



Jail program strives to help offenders, crime victims

By Joshunda Sanders
 AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF
 Monday, February 26, 2007

In their jail-issued black and white uniforms, dozens of inmates at the Del Valle Travis County Correctional Complex sit with Bibles in their hands, listening to an ex-prisoner describe his journey from a lawless life to a redemption through prayer. Inmates also meet with crime victims weekly to hear firsthand what the impact of crime can be.

Since January 2005, the Travis County sheriff's department has been enrolling hundreds of county jail inmates in Resolve to Abolish Violence Everywhere, or RAVE, a restorative justice program that includes General Educational Development classes, victim-offender meetings, counseling and job assistance when inmates return to the community. The program, which includes some faith-based counseling, is paid for with grant money and volunteer fundraising efforts.

Adrian Hernandez, a 22-year-old Amarillo native who has been in and out of jail for possession of marijuana and evading arrest charges, is serving time for burglary with the intent to commit a felony.

This time, Hernandez said, "I'm glad I came to jail." His trip has been a wake-up call, he said, for him to "restore" himself.

Continued on page 6

* 14: Number of weeks in the RAVE program
 * 162: Estimated number of participants since its start
 * 52: Graduates so far
 * 5: Repeat offenders after program

R . J . N E W S

A much-needed second chance

NEW YORK TIMES

Published: July 2, 2007

The United States now has more than two million people behind bars, a number that has been rising steadily for decades. But state lawmakers who once would have rushed to build new prisons have begun to see that prison-building is not

Continued on page 15

RJMN receives grant

The Restorative Justice Ministries Network (RJMN) is very happy to announce that it received a grant of \$10,000 from Life to Life Fund at the Community Foundation of Abilene on June 19, 2007. This grant is to help fund the operation of the "Welcome Back" Project.

Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

RJM Regional Conferences	2
Back Where They Belong	3
California News	4
RJM Resources	5
COPE Conference	6
New Life Behavior News	6
CCA Partners	7
Ministries Directory	8-13
Dear Editor	13
The Changing of the Guard	14
Ft. Worth Conference	15
Texas Legislature 2007	16
Newest Prison Town	17
Subscription Form	18

Regional R. J. Ministry Conferences held in five cities this Spring

By Emmett Solomon
Executive Director, RJMN Texas

The Board of Directors of RJMN followed the leadership of the Lord and authorized the staff to organize regional conferences in the spring of 2007. This network organized Local Planning Committees which met in January and planned the one-day Saturday conferences. The programs were printed and distributed in each region.

The programs were tailor made for each region. "Prison Ministry and Beyond" was planned by the Beaumont group. In Dallas "Cell Block to City Block" and in College Station "Healing for All" were the themes.

On February 17, the conference was held at the Wesley United Methodist Church in **Beaumont** with a very enthusiastic group in attendance. The keynote speaker was Judge Dennis



Connie Hilton speaks about Bridges to Life.

Powell, Judge of the 163rd Judicial District. He gave great encouragement to all who bring healing to the criminal justice system. This network collaborated with the 1)Catholic Diocese of Beaumont, 2)Christian Life Crisis Intervention, 3)Operation Fresh Start and 4)Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church to develop a great conference.

On March 24, the conference was produced with the collaboration of the Cornerstone Church of **Corpus Christi** and was held at the Solomon P. Ortiz International Center. Estella Rocha and Hector Perez both did outstanding work in bringing together representatives of the Corpus Christi Police Department, Nueces County Sheriff's Department, Probation and Parole Departments as well as the Mayor, County Judge and State Representative. Paul Carlin delivered a rousing message about ministry in the criminal justice system. He highlighted the Therapon Dorms at the Eastham Unit for which his ministry provides the programming.

On April 14, the **Dallas** "Cell Block to City Block" Conference was held at the St John Missionary Baptist Church in collaboration with 1)Coalition of Churches in Prison Ministry, 2) Baptist General Convention of Texas, 3)Freedom in Community Restorative Ministry, 4)First Baptist Church of Dallas and 5)Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

On April 21, the East Texas Conference was held in **Henderson** in conjunction with 1)Calvary Commission, 2)Trinity Baptist Church, 3)Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, 4)Green Acres Baptist Church, 5)Bradshaw State Jail, 6)Prison Fellowship and 7)Texas Association of Ex-offenders (TAX). Chaplain Paul Ransberger gave a very encouraging message to all who were present. Two prison wardens spoke words of encouragement to the very enthusiastic group gathered at the Trinity Baptist Church.



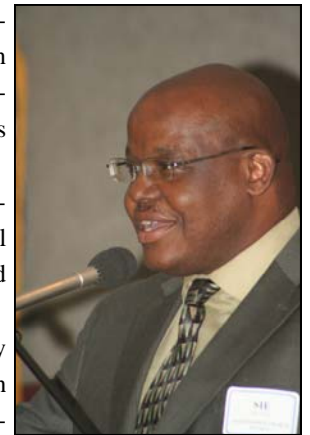
Each regional conference has been well attended.

On April 28, the Brazos Valley "Healing for All - Prison Ministry and Beyond" was held in the First Baptist Church of **College Station** in conjunction with the 1)Restorative Justice Ministries of the Brazos Valley, 2)West District of the United Methodist Church, 3)Save our Streets Ministries as well as the 4)First Baptist Church of College Station. Rev. Paul Ford, a previously incarcerated person, spoke to the people about the needs of prisoners and Defense Attorney Travis Bryan III lit our fire with a rousing sermon about commitment to our Faith.

A total of 415 people attended these Regional Conferences. Much information was passed on and much networking was done. The Regional Conferencing in 2007 proved to be very rewarding.



Mercy Heart Ministries was one of the many exhibitors who participated in the conferences.



Sie Davis speaks about Overcomers, a substance abuse program for prisoners, and Ex-Offenders.

Back where they belong

New York Times
July 5, 2007

Governor M. Jodi Rell vaulted Connecticut to the forefront of the juvenile justice reform movement when she signed a bill that removes sixteen and seventeen year-old offenders from the adult courts and puts them back into the juvenile justice system where they clearly belong. This new law comes in response to studies showing that children who do time in adult jails are more likely to become hardened criminals — and to commit more violent crime — than youthful offenders who are handled by the juvenile system.

The rush to try children as adults began in the early 1990s, after high-profile crimes like the Central Park jogger case, in which a young woman was badly beaten and raped in New York's Central Park. Extreme violence and sexual assault clearly merit severe punishment. But today, in too many states, young people are routinely tried as adults, even those who commit non-violent offenses.

In adult jails, these youthful offenders have little protection from being battered or sexually assaulted. Even those who leave jail determined not to go back, find that a conviction in adult courts closes off their chances for finding decent jobs.

After Connecticut's law takes effect, New York and North Carolina will be the only two remaining states that automatically transfer 16-year-olds who commit crimes to adult courts. Unfortunately, nearly every state has laws that encourage prosecutors to try children as adults. The country needs to abandon these failed, destructive policies.

RJMN receives grant

Continued from page 1

The "Welcome Back" Project is a ministry to prisoners at the time they are being released from prisons and state jails in Texas. This project is in cooperation with the First Baptist Church of Huntsville, TX. Their volunteers do a Welcome Back Program for prisoners just prior to release. The prisoners are welcomed back to society by the volunteer citizens who deliver the program. The prisoners are then given information about how to manage the transition which they face. They are given telephone numbers for churches who are willing to help them as well as contact information for social service agencies near their destination.

If they are interested in being welcomed back by church people in their home towns, they release their contact information. In each such case the Restorative Justice Ministries Network sends an email to some church person in their home town and asks that person to welcome the formerly incarcerated person back to that community.

Bill Kleiber is the primary RJMN staff person in this program. He coordinates with Rev. Jerry Phillips, the Associate Pastor for Community Ministries at First Baptist Church, who oversees the FBC's part in this collaborative effort. Each week day Bill goes to the bus station, visits with and ministers to the men being released from the Huntsville State Prison. 100 to 150 men are released there each week day.

Volunteers have been recruited at twelve other prisoner release sites around the state to do the Welcome Back programs. They transmit the contact information to the RJM Network for distribution.

The RJMN 800 telephone number is provided to the releasing prisoners who go through the welcome back program. Bill Kleiber and the other RJMN staff do telephone counseling with up to 150 formerly incarcerated people each week. Calls are received from people who have been released for a week, a month, or a year. On occasion someone released as long ago as 4 years will call.

With this grant the Life to Life Fund is helping with a truly merciful ministry to many people who are in great stress.



Sacramento

(1) Threatened with a federal takeover of California's troubled prison system, legislators have initiated plans to add up to 53,000 beds to prisons and jails in the state. In addition to this huge building commitment the plan calls for a shift in how prisons are managed and for providing pre-release re-entry training, placement, and housing. There will be an emphasis on rehabilitation programs, education, anger management, substance abuse, and family counseling.

(2) Studies show that California's plan for drug treatment for prisoners has not reduced the recidivism rate of the participants. Kathryn Jett, director of the California Department of alcohol and Drug Programs has been appointed to reorganize the program.

Oakland

(1) A recent editorial in the Oakland Tribune lamented the trend in California's priorities as the states prison budget will soon overtake the amount spent on the state's universities. The emphasis on fixing the state's correction system has been mandated by a federal court order to eliminate the overcrowding in prisons designed to house 100,000 now being jammed with 175,000. An estimated \$7.4 billion is projected to build accommodations for over 53,000 new beds. This is in addition to the \$10 billion existing operating budget. The editorial calls for: focusing more on rehabilitation of inmates; scheduling people due for parole a few weeks early; revisiting the mandatory minimum sentence for certain offenses; and by providing treatment rather than prison for drug offenses.

(2) Taxpayers and prison reform advocates protested in response to Governor Schwarzenegger's new state plans to build more prisons. The protestors call for a responsible budget which would reduce inmate population and close some prisons. Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata issued a statement that acknowledged a plan of prison reform is necessary but that immediate measures are being taken to prevent the federal courts from seizing control of the state's prison system.

(3) Oakland officials met last month at deFremery Park to honor over 5,000 residents who have participated in making Oakland safer by joining Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils. Residents' working together, with the police, has had a positive effect within these Oakland communities. Speaking to another Neighborhood Association, Mayor Ron Dellums unveiled a plan to reintegrate former prisoners into society by providing opportunities for city jobs and by providing a summer jobs program.

San Leandro

The long awaited opening of the Alameda County Juvenile Center on Fairmont Drive in San Leandro is now open. The 360 bed facility houses school services, separate maximum and medium security units, medical exam rooms and a medical observation area. A large multipurpose room, library, special activity rooms, a gym, and a new arrivals area are also housed in the facility. Juvenile hearings will be held in five courtrooms. Offices for county court officers are also maintained in the 379,000 square foot facility. It is anticipated that the San Leandro facility will become a model for Juvenile Justice Centers throughout the country in the years ahead.

The R. J. News publications are dependent upon contributions from readers. If you find the articles in the R. J. News interesting and informative, please help us continue this ministry to you and others involved in justice system ministries. Donations by check or money order can be mailed to: Restorative Justice Ministries Network, 1229 Avenue J, Suite 360, Huntsville, Texas 77340. The RJMN is a non-profit organization. All donations are tax exempt.

RJM Resources

Ministry Resources from Restorative Justice Ministries Network

1229 Avenue J, Suite 360, Huntsville, TX 77340

Recommended for ministry people:

Restorative Justice Ministry for Pastors & Church Leaders \$12.00 _____
Emmett Solomon - Guidance for leaders interested in beginning RJM in the local congregation

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 Prisoner's Soul - **Canfield, Henson, Lagana** \$15.00 _____
101 stories that will inspire you with hope, gratitude and joy, regardless of your circumstance

Karla Faye Tucker SET FREE - **Linda Strom** \$12.00 _____
Her Death-Row transformation captured the world's attention. Uplifting, good read

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.

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 offender 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: _____

Jail program strives to help offenders, crime victims

Continued from page 1

Every day, more than 1,800 inmates are housed at the complex, according to the sheriff's office. Of those, most have been accused of nonviolent offenses and minor felonies, officials say.

Offenders such as Hernandez often cycle in and out of the county criminal justice system for everything from drug possession to domestic violence.

Steve Larson, a clinical therapist who provides counseling for inmates and their families after offenders have been released, said that problems such as drug addiction and illiteracy must be addressed before inmates return to the community.

"If there is no treatment when they're behind the wire, then they just recycle back into the jail," Larson said. "We need to help these people understand what triggers them at their core: child abuse, sexual assault or neglect. Often, offenders repeat what happened to them" by lashing out at others, Larson said.

Since 2005, about 162 inmates have participated in the 14-week RAVE program, according to its director, Charyl Naron. Fifty-two have graduated. Five of the participants have returned to the criminal justice system for nonviolent offenses.

"It's not about them coming back to jail; it's about them not coming back for violence," Naron said. "That's a win-win situation for the community."

Restorative justice is a criminal justice philosophy that aims to help offenders and crime victims by allowing them to view offenses not only as crimes against the state but also crimes against the community.

Experts say that when offenders see the effects of their misdeeds, they are less likely to repeat their mistakes.

Naron's program is the only one of its kind in Texas and one of only 15 such programs in the country, according to Marilyn Armour, a restorative justice expert at the University of Texas.

It is modeled after a similar program, called Resolve to Stop the Violence, which started in San Francisco in 1998. City officials report that recidivism rates at the San Francisco jail have plummeted since the program started and that the longer offenders participate, the lower their chances are of returning to jail for a violent offense.

It is still too early to tell how successful the Travis County program will be, but restorative justice programs based in jails in places including Minnesota and California have also reduced recidivism.

The nonprofit Bridges to Life, a faith-based restorative justice program in Texas, also has had positive results in prisons and jails across the state.

Experts think restorative justice can have a great effect on victims as well, Armour said.

It gives crime survivors whose voices are "lost in a system of retribution for crime" a chance for healing and empowerment, she said. "It helps them to have answers, to be able to know who this person is. It gives them a way to make sense out of and put into place what happened to them and gives them back their power."

COPE Annual International Conference, September 26-29, 2007

Join criminal justice ministers, volunteers, correctional staff, chaplains and others for the Coalition of Prison Evangelists (COPE) Annual International Conference, Wednesday, September 26— Saturday, September 29, 2007, Dallas, Texas. This year's theme, Excellence in Ministry: Trends, Practices & Issues will be informative and inspirational for anyone involved or interested in becoming involved in criminal justice ministry.

Speakers include Mark Earley, Prison Fellowship; Monty Lewis, Bridges of Canada; Dove Morgan-Osborne, Loving Hearts Ministry and William Bumphus, Jesus Inside Prison Ministry.

Workshop topics include Ministering to Meth Addicts, Aftercare, Faith-Based Initiatives Under Attack, Emotional Baggage, Mentoring, Christian Recovery Programs and many more.

For more information go to <http://www.copeconnections.org/index.php>

Conference Brochure: <http://www.copeconnections.org/assets/pdf/cope-conf-broc.pdf>

New Life Behavior News

October 12-13, 2007, 11th Annual New Life Behavior Conference, Dallas

November 2-3, 2007 Winners Circle's State Conference, hosted by CASA, Holiday Inn, Corpus Christi

For further information about either of these gatherings, call (361) 855-3372

CCA partners with 2 faith-based groups

NASHVILLE, TN—

Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), which operates the Hamilton County Workhouse, has extended its commitment to faith-based programming for inmates by partnering with two national faith organizations - Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) and School of Christ International (SCI) - to help reduce the generational cycle of crime, officials said. CCA has initially introduced these new faith programs at 15 CCA facilities. Plans already are underway to implement the program at all of CCA's more than 60 facilities within the next 12 months.

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF), the world's largest mission agency ministering to children, is collaborating with CCA to develop and implement a correspondence faith program tailored for inmates and their children. The alliance with CCA is CEF's first major introduction on a broad scale into the corrections system. CEF has plans to introduce these newly-crafted faith materials within other corrections systems as well. To date, over 35,000 curriculum packets, in both English and Spanish, introducing the program have been distributed at CCA facilities in eight states. Inmates voluntarily sign up to receive weekly lesson plans and devotional books created by CEF. With the permission of the parent or guardian, age-appropriate material may also be sent by the CEF ministry to the inmates' children on a weekly basis. All correspondence is provided free of charge and distributed by mail. CCA is also making available to CCA correctional staff and their children CEF's existing correspondence faith program for the general public.

A recent Child Evangelism Fellowship study found that children of prisoners are seven times more likely to end up in prison themselves than other children from the same environment. With more than 2 million prisoners in America, it is estimated that more than 6 million children are currently at risk.

Dennis Smith, chaplain at CCA's Metro-Davidson County Detention Facility in Nashville, implemented the CEF program in December 2004 and received an overwhelming response, it was stated.

"The Child Evangelism Fellowship program is something the inmates can do for their children when they have no money and can't send them anything," Mr. Smith said. "They can enroll their children in the CEF program, enabling their children to receive materials that hopefully will enrich their lives."

CEF pamphlets initially have been provided to inmates in various CCA facilities in Texas, Florida, Oklahoma, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee and New Mexico.

School of Christ International is an internationally-known organization that provides Bible study programs for prisons and jails in the United States, Russia, Africa and South America. SCI is providing all CCA prisons a comprehensive 155-lesson Bible study program and workbooks. SCI staff and volunteers will work with CCA facility chaplains and other CCA staff and volunteers to implement the program to CCA's inmates, on a voluntary basis. Numerous CCA facilities in Texas, Oklahoma, Florida and Tennessee are participating.

CCA provides voluntary faith services in all of its 63 facilities. The Company has partnered in recent years with a large number of faith-based organizations, including the Institute in Basic Life Principles, Champions for Life, Kairos Horizon, Good News Jail and Prison Ministry and Theotherapy.

CCA, in its desire to provide and enhance its chaplain and religious services for all inmates, will continue to develop alliances and partnerships with reputable, mainstream faith-based ministries of all faiths, it was stated. CCA's faith-based initiatives, including School of Christ International and Child Evangelism Fellowship, are programs that are available to the entire inmate population on a voluntary basis regardless of their religious and spiritual beliefs. There is no requirement to convert and/or revise their religious belief in order to enroll, participate and or complete the program.

For more information regarding CCA's chaplain and religious services, please contact John Lanz, director of special programs, at (615) 263-3112 or john.lanz@correctionscorp.com.

CCA is the nation's largest owner and operator of privatized correctional and detention facilities and one of the largest prison operators in the United States, behind only the federal government and four states. The company operates 63 facilities, including 38 company-owned facilities, with a total design capacity of approximately 67,000 beds in 19 states and the District of Columbia.

http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_60952.asp

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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Use this Ministry ID Key to locate Ministry Emphasis:

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<p>6 Shepherd's Inn Gaspard Center 1,9,10 Mary Green PO Box 20618 Beaumont 77703-4921 409-898-8797 409-892-9534 Fax shepherdsinn@gtba.org www.gtba.org</p>	<p>1,2,4,5,7,9,10 Redeemed Ministries Betty G Oates PO Box 891 Chico 76431-0891 940-644-5237 940-644-2982 Fax redeemedministry@hotmail.com</p>	<p>1,2,4,5,7,9,10 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</p>
<p>More than Conquerors Kelley Purselley PO Box 210936 Bedford TX 76095 817-343-0492 www.conquerorsthroughchrist.com rrpandktp@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>2 New Awakenings Bryan Boyd/Barbara Abbe 203 W 2nd Ave Ste B Corsicana 75110 903-654-0003</p>	<p>1,7,8,9,10 Freedom Outreach Ministries Mel Gipson PO Box 180941 Dallas 75218 214-325-9583 214-824-3499 Fax pastormel@affinity4.net</p>
<p>1,2,6,7,9 Regional CJM Center of S Texas Gene Woodard PO Box 4056 Beeville 78104 361-358-9699 gwoodard@cableone.net</p>	<p>1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10 Newlife Behavior Ministries Buck Griffith 3833 S Staples Ste S-101 Corpus Christi 78472-2188 361-855-3372 361-855-7469 Fax nlbcasa@yahoo.com www.nlbm.org</p>	<p>3 Hope for Healing Ministries, Inc and The Victim Memorial Center Susan Edwards, Director PO Box 140132 Dallas TX 75214 214-477-2610 sedwards@hopeforhealingministries.org</p>
<p>3,4,5,6,7,9,10 J.A.I.L. Ministry Inc Steve Cannon PO Box 634 Belton 76513-0634 254-933-8506 254-933-7569 Fax jailmin@vvm.com</p>	<p>1,9 Prayer-life Seminars Inc Hugh White 630 Meadowbrook Dr Corpus Christi 78412-3019 361-993-7651 361-985-8615 Fax hughlwhite@aol.com www.prayer-lifeseminars.org</p>	<p>5 Kingdom Visions Dr. Dana Brockway PO Box 740681 Dallas 75734 469-633-0221 religious@kingdomsvision.org www.kingdomsvision.org</p>
<p>2 Manasseh Ministries Chaplain Muriel Roger PO Box 202 Ben Wheeler 75754 903-852-4402 manassehministries7@juno.com</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10 St Francis Anglican Church Fr William Conner PO Box 140182 Dallas, 75201 972-900-7298 frwilliam@catholic.org www.angelfire.com/tx5/holycross</p>
<p>1 Holy Ground Prison Ministry Johnny T Horan 207 N Saeger Brenham 77833 979-836-6328 daphne@gcfchurch.us</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>5 Juvenile Justice Ministries Network of TX Weldon Fox PO Box 765156 Dallas 75376-5156 214-696-7834 info@jjmnt.org www.jjmnt.org</p>
<p>1,2,8 (F),9 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</p>	<p>1 Christian Fellowship Enrichment Jim Lang PO Box 700023 Dallas TX 75370 972-283-7871 jjmlang41@aol.com</p>	<p>1,2,3,9 R O D Ministries Dale Truitt PO Box 710385 Dallas 75371-0385 214-827-8555 214-824-5355 Fax ddtruitt@hotmail.com www.rodministries.org</p>

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7	C O P E (Coalition of Prison Evangelists) Fauhn Schierer 1001 W Eules Blvd Ste 212 Eules 76040-5032 817-684-7870 817-684-7876 Fax office@copeministries.org www.copeministries.org	1,3	Bridges to Life John Sage PO Box 19039 Houston 77224-9039 713-463-7200 713-465-5658 Fax jsage1@aol.com www.bridgestolife.org	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
1,6,7	Parents and Children Together (PACT) Rev Suzanne Boeglin 2836 Hemphill St Fort Worth 76110-3214 817-924-7776 pact1924@sbcglobal.net	1,2,3,5,6,7,9,10	C O O L Ministries Inc Boyd Harrell 5005 West 34th Street, St 130C Houston 77092 713-592-0134 1-866-992-COOL we.cool@cfaith.com www.coolministries.net	1,3,4,6,9,10	Servants of Christ Prison Ministry Sibble Knight PO Box 111275 Houston 77293-0275 281-449-2703
7	World Bible Translation Center Glenn Peden 4028 Daley Ave Fort Worth 76180-8600 817-595-1664 817-589-7013 Fax glenn@wbtc.com www.wbtc.org	1,9	Crossover USA Gary R Nichols 911 Westmont Houston 77015 713-545-7991 713-455-7060 Fax gnichols@crossoverusa.com	1	Skills for Life Inc James Lynn Arnold 6223 Greenway Forest Ln Houston 77088-4012 281-931-9122 281-447-1784 Fax arnojl@msn.com
10	Write-way Prison Ministries Inc Ralph Nichols PO Box 461582 Garland 75046-1582 972-840-9798 972-864-9692 Fax writewaypm@juno.com	1,3,4,5,8,9,10	Epiphany Ministries of Texas Chuck Talbot PO Box 590578 Houston 77259 chucktal@msn.com www.texasepiphany.com	1	Chaplaincy Operations TDCJ-ID Bill Pierce, Director PO Box 99 Huntsville 77342-0099 936-437-7192 936-437-7191 or 936-293-1321 Fax billy.pierce@tdcj.state.tx.us
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		9	Jail Chaplaincy Ministry Freddie Wier PO Box 30262 Houston 77249-0262 713-569-2929	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

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1,2	First Baptist Church "Welcome Back" Ministry Jerry Phillips, Associate Pastor 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340-4698 jerry.phillips@fbchuntsville.org	1,6,10	Texas HOPE Literacy Inc Lucy Smith PO Box 905 Hurst 76053-0905 817-282-9489 lucy@hopelit.com www.hopelit.com	1,2,4,6, 7,9,10	Preaching the Cross Ministries Bobby Griffith PO Box 633741 Nacogdoches 75963-3741 936-326-4556 936-326-4229 Fax ptcmgriffith@wmconnect.com
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	2,6,8 9,10	Freedom House Discipleship James Butts 3542 Mercury Ave Odessa 79764 432-381-5453 432-337-1922 Fax freedomhouse@clearwire.net
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	1,2,4, 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
3	TDCJ Victim Services Jim Brazzil PO Box 949 Huntsville 77432 936-437-4941 jim.brazzil@tdcj.state.tx.us	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, 5,7	God's Friend Ministries Inc Jack McClelland 3727 N 16th Ste 287 Orange 77632 409-988-3865 godsfriend@gt.rr.com
1,7	The Old Time Religion Hour Inc Rev George Lupo PO Box 1225 Huntsville 73342 936-293-8000	1	Encouraging Word Ministries Margaret Hackler 2401 N McColl Rd McAllen 78501 956-686-7728 rmont55@aol.com	1,2,3,4, 8(B),9	Mike Hooker Ministries Mike / Charlotte R Hooker PO Box 143 Queen City 75572-0143 903-796-5297 214-796-6592 Fax

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List your ministry in the R. J. News Ministries Directory and on rjmn.net.

Contact Anita Parrish Phone: 936.291.2156 or email: aparrish@rjmn.net

Dear Editor

We are glad to help in any way we can as a ministry with the heart for restoration of the hurting. We have two young men that are back in our town. They called and our Celebrate Recovery Program picks them up for support meetings. They have also found jobs which has helped them to become adjusted.

New Awakenings also works with the Navarro County and Ellis County Parole Offices to meet their training needs. We have Anger and Domestic Violence Management Classes along with support group meetings for many areas of need.

Please remember us in prayer as we labor for the Kingdom of God, reaching all souls with the truth, Christ is Lord of all.

New Awakenings
Barbara Abbe
beabbe@yahoo.com

The Changing of the Guard

By Rachel

Posted in: Strategize

In March of this year I stood outside Buckingham Palace in London, England watching the famed “changing of the guard.” The formal ceremony takes place roughly every other day as a new guard of approximately forty soldiers comes in to replace the old guard who’ve been standing watch over the monarch.

As I watched the ceremony, I realized the changing of the guard was a fitting metaphor for what I’d learned about the church in Europe and the UK. Here are a few observations.

I was in London at the end of fourteen days of intensive, on-site research regarding the state of the church in Europe and the UK. I’d been to Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Utrecht, London, and Birmingham; met with folks from Poland, Switzerland, Germany, Paris, Lisbon, Madrid, Dublin; and asked the same basic questions of forty or fifty people.

- *The traditional church is in serious decline throughout Europe and the UK.* One person told me “church is a curse word in our culture.” Many folks talked about the church as something ancient, like we might talk about Greek mythology.

- *Immigration is rapidly diversifying the demographic profile of Europe.* In an effort to rebuild countries devastated by two world wars, Europe sought cheap labor in the third world countries. Now these folks have taken up permanent residence in Europe and more are moving to Europe every day.

- *As new people move into the European countries, they are bringing their culture and religion with them.* Since many of those coming are from predominantly Muslim countries, Islam is rapidly growing in Europe. We found mosques across the street from many churches. We even found several mosques that a few years ago were Christian churches. *If present trends continue unchecked, practicing Muslims are liable to out-number church attending Christians in Britain and other European countries in a few decades.*

While many may find these observations disturbing, *there are many missional opportunities!*

- *The traditional church throughout Europe and the UK is being revitalized by immigrants coming from countries once evangelized by Christian missionaries from Europe!* This is true among Catholics, Anglicans, Baptists and many others. Whatever the denominational affiliation, the revitalized church is basically evangelical and charismatic.

- *People, especially young people, are very spiritually minded and willing to talk about spiritual things.* Most of their understanding of spirituality excludes the church and is focused on what some term “new age” spirituality. Though they are not interested in the institution of the church, they are open to talking about Jesus.

- *Though the Muslim influence is spreading, Muslims love to talk religion and are willing to talk about their faith.* Many can come to faith in Christ if they have someone who understands their Muslim heritage and can share the gospel with them apologetically.

- *English is commonly spoken in Europe.* I believe a new multinational community of people who speak English and communicate via the Internet is forming. What an opportunity this is for American believers! The American churches should see Europe and the UK as mission fields just like Africa, India, Asia and other areas. We can have an impact there without having to learn another language.

A new guard is replacing the old guard in Europe. Postmoderns are replacing moderns. Mosques are replacing churches. Immigrants are replacing nationals. Yes, Europe *is* changing.

America needs to take notice. Most countries in Europe thought of themselves as Christian the way many Americans think of America as a Christian nation. Today Europe is a mission field, and so is America. What’s happening in Europe may soon be happening in the US. Look around. See any changes? You may just be seeing the beginning of the changing of the guard.

Tom Billings, Doctor of Divinity

Executive Director, Union Baptist Association

[Union Baptist Association](#)

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.

A much-needed second chance

Continued from page 1

the best or most cost-effective way to fight crime or protect the public's safety.

Several states have instead begun to focus on developing community-based programs that deal with low-level, nonviolent offenders without locking them up. And they have begun to look at ways to control recidivism with programs that help newly released people find jobs, housing, drug treatment and mental health care — essential services if they are to live viable lives in a society that has historically shunned them.

Texas and Kansas have recently made important strides in this area. But corrections policy nationally would evolve much faster if Washington put its shoulder to the wheel. Congress needs to pass the Second Chance Act, which would provide grants, guidance and assistance to states and localities that are developing programs to reintegrate former inmates into their communities.

The states have made a good start, thanks in part to the efforts of the Council of State Governments and its prison policy arm, the Justice Center. The center's analysis of corrections patterns has led to sweeping changes in Texas, where the Legislature was facing a projected upsurge in the prison population and a projected outlay of more than a billion dollars to build several new prisons.

The surge in Texas was not being driven by crime, which had risen only slightly, but by a breakdown in the parole and probation systems, which were unable to process and supervise the necessary numbers of released prisoners. Mental health and drug treatment services were also lacking. By expanding those services, along with other community-based programs, the Legislature projects that it could potentially avoid the need for any new prisons.

A similar solution was found in Kansas, where about 65 percent of the state's admissions to prison were traced to technical violations of probation or parole, often by people with drug addictions or mental illnesses. The Legislature has expanded drug treatment behind bars and created a grant program that encourages localities to provide more effective supervision and services as a way of keeping recently released people away from crime and out of prison.

The social service networks that are necessary for this kind of work are virtually nonexistent in most communities. To put those networks together, the states need to require that disparate parts of the government apparatus work together in ways that were unheard of in the past.

It is encouraging that state officials are willing to break out of the old patterns. But they need help. The Second Chance Act would bolster the re-entry movement with money, training, technical assistance—and the federal stamp of approval.

Fort Worth Regional Conference planned for Sept. 15, 2007

On Saturday, September 15, 2007 ministry folks from the West Texas area will be gathering for a regional conference focusing on the realities of the transition from prison back into the community for both the offender and his/her family. The conference is being hosted by East Saint Paul Baptist Church, 5300 Oak Grove Road West, Fort Worth. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with coffee, refreshments and fellowship. The opening plenary session will begin at 9:30 and the conference will end around 3:00 following the noon luncheon.

The local steering committee has designed a conference that will motivate and refresh the many hundreds of volunteers who minister to prisoners, to families of prisoners, and to the formerly incarcerated. Members of the steering committee include Jerry Cabluck, Welcome Back Tarrant County; Jon Cordeiro, New Name Ministries; Roger Hollar, Mercy Heart Pastor and Executive Director; Phillip Hudson, United Methodist Pastor and Chaplain TDCJ-DRC; Richelle Owens, Transitional Learning Centers and Community Partnership Council of Tarrant County; and Kay Smith, Texas Inmate Services Director.

Program participants include keynote speaker Roy Brooks, Tarrant County Commissioner; motivational speaker Vicki Hallman, Parole Division Region II Director; Emmett Solomon, Restorative Justice Ministries Network of Texas Executive Director; LilliAnn "Penny" Yaites, Tarrant County Restorative Justice Center Executive Director; Jacqueline Dickerson, Parole Division Region II Assistant Director and several of the steering committee members. The group "Unchained Light" will present the music and skits will be performed by the "Maranda Rights Players"; both group are made up ex-offenders.

Continued on page 17

Successes and failures in Texas Legislature 2007

Bills Passed:

HB 1 – Established approximately 5000 new treatment beds inside and outside the walls; \$5.8 million for state jail drug treatment -- **effective 6/15/07**

SB 1580 – Provides for pay telephone access to all inmates incarcerated in TDCJ, allowing them more frequent contact with family members and friends – **effective 5/15/07**

SB 166 – A prison diversion/progressive sanctions program that authorizes and funds best practices related to prison diversion – **effective 6/15/07**

SB 909 – Authorized the continuation of TDCJ and incorporated many recommendations of the Sunset Commission that support alternatives to incarceration and positive reentry – **effective 6/15/07**

HB 1678 – Probation reform bill that provides for shorter terms of probation, additional treatment dollars and progressive sanctions. Passed last session but was then vetoed– **effective 9-01-07**

HB 530 – Funds drug court programs throughout the state, expanding best practice models.

HB 199 – Creates a residential infant care program for mothers confined in TDCJ facilities – **effective 9-01-07**

HB 2611 – allows medically-recommended intensive supervision rather than incarceration for certain ill and elderly inmates – **effective 9-01-07**

HB 2291 – Provides for victim-offender mediation and restitution for juvenile offenders, a key component of restorative justice principles – **effective 6/15/07**

Vetoes by Governor Rick Perry:

HB 47 – Would have provided for educational services to inmates confined in administrative segregation

HB 770 – Would have Required TDCJ to provide notice of the right to vote to persons released from prisons and jails

HB 3200 -- Would have enabled Additional Funding for Community Corrections (Probation). For more information about the governor's vetoes www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/press/bills/veto

Looking Ahead to Next Legislative Session:

Food Stamp Eligibility for Drug Offenders

Start working now to identify House and Senate Sponsors-- Build momentum early

Enlist support from Basic Needs Coalition, food banks, etc.

The ID Issue

Work with Senator Whitmire to establish a public/private workgroup to solve the issues connected with releasing prisoners with official identification cards so that they will be ready for employment. A person cannot be officially employed in Texas without an official ID. It often takes as much as 6 weeks to obtain an official ID which considerably delays employment.

Building Statewide Partnership

The past 3 sessions these groups have collaborated:

Texas Criminal Justice Coalition

Texas Cure

Texas Public Policy Foundation

Center for Public Policy Priorities

Austin Re-entry Roundtable

American Civil Liberties Union

Texas Inmate Families Association

Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission

Travis County Brick by Brick

Community Action Network – Travis County

You Can Help Establish Credibility of New Initiatives

Study issues which impact the criminal justice system and make reasonable proposals to the next Texas Legislature.

Keep working to activate Faith-Based communities.

Help Texans understand that we can make a difference, but only if we become politically active.

Youth Commission transfer and vacant VA facility could make Marlin the state's newest prison town

By Mike Ward
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF
Tuesday, June 5, 2007

As Texas prison officials are considering whether to close the 98-year-old Central Unit, southwest of Houston, they will also be opening two and perhaps three new prisons.

That's thanks to a few sentences inserted into two bills in the last days of the legislative session.

"It's ironic, I suppose, that we've got maybe three new units, but it makes sense," said Senate Criminal Justice Committee Chairman John Whitmire, who championed a no-new-prisons movement throughout the session. "We're looking for the best use for some existing facilities, and this seems to be it."

Under legislation expected to be signed into law by Governor Rick Perry, the John Shero State Juvenile Correctional Facility in San Saba and the Marlin Orientation & Assessment Unit are to be transferred within the next year or so from the scandal-plagued Texas Youth Commission to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Each will house about 600 adult convicts, according to preliminary plans.

The third, a vacant Veterans Administration medical center in Marlin, could become a 350-bed psychiatric hospital if negotiations with federal officials are successful, Whitmire and House Corrections Committee Chairman Jerry Madden said.

Earlier, State Senator Kip Averitt, R-Waco, confirmed that state officials were negotiating to obtain the structure — although officials had been considering making it a Youth Commission intake center, to replace the one in Marlin that is being turned into an adult prison.

"The Marlin and San Saba units were both built as adult units to start with, and since they were transferred to the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) in 1995, they haven't proven to be their best use — so they'll be coming back to that now," said Madden, R-Richardson.

For their part, prison officials have said they support the plans — which could eventually give them three prisons in Marlin, home to the 1,342-bed, all-women Hobby Unit that opened in 1989.

For Marlin, population 6,628, two new prisons and the payroll that will come with them will be a significant economic shot in the arm, Averitt and other officials have said.

In addition to approving the transfers, lawmakers put bonding authority in the new state budget to allow for bonds to be issued to build three more prisons, if prison officials convince the Legislative Budget Board they are needed.

Fort Worth Regional Conference planned for Sept. 15, 2007

Continued from page 15

In his first term as County Commissioner one of the initiatives Roy Brooks embraced was Prisoner Re-entry. The initiative seeks to raise awareness around the ex-offender reentry issues, provide skill building exercises, equip volunteers with specialized knowledge and training to mentor offenders, children whose parents are incarcerated, disruptive and violent youth, and foster relationships between law enforcement and community. Commissioner Brooks is very involved in serving his local community and beyond.

Vicki Hallman is director of the Parole Division's largest region, a North Texas area made up of approximately 22,000 parolees supervised by more than 500 agency employees spread across 13 district offices. A television documentary series entitled The History Makers featured her as a leader among African-American women in America. She devotes much of her own time to working with parolees and speaking to civic groups, so much so that in 2003 she was awarded a Governor's Volunteer Award for community service.

Ministries are encouraged to bring displays and exhibit information that will give a condensed view of their ministry. We do request that no food or drinks be included in the display. The exhibit space is included in the registration fee.

Questions may be addressed by contacting Anita Parrish at 936-291-2156 or by email at arparrish@sbcglobal.net.

Registration Form: <http://rjmntexas.net/images/FtWorthRegistration.pdf>.

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

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The board of the non-profit corporation includes: Jerry Groom, Larry Frank, Murray Batt, Ed Davis, Bert Thompson, Richard Lopez, Roger Hollar, Tommie Dorsett, Mark Pickett, Jack Walker and David Umfreville. Emmett Solomon is Executive Director of RJMN Texas.

We welcome your questions, comments, subscriptions and news articles. Subscriptions should be sent to Anita Parrish, Ministry Assistant at aparrish@rjmn.net. 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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