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## Get-tough policies cause more crime, deny inmates a future

*Detroit Free Press  
July 13, 2008*

U.S. taxpayers spend at least \$60 billion a year on a growing body of state and federal prisons, county jails and local lockups. With jail and prison populations that have increased nearly eightfold over the past 35 years, the United States has become the world's leading jailer. More than one in every 100 U.S. adults is locked up -- and 5 million more are on probation or parole. At any given time, one in 32 adults is under the supervision of the criminal justice system.

Tough-on-crime policies, not increases in crime, are mostly responsible. Mandatory drug sentences, three-strike and so-called truth-in-sentencing laws, as well as high recidivism rates, have created our Incarceration Nation. Even so, violent crime rates are higher than when the nation's prison building boom started more than three decades ago.

It's time to reverse failed sentencing policies, restore certain social and legal rights for ex-felons, and slow the revolving doors of the penal system with better re-entry, education and training programs. Fully funding the Second Chance Act, which provides money for state and federal re-entry programs, would keep more ex-inmates out of prison.

Criminal justice reforms are critical to the health of the nation's cities, and they must become part of the next president's urban agenda. Most of the more than 600,000 people a year leaving U.S. prisons and jails return to disadvantaged urban neighborhoods.

*Continued on page 15*

## Don't teach our children crime

New York Times Editorial  
July 3, 2008

Under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, the states agreed to humanize their often Dickensian juvenile justice systems in exchange for increased federal aid. This promising arrangement collapsed in the 1990s during hysteria about an adolescent crime wave that never materialized. The states intensified all kinds of punishments for children and sent large numbers to adult jails where, research has shown, they are more likely to be battered, traumatized and transformed into hard-core, recidivist criminals.

Congress is in the process of reauthorizing the law, and it ought to bar the states from housing children in adult jails, except for the most

### IN THIS ISSUE

|                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Texas' anti-meth law           | 2    |
| Dr. Haynes to China            | 2    |
| RJ Resources                   | 3    |
| California News                | 4    |
| Tribute to Bert Thompson       | 5    |
| Word from Director             | 6    |
| Don't teach our children crime | 6    |
| Considering alternatives       | 7    |
| RJ Ministries Directory        | 8-13 |
| Changing environment           | 14   |
| Fighting crime smart           | 14   |
| Cost of incarceration          | 15   |
| Guard salary ranks             | 17   |
| Dear Editor                    | 18   |
| Banning the box                | 19   |
| Subscription form              | 20   |

# Texas' anti-meth law shifted production to Mexico: Prevention and treatment under funded

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Grits for Breakfast

July 2008

At a Senate Criminal Justice Committee hearing yesterday, DPS officials said that restrictions on pseudo ephedrine purchases dramatically declined after the Legislature required stores to keep the product behind the counter in 2005.

But a reduction in domestic production doesn't mean demand for meth has declined, just that the supply is coming from elsewhere - mostly from Mexico. According to the Brownsville Herald ("Officials fear new meth epidemic after record setting bust." June 28), police recently captured a 211 pound shipment of meth heading north from Mexico through the Rio Grande Valley, spotlighting an ironic trend where Mexican cartels have become the primary beneficiaries of the new law.

In 2005, Texas introduced its own measures restricting the purchase of products containing the drug's precursors. That prompted a nearly 73 percent decrease in lab seizures in Texas, according to statistics provided by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. It also drove production south, where Mexican drug cartels began producing enormous quantities to meet the ever-present demand, officials said. The Valley, a major corridor for drug trafficking, naturally became a highway for meth distribution.

"Through various chemical control programs we have been successful in reducing the amount of meth produced in the U.S.," said Will Glasby, a local official with the DEA. "That's leaving the Mexican drug cartel as the primary source for the majority of the meth in the U.S."

Brandi Grissom at the El Paso Times has good coverage of the portion of July 9 hearing on drug policy ("Texas committee discusses drug enforcement, prevention," July 10).

Needs for treatment far outweigh the \$38 million Texas spends for drug programs, said Mike Maples, director of mental health and substance abuse services at the Texas Department of State Health Services. Texas currently provides treatment to between 3 percent and 7 percent of the uninsured addicts who seek rehabilitation, he said.

"We have quite a large waiting list," he said.

But for every dollar spent on prevention, Maples said, Texas could save more than \$5 from the negative economic impacts of drug use.

Gary Larcenaire, executive director of El Paso Mental Health Mental Retardation, said in a phone interview that prisons have become de facto treatment centers for drug addicts.

"We could use those resources to treat people in the community," he said.

Preventing drug use could also help reduce the demand for narcotics that fuels cartel violence in Juarez and across Mexico, El Paso County District Attorney Jaime Esparza said in a phone interview.

## Dr. Michael K. Haynes invited to teach and train in China

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Dr. Michael K. Haynes, President and Founder of The Faith Based Counselor Training Institute, Inc., (FBCT) and Crisis Chaplaincy Care, has been formally invited to China to train clergy, mental health and health care workers as well as first responders from July 25 -29, 2008. Dr. Haynes will be the keynote speaker in a conference of over 1,000 Chinese pastors in Hong Kong. Approximately 200 have signed up for the Crisis Chaplaincy Care Course.

There is a possibility for an extended stay to visit and minister in mainland China at the earthquake site and to make a proposal to the Chinese government to do further training and establishment of faith based counseling and crisis intervention schools in Hong Kong and throughout the earthquake provinces of mainland China. There are over 80,000 people who have lost their lives and well over one million who are homeless in this area from recent disasters.

Dr. Haynes is requesting prayers for his health and energy, for the funds needed and for the remaining approvals from the Chinese government.

Dr. Haynes can be contacted through his website <http://www.faithbasedcounseling.com> or by email at [fbcti@aol.com](mailto:fbcti@aol.com).

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_



## Sacramento

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the retirement of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Secretary James E. Tilton and made known the appointment of Matthew Cate as Secretary for CDCR effective May 16, 2008. Cate will now be responsible for the 67,000 plus employee agency.

During his tenure Secretary Tilton was a key leader in the passage and implementation of Governor Schwarzenegger's prison reform legislation, AB 900. Great strides are being made in improving California's adult and juvenile corrections systems, reforms to the parole system and in rehabilitation programs.

Matthew Cate brings to the position the strength of experience as Inspector General, and will help Governor Schwarzenegger in continuing the implementation of the AB 900 reforms. He has been responsible for public oversight of the CDCR. Cate has also served as the chairman of the California Rehabilitation Oversight Board.

California faces an unprecedented opportunity to create a model system that is committed to holding offenders answerable, to reduce overcrowding, to make facilities safer, and to provide opportunities for education, re-entry training, and rehabilitation with the goal of reducing recidivism."

The state is still faced with problems in juvenile delinquency courts. These courts try the cases of youth under age 18. A recent study by the court system reveals that the courts have too many cases and too few resources. The California Judicial Council has been given 58 recommendations for review of the Juvenile justice system. The report identifies the lack of programs available for youthful offenders, inadequate mental health care and drug treatment. The report calls for lower case loads and more substantive court hearings.

## Sebastopol

Restorative Justice Resources offers programs and services in restorative conference facilitation and training for youth, adult justice, and family group conferencing for child welfare. They also provide resources and training on Restorative Justice to school boards, law enforcement and interested members of the community. These resources provide hope for alternative ways of combating the disturbing nationwide increase in prison population now said to be one in 100 adults.

## Santa Nella

The Historic Mission de Ore in Santa Nella was the setting for the Follow Up Ministries Leadership Spring Retreat. The mission provides an ideal retreat atmosphere with a large picturesque courtyard sitting on 13 acres of beautiful grounds.

Highlights of the retreat included a stirring pace setter session from Chaplain Johnnie Jones. His message was titled "Passing on the Truth ...to the Next Generation." Chaplain Jones used Paul's exhortation in II Timothy chapter two for a challenging call to discipleship.

Tom Douglas, music pastor of New Hope International Church of Concord with piano and keyboard recording artist, Todd Netland, led the worship and provided music throughout the two day conference.

Saturday featured seminar sessions led by staff members, Tim Wagoner, Gus Enderlin, Mary Rodriguez, and Lee Fong. The theme of the retreat called attention to the lost art of disciple making. Each speaker developed this theme and covered the process of making disciples, training objectives, the need for workers, and how to develop these workers with specific applications for jail and prison ministry.

At a festive luncheon at the Anderson Pea Soup Restaurant, Betty Jo Mullen, FUMI Board member shared an opportunity for becoming a part of the planning team for developing strategy, vision, and leadership for a new generation for Follow Up Ministries. Steve and Diane Warn reported on their ministry in Kenya and of the current political strife in the country and how it has impacted their ministry. Opportunities were afforded for sharpening ministry skills, networking and fellowship as well as a time of relaxation, and the

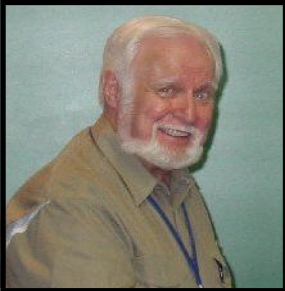


**Mission de Ore  
Santa Nella**

*Continued on page 5*

# A tribute to a great networker, Bert Thompson

By Emmett Solomon, Executive Director  
Restorative Justice Ministries Network



**Bert Thompson**

Bert Thompson went to be with his Lord on Thursday, April 10, 2008.

Bert Thompson was a marvelous networker for the cause of Christ and for the development of better environments for previously incarcerated people.

Before his death he worked tirelessly to help government agencies work together to improve the chances of success for prisoners upon their release.

He came many times to Huntsville and brought people to see the "Welcome Back Program" in action. He would attend Wednesday Evening Meals, and Prayer Meeting at First Baptist and then accompany Dub Wallace and Mike Cato into the Huntsville Unit at 8:00pm for Welcome Back. Bert was about the best networker that I ever was privileged to know. He breathed new life into the Community Partnership Councils (CPC) around Texas. His great energy and skill led to the activation of the CPC in Harris County, Montgomery County and other places in Texas. He was the very picture of optimism.

His friend Carol Vance observed: "On reflection, it seems pretty obvious that Bert knew he was on a short string since 2001 when he lost his voice. His neighbor told about these long coughing spells Bert had at that time when he would visit Bert at the house. Bert lost his voice for about 8 months at that time. When I think about what Dr. Toppell told me that Bert had a massive lung problem and that this existed for a long time, Bert must have known his health was in jeopardy. When he recovered from that was about the time when he started going day and night to do all he could for the guys getting out of prison. I never saw such energy and such an effort and such commitment and such results. Just like a man with limited time who was going to pack in all the time and energy he possibly could making things better for the lost and hurting. What a Guy! What an example. I have known some people whom I believe are truly sold out to the Lord. But I just never met anyone like Bert Thompson before. 'No eye has seen nor ear has heard....' except Bert is there."

Carol's tribute to Bert resonates with me. Bert served on the Board of Directors of the Restorative Justice Ministries Network for 5 years. He brought so much energy and optimism to each meeting.

*continued on page 7*

## California News

*Continued from page 4*

sharing of prayer concerns, and ministry opportunities. Founder and President Glenn L. Morrison closed the conference with a challenge to continue the vision and challenge of the Great Commission of making disciples.

Follow Up Ministries provide Seminars in Christian Discipleship inside the prisons and jails of California, Arizona, and other key locations throughout the United States as well as providing correspondence Bible Courses in Africa, Asia, Europe, and South and Central America.

### Oakland

The Oakland Tribune recently featured an article on the continuing struggle for victim's rights. Staff writer Angela Woodall related the story of a victim of stabbing and rape to highlight the "California Victims Bill of Rights." Advocates are aggressively trying to raise the awareness of these rights to the California public.

### Los Angeles

L. A. county is considering a \$672 million plan to phase out the 6800 bed downtown facility as a part of a major overhaul of their entire jail system. This is an effort to relieve overcrowding, to modernize the counties jails, and increase the system capacity by over 1,100 beds, while at the same time closing outdated, substandard facilities. The plan would also expand alternatives to incarceration.

# A word from the Executive Director

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Emmett Solomon

July 2008

Dear Ministry Partners:

Because you receive messages from us, you are aware of our presence. Some of our collaborating friends may not know the many facets of this ministry. We began doing just one thing. That was attempting to network people who were doing jail and prison ministry. It was 15 years ago that we began just after I retired from my role as Director of Chaplains for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Now RJMN orchestrates a symphony of care and encouragement by serving as the network hub for over 60,000 individuals, ministries, and churches in North America. We work in concert to assist victims of crime, prisoners, former prisoners, corrections professionals, and their associated families.

Our Mission Statement is: "Networking with individuals and organizations to collaborate in creating and implementing Biblical solutions to the Criminal Justice field."

1. **First Contact Family Ministry:** Teams of Volunteers minister to families who come to pick up their loved ones during the time they are waiting for the release to occur. They distribute printed materials designed to assist families during their loved one's transition period and furnish friendly conversation as well as general information.

2. **Welcome Back Prison Ministry:** Volunteer Teams enter Texas Prisons and State Jails and do a "Welcome Back" Program where they distribute to releasing prisoners written material regarding the upcoming transition and contact information for social service agencies and churches back home. They also obtain contact information from the prisoners who wish to give it and email it to a church back home.

3. **Welcome Back Neighborhood Ministry:** The information regarding a prisoner who is requesting assistance is sent to an individual or organization of volunteers back home so that they may welcome back this Previously Incarcerated Person. This impacts the PIP's world view. When they are leaving prison most feel they are not appreciated by anyone in their neighborhood and return with overriding negative feelings. This welcome by a church person begins the process of changing that negative view.

4. **First Contact Bus Station Ministry:** Bill Kleiber coordinates with volunteers, local business owners and correctional professionals to greet and assist the PIPs as they attempt to negotiate the issues that arise in public transportation. He is often the first civilian to have conversation with the released prisoners. Many have been locked up so long that they cannot use the telephone nor accurately read a bus ticket.

*Continued on page 16*

## Don't teach our children crime

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*Continued from page 1*

Sadly, the updated version of the law, recently introduced in the Senate, falls short of that goal. But it does include a number of far-sighted measures that discourage the placement of children in adult jails during the pretrial period and expands protections for children charged as adults.

The need for these measures is alarmingly evident in a report issued last year by the Campaign for Youth Justice, an advocacy group. The report found that as many as 150,000 people under the age of 18 are held in adult jails in any given year. More than half of young people who are transferred into the adult system are never convicted as adults — and many are never convicted at all.

The Senate bill takes a comprehensive approach to these issues. It would considerably tighten rules aimed at keeping children out of adult jails during pretrial periods. Children arrested for truancy, running away or other offenses that would not be criminal if committed by an adult would not be placed in juvenile jail unless absolutely necessary.

It also would require the states to work toward reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. It increases federal funding for technical assistance and for drug treatment, mental health care, mentoring and after-care programs that keep children out of the juvenile system in the first place. The bill advocates an evidence-based approach to hand out the money.

Jailing and criminalizing young Americans causes a lot more crime than it punishes or prevents. This bill represents an important step toward rational and compassionate justice for troubled children.

# More states considering alternatives

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Justice Policy Institute

<http://www.justicepolicy.org/>

June 12, 2008

## Prison Population Boom Has More States Considering Alternatives

This new policy brief from the Justice Policy Institute shows that community-based substance abuse treatment reduces crime rates and helps states reduce corrections costs.

The policy brief found that:

- Increases in admissions to substance abuse treatment are associated with reductions in crime rates.
- Increased admissions to drug treatment are associated with reduced incarceration rates.
- Substance abuse treatment prior to contact with the justice system yields public safety benefits early on.
- Substance abuse treatment helps individuals transition successfully from the criminal justice system to the community.
- Substance abuse treatment is more cost-effective than prison or other punitive measures.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/press/pim07jim07pr.htm>) reports that a record 7.2 million Americans were incarcerated in 2006, costing taxpayers an estimated \$45 billion and pushing states to consider less-costly alternatives ranging from private prisons to diversion to addiction treatment programs, the Washington Post reported June 12, 2008.

"There are a number of states that have talked about an early release of prisoners deemed non-threatening," said Rebecca Blank of the Brookings Institution. "The problem just keeps getting bigger and bigger. You're paying a lot of money here. You have to ask if some of these high mandatory-minimum sentences make sense."

The Pew Center on the States <http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/> recently reported that the U.S. has more people in prison than any nation on earth, with 1 percent of the entire national population locked up. The new BJS report estimated that one in 15 black men are in prison, as well as one in 35 Hispanic males.

Harsh drug-crime sentencing laws have helped drive the prison population up from just 1.8 million in 1980. "It's really like a runaway train," said Ryan King of the Sentencing Project. "Nobody's taking a step back and asking where all these billions of dollars are going."

Still, the prison boom has its defenders. "If you look at the fact that these are people who are committing a crime, creating a danger to the public, you can't look at it as wrong," said Scott Thorpe, chief executive of the California District Attorneys Association. "What is the appropriate number of people to be incarcerated to ensure public safety? I don't know if you can answer that."

But Tim Lynch of the Cato Institute said the latest figures "demonstrate that we've lost our way ... when our laws require such a massive scale of incarceration."

"When you lock up a bank robber, a child molester or a mugger, you're removing a career offender from the street," said Lynch. "When you lock up a drug dealer, he is immediately replaced. We tried this with alcohol during Prohibition and it didn't work. We're not reaching the same conclusion with the drug war. It's slowly sinking in, but it will take politicians some time to turn this around."

## Tribute to a great networker, Bert Thompson

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*Continued from page 5*

He will be missed by all of us who served along with him but could only try to follow along watching his coat tails billow out behind him because of his great forward movement. Texas needed an example of a great networker. God provided that and now we who are left are inspired to take it up and continue to move forward with optimism.

Please in be prayer for his family as they mourn the loss of their loved one and adjust to life without his ever present encouragement and enthusiasm in their daily lives.

In lieu of flowers, Bert had requested donations be made to Restorative Justice Alliance, PO Box 35351, Houston, TX 77235-5351. Also cards for Avril, Alan and the family may be sent to the same address.

Use this Ministry ID Key to locate Ministry Emphasis:

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

## \*CANADA

**1,2,3,4, 5,6,7 Restorative Justice Outreach Ministries**  
Rev Larry Dewolf  
Box 55  
Drumheller  
Alberta TOJ OYO  
403-823-4736  
403-823-5995 Fax

**1,2,3, 6,7,9 Bridges to New Life Society**  
Rob Baskin  
15654 Oyama Rd  
Lake Country  
BC V4V 2E1  
1-866-548-9242  
1-250-548-9271 Fax  
hope@bridgestnl.org  
www.bridgesTNL.org

**1,7 Restorative Justice Ministry Network of Canada**  
Darryl Mccullough  
89 Kimberley Avenue  
Bracebridge on P1L 2A4  
705-646-2657  
705-646-5828 Fax  
darryl.mccullough@sympatico.ca

## \*SCOTLAND

**1 Christian Prison Ministries Scotland**  
Colin Cuthbert  
PO Box 8806  
Carluke ML8 4RJ  
015-557-71157

## ALABAMA

**7 Mothers Against Methamphetamine**  
Director  
PO Box 8  
Arab 35016-0008  
256-498-6262  
256-498-6263 Fax  
Office@mamasite.net  
www.mamasite.net

## ARKANSAS

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

## CALIFORNIA

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

## COLORADO

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

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

## FLORIDA

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

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

**1,2,4,6, 7,8,10 Set My Way Free**  
Dean Campbell  
PO Box 415  
Jacksonville 32201  
904-673-1165  
904-355-4195 FAX  
setmywayfree87@gmail.com  
www.setmywayfreeministries.com

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

2

## Christlike Ministry

Gerry Adams  
3011 Orient Dr  
Tampa 33619  
813-623-1099  
813-623-1039 Fax  
GerryAdams@christlikeministry.org  
www.christlikeministry.org

1

## Horizon Communities Inc.

Ike Griffin  
PO Box 2547  
Winter Park 32790-2547  
407-657-1828  
407-629-2668 Fax  
mgriffin@kairoshorizon.org  
www.kairoshorizon.org

## ILLINOIS

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

## LOUISIANA

**1,3,4, 6,7,8 RJMN—LA**  
Dan Smith  
13 172 E. Coles Creek Loop  
Hammond 70403  
225-294-3237  
txdsmith@aol.com

## MASSACHUSETTS

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

**2,3,6, 7,9 Set Free in Maine**  
Kenneth Stephens  
249 Cushnoc Rd  
Vassalboro 04989  
207-622-4709

**2,3,6, 7,9 Northeast Dream Center**  
Pastor Ken Stevens  
18 Lithgow St  
Winslow 04901-7149  
207-692-2128

## MISSOURI

**1,2,3,5, 6,7,8,9** **Lutheran Prison Ministry/  
Al Hanson Pris Min**  
Chaplain Allen Hanson  
PO Box 168  
Concordia 64020-0168  
660-463-7596  
alhanson@ylm.org  
http://www.ylm.org/prisonministry

## NEBRASKA

**1,2,7** **Released and Restored**  
Ruth Karlsson  
2134 State Highway 41  
Wilber 68465-2596  
402-821-2401  
ruth@releasedandrestored.org

## NEW MEXICO

**6** **Wings Ministry**  
Ann Edenfield Sweet  
2270 D Wyoming Blvd. NE #130  
Albuquerque 87112  
505-291-6412  
505-291-6418 FAX  
AnnEdenfield@WingsMinistry.org  
www.WingsMinistry.org

## NEW YORK

**1** **Volunteers in Corrections**  
Chaplain Don Snyder  
PO Box 230  
Medina 14103-0230  
585-589-4726  
dsnyder@iinc.com

**1,2** **New Beginnings for Women**  
Karen Lafina Alo  
1350 Five Mile Line Rd  
Penfield 14526  
585-746-7730  
newbeginnings@rochester.rr.com

**1,2,3,4, 5,6,7,9** **Pastor Dave's Prison Ministry**  
Dave Umfreville  
5140 Main St Suite 303-139  
Williamsville 14221  
716-867-6737  
DJU23@verizon.net

## NORTH CAROLINA

**1,2,3,5, 7,9,10** **Ruff Edge Ministries**  
Rev Frank Brickman  
231 Northpoint Ave # K  
High Point 27262-1018  
336-841-5869  
ruffedgeministry@hotmail.com

## OKLAHOMA

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

**10** **Letters for the Lord**  
c/o Linda Odell  
PO Box 593  
Harrah 73045-0593  
odelljrg@aol.com

**1,2, 5,9, 10** **Casa Recovery Ministry/  
New Starts Prison Ministry**  
Rev Ricky Thompson  
PO Box 19352  
Oklahoma City 73144-0352  
405-420-3192  
Revrick73010@aol.com

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Ministry OK Methodist Conf.**  
Stan Basler  
1501 Nw 24th  
Oklahoma City 73106  
405-530-2015  
sbasler@okumc.org

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

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843-248-8835 Fax  
pnew@epiphanyministry.org  
www.epiphanyministry.org

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PO Box 3353  
Pawleys Island 29585-3353  
843-558-2350  
www.justiceministries.com

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Humboldt 57035-6815  
605-363-3784  
sdpchaplains@juno.com

**6** **Family Connection/Children's  
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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  
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Ed Nesselhuf  
PO Box 415  
Vermillion 57069-0415  
605-624-8330  
605-624-3123 Fax  
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www.Prisoncongregations.org

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325-548-2180  
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**1,2** **TAX - Abilene**  
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www.lightfornewlifeministries.org

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

# The changing prison environment

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*For 20 years I have been watching the slow but steady development of Faith & Character Based Dorms in jails and prisons around America. I am firmly convinced that in time, these dorms will change the accepted prison management strategy. If you were to study current corporate management strategies, you would find that current prison management is the most ineffective method possible. Keeping a person in the "child role" for years and then one day opening the door to society and instructing the prisoner to go and be a good man or good woman makes no sense at all. -- Emmett Solomon*

## The Changing Prison Environment

Only recently have corrections officials nationally begun coupling traditional security goals with preparing inmates to lead productive, law-abiding lives after release. Some of these rehabilitation efforts rely upon faith, spirituality, and character development; most are directed at inmates within a specific unit of a facility.

**The Urban Institute** out of Washington DC recently completed a study of two Faith and Character- Based Institutions (FCBI) which are part of the Florida Department of Corrections. On Christmas Eve 2003, Florida introduced the first state-run prison dedicated entirely to a faith- and character-based model. The FCBI's many religious and character-focused activities set these facilities apart from standard Florida prisons.

The goals are 1)to promote a safer prison environment, 2)to rehabilitate inmates, and 3)to reduce recidivism by helping prisoners build moral character, develop spiritual resources, and acquire life skills for use behind bars and after release. The programs are strictly voluntary and include explicitly religious activities, such as worship services and scriptural study, personal relationship building through mentoring and small-group activities, and character development programs on parenting and anger management. The programs are entirely funded and run by community volunteers.

The findings of the study were cautiously optimistic. Notably, the staff, the inmates and the volunteers all overwhelmingly believe the FCBI model is 1)improving inmate behavior, and 2)preparing inmates for successful reentry. They also believe that participation in the FCBI program promotes the reunification of the inmates with their families and enhances their prospect of employment after release. They also believe that volunteers save the state money and provide more effective and dynamic services than the state can offer.

For a more complete copy of the study report go to: <http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=901122&renderforprint=1>

## Fighting crime the smart way

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Inside Out Magazine  
January 2008

More than two decades after the "tough-on-crime" mantra became popular, state lawmakers, bludgeoned by budget crises, are readjusting the slogan to "smart on crime" instead. In the past few years, this new vision has created a wave of sentencing reform across the country.

According to a study conducted by Families Against Mandatory Minimums, 25 states have made some level of change in sentencing policy. Eighteen states have rolled back mandatory minimum sentences and other harsh penalties directed at nonviolent and drug offenders. Some examples of successful reform efforts over the last few years include:

- Michigan, a state once known for its harshness, repealed almost all of its mandatory minimum policies and gave discretionary sentencing back to its judges.
- Reforms in Ohio reduced the number of prisoners by 4,000 and closed a prison that cost the state \$40 million.
- Texas redirected first-time drug offenders carrying less than one gram of narcotics from prison to drug treatment. Estimated savings: \$30 million in two years.
- Mississippi restored parole for nonviolent first offenders.

# Hidden cost of incarceration

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Grits for Breakfast  
July 10, 2008

The Wall Street Journal had a piece on July 10, 2008 focusing on the "hidden" costs of incarceration defined as financial burdens that communities are often left to manage. For every person who goes to jail, businesses lose either a potential employee or customer. Inmates' children often depend on extended families, rather than a parent, to raise them. With only so many government resources to go around, churches, volunteer programs and other groups must often step in to help.

*For every person who goes to jail, businesses lose either a potential employee or customer.*

Uncounted costs identified by the Journal include money families spend to care for kids who're left behind, social services for children and spouses, and large numbers of "missing" young men between 18 and 35, particularly in Hispanic and African American neighborhoods. "I have a lot of real young customers whose mommas bring them in and I have customers that are older," said a 47-year-old barber in Phoenix. "The young black men in this area are extinct."

Family and charitable support aren't calculated in the government's numbers, says WSJ, but they represent significant costs nonetheless.

Another incalculable loss - children of incarcerated parents grow up in a culture where they view prison as a familial norm and are 5-7 times more likely than their peers to wind up there themselves. What's more, kids learn at a young age to fear the police and take an oppositional attitude toward law enforcement.

Says David Kennedy, director of crime prevention and control at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, "It's not arguable any longer that some of the things we're doing to fight crime are promoting crime and exacerbating poverty."

## Get-tough policies cause more crime, deny inmates a future

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*Continued from page 1*

They go home poorly educated, lacking job skills, and socially and legally disabled by felony records.

Going to prison has become a norm in certain big-city neighborhoods, even a rite of passage. While mass incarceration has aimed to reduce crime, it has actually increased it by breaking up social networks and removing financial and emotional support from families and communities. Nearly half of the 2.3 million adults locked up are African Americans, who make up less than 13% of the U.S. population. A stunning one in nine black males between the ages of 20-34 is behind bars.

Felony convictions, whether or not they carried prison sentences, attach lifetime penalties to tens of millions of Americans. Roughly 1.8 million people in Michigan, for example, have criminal records, or nearly one in four adults. Most are felony offenders, with all that entails for future prospects. These staggering statistics hold true for the nation as a whole, with more than 55 million people with criminal records.

### **Kansas sets an example**

Nationwide, nearly two of three offenders who get out of prison go back. Reducing recidivism is one of the best, and least controversial, ways to lower the prison population. With bipartisan support, many states are developing programs to help released inmates find jobs, housing and treatment. Such efforts have helped Kansas become one of the few states to lower prison populations, from a high of 9,181 in 2004 to 8,671 today.

Low-risk offenders in Kansas who violate parole conditions are no longer automatically sent back to prison. Instead, many are supervised and assisted in the community at a fraction of the cost.

*Nationwide, nearly 2 of 3 offenders who get out of prison go back.*

# A word from the Executive Director

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*Continued from page 6*

**5. RJMN TeleCare Network:** Dozens of calls each day come from PIPs. Before release from prison, each was given the toll-free telephone number to our office in Huntsville. *"I Got a Job!"* Ninety percent of incoming calls to our TeleCare Network involve request for food, clothes, and jobs. We love to share the thrill of victory when one of our callers contacts us to exclaim "I got a job!" A study by The Urban Institute revealed that 64% of PIPs are unemployed one year after their release. What kind of life would you and your family experience after one year of unemployment?

Despite barriers to reentry, we network with thousands of individuals from all faiths and nationalities to help people heal and become productive citizens. If you know any individual or family who has been touched by incarceration, please have them call our TeleCare Network Center at 1-800-998-3004.

**6. Life Groups and Special Needs Ministries:** Pretty much on a daily basis RJMN is contacted by individuals seeking to connect with God's people. RJMN initiates and supports connecting people of Faith to other people of Faith. This includes coordinating one-on-one ministries to "lock-ins." These are individuals who are on parole, on electronic-leg monitors, or registered as former sex-offenders and are prohibited from attending organized worship services on weekends.

**7. Conferencing Volunteers:** For 15 years RJMN has provided conferences for volunteers who are interested in working in the justice arena. In odd numbered years we sponsor 6 or 7 city wide Restorative Justice Ministry Conferences. If you are interested in one coming to your area, Anita will be glad to start planning with you for one in 2009.

This is a high energy, low cost ministry. It is volunteer driven. Last year our expenditures were just under \$75,000. We have two employees. I am retired and draw no money from this organization. Part time Ministry Assistant **Anita Parrish** is the office manager and keeps up our data bases which contain more than 70,000 names and addresses of interested citizens, most of whom have done hands-on ministry. She also develops and manages the RJM Conferences each year. Ministry Assistant **Bill Kleiber** is himself a Previously Incarcerated Person. He manages the bus station ministry and is a master telephone counselor.

During the fifteen year start up period of our expanded ministries, much of the funding was picked up by grants from private foundations in New York. Finally, those grants have been depleted and now we need very badly for the churches of Texas to step up and help us at a greater level. It is out of character for us to ask for financial help. We try to provide service to others at little or no cost to them. We asked for help once before when our office burned down. Our friends were so very generous in our time of need. They put us back into business right away. This is a little different kind of request.

**Now that you have an overview** of our ministry; I want to ask your assistance. We are in need of churches to include us in their Missions Budget. We also know that is not likely to happen without a person of that congregation who will become a **Champion** for us. My request to you is that if possible please become that person for us in your church. Budget planning is beginning soon in most churches. This is Kingdom Ministry. If we are to continue it, we need support from churches which are interested in ministering to the hurting and disenfranchised. We minister to such people everyday on behalf of Christ's Church. We will furnish a full report to any church who becomes a contributing sponsor, so that they know how we spent God's money which they sent our way.

Thank you for reading this far and for your assistance in this matter. I assure you that your help will indeed make a difference to some hurting person in your community. If you have any questions, please call me at (936)291-2156 or 800-998-3004.

Grace and Peace,

Emmett Solomon, Ex. Director  
Restorative Justice Ministries Network  
1229 Avenue J  
Huntsville TX 77340

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Restorative Justice Ministries Network of Texas has received a grant from the Life to Life Fund at the Community Foundation of Abilene for First Contact Family Ministry and Welcome Back. These ministries assist families who are waiting for their loved one to be released from prison and assist the men who are being released from prison everyday Monday through Friday. Both ministries are representing The Church and showing the love of Christ to hurting people. RJMN is grateful for the assistance of Life to Life in the continuation of these ministries.

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# Prison guard salary ranks 47th among states

Dear Ministry Partners:

*Much of the difficulty that we endure while attempting to deliver volunteer ministry service to prisoners is because of staff issues. How will this ever be solved unless Texans treat their employees better?*

*Below is an editorial from the Grits For Breakfast Blog (<http://www.gritsforbreakfast.blogspot.com/>) This is the best criminal justice blog that I know about.*

Grace and Peace,  
Emmett Solomon

## Grits for Breakfast Blog, April 8, 2008

I realize the cost of living differs significantly according to geography, but I'm pretty sure Texas doesn't have the 4th lowest cost of living among states, even though Texas correctional officers are "47th on the nationwide list when it comes to what they're paid." Texas' average prison guard salary is less than half that in California, according to the Beaumont Enterprise:

### PRISON PAY

Correctional officer salaries, annual mean wage

#### Top five:

1. California, \$61,000
2. New Jersey, \$56,960
3. Massachusetts, \$53,090
4. Nevada, \$50,120
5. New York, \$46,760

#### Texas, surrounding states:

- a. New Mexico, \$30,400
- b. Texas, \$30,100
- c. Louisiana, \$26,940
- d. Mississippi, \$23,470

Source: U.S. Department of Labor

The paper also calculated that there's an overall "one guard per 5.28 inmate ratio in California versus a one guard per 7.03 inmate ratio in Texas," though the two states have about the same number of inmates.

Despite a recent increase in starting salary for new hires, the Enterprise quoted state Sen. John Whitmire who pointed out that the state gets what it pays for by underpaying

guards, which has contributed to absenteeism and more disciplinary problems:

Whitmire isn't sure the latest pay raise to new hires will make enough of a difference.

"Getting a 10 percent raise is almost too little, too late," he said, adding that a comprehensive assessment of the correctional officer profession in Texas is gravely needed.

"We need to look at the long-term and the short-term," Whitmire said.

"By raising the qualifications and standards for correctional officers, that can make it a profession somebody wants to do long-term.

Whitmire said while he's proud of Texas correctional officers' hard work, given the environment they work in, he's concerned that standards have been lowered to recruit correctional officers.

"They're hiring 18-year-olds two months out of high school," he said of the relative inexperience that goes along with youth. "We've got officers who are 70 years old, senior citizens. That's a security risk.

He also pointed out that physical fitness standards have been lowered, with overweight, out-of-shape correctional officers in the system.

Whitmire said he wants to meet with state criminal justice administrative officials and discuss the severity of the officer shortage. "It's worse than they're acknowledging," Whitmire said.

Many Texans support keeping prisons as inhospitable as possible because they're supposed to be about punishment, but those same poor conditions (think double shifts with no air conditioning in the Texas summer heat) combine with low pay to make it nearly impossible to staff current prisons in their existing, mostly rural locations.

### Comment posted by Jami - 4/07/2008

We have so far to go to fix this ailing system, I've almost lost hope for it.

I just know that constant conflict between a broken prison/security system and a staff that works toward habilitation of criminals defeats our purpose of changing criminal behavior. I go into work many days and believe I'm fighting an uphill battle ... not because of the inmates, but because of the guards and the "punish the criminals" mentality. I will never understand such short-sighted thinking.

Texas needs to get it together.

## Dear Editor

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Thank you for your service in bringing the RJMN 14th Statewide Convention to Dallas. Both my wife (Susan) and I received valuable information, and we were re-energized through the workshops, the guest speakers, the music, and the worship services.

It was a joy to be in such a safe, accepting environment with like-minded Brothers and Sisters in the Lord networking together to bring about healing and restoration to the wounded.

If I can be of any further service to you in the future be it in Bryan/College Station, at regional conferences, or statewide conventions, please let me know. Again, thank you. Your Brother in the Lord,  
Stephen Lehr

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Where are the younger leaders?

I was recently looking at the obituary of Rev. Consuella York from December 1995. Mother York, as she was affectionately called, was a prison ministry leader of compassion who ministered to inmates for 43 years, in Chicago. It was difficult for me to believe she has been gone for thirteen years. Her death created a leadership vacuum. I still miss her encouragement and words of wisdom.

In the past few years, other prison ministry leaders have gone to be with the Lord including Chaplain Ray, Frank Costantino, Jesse Mathes, and Nick Barbetto. I have observed that many of our current prison ministry leaders are grey haired, white haired, or balding (ladies excepted) which is to say growing older.

Do not misunderstand me; I greatly admire leaders like Wayne Benjamin at age 78 and Weldon Fox at age 87 who are going strong. There is no “retirement” in the Bible from Christian service. Although society in general recognizes age 65 as a time for retirement, the AARP card arrives in your mail box at age 50, and some even retire at age 55, many of my friends in prison ministry do not recognize such arbitrary distinctions. Rev. York was 72, visiting prison cells daily when the Lord called her home. She and others “died with their boots on” because to put it plainly, when God calls you to share the Gospel, you keep going until He tells you otherwise.

I am inspired by my friends in prison ministry who shun a rocking chair for weekly, even daily preaching of the Word to prisoners. There are roles for men and women in their 60’s, 70’s, and even 80’s in prison ministry. Arthritic knees may prevent walking into a jail but not being an active pen pal. A fixed income may prevent traveling hundreds of miles to prisons but not sharing one on one at a local juvenile detention facility. Pain may prevent sitting across from an inmate on a hard bolted metal chair, but not grading a Bible correspondence course in a comfortable chair at home. Many beyond retirement write curriculum, write newsletter articles, speak to others about prison ministry, train and teach.

But the question must be asked: *where are the younger leaders coming from?* I do not often see volunteers in their twenties. Few college students join the ranks of consistent volunteers mentoring young prisoners and leading Bible studies. Young pastors are not exposed to prison ministry in most seminaries. Christian colleges will take students to Africa to dig a well and build a chapel but not take them to a juvenile facility ten miles away from campus. Large churches will organize young adults to go on mission trips on the Mexican border or upstate New York traveling hundreds of miles in multiple vans but not share with young prisoners in their own city, from nearby neighborhoods.

There is a popular notion that “real” ministry must be far away. For some, ministry must have adventure, danger, and aimed at “unreached peoples”. Actually, prison ministry often includes these factors. Ministry begins in our own backyard (Jerusalem). We must render visible the homeless, the hungry, the orphan, the drug addict, the dying AIDS victim, and the prisoner. It is clear from Matthew 25 that Jesus identifies with those many overlook.

During my years teaching Criminal Justice courses at Wheaton College, my students went into prisons and juvenile facilities with me as part of their learning. I am pleased that several former students like Christian Henderson in California and Peter Bailey in New York are doing great work in prison ministry, today. They are both in their thirties, near the age I was when I was their professor.

We must all work harder to influence seminaries to include prison ministry in their courses. We must recruit young volunteers in order to mentor them for future leadership. Pastors should be encouraged to lead mission trips to their own backyards. God will raise future leaders but we must do our part to educate, encourage, and train young adults for a future in prison ministry.

Wayne Benjamin, Weldon Fox, and the late Consuella York all share something in common. They not only heard God’s call to minister to prisoners, they responded! None of them used age as an excuse to sit on a rocking chair and let others go into the jails. They are true servants of God and shining examples for all of us. I am richer for knowing them.

Don Smarto

# Banning the box

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*An article from the Austin "American Statesman" written by a person from the Urban Institute who has studied the issue of reintegration of prisoners is printed below. Dumping people on the street after prison with little or no help remains one of the greatest obstacles to public safety in Texas. The many employment prohibitions deter the reintegration of previously incarcerated people.*

Emmett Solomon

## **La Vigne: Aid reintegration of ex-prisoners**

Nancy La Vigne, Special Contributor  
Saturday, April 26, 2008

Travis County commissioners made a heroic move this week, opening the doors to thousands of former prisoners who have hit a brick wall when seeking employment.

The barrier? That little box on a county job application that asks if the applicant has been convicted of a crime. The banning of that box, a seemingly small gesture, will speak volumes to those trying to lead productive, law-abiding lives after spending time behind bars — and to local lawmakers throughout the nation.

Critics charge that the move coddles offenders, lowers job-screening standards and puts the public at risk. But hard-nosed pragmatists know otherwise. As research shows, aiding the successful reintegration of former prisoners into the community is smart public policy.

The truth is, in Texas, roughly 95 percent of people sent to prison eventually return home. The choice for policymakers boils down to either supporting released prisoners' efforts to make good in society or leaving them without resources, increasing the odds that they will commit new crimes and return to prison. The first approach costs a fraction of the price of a prison bed and has the public safety advantage of preventing new victimizations in the community. The alternative leads to more crimes, breaks up more families and costs taxpayers more money.

Evidence supports the argument that employment makes a real difference for the formerly incarcerated. According to a study of 352 Texas prisoners by the Urban Institute, only 13 percent of those employed after release returned to prison within a year, less than half the share (28 percent) of their jobless counterparts.

With a unanimous vote, the commissioners set the stage for what could be the first of many steps toward boosting employment for people leaving prison. The next logical step would be for the City of Austin to ban the box on its job applications as well. State regulations and licensing requirements that bar certain employers from hiring felons should be also reviewed. It's ludicrous to deny someone a landscaping job because of a conviction for check fraud. Yet in Texas, that and many other illogical, antiquated prohibitions remain on the books. Revisiting these rules with an eye toward creating job opportunities for the formerly incarcerated would demonstrate a true dedication to public safety.

Another important role the state can play is to ensure that convicted felons have the skills and abilities to find and keep jobs. Sadly, research shows that only one in three of those released from Texas prisons participates in employment readiness, job training or GED programs in the community in the first nine months after release. It's no wonder that released prisoners cite finding a job as their greatest re-entry challenge. These men and women need to be prepared for the job opportunities that emerge from the county's latest efforts; otherwise, failure awaits and employers will be disillusioned or — worse yet — disinclined to take a risk on the next former prisoner who crosses their threshold.

Make no mistake: The road to successful prisoner reintegration is not an easy one. If public officials focus solely on employment at the expense of other critical re-entry needs, such as addressing substance addiction, mental illness and housing, their efforts are sure to fail. What good is a job if it only supplies funds to support a drug habit? If a former prisoner suffers from depression that goes untreated, what are the odds she or he will keep a job? How can we expect a homeless person or shelter dweller to report to a job on time, day in and day out, without a safe place to stay?

Indeed, re-entry's many challenges must be addressed together. Fortunately, Travis County is poised to do that. Through the leadership of the district attorney's office and the community-based collaboration of the Austin/Travis County Re-entry Roundtable, meaningful partnerships across city and county human services and correctional agencies have been forged. With continued leadership on the part of county commissioners, these efforts can yield a humane and successful approach to public safety.

La Vigne is a senior research associate in the Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center.

# Events of Interest Fall 2008

## **Coalition of Prison Evangelists (COPE) Fall Events:**

September 11-12, 2008 in Oklahoma City, OK - Regional Conference  
November 20-22, 2008 in Orlando, FL. – Regional Conference  
December 3-5, 2008, Kampala, Uganda - COPE Africa Conference  
For details on all events: <http://www.copeconnections.org/>

## **October 27-28, 2008, in San Antonio, Baylor University:**

*Faith and Works: A Call for Evidence of Action* hosted by the Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion (ISR) is an interactive conference designed to bring together leading researchers, faith-based volunteers and organizations, clergy and lay leaders, as well as policymakers. For more details: <http://www.faithworksconference.com>.

## **Straight Ahead Ministries:**

August 4 - 8, 2008 in Quincy MA, Straight Ahead Ministries in conjunction with Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary is offering *Engaging High Risk Youth*, a seminary-level course,, which can be taken for graduate, undergraduate credit OR can be used toward a new six course Certificate in Juvenile Justice Ministry . For more details: [http://www.straightahead.org/pdf/GCTS\\_SAM\\_courses.pdf](http://www.straightahead.org/pdf/GCTS_SAM_courses.pdf)

## **2008 Regional One Day Trainings—Transformational Interventions with At-Risk Youth:**

September 8, 2008 in Tacoma, WA (for Christian Youth Workers)-  
September 9, 2008 in Tacoma, WA (for Law enforcement, Social Workers and Teachers)-  
October 3, 2008 in Fort Wayne, IN  
October 10, 2008 in Augusta , GA  
October 25, 2008 in Chicago, IL  
November 7, 2008 in Philadelphia/Lancaster, PA  
For details: [http://www.straightahead.org/pdf/GCTS\\_SAM\\_courses.pdf](http://www.straightahead.org/pdf/GCTS_SAM_courses.pdf)

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

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

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