

Fruitful Harvest **PRISON** Ministry



Gary and Debbie Nixon
Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry
PO Box 274
Sulphur Springs TX 75482

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good...
— Galatians 6:10

February 2015
Volume II, Issue 1
Phone 903-440-1481
debranon@ymail.com

Blessing Bags, The Angel Tree Truly Ministered at Christmas

The Christmas Season was incredibly busy for Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry (FHPM). For the last 16 years, we have participated in the Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree Program. This year we ministered to 60 children in 29 families whose mother or father was incarcerated (26 individuals, some not even incarcerated in Texas). You can see the hand of God in this statistic: there were 26 parents behind bars, and there were 26 strangers who felt the love of God and bought gifts for these 60 children. We are praying that God would provide a volunteer coordinator so we could expand the program into several area churches that are touched by the Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry.



We also provided Blessing Bags to five area jails and prison units. Blessing bags consist of deodorant, soap, toothpaste, a Christian tract, candy and a new calendar. They are given to show the love of Jesus and to share the gospel with these men and women who are separated from family and friends at Christmas time.

We gave 1,550 bags to male inmate at the Skyview Unit and 50 bags to female inmates at the Hodge Unit. At Cole State Prison, we were able to bless 900 inmate, at Johnston State Prison 600 inmates received bags, and at Hopkins County Jail 100 people got the gift of a blessing bag. Local churches decorated bags and gave money to buy the items to put in the bag. Prison regulations have tightened, and it is no longer feasible to collect items like hotel shampoos. We have to buy prison approved items and they must be inspected on site before the bags are assembled on the unit. We thank the tireless volunteers who spent hours (in one case, ten hours straight) assembling these bags at the prisons. We want to say a big THANK YOU!

We rejoice that 60 kids and 26 parents were blessed by our participation in the Angel Tree program. We also rejoice that some 3,200 inmates received Blessing Bags. Let us not grow weary, while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart (Galatians 6:9). May Christ Come Quickly!

Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry Alumni



If you haven't met "Brooke with a Bounce," yet we invite you to go to the Burger Grind Restaurant on the Sulphur Spring Square and have the new General Manager

cook you up one of their famously fresh-ground burgers. Just five months ago, Brooke was released after a 93-day stay in Hopkins County Jail. She gives glory to Jesus Christ for transforming her from a self-ish, mean, drug dealer into a woman who hopes to one day get married and have kids. She also gives quite a bit of credit to Miss Betty Finn and the tireless hours she volunteered through Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry, both while Brooke was incarcerated and when she had to create a new life without drugs and her drug-using friends. Brooke also credits Dennis and Carly Moreau, owners of BG for giving her a chance and hiring her to be a waitress just two weeks after she got out of jail. The Moreaus have "3:23" painted behind the cash register. It's a conversation starter and reflects their business beliefs. It's from Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters" Praise God for this FHPM Alumni's progress! Pray for God to send more workers into the Harvest (see article on page two and see the article below on our ministry needs and how you can help there).

Current Ministry Needs:



Volunteers spend their OWN money when they go visit prisons or minister to the released. Some trips are HUNDREDS of miles round trip.



We OFTEN minister in TEAMS, at Rallies, & Travel together for Ministry Training. Owning a Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry Van would be wonderful for these and other trips.



Recently Released Prisoners, with nowhere else to turn will come to us and ask for bus fare to their home town, food money, motel money. We want to help them start out well.

If you are prompted to help financially, send funds to Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministries to PO BOX 274, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482. Call 903-440-1481 with any questions. Thank You and God Bless You!

Fruitful Harvest PRISON Ministry

Volunteers Of the Month

February 2015, page 2



Allow me to say first that we are very thankful to be a part of such a fruitful ministry. The name itself, Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry, says it all. I thank God for every opportunity that He gives us to proclaim the gospel. Tammy and I have been married six years this February, that was also the beginning of our ministry with FHPM.

I have watched the Holy Spirit do great things in Men and Women's hearts and lives. Tammy and I

have been spirit-filled believers since an early age, and have always known that God had a great work for us to do. We want to continue that work whether it is through Welcome Home Baptist Church in Winnsboro or the confines of Texas Department of Criminal Justice Facilities.

"Why Prison Ministry?" you may ask. First, we have a passion for Jesus and a passion for the souls of men and women struggling. We know that nothing is impossible with God. (Luke 1:37) He is Savior, Deliverer, and Healer. We are just the instruments, the conduits through which His Spirit dwells and operates. If you are Believer in Christ, so are you!

Pray for us as we endeavor to do the Will of God, and pray for those men and women who are incarcerated and their families as well.

In Christ,

Morris and Tammy Wilks



Indeed, we do need more volunteers. Right now we are only reaching 13 facilities. With more volunteers, we could have a greater impact for the Kingdom of God. All of the information needed to become a volunteer is available online at http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/rpd/rpd_volunteer.html

Among the few requirements are: Volunteers must be 18 years old, must not have any pending criminal charges, and if the volunteer is a former prisoner, he or she must have been released from an adult correction facility for at least 18 months.

The volunteer will need to schedule a half day of training at a nearby facility.

The training is FREE!

Call 903-440-1481 to see if anyone else is going and you could car-pool.

Please prayerfully consider serving the Lord in our Texas prisons.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Thursday	Bradshaw	February 1	Telford, Crane
Every Thursday and Sunday	Hopkins County Jail	February 5	Moore
Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday	Titus County Jail	February 8	Cole
Twice a month	Teen Challenge Ranch	February 13	Gurney
		February 15	Skyview
		February 18 & 22	Hodge

