to be strong and courageous.

Also, we must not try to “do it all.” If we give ex-prisoners too much too soon, we are not helping them grow. They must know they have to rely on the Lord, not on charity from the Church. They must obey the laws. They must have wise friends to whom they can go when facing old temptations. It’s definitely a maturing process. Along the way, some will backslide because some heart habits are harder to break. Weeding out sin over a lifetime is the same for ex-prisoners as it is for those who have never been physically incarcerated. It requires the same combination of truth (tough love), and grace (God’s mercy and forgiveness).

Whether these men and women coming out of prison are fellow believers or are still searching, the Church has to be the place where they find faith and good works, prepared by God in advance for us to accomplish.

Steve Mays is the Senior Pastor at Calvary Chapel South Bay, California. For more information on Calvary Chapel, go to <http://www.ccsouthbay.org>

Welcome Back Ministry - Huntsville, TX



Five days a week, you hear the words. "PRAYER CALL" echo from the portico at the Huntsville Bus Station. Like insects on a disturbed ant hill men of all colors, sizes, and backgrounds come hurrying out of the Huntsville Bus Station and surrounding areas. Together this calico vagabond group joins hands and shares prayers. These men may be from different races, cultures and backgrounds, but they share one thing in common. Each of them has just been released from Texas prison.



Each day the prayers revolve around new faces, new tears, new hopes and dreams. **FREE AT LAST:** We praise God for his grace & mercy. We beg for forgiveness for our transgressions, and ask for guidance in helping God build His kingdom for His greater good.

After praying there is a lot of shouting, hugging and backslapping. Then we huddle together to receive the benefit of "The inner circle." Words cannot express what goes on in this inner circle. Rest assured, these saints will forever remember being bound together by God Almighty. As we break you can hear the commands. "One." "Two." "Three." Simultaneously everyone shouts. **"JESUS!"** In the background you can hear "JESUS" echoing off the buildings, until it reaches the Walker County Courthouse on the square.



If someone needs help with food, clothes, job, or just think they are having a bad day, they can call: RJMN TeleCare at 1-800-998-3004

Photos provided by Photojournalist Eli Kaplan

Leaving Sing Sing - New York

Churches and ex-prisoners help each other find the way

By Hans B. Hallundbaek

With much anticipation I went to visit my friend John Valverde in his new paralegal job in Queens, New York. For years our meeting place had been Sing Sing prison, where he'd spent 16 years behind bars.

Each year around 600,000 people are released from prison back to a society that has little use for them. Finding a job is difficult when you have a criminal record, which must be declared on any job application. In a culture that depends on e-mail, credit cards, cell phones, and text messaging, even low-paying employment can be out of reach for a person who is fresh out of long-term incarceration, without training in how to operate on the outside. Many parolees lack basic education, family support, and marketable skills. These problems are a big part of the reason why, nationwide, more than 60 percent of those released from prison will be rearrested within three years.

Valverde, who quickly succeeded in landing his first job, is unusually fortunate: He had welcoming family, a good education—and Rye Presbyterian Church, which sends a dozen or so members each month to visit inmates. For the past 14 years, Rye—a 1,200-member congregation in affluent Westchester, New York—has given moral, spiritual, and practical support to men imprisoned in Sing Sing.

Nancy Steed, a leader of the Rye group, says, "Contact with the men in prison put human faces on the statistics. Before that, my attitude was, 'Lock them up and throw away the key if they steal my gold chain.'" Her husband and co-leader, Robert Steed, elaborates: "We realized the people in prison did not fit the stereotype portrayed in the media. Instead, they were well-spoken, intelligent, and devoted to their families. Prison work has become the most important of many volunteer projects we have been involved in."

WITH PRISONS often located far away from the inmates' home communities, visits from family and friends are rare; for many, a local church may become the only connection to the world at large. Visits from the outside are empowering and life-giving, says Valverde: "We were overjoyed and humbled that people would take time to visit, and to see us as the human beings we really are. They helped us improve and change by giving us a chance to express remorse for our actions and to develop self-esteem and hope."

Valverde adds reflectively, "We also saw changes in them." Churches who visit people in prison inevitably change. Experiencing the plight of human beings behind bars awakens a compassionate spirit in visitors and brings the joy of basic human connection developed through dialogue. People of faith call it the Holy Spirit at work.

Church support can take many forms: scripture study and assistance in developing family relations, personal communication skills, self-confidence, and résumé-writing and interviewing techniques. In the case of Rye Presbyterian, working with the men on the inside led parishioners to start a clothing closet for men released from prison and a support group for wives and loved ones of incarcerated men. They also keep in close touch with the individuals as they leave prison and support them in their efforts to reintegrate into society. Once a year, Rye's whole Sunday worship service is conducted by former inmates.

Churches throughout the country have discovered prison not only as a rewarding ministry field but also a source for church renewal. With America the world leader in incarcerating its own, no church should have difficulty locating a nearby prison. By calling a prison's volunteer department, church members can find out how to get involved.

"The passion for prison ministry is growing in our presbytery," says Susan Andrews, the general presbyter of the Hudson River Presbytery in New York state. "With 91 churches and 17 prisons within our bounds, we have ample opportunity to proclaim the gospel by developing personal relationships, reform and advocacy networks, and re-entry ministries to help 'set the prisoner free.' Whether imprisoned within security walls or imprisoned within our own fears and prejudices, we are called to the work of liberation in the name of Jesus Christ."

With the total number of persons under correctional supervision now well over 7 million, several states, most recently Alabama, are turning to faith organizations to assist people in their re-entry back into society.

With such encouragement from state authorities, people of faith hardly have an excuse for not "making straight a highway in the wilderness."

Hans B. Hallundbaek, a prison volunteer since 1995, is a former businessman, a Presbyterian minister, and an ethics professor at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Leaving Sing Sing. by Hans B. Hallundbaek. Sojourners Magazine, August 2008 (Vol. 37, No. 8, pp. 8). Commentary. (Source: <http://www.sojo.net/index.cfm?action=magazine.article&issue=soj0808&article=leaving-sing-sing>)

COPE's Florida Regional Conference

Orlando - November 20-22, 2008

Speakers include Warden Burl Cain, Angola State Penitentiary, LA; Johnny Moffitt, President, COPE's Board of Directors; Bunny Costantino-Greenwood, B and B Ministries; Ron Nikkel, Prison Fellowship International; and Walt McNeil, Secretary of the Florida Department of Correction.

Workshops include Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (special offer for correctional institutions), Abortion Recovery Ministry, Integrity: The Building Block of Ministry, Emotional Baggage, Mentoring, Ministry to Sex Offenders and Fundraising.

You can register online at <http://www.copeconnections.org/>

The Prisoner's Family Conference

El Paso, TX - February 26 & 27, 2009

The United States is infamous for its burgeoning prisons. Are we doing something wrong? What does this mean for our families? Our communities? Over 2.5 million of our children have parents in prison. Almost all of them live in poverty. As many as 70% of them will become prisoners themselves. These children and their families live among us as a "hidden population," suffering in silence as they sit invisibly right next to us in our schools and places of work and worship.

The Prisoner's Family Conference offers a distinct opportunity to develop awareness and increase understanding of the uniquely disturbing circumstances and crucial needs of The Prisoner's Family.

Registration form <http://solutionsforel Paso.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/08/conference-registration-form.doc>

Conference brochure <http://solutionsforel Paso.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/06/conferencebrochure2.pdf>

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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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