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InnerChange Freedom Initiative still expanding

Inside Outside Magazine
Prison Fellowship
August 2007

On June 25, the Algoa Correctional Center in Jefferson, Missouri, dedicated the sixth InnerChange Freedom Initiative® (IFI) inducting 46 men into the program. Launched by Prison Fellowship, IFI works with local churches and community volunteers to conduct a revolutionary, faith-based and values-based program for inmate reform.

Missouri Department of Corrections Director Larry Crawford welcomed the program in battling inmate recidivism and rising corrections costs. “IFI has helped make communities safer by decreasing recidivism rates and improving inmates’ opportunities for reentry,” he said.

Earlier in June, Missouri’s Women’s Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center in Vandalia also welcomed the launch of an IFI program for women.

In July, despite a lengthy legal battle, the state of Iowa renewed its contract with IFI program at Newton. Established two years ago, the Iowa IFI program awaits the outcome of an appeal to the Eighth Circuit Court as to its constitutionality.

The Iowa Department of Management just released a report that of the Iowa Department *continued on page 7*

“IFI has helped make communities safer by decreasing recidivism rates and improving inmates’ opportunities for reentry,” Larry Crawford, Director, Missouri Department of Corrections

RJM takes off in a new direction

By Eleanor L. Colvin
Director of Communications
Texas Annual Conference

In addition to all the innovative and positive things the Texas Annual Conference is renowned for worldwide, the number of prisoners within the region is another area in which the conference is leading the nation.

The Texas Annual Conference has more prisoners within its bounds than any other state in the union, except New York, California and the remainder of Texas. There are 90,000 people in prisons within the East Texas region – not including those in federal prison, local jails, the Texas Youth Commission Prison and those on probation and parole.

Restorative Justice workers in the conference recognize *continued on page 16*

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What it means to me to do Restorative Justice Ministry

By Bill Kleiber

Huntsville Texas is known as "The Death Capitol of The World" because of the number of state executions carried out at the Huntsville Prison Unit. This writing has more of a personal meaning, as I stand my own "Death Watch," while my mother completes her final days of life on earth. I currently live with her and help care for her.

One of the benefits I enjoy most from being a living witness, through Jesus Christ, is that I can walk peacefully through chaos without becoming part of that chaos. This posture stands in contrast to my past behavior.

As a representative of Restorative Justice Ministries Network of North America (RJMN), I walk to the Huntsville Bus Station each day and meet from 70 to 300 men as they are released from Texas Prisons. Through this prison release ministry we reach out to 20,000 to 30,000 men every year. We provide them phone numbers for help with food, clothes, jobs, medication, counseling and nurturing church families. We also provide a toll-free 1-800-998-3004 counseling hotline to help connect needy individuals with resources in their neighborhoods.

RJMN networks with over 60,000 individuals, ministries, and churches of all faiths to help victims of crime, prisoners, former prisoners, and corrections professionals (anyone touched by incarceration). Many of these ministries and churches donate clothes, hygiene items, coats, shoes etc. For the past four years I have benefited from distributing these gifts of love to needy individuals as they are released from prison.

These are men from broken pasts and burnt bridges. Some of them do not have family, friends, or even a safe place to stay for the night.

I could never convey, in written words, the gratitude that is witnessed through this loving prison ministry (Prison ministry is the largest mission field in the State of Texas). I have learned not to judge people by their looks and previous actions. Some of the biggest and meanest looking tattooed men are the first to break down crying when they receive some token gift of unconditional love.

I can honestly share with you that there is nothing like giving some big hulk of a man his first "free world" hug as he bends down to cry on my shoulder and say, "Thank you."

I listen attentively as they share their gratitude. They like to paint these wonderful pictures of what nice people we are for helping them. Once they have conveyed their thanks for being blessed, I try to convey my thanks, to them, for blessing me. I explain to them that they are helping me more than I am helping them. They help me to remember that if I do not manage my life, The State of Texas will manage it for me. That won't help my Daughter get through college. That means they are not only helping me, but helping my daughter, and helping me to comfort my mother in her final days. I never want my daughter to feel abandoned again by me returning to prison.

More importantly, these men and the ministries that surround them have helped me learn how to apply God's Holy Word in my life. By allowing me to help them they helped me to develop into a spiritual leader for my broken family. Today, I take joy in my salvation through Jesus Christ, as He helps me to provide for my mother in her final days. I am sincerely grateful that today I can be a comfort to my mother instead of being such a burden to her as in the past.

Each day I go home to nurture my mother as she awaits death. I watch as her moods swing from denial, anger, remorse, love, and indifference. Today, I can purvey constant comfort and understanding, through His knowledge and wisdom, that each and every challenge is meant to build us up as better witnesses for Jesus Christ of Nazareth. I try to share the love of Jesus Christ, but some do not want to listen. The stark reality is that we are not all going to enjoy eternal life with Jesus Christ in heaven. As part of my witness I am comfortable that His will be done. We each have a choice of living by faith or in fear. Feel free to reach out to God in prayer for your personal answers.

James 1: 2-4: 2 My brothers and sisters, you will face all kinds of trouble. When you do, think of it as pure joy. 3 Your faith will be put to the test. You know that when that happens it will produce in you the strength to continue. 4 The strength to keep going must be allowed to finish its work. Then you will be all you should be. You will have everything you need.



Kleiber (in the baseball cap) leading the men in prayer at the bus station.

Restorative Justice

By Dave Maas

Who can say when the phrase “Justice, Texas-style” was first uttered? What is certain is that since the state declared independence from Mexico 171 years ago, the term has become synonymous with swift, hard retribution, often accompanied by the cinder-block-splitting end of one of Chuck Norris’s reverse roundhouse kicks.

For the incarcerated, Texas-style justice may indeed feel like a kick in the teeth. Politicians (and since district attorneys and judges are elected in Texas, we include both in that category) sell themselves to voters with a tough-on-crime image, which often translates into cheap-on-rehabilitation policies and practices. The result: Slow case processing, trials weighted in favor of the prosecution, harsher sentences, overcrowded jails and prisons, a high recidivism rate, and so on, so forth, so what? After all, why should law-abiding citizens care about criminals?

In the last few years, a small but growing contingent in Texas has been pushing for a shift in criminal-justice priorities. While our current system of “retributive justice” serves to punish and alienate offenders from society, “restorative justice” is an inclusive theory that aims to repair the harm inflicted on society through offender rehabilitation and victim reconciliation. Under this paradigm, the victim is at the center of the justice process, offenders are held directly accountable, and the community as a whole is urged to participate in the healing process, which is directed at both the victim and the offender.

In late June, proponents of this new approach held the first-ever National Conference on Restorative Justice at Schreiner University in Kerrville, of all places, and it wasn’t just bleeding-heart activists behind it. Organized by the College of Public Policy at the University of Texas at San Antonio and the Source of Light Center at San Antonio’s University Presbyterian Church, the conference featured speakers from across the nation and globe, as well as regional policymakers such as Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle and Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson.

“The most clear, distinct, measurable, internationally used and empirically grounded form of this movement is what I call ‘restorative justice dialogue,’ and that involves a process where the families most affected by the reality of crime and conflict — communities, victims, offenders, families — have the opportunity to come together to talk about the real human impact of this stuff,” said Dr. Mark Umbreit, the founding director of the University of Minnesota’s Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking.

Many of the techniques embraced by the restorative justice movement — including victim-offender mediation, family-group conferencing, and community peacemaking circles — were developed in post-conflict countries, such as South Africa, which pioneered victim-offender mediation after the end of Apartheid through their “Truth and Reconciliation Commission.” These techniques were further developed in international contexts, such as Irish-British and Palestinian-Israeli conflicts. Minnesota and Wisconsin are currently hotspots for restorative-justice initiatives, whether it be prison-based programs or reconciliation projects involving Liberian refugees.

Texas may indeed be the next vortex for the movement as professors at UTSA and St. Mary’s University push for restorative-justice curricula and local officials add it to their priorities. As a result, in the next decade, Texas-style justice may become less Chuck Norris and more Nelson Mandela.

Correctional Chaplains Resource

Dr. Vance L. Drum, Eastham Unit, Texas Department of Criminal Justice presented the workshop, [Professional Correctional Chaplains: Fact and Fiction](http://rjmn.net/CorrectionalChaplains.pdf) at the American Correctional Association Congress, Kansas City, Missouri, August 13, 2007. Dr. Drum has graciously agreed to make the text, notes, and bibliography available to RJMN readers at <http://rjmn.net/CorrectionalChaplains.pdf>.

The Outline:

I. Introduction: “Professional Correctional Chaplains: Fact and Fiction” - Realities and Misunderstandings

II. Thesis: Using professional correctional chaplains is the most effective way to facilitate provision for constitutional rights and religious needs of offenders. There are two primary considerations: (1) the constitutional requirements, and (2) the pastoral care mission.

III. The Constitutional Requirement: Keeping the institution out of court and the warden out of jail

IV. Who is a Professional?

V. The Role of Volunteers

14th Statewide RJM Convention, March 28-29, 2008

Healing Communities - Healthy Communities: Bringing *shalom* to those touched by incarceration 14th Statewide RJM Convention

The 14th Statewide Restorative Justice Ministries Convention, sponsored by the Restorative Justice Ministries Network of Texas, will be held on March 28-29, 2008 at the beautiful Dallas Marriott Solana in Westlake, Texas. The focus of the convention will be to address how individuals, churches, ministries and criminal justice professionals can work together toward healing for everyone in the local community affected by the justice system.

Information will be shared in plenary sessions as well as workshops on community networking, collaborating with other faith communities, job searches for ex-offenders, and getting your voice heard by legislators on matters of concern to the restorative justice community. The convention will offer 10 workshops on topics such as ministering to: victims of crime, criminal justice professionals, incarcerated juveniles, released sex offenders, and families in the transitional stage from prison to community.

Early registration at \$95 per person ends on February 15, 2008. Registrations postmarked after February 15 will be at the non discounted price of \$115. Groups of 10 or more will receive a \$5 discount per registration. The registration fee includes Friday Banquet, Saturday breakfast, Saturday lunch, and program materials. Download the registration form at <http://rjmn.net/14thRegistration.pdf> and send to RJMN with a check or money order. Restorative Justice Ministries Network cannot accept credit cards.

Registration for the convention and exhibit set up will begin at 9:00 a.m. Friday. The opening session will begin at 1:00 p.m. with workshops scheduled for 3:30 p.m. The Friday evening banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will include praise music, ex-offender testimonies, ministry reports and a keynote address. Saturday sessions will begin at 7:30 a.m. with a breakfast plenary session, followed by workshops at 10:00 a.m.. The conclusion of the conference will be a luncheon plenary session at noon and ending around 2:30 p.m.

Opportunities for training prior to the RJM convention include Texas Department of Criminal Justice Rehabilitation and Reentry Programs Division, Chaplaincy Department volunteer orientation, a 3 hour course, and mentor training, a 2 ½ hour course. The volunteer orientation is required before a volunteer will be approved to go into a unit. The mentor training is for approved volunteers who want to mentor an inmate on an on-going, routine basis. The two training sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m. Friday. There is no additional charge for the two chaplaincy Department workshops.

Rev. Penny Yaites, Chair of Restorative Justice Ministries for the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, will host a pre-convention denominational luncheon at the hotel. The luncheon provides an opportunity for the restorative justice community of the United Methodist Church to hear from the various conferences about the work being done in each conference. The fellowship is great and the reports are a time of giving praise to the Lord for what He is doing in the restorative justice ministries of the United Methodist Church. If interested in attending this meeting, contact Rev. Yaites at Tarrant County Restorative Justice Center, 817-921-4730 or by email at gimlmak@sbcglobal.net.

The Dallas Marriott Solana is located on Highway 114 just 9 miles northwest of Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport with complimentary transportation to and from the airport. Westlake is an equal distance from downtown Dallas and Fort Worth (28 miles) and is convenient to many area attractions such as Historic Grapevine, Southlake Town Square, Grapevine Mills (all excellent shopping destinations), Lake Grapevine, and three prestigious golf courses. The hotel has four fantastic restaurants and a Starbucks coffee shop. In addition to the outdoor pool and onsite fitness center, guests have complimentary access to the 38,000 square foot state-of-the-art Solana Health Club and Spa including tennis and racquetball.

The Restorative Justice Ministries Convention rate is \$79 per room per night. In order to receive this rate the reservation must be made on or before Thursday, March 6, 2008. There are a limited number of rooms available at this rate with a few available for Thursday and Saturday also, so reservations should be made early.

Room reservations can be made by calling 800-228-9290 or 817-430-5000 and asking for the "RJM 14th Statewide Convention" rate. Reservations may also be made online at <http://marriott.com/dalwl?groupCode=RJMRJMA&app=resvlink>, the homepage of Marriott. On the right of the screen is the reservations area. The code for the RJM Convention rate is already in the group rate box. Make date selections; then click on the red FIND box located at the bottom to continue making reservations.

If further information is needed, contact Anita Parrish at 936-291-2156 or email at aparrish@sbcglobal.net.

Ministry Resources from Restorative Justice Ministries Network

1229 Avenue J Huntsville TX 77340

Recommended for ministry people:

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

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.

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.

Also available in Spanish **\$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 book also available **\$22.00** _____

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, Rolo** \$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

“The Family Connection and Young Offenders Rehabilitation Act of 2007” provides detained juvenile offenders with more access to their families. The bill is an effort to provide communication of the wards with their family members, clergy, and others, and to encourage participation in programs designed to restore them to society as law abiding productive citizens. The bill encourages education, rehabilitation, and accountability to victims.

Governor Schwarzenegger signed legislation recently to create the first secure community re-entry facility (SB 943). The bill is aimed at rehabilitating prisoners and reducing recidivism. It also is a measure to reduce the current risk involved with the critical overcrowding situation in California prisons. The overall plan is comprehensive with a projected total cost of \$7.7 billion. The plan calls for providing an additional 53,000 beds in re-entry facilities throughout the state. The plan is designed to create secure re-entry facilities in local communities where inmates will be returning, allowing for reuniting families, providing job skill training, intensive substance abuse treatment, GED coursework, anger management classes, family counseling and housing placement services.

Alameda County

In a county plagued with drive by shootings, hate crimes, and the rising costs of incarceration, the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department is looking to local community, neighborhood and civic groups to take a proactive role in providing crime preventative programs to deter crime.

Alameda County Sheriff’s Department has contracted with God’s Love Outreach Ministries of Livermore to provide Santa Rita Jail in Dublin and the Glenn Dyer Detention Facility in Oakland an effective managed chaplain program for those incarcerated in the two facilities.

San Leandro

Recent media reports stated that there are more Blacks and Hispanics in prison cells than in college dorms. This is a national concern and has created local interest. The Madison Marquette Company, owners of the Bayfair Mall Shopping Center has contracted with Pivotal Point Youth Services to provide trained case managers and employment specialists to teach classes in a new program called “The Bayfair Employment Training Academy. Local teens are offered free job training with the promise of employment interviews after completion. This is an effort to provide the teens with productive opportunities which will break down the cycle of discrimination, reinforce education, and reduce vandalism and crime in the community.

Oakland

In Oakland’s Fruitvale district Stanley Garcia, with other volunteers, has transformed a vacant warehouse, owned by the city, into an active youth center. The East Oakland Boxing Association provides a haven for Oakland’s youth. Garcia is now asking the city for a long term rent-free lease agreement. The center operates as an after school program, with an all day academic program during the summer months. The program provides opportunity for participating in arts and crafts, developing computer skills, or attending health and nutrition classes, as well as boxing, wrestling, and other competitive sport programs.

Berkeley

The Berkeley Police Chief, concerned about the upsurge in shootings and robberies, is taking aggressive proactive measures to suppress violence and crime by adding additional police personnel, tightening investigations, and increasing public awareness. Chief Hambleton is working with Neighborhood Association groups to discuss community involvement, concerns for job training, and after school activities for teens.

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Fort Worth Regional Conference, September 15

On September 15, the Fort Worth Regional Restorative Justice Conference was attended by 130 people. Most were new to RJM conferencing and seemed highly impacted by the event held at the East Saint Paul Baptist Church in South East Fort Worth.

The following includes excerpts from Kathy T's response to the conference:

I am writing to thank you for your messages at the conference last Saturday.

*My son is incarcerated at the Boyd Unit. All of your messages encouraged me and gave me hope, not just for my son, but for the many others walking the path of incarceration. My family, like so many others, never dreamed we would be walking this path. As we have walked it, most of the people we have encountered within the system just simply didn't care, and it was **Very** encouraging to hear that there are people within the system who are trying to make a positive difference.*

I especially appreciate Ms. Hallman's comments that the inmates are valuable to the profit margins of the Texas prison system. My son has said for years that the inmates are a commodity, and you confirmed that statement for me. We used to have the typical opinion of prisoners and prison just like the average person does, believing all is well within the system, until we experienced it for ourselves.

I'm so grateful for the work that is being done to provide the best possible resources for those who are released so they can succeed in society. I believe the County Commissioner mentioned the fact that Texas has always been "tough on crime" and that it is time for Texas to be "smart on crime."

I hope that you will continue to speak out and work toward more positive approaches when possible. Through punishment a person just serves his time and most often never changes; through discipline a person learns and becomes a better person for it.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work. It was apparent to me that you desire to glorify the Lord in your work. I'll be praying for you.

If you have never attended an RJM conference, we encourage you to mark your calendar for March 28-29, 2008. The 14th Statewide Restorative Justice Convention is scheduled at that time the weekend after Easter. For more details you may contact the Convention Registrar, Anita Parrish, (936)291-2156 arparrish@sbcglobal.net. (See related article on page 4)

California News

continued from page 6

Castro Valley

In an effort to honor the Alameda County Sheriff's Department and Emergency Service personnel, Redwood Chapel Community Church in Castro Valley hosted a community outreach program called the "Night of Honor." This is a community Bridge-Building event with the goal of showing appreciation for the sacrifice of these men and women who put their lives on the line for members of the community on a regular basis. Members of the congregation extended a warm greeting and sense of fellowship as they shared the message of the Great rescuer, Jesus.



InnerChange Freedom Initiative still expanding

Continued from page 1

of Corrections' 17 programs treating substance abuse, IFI was ranked among the most successful in reducing total recidivism. Nine of 10 Iowa offenders have a history of alcohol or drug problems and are at high risk to re-offend if not treated.

"In an era of evidence-based government, this independent evaluation by the state of Iowa provides important empirical evidence that faith-based programs like IFI can be effective in lowering recidivism rates," said Byron Johnson, professor of sociology and co-director of the Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion. "While the recent research on the effectiveness of faith-based programs is just beginning to emerge, there are hundreds of published studies showing the importance of religion and spirituality in reducing crime, delinquency, alcohol abuse, drug use, and other social ills."

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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4 Desert Waters
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5 Youth Transformation Center
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1,2 **New Beginnings for Women**
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10 **Letters for the Lord**
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6 **Family Connection/Children's
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605-357-0780 Fax
familyconnect@hotmail.com

1,2 **Prison Congregation of America
Inc**
Ed Nesselhuf
PO Box 415
Vermillion 57069-0415
605-624-8330
605-624-3123 Fax
Pastored@iw.net
www.Prisoncongregations.org

TEXAS

6 **Eunice Chambless Hospitality
House**
Billy Wilson
13378 Fm 3522
Abilene 79601-8770
325-548-2180
325-675-5414 Fax
echhdir@netscape.com

1,2 **TAX - Abilene**
Corrine Hansen
2657 Rountree Dr
Abilene 79601-2034
325-676-5741
jtaxloop@taylortel.net

1,6,7, 9,10 **Light for New Life Min Inc**
Rev Don Domeracki
PO Box 170501
Arlington 76003-0501
817-516-0406
skyking273@sbcglobal.net
www.lightfornewlifeministries.org

2, 8 **Network for Life of Austin Inc**
Cheryl R Selby
PO Box 180925
Austin 78719
512-419-0770
512-707-7116 FAX
office@networkforlife.org
cheryl@networkforlife.org
www.networkforlife.org

1,2,4, 6,8,10 **Restorative Christian Outreach
Ministries**
Mack Bailey
7506 Ed Bluestein Blvd
Austin 78723
512-926-2431
midway3060@yahoo.com

3 **Victim Services Division-TDCJ**
Raven Kazen, Director
PO Box 13401
Austin 78711-3401
800-848-4284
512-406-5417 Fax

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1,3,5,8,9	Wheless Lane Christian Brothers Restorative Ministry Robert Mitchell/Robert Sephus 2702 Wheless Ln Austin 78723 512-926-2988 O-Mitchell@webtv.net www.whelessococ.org	3,4,5,6,7,9,10	J.A.I.L. Ministry Inc Steve Cannon PO Box 634 Belton 76513-0634 254-933-8506 254-933-7569 Fax jailmin@vvm.com	1,9	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
2,3	Compassion Christian Counseling Vande Derrick 1297B Calder Beaumont 77701 409-832-5772 409832-7224 Fax	2	Manasseh Ministries Chaplain Muriel Roger PO Box 202 Ben Wheeler 75754 903-852-4402 manassehministries7@juno.com	1,2,3,9,10	"Be Free" Jail & Prison Ministry Chaplain Inga Davis 3236 Golfing Green Place Dallas 75234 972-247-1769 972-247-8487 Fax Befree@comcast.net
1,2,3,6,7,9,10	Diocese of Beaumont Criminal Justice Ministry Deacon Harry Davis PO Box 3948 Beaumont 77704-3948 409-838-0451 409-838-4511 Fax hdavis@dioceseofbmtt.org www.dioceseofbmt.org	1	Holy Ground Prison Ministry Johnny T Horan 207 N Saeger Brenham 77833 979-836-6328 daphne@gcfchurch.us	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
1,3,4	International Institute of Faith Based Counseling Debbie Marcantel PO Box 20723 Beaumont 77720 409-832-9060 409-832-7224 FAX info@iifbc.com	1,2,8 (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	1	Christian Fellowship Enrichment Jim Lang PO Box 700023 Dallas TX 75370 972-283-7871 jimlang41@aol.com
6	Shepherd's Inn Gaspard Center Mary Green PO Box 20618 Beaumont 77703-4921 409-898-8797 409-892-9534 Fax shepherdsinn@gtba.org www.gtba.org	1,9,10	Redeemed Ministries Betty G Oates PO Box 891 Chico 76431-0891 940-644-5237 940-644-2982 Fax redeemedministry@hotmail.com	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
	More than Conquerors Kelley Purselley PO Box 210936 Bedford TX 76095 817-343-0492 www.conquerorsthroughchrist.com rrpandktp@sbcglobal.net	2	New Awakenings Bryan Boyd/Barbara Abbe 203 W 2nd Ave Ste B Corsicana 75110 903-654-0003	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
1,2,6,7,9	Regional CJM Center of S Texas Gene Woodard PO Box 4056 Beeville 78104 361-358-9699 gwoodard@cableone.net	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	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

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|---|--|--|
| <p>5 Kingdom Visions
Dr. Dana Brockway
PO Box 740681
Dallas 75734
469-633-0221
religious@kingdomsvision.org
www.kingdomsvision.org</p> | <p>1,6,7 Parents and Children Together (PACT)
Rev Suzanne Boeglin
2836 Hemphill St
Fort Worth 76110-3214
817-924-7776
pact1924@sbcglobal.net</p> | <p>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</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>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</p> | <p>1,9 Crossover USA
Gary R Nichols
911 Westmont
Houston 77015
713-545-7991
713-455-7060 Fax
gnichols@crossoverusa.com</p> |
| <p>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>10 Write-way Prison Ministries Inc
Ralph Nichols
PO Box 461582
Garland 75046-1582
972-840-9798
972-864-9692 Fax
writewaypm@juno.com</p> | <p>1,3,4,5, 8,9,10 Epiphany Ministries of Texas
Chuck Talbot
PO Box 590578
Houston 77259
chucktal@msn.com
www.texasepiphany.com</p> |
| <p>1,2,3,9 R O D Ministires
Dale Truitt
PO Box 710385
Dallas 75371-0385
214-827-8555
214-824-5355 Fax
ddtruitt@hotmail.com
www.rodministries.org</p> | <p>1,2,4,6,7, 8(F),9,10 Cross Prison Ministries Inc
Carole Ross
PO Box 412
Gatesville 76528-0412
254-865-5163
crossprisonministry@htcomp.net</p> | <p>5,7,10 Initiatives for America's Youth
Boone Vastine
15153 Kimberley Ct
Houston 77079-5130
281-493-4556
layjjm@aol.com</p> |
| <p>1,3,6, 7,9,10 Texas Baptist Men
Don Gibson
5351 Catron Dr
Dallas 75227-9927
214-828-5353
214-381-7600
dgibson@bgct.org
www.baptistmen.org</p> | <p>1 Discipleship Unlimited
Dallas / Linda Strom
PO Box 145
Gatesville 76528
discipleship@earthlink.net
www.liferow.org</p> | <p>9 Jail Chaplaincy Ministry
Freddie Wier
PO Box 30262
Houston 77249-0262
713-569-2929</p> |
| <p>1,2,3, 5,9,10 Walking Through the Light Prison Ministry, Inc.
Eleuterio Z Adame
PO Box 4761
Dallas 75208-0761</p> | <p>1,2,3,4, 5,6,9,10 Morning Star Jail/Prison Ministry
Rev Robert L Buchanan
2251 El Paso
Grand Prairie 75051
setatliberty1@aol.com
www.morningstar-baptist.org</p> | <p>6 Newgate Connection
Wesley Stevens
PO Box 96333
Houston 77213-9633
281-452-2352
wfstevens@pdq.net</p> |
| <p>7 C O P E (Coalition of Prison Evangelists)
Fauhn Schierer
1001 W Euless Blvd Ste 212
Euless 76040-5032
817-684-7870
817-684-7876 Fax
office@copeministries.org
www.copeministries.org</p> | <p>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</p> | <p>1,2,5, 7,8 Newgate UMC/Onesimus Journey
Rev. Marvin Hood
3827 Broadway @I-45S
Houston 77017
832-567-0758
marvelous272003@yahoo.com</p> |
| | | <p>1,7,9 Oil of Joy for Mourning
Rev Rhonda Arias
PO Box 720768
Houston 77272-0768
713-419-1214
281-879-8433
oilofjoy@sbcglobal.net
www.ojfm.org</p> |

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1,2,3,5, 7,9,10	Restored to Christ Harold Travis 14147 Ivy Bluff Ct Houston 77062 281-488-5110 281-488-8218 Fax harold@clearlakemethodist.org	1,2	First Baptist Church "Welcome Back" Ministry 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 lucysmith@hopelit.com www.hopelit.com
1,3,4, 6,9,10	Servants of Christ Prison Ministry Sibble Knight PO Box 111275 Houston 77293-0275 281-449-2703	6	Hospitality House Freddy Walters 912 10th St Huntsville 77320-3937 936-291-6196 freddy.walters@thehospitalityhouse.org www.thehospitalityhouse.org	1	The Brotherhood of St Andrew Oliver Osborn PO Box 537 Lake Jackson 77566-0537 979-297-6217 eosborn@brazosport.cc.tx.us
1	Skills for Life Inc James Lynn Arnold 6223 Greenway Forest Ln Houston 77088-4012 281-931-9122 281-447-1784 Fax arnojl@msn.com	7	Restorative Justice Ministries Network Emmett Solomon, Exec Director 1229 Avenue J, Suite 360 Huntsville 77340-4698 936-291-2156 936-291-6260 Fax esolomon@sbcglobal.net www.rjmn.net	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	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		Anita Parrish, Ministry Assistant arparrish@sbcglobal.net Bill Kleiber kleiber@sbcglobal.net	10	Exodus Prison Ministry Joyce Hargis PO Box 6363 Lubbock 79493 806-791-3673 joycehargis@yahoo.com
	Chaplaincy Support TDCJ-ID Richard Lopez, Director 936-437-7181 richard.lopez@tdcj.state.tx.us	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	Elkins Lake Baptist Church Rev Ken Huggins 206 State Highway 19 Huntsville 77340-7152 936-295-7694 936-295-3388 Fax elbc@lcc.net www.elbc.org	1,7	The Old Time Religion Hour Inc Rev George Lupo PO Box 1225 Huntsville 77342 936-293-8000	1	Encouraging Word Ministries Margaret Hackler 2401 N McColl Rd McAllen 78501 956-686-7728 rmont55@aol.com
1,2,3	Episcopal Diocese of TX RJM Edwin Davis 2003 Avenue P Huntsville 77340-5029 936-291-3153 edsalpc@yahoo.com	1,5	University Heights Baptist Church Bro Richard Rogers 2400 Sycamore Ave Huntsville 77340-6120 936-295-2996	5,7	Lifechange Mentoring Shirley Orr Smith PO Box 9535 Midland 79708-9535 sos@lifechangementoring.org www.lifechangementoring.org
1,2,3, 4,6	First Baptist Church David Valentine, Pastor 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340-4698 936-291-3441 david.valentine@fbchuntsville.org www.fbchuntsville.org	2,5	Winner's Circle Juvenile Program Kent Lucas 550 Elkins Lake Huntsville 77340 936-436-9467 winnerscircletexas@sbcglobal.net		

10	OpenArms Ministry Diana B Moore PO Box 1808 Mission 78573-0031 956-445-2333 956-585-3113 mrst24dbt@aol.com	1,2,4,7	Worldwide Voice in the Wilderness Johnny Moffitt 1221 Abrams Rd Ste 250 Richardson 75081-5580 972-234-6009 972-234-6050 Fax johnnymoffitt@sbcglobal.net	1,9	Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry Charles Sickles P.O. Box 1130 Sulphur Springs 75483 903-885-1424 903-348-6415 fruitfulharvest@verizon.net	
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	2	One Man's Treasure Mary Carter PMB 211 519 I-30 Rockwall 75087 888-433-9826 dca7704051@aol.com	8	House Where Jesus Shines Pastor Nilsa Latimer 18320 Gholson Rd Waco 76705 254-829-2100 254-829-0250 Fax THWJS@msn.com www.opendoorwaco.org	
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	1,2,7	Christian Restorative Justice Mentors Assoc Murray Batt PO Box 131412 Spring 77393-1412 281-292-0442 murray@crjma.org www.crjma.org	1,7,9, 10	Woodville Church of Christ Prison Ministry PO Box 276 Woodville 75979-0276 409-283-5977 woodvillecoc@sbcglobal.net	
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	1,10	Joy Prison Ministry Ura White PO Box 7324 Spring 77387-7324 281-253-8342	1,7,9, 10	Cornerstone Prison Ministry Chaplain Al Gibbons PO Box 1672 Wylie 75098-1672 972-475-5789 972-412-7748 Fax cspmin@clearsail.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	7	UMC TX Conference Criminal Justice & Mercy Ministries Jack Walker Spring 77393-1412 713-569-1076 jweswalker@aol.com www.newgateinitiative.org	<i>VIRGINIA</i>	1,5,9, 10	Good News Jail & Prison Ministry Dr Tom Beckner PO Box 9760 Richmond 23228-0760 804-553-4090 804-553-4144 Fax info@goodnewsjail.org www.goodnewsjail.org
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	1	Accepting Grace Ministries Inc Joe L / Betty Waggoner PO Box 983 Stamford 79553-0983 325-773-2248 bettyj@camalott.com	<i>WASHINGTON</i>	1,4	His Sufficient Grace Ministries 2424 130th Pl Se Everett 98208-6708 425-357-8596 ldgroom@comcast.net
1,5,7,9,1	From Pain to Joy Prison Ministries Henry M Sorelle 14 Canyon Creek Vlg #44 Richardson 75080-1602 972-231-9606 972-392-0446	1,2	Trinity RJM Galynn Ferris 3919 Snag Ln Spring 77388 281-352-3913 galynn@trinityrjm.com www.trinityrjmn.com	1	Prisoners for Christ Outreach Ministries Greg Von Tobel PO Box 1530 Woodinville WA 98072 425-483-4151 gvt@pfcom.org www.pfcom.org	
1,2,3,6,7,10	Operation Oasis Michael Lee 302 Centennial Blvd Richardson 75081-5057 972-437-3801 972-437-3139 Fax mlee@operation-oasis.org	1,4,6	Houston Trinity Prison Ministry Romeo Pena PO Box 1411 Sugar Land 77487-1411 713-906-3407			

He found a calling in prison

By Jenifer Warren, Staff Writer
Los Angeles Times

Sacramento - PAT Nolan's views on crime and punishment took root when he was 8 years old, delivering newspapers on the streets of Los Angeles. Time and again, neighborhood punks preyed on him - stealing his bike, roughing him up and clouding his days with fear.

Two decades later, Nolan won a seat in the state Assembly, where those childhood scars drove him to fight for more prisons and tougher sentencing. Nothing, he believed, was too bad for the bad guys.

Then Nolan became one of the bad guys.

In the mid-1990s, in one of the Capitol's most notorious political corruption cases, federal authorities convicted him of racketeering and 13 others of various charges in an FBI sting known as Shrimpscam. Suddenly, the lock-'em-up Republican legislator was on the wrong side of the bars.

Nolan's 26 months in prison ended a red-hot political career but spawned a fascinating personal odyssey. Once a fiercely ambitious Assembly minority leader, considered a promising candidate for governor, he morphed into a humble, Bible-quoting ex-con who travels the country denouncing the American penal system as a failure.

Today, Nolan says most prisons are human warehouses that squander billions of tax dollars by doing nothing to guide inmates toward a productive future. The sad result - in California, 70% of inmates are re-arrested within three years of release - means more crime victims and fewer state dollars for schools, healthcare and other priorities, he says.

"If hospitals were failing to heal two out of three patients, would we continue to pour money into them?" Nolan asks. "Of course not. So shame on those who defend the status quo."

Nolan spreads his message as president of Justice Fellowship, an arm of Virginia-based Prison Fellowship Ministries, formed by another Republican who spent time behind bars: onetime White House aide Charles Colson of Watergate fame.

Earlier this year, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Nolan to a "strike team" charged with overhauling California's approach to imprisonment. The initiative follows passage of a \$7.4-billion package that will add 53,000 beds to the system while boosting education, drug treatment and other services for the state's 173,000 inmates.

Nolan's personal saga fuels his message with passion and credibility. A burly 57-year-old with thick gray hair, a jowly face and bright blue eyes, he struggles with health problems, including Lyme disease and diabetes. Still, he bounces from state to state to spur new thinking on prisons and prisoners.

An author, lecturer and member of two respected national commissions on prison issues, Nolan frequently testifies before congressional committees and trumpets his cause on television talk shows. He punctuates his conversations with quotations from an eclectic array of sources, including Jesus, Shakespeare, Marcus Aurelius and the French revolutionary Robespierre.

In early May, in a Capitol homecoming of sorts, Nolan brought his message to Sacramento. He met privately with GOP lawmakers, hoping to chip away at the tough-on-crime mentality that many of them project publicly.

"I've sat on the dais, I know the political pressures they're responding to," he said during a pause at a downtown cafe. "I tell them that when I was in the Legislature, I really thought more prisons meant more public safety.

I really thought that when a criminal went through the prison gate, I didn't need to worry about him any more."

That was a mistake, Nolan says now, because 95% of all prisoners eventually return home. Then, "they're in line with me at Safeway, they're at the park with my children, they're next to me on the bus," he says. "So I'd better hope they've turned their lives around."

State Sen. Tom McClintock (R-Thousand Oaks) says Nolan's dual experiences as politician and inmate make his pitch difficult to ignore.

"You can't go through what Pat experienced without being fundamentally affected," McClintock said. "It made it possible for him to humanize this issue in a very compelling way."

The sad result - in California, 70% of inmates are re-arrested within three years of release -- means more crime victims and fewer state dollars for schools, healthcare and other priorities

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Nolan is not the only conservative with a changed perspective on sentencing and the treatment of inmates. The debate over punishment is shifting in America, and Republicans are doing much of the talking.

Congress is weighing the Second Chance Act, a bill aimed at helping prisoners reenter society. The legislation - co-sponsored by 27 Republicans - marks a reversal of policies that made life tougher for parolees by cutting college grants, barring drug felons from receiving student loans and erecting other barriers to re-integrating.

"There is so much empirical evidence now on the ills of mass incarceration that it's become almost impossible to ignore," said Michael Jacobson, director of the nonprofit Vera Institute of Justice and former corrections commissioner for New York City. "People like Pat Nolan are incredibly helpful because they are listened to in conservative circles in a way the wacky, liberal criminologists are not."

The trajectory of Nolan's life gave little hint that he would devote his prime years to helping felons shed their criminal ways.

The sixth of nine children, he grew up in the Crenshaw Boulevard neighborhood once known as Sugar Hill, the son of an accountant and a homemaker. As children, he and his siblings performed at festivals and Disneyland as the Nine Dancing Nolans, a singing group celebrating their Irish roots.

His interest in politics - fanned when he volunteered for gubernatorial candidate Ronald Reagan in 1966 - flourished when he enrolled at USC. With the university bitterly divided over the Vietnam War, he helped found a campus chapter of Young Americans for Freedom, a group that launched a generation of conservative politicians.

He also found time to learn horseback riding, and rode as Tommy Trojan in the 1974 Rose Parade.

After USC Law School, Nolan worked as an attorney for several years before making his first bid for the Assembly in 1978. In an upset election, he bested more veteran politicians after a door-to-door campaign anchored in his support for Proposition 13, California's landmark property tax-cutting initiative.

Nolan's drive and charm quickly drew notice in the statehouse, and his staunchly conservative values prompted others to dub him and some GOP allies "the Cavemen." By 1984, the lawmaker from Glendale had won a fight to become Republican leader and was plotting a course to capture a GOP majority in the lower house - and the Assembly speakership for himself. He seemed headed for state-wide office, or a high post in Washington.

But in 1994, the big dreams collapsed.

After he was secretly videotaped accepting checks from an undercover FBI agent, Nolan was accused of using his office to solicit illegal campaign contributions. Though proclaiming his innocence and denouncing the federal government's tactics in the investigation, he ultimately pleaded guilty to a single racketeering charge. Nolan said he accepted the plea bargain because he feared a longer sentence if convicted by a jury.

Today, Nolan avoids talk of his own case, calling it a "distraction" that diverts attention from his message. "If I get into it, it looks like I'm trying to justify or promote myself," he says. "It's in the past, and we can't un-ring that bell." But he does talk openly - and soberly - of the shock, loneliness and despair he experienced after tumbling from his position of political prestige to his lowly status as inmate No. 06833-97.

Although fear and isolation were the most obvious new realities, Nolan said the continual verbal abuse from prison officers was the most difficult to endure.

"You're an amputee, cut off from family, community, job, church, and, with your stump still bleeding, you're tossed into this boiling cauldron of anger, hatred, bitterness, sexual repression, and you're totally disrespected - screamed at - by officers all the time," Nolan recalled.

"You are sneered at with venom and told repeatedly, 'You ain't got nothing coming.' The implication is that you are nothing, you've come from nothing and you will be nothing. You are worthless. You have no future. None."

Nolan said he withstood the experience partly by renewing his Catholic faith. But he realized that for inmates who lacked his education and strong family support, the message that they were scum - coupled with the absence of any meaningful job training, education or counseling - was a recipe for disaster.

"As a legislator, I had assumed that our prisons were not only preparing people for success upon release, but also helping these damaged men develop a moral compass, and ensuring that they analyzed the bad decisions that got them in trouble," Nolan said. "I was wrong."

As his parole date approached, Nolan considered his options. A few insurance companies offered him work as a "rainmaker", and there were research positions available at law firms. Then, through what he believes was divine intervention, an offer came from Colson and Prison Fellowship.

*But in 1994,
the big
dreams
collapsed*

continued on page 19

RJM takes off in a new direction

continued from page 1

not only the problem, but the opportunity to bring Jesus Christ and the freedom found in God to prisoners, families and correctional facility workers.

Rev. Marvin Hood knows the importance of standing with families and standing behind offenders and ex-offenders.

“If any of you doubt that restorative justice works, if you have any doubts that when you take the opportunity to go into prisons ... that when you take time to visit with prisoners and families it makes a difference... just look at me, because someone came to visit me.

“I didn’t get where I am without you. I’m here as evidence of what God can do, what God will do and what God wants to do.”

Through Rev. Marvin Hood, God is starting a new church in the Central South District for ex-offenders and their families.

“This new church is going to be packed in six months,” said Central South District Superintendent Rev. Jim Welch. “It starts worshipping at Park Place UMC in two weeks.

“It’s going to take that kind of effort, that kind of proclamation of Jesus Christ, so the hopeless can be filled with new life. That’s the promise that’s before us.”

Empower the connection

The promise and challenge is set before the entire annual conference to be involved in restorative justice ministry. The Director of the Center for Missional Excellence and Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Rick Goodrich named Restorative Justice Ministry as a critical part of the call to Christian discipleship.

“Our emphasis is training pastors and local churches to do the day to day, week to week, month to month ministry of Restorative Justice,” Goodrich said.

Goodrich testified of his experience with restorative justice as a young East Texas pastor. A mother and her children professed their faith and were baptized. When Goodrich visited the family in their home, he met the father, who was a gang member. Not long after, the father was incarcerated. The visits continued, but at the jail.

“It made all the difference in the world to him that someone came to visit him in prison,” Goodrich said. “About a year later, when he got out, we continued to visit, and he made that walk down the aisle for profession of faith and baptism. Twenty years later, he’s one of the lay leaders in this church and community in East Texas.”

Tough on crime, tough on families

Among the reasons for the surplus of prisoners are harsh sentencing laws, said Emmett Solomon of the Restorative Justice Ministries Network that partners with the annual conference for trainings.

“In Texas, if we don’t revamp our laws, we will be building a new prison every year into the foreseeable future,” Solomon said. “Tough on crime is a good mantra. Sounds great. Truth is it doesn’t work very well,” said Solomon, as he encouraged attendees at the Restorative Justice breakfast of the Annual Conference to contact their elected officials.

“They’ve got to know people want smart on crime legislation ... Locking people up incessantly is destructive to society.”

Connie and Eddie McNeil were on hand to testify to that fact. Eddie McNeil served five years of a 15-year sentence for illegal investment activities his company made while he served as CEO. McNeil experienced Kairos while at the Carol Vance Unit.

“I thank God he brought, what I call the support, and his spirit,” he said, “to not only get me through a situation I never thought I’d be in, and (support for) my wife as well.”

The McNeils had five children ages 16 years to two months old at the time of his incarceration. Connie McNeil was a stay-at-home mother.

“I hadn’t worked in 10 years, my husband was the head of household – he did everything,” she said. “When he went in, my family left, the church left – there was nothing. When you send a man to prison, you send a family to prison.

“The church said they would stand behind us, but they considered him dead. I wouldn’t do that to my kids.”

Helping the hopeless

District Superintendent Jim Welch understands the impact of incarceration on the family and community.

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Recidivism

By Emmett Solomon
Executive Director, RJMN

Dear Ministry Friends,

The article below is largely from a memo written by John Thompson to the leaders of the Kairos Ministry. Those of us in justice ministries are constantly being asked about recidivism rates. Questions about recidivism rates as they relate to a single program reflect the poor understanding of the difficulties inherent in the correctional systems in America.

Most people do not understand that:

- (1) Since we work in maximum and medium security prisons many of our participants never get released;
- (2) Frequently inmates will attend our ministry meetings for a short time but not follow up, so they haven't completed our programs;
- (3) Good social research indicates there are dozens of potential factors/reasons for inmates returning. Some of them include even minor parole violations – should that be counted against our program;
- (4) When inmates are released they typically go back into a community which does not help them with a job, medical care, transportation needs, renewal of their prescriptions, a place to stay. Is our program supposed to overcome every obstacle they encounter, because in most states we have a very under funded probation/parole systems;
- (5) In most prison systems there is very little job training or education offered, so are we expected to overcome all the problems of an under funded correctional system.

I think in a fair analysis the graduates who complete faith-based programs do amazingly well. Of course, that is primarily based on our anecdotal information because none of the correctional systems that I know about share custodial information with us and what resources are available when an inmate with \$ 50.00 in his pocket gets off the bus at 2:00 am in some downtown location.

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 takes off in a new direction

continued from page 16

"I've seen too many people through scratched Plexiglas. Through the years, we've visited our son in jail more times than I want to count," he said, while giving thanks to God for his son's sobriety and the blessing of aftercare, as his son lives in a supportive, Christian community in Brookshire.

There's hope. But for those on the Walk to Emmaus, the scripture Welch referenced at the breakfast, there was not.

We had hoped that Jesus would restore Israel, said the men walking along the road.

"I don't know that there's anything sadder than hope in the past tense," Welch said, as he explored numerous New Testament illustrations of followers who had lost hope and Jesus' response to them.

"He does it without condemnation, and with a word of encouragement," Welch said. "He doesn't respond with anger to their blindness and the hope he brings. He responds relationally – he restores Martha's brother, Lazarus is raised; opens Mary's eyes and provides the evidence Thomas demands.

"All three got what they desperately needed from one source – Jesus himself.

"The hopeless can't help themselves. We as Christian people have that hope. I call on you to continue to proclaim that hope."

Dear Editor

I received a copy of your newsletter via email. Thank you so much.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about our ministry as well. Our prayer is that these resources may be of help to you as you present the Gospel to inmates.

We at GoodSeed International do two things. We develop resources to present the Gospel and we teach believers how to be more effective using those tools.

These resources were created to help a person truly understand in simple yet clear language what is going on at the Cross. Starting at Creation, we tell the Old Testament stories on up through to the Cross in a narrative format. It is a Creation to the Cross approach. We cover over 1000 key scriptures to build a person's backdrop and understanding of key concepts such as the Holiness of God, the sinfulness of man, the sufficient sacrifice of Christ and the concept of personal faith. Our material is presented for a person to accept or reject. Yet they will have a greater berth of knowledge about the main message of the scriptures. We have translated these resources into several languages: English, French, German, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Portuguese & Spanish. We have also created a special edition for those who come from an Islamic belief background. This is available in English, Turkish, Chinese and French. Our latest edition entitled BY THIS NAME is meant for someone from a polytheistic/pantheistic background, maybe someone in the New Age or spirit world.

Several chaplains have used our materials with very good results. Even several guards are interested in studying our material.

You may go to our website to review a copy online. <http://www.goodseed.com/preview.aspx>

I pray these resources may be a blessing to your readers as well.

Tom Leger

GoodSeed Representative

Phone: 208-665-2333

I need some guidance. I am the warden at a facility in Sierra Blanca, Texas 90 miles east of El Paso.

I do not have a Chaplain or Program Director in this facility so it pretty much falls to me to coordinate the volunteer services.

We have approximately 500 inmate/detainees of which 50 are female United States Marshall (USMS). The remainder are male USMS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and twenty-three Wyoming inmates. With the influx of ICE detainees we have received all nationalities, but probably 90%+ are Hispanic. Some are bilingual, but most are Spanish speaking only.

Since this is only a temporary stop for the USMS (they are pre-sentenced for the most part) and ICE (most will be deported) this is a fertile ground for mission work.

We need Christian literature and Bibles.

Unfortunately the church groups around this area are very small and poor. We do have some locals that are involved. The bulk of ministry comes from individuals from El Paso who drive out at their own expense. There is room for many more.

I am afraid it is like we have seen before with these incarcerated individuals, out of sight out of mind.

I am open to suggestions. Any help will be appreciated.

Thank you,

T. J. Medart, Warden

Telephone: 915-369-2283

Email: tjmedart@emeraldcompanies.com

I found this statistic to be very interesting and thought your readers might enjoy it, also.

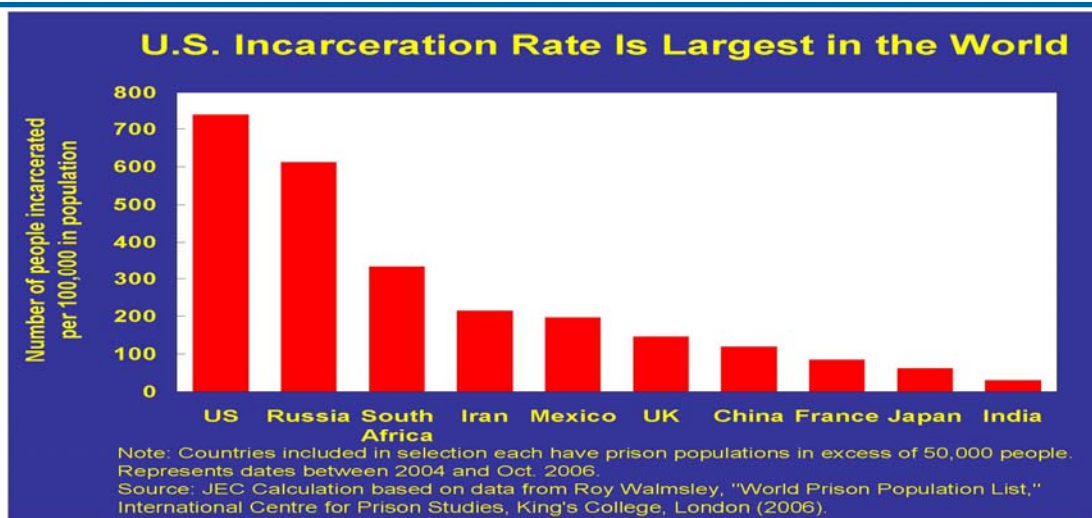
It was taken from the August, 2007 issue of "Consumer Reports on Health", page 3.

How to Live Longer : Volunteering. In one study, adults aged 55 and older who volunteered for two or more groups were 44 percent less likely to die over the five year study period than those who did not volunteer. Other studies have linked volunteering with reduced rates of illness and chronic pain, and increased functional ability.

Sam Pearis

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.

U.S. incarceration rate is the largest in the world



He found a calling in prison

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The job allowed him to campaign for change in a system that he felt was dangerously flawed and to spend more time with his wife, Gail, and three children, Courtney, Katie and Jamie.

"I really believed that God allowed me to go through this experience, all the pain of it, partly to prepare me to share with others the message that there is a better way, a way to have safer communities and help people leave prison better than when they came in," Nolan said.

During his Sacramento visit, Nolan was a featured speaker at a conference urging employers to take a chance and hire parolees. It is one of his favorite topics.

As well-heeled executives nibbled on fruit salad, he began - in a slow, soft voice - to share his story of incarceration and remind the guests that more than 650,000 inmates leave American prisons and go home each year.

"There are not enough cops on the street to stop everyone tempted to do something bad," Nolan told the crowd. "So we need to help them develop inner restraint and moral standards. And we need to give them jobs."

A few heads nodded in agreement. But several guests murmured to each other about the risks they would face if they hired the wrong guy.

Nolan continued, relating the story of a manufacturing company in Pennsylvania where 70% of the workforce are ex-convicts screened by the state prison system. Supervisors sing their praises, saying the ex-felons' work ethic and gratitude for a steady paycheck make them ideal employees.

"Give them a second chance, as we've been given a second chance, for our mistakes in life," Nolan urged in closing. "That's how we'll build safer communities."

After the conference, Nolan walked through downtown Sacramento. He looked tired, sweat glistening on his brow. Then he spotted a heavily tattooed man, an ex-felon named Rick Jaramillo who had attended the conference and stood to share his story. Jaramillo, 41, spent nearly half his life cycling in and out of prison for drug dealing, auto theft and other crimes. Finally, he got his head straight and landed a rare spot in a prison job-training program. He now owns 17 residential centers designed to help parolees smoothly reenter the free world.

Nolan hurried over to Jaramillo, placed a hand on his massive shoulder.

"I just want you to know," he said quietly, "how much I admire what you have done."

They clasped hands, locked eyes, two ex-cons sharing a moment anchored in a common experience.

Then Pat Nolan trundled off to his next meeting, a man on a mission, spreading his gospel as best he can.

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All contributions are appreciated and are used to offset the expenses of publishing the newsletter. The RJMN is a non-profit organization. All donations are tax exempt.

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Shirley Orr Smith, Editor

The Restorative Justice News (R. J. News) e-newsletter is published periodically throughout the year by Restorative Justice Ministries Network of Texas, Inc. The RJM Network is an information resource for Restorative Justice Ministries. Inquiries about any kind of Restorative Justice Ministry are welcome. Currently there is no subscription fee for the R. J. News. The publication cost is being subsidized by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church and reader donations.

The board of the non-profit corporation includes: Jerry Groom, Larry Frank, 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.

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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