

“WALKING IN THE LIGHT”

Kings Crossing Prison Ministries

A NEWS REVIEW & EDUCATIONAL TOOL OF JAIL-PRISON MINISTRIES IN CHURCHES OF CHRIST

Dr. Dale Underwood, Editor

“Endeavoring to teach the Gospel to every person everywhere before Jesus returns”

Reflecting on...



...The recent National Prison Ministry Workshop

It was good to see brothers and sisters in Christ from around the country whose passion for the lost is deep, rich, and motivated. Much of the efforts at work are the brain and heart-child of people who are having an impact where they live. Being recently added as a convert myself to prison ministry work, that part was exciting for me as I met new friends who are like-minded in this mission field. I can tell you I was impressed greatly with the reach that Kings Crossing Prison Ministry has around the United-States. The work that Buck Griffith (and others) over decades has had an incredible impact- not just on those in prisons- but on those who are working in this mission field.



...The reach of this mission field

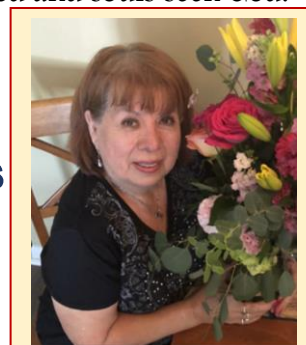
And, that is a more accurate word for this work- **mission field**- than any other description. Only, this mission field is not limited to a geographic country boundary. It is just as much hidden from view, like any other mission effort. The reach of this mission field extends beyond the borders of a county jail, TDC prisons in the Coastal Bend, federal facilities in driving distance, and even prisons throughout Texas. We are blessed to have many willing to work as teams in various facilities throughout the Corpus Christi area (i.e., county jails, Robstown, Beeville TDC unit, Cuero TDC unit, CoreCivic in Corpus Christi). We will continue to report on the fruit of each of these Coastal Bend are efforts in months to come. We have several in multiple facilities requesting baptism even now.

...Our Partnership

When you partner with us through volunteering, teaching, or giving lives are changed and souls seek God. And, that partnership is bearing fruit! **Thank You! We cannot say it often enough! Please continue to remember our work in prayer and through your giving.** It continues to mean so much to us and make differences in the lives of those in prisons.

... the Growing need of Hispanic Speaking Populations

Our Spanish ministry needs or growing *rapido!* In the past year several thousand Hispanic correspondence courses have been initiated. Behind each mail envelope is a person at the other end studying God's word. Merced Aguilar recently joined our staff to help address this need. Merced is a retired TDCJ counselor, which means she has plenty of experience working behind prison walls. She is a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC) and is bilingual; speaking, reading, and writing Spanish.



Merced Aguilar

Kings Crossing Prison Ministries is overseen by the shepherds, Kings Crossing Church of Christ, 5901 Yorktown Boulevard, Corpus Christi, Texas 78414 (Ron Cardwell, Robert Illgen, Stephen Johnston, Rick Legvold, Jack North, Richard Scanio)

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NLBM 'RE-ENTRY' COURSE ON THE HORIZON...



Lord willing, there will be a new addition to the NewLife Behavior courses in 2023. When I came to Kings Crossing Prison Ministry (this time last year) Buck Griffith asked me to begin work on a “Re-Entry” course. If you know Buck, he has a persistent way of nagging asking until ‘no’ is in your rear view mirror. (Kidding! I love his persistence.)

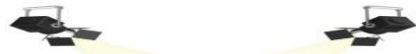
And, God seems to have a way of preparing us for His next activity (and, without even informing us!). For example, for the last 12 years I worked with adjudicated populations, preparing them to walk out of incarceration vocationally equipped with mentors ready to assist in their geographical area when they return home.

So, I am utilizing that background and researching/seeking input from others who have been attempting to provide ‘after-care’ for those who are getting out of jails and prisons and returning to the ‘free’, as they call the world outside of prisons. I hope this doesn’t sound heretical. If these men and women are to successfully transition back to the ‘free’, they need more than just to be introduced to Jesus. James reminds us (James 2:16), *“If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?”*

Without mentoring- walking alongside them- building practical Godly skills- many will be severely tested and possibly return to prisons. Skills building is needed before an offender becomes an ex-offender. Within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) system, there are vocational programs and counseling efforts. Spiritual development is welcomed, but not provided. And, there is little ability for TDCJ to help bring families back together, other than to provide voluntary visitation times. We can help. As God’s people, we must help.

That is where the concept of an NLBM ‘Re-Entry’ course taught to offenders before their release begins. Relationships need mending. Vocational skills need to be coupled with a job opportunity. Spiritual mentorship connections need to be made and continued post-prison. Finally, culture has changed, and ex-offenders need to find their ‘sea-legs’ to walk out into the world they have not been a part of for, perhaps, years.

Our conversations with TDCJ leadership tell us they want to partner with NLBM to help ex-offenders find ministries and churches that will mentor ex-offenders through this ‘re-entry’ process. We have an opportunity to put Churches of Christ across Texas and other states on the list as first priority to point ex-offenders to when it comes to re-entering society. What an open door! What a privilege! What a challenge!



In the Spotlight: Core-Civic

Our team of **Daniel Pena**, **Toni Robison**, and **Jesus Villanueva**, began going in June to the CoreCivic Coastal Bend Rehabilitation Center, a facility for recent parolees here in Corpus Christi. They have been hosting church service on Sunday afternoons with the recently paroled men who are housed at this TDCJ contracted facility. That work is already bearing fruit. This coming Sunday we will take a portable baptistry for several who have requested baptism! **Please pray for these workers as they go into the fields! Please continue to support these efforts through your giving!**



Gifts of Remembrance & Gratitude

Many ministry friends find this a meaningful way to remember loved ones and honor persons who have made a difference in their lives – living or not. Whether a person just passed away or died decades ago, it is a marvelous feeling to know that you or a loved one is remembered.

Received from:

Dr./M Dale Underwood
M/M Frank Maxey
M/M Buck Griffith

In Memory of:

Jerry Kucera
Tom Speaker
Jerry Kucera

Received from:

M/M Bob Wachtel
M/M Frank Maxey
M/M Ty Robinson

In Memory of:

Tom Speaker
Jerry Kucera
Bobby & Marylin Robinson

Received from:

M/M Buck Griffith
M/M Bob Wachtel

In Memory of:

Tom Speaker
Jerry Kucera

Received from:

Dr./M Dale Underwood
M/M Charles Ogden
Dr./M Dale Underwood
Dr./M Dale Underwood

In Honor of:

Gary M. Underwood
Bob Hughes
Kaylynn Giordano
Sydney Underwood

Received from:

M/M Russell Hodge
Dr./M Dale Underwood
Dr./M Dale Underwood
Dr./M Dale Underwood

In Honor of:

Ruth Parks Breedlove
Terry Gillaspie
Buck/Janet Griffith
Linda Smith