

Fruitful Harvest **PRISON** Ministry



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

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See Past Newsletters:
<http://nbfbc.org/prisonministry>

Blessing Bags - Blessing Inmates

The desire to be a blessing in a time of need fulfills many Christians as they give during the holiday seasons. Charlotte Wilson, her husband and daughter got involved with Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry back in year 2000. They began going to several different prisons at that time and in 2001 decided that the Hodge Unit in Rusk, Texas was their spot to minister. They learned of a need that FH had to pack "Blessing Bags" and agreed to pack bags and coordinate this for the Hodge Unit. Years ago they would pack the bags and bring them into the prisons but as security tightened up about 4-5 years ago they began packing the bags at the Unit. Currently they are waiting for the Warden to give the approval for the items in bag. They pack around 1450 bags just for that unit. The items that are packed in the bags are basic personal needs such as deodorant, toothpaste, soap, possibly a toothbrush, candy, calendar and a Christmas card. The bags are decorated by local children who attend Sunday Schools or churches. One recollection Charlotte had of God's blessing through this ministry was an inmate who actually received a bag that had been decorated by someone with the same name as his daughter, which was Susan. That made it so much more of a blessing! Other inmates have stated that their favorite Bible verse was written on their bag. Charlotte shared how much it means to the inmates to see that they haven't been forgotten and that God hasn't forgotten them either. The Cost of the



Charlotte Wilson

bags are approximately \$1 per bag and she said they are walking by faith believing that God will supply the needs for this blessing to go forward! We have several volunteer needs. Besides a monetary gift to supply the items in the bags we are seeking children's groups such as Sunday Schools classes, Home School groups, etc. to decorate paper bags with encouragement and scriptures to give you can be a part of spreading the Gospel to those who need it?



Please contact us at fruitfulharvest@verizon.net if you can be a part of this wonderful "Blessing Bag" Ministry! There are so many children who miss their Mom or Dad during their stay in prison and it would even bless the children!

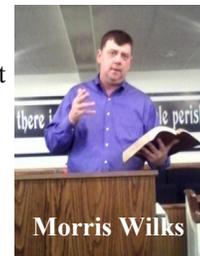


We Thank God For You who have given to His work in helping prisoners and their families. As you know we endeavor in this labor of love together as you pray and give. God's grace is sufficient for all our needs and our trust is in Him. Some of our financial needs are:

- Financial help for recently released prisoners with bus tickets and motel rooms on their way home, wherever home may be.
- Fuel for travel back forth to the prisons all over Northeast Texas
- Blessing Bag Designers fruitfulharvest@verizon.net
- Prayers
- Send financial gifts to address at top of newsletter.

Fruitful Harvest Prison Info Update

The following is an update for a few prisons that were visited this past month; Mike Simpson ministered at the Telford Unit to 198 men. Morris Wilks ministered at Gurney to see 33 salvations and ministered at Cole Unit. Gary Nixon and Shane Douglas went to the Hodge Unit and 152 attended and 2 rededicated their lives to Christ as many were shedding tears for repentance. Many prayers for their families.



Morris Wilks

Vince Polumbo continues at the Hopkins County Jail with Advanced Bible Study with Topical studies & prayer groups each week on Tuesdays. Mondays at Hopkins is for beginners, reading out of the book of John learning about physical Holy Spirit Baptism then the book of James learning repentance, prayer of praise and thanksgiving with the idea of advancing to the Tuesday night study. Thursdays and Sundays is normally the Salvation message and they are invited to the Monday beginners class.

**"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable
year of the LORD."**

Pray for all who go into the prisons and jails to spread the good news, but also be one of those that go. You have the gift so we encourage you to share it!!

God bless!!!

In Christ,
Morris Wilks

Volunteer Of the Month



One of God’s miraculous events in Betty Finn’s life was during the time she was incarcerated at TDC from a 25 year drug addiction. God spoke to her during that time of solitude and said, one day He would send her back into the jails to share her story of redemption and that no one is to far for Him to reach down into that pit to pull them out if they were willing! After her release on September 10th 2009 she began attending TGIF Recovery Ministry at New Beginnings Fellowship and was introduced to Gary & Debbie Nixon sharing her interest in going back to the prisons one day. On exactly 90 days from her release, December 10th 2009, she received a call from Debbie and said “I can’t find anyone to go to the jails for that night and would you be able to go?” That happened to be the exact day that she was approved to go into the jails. God works wonders for His purpose and glory! Not only has she been active in the jail ministry since then but she also ministers to women on her own time as a sponsor & mentor.

Some of her favorite scriptures that she shares with the ladies is Psalms 40 1-5 and the whole book of James.

Psalms 40:1-5 I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth—Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD. Blessed is that man who makes the LORD his trust, And does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered. She believes that if you read the whole book of James everyday for 30 days - you will have a revelation.

Her purpose is to give them hope through Jesus Christ and to teach them guidelines & wisdom for recovery. One of her favorite pieces of literature she uses is a quote from John Hagee Ministries, “what you are willing to walk away from - will determine where God can bring you too.” Another point she encourages strongly is that salvation is free & God’s love, mercy & grace can rain down on them if they will believe. Maintaining who we are in Christ is part of what it takes to stay clean helps to make better choices. “IT IS A DAILY CONSCIENCE EFFORT” she said. “We have to work at it with a mind that is determined and a heart that is righteous. It’s important they know what to expect through this valley. Many woman don’t understand why they make these wrong choices. She helps them to focus on their triggers instead of men, drugs, sex, alcohol, etc, which are only Band-Aids, she said. There has been so many woman that have overcome these struggles who are living in freedom. After Betty lost her Father she didn’t know how she was going to attend the prison that evening but God told her “I need you to go” and it felt like He carried her in to the jail. That night, she said, the Spirit of God was so heavy in that place. He was truly ministering powerfully as the ladies were on their needs and you couldn’t find a dry eye. 3 ladies gave their life to Christ that evening. Betty is so thankful to share what God has done in her and the experiences she has been a part of in this ministry and encourages people to just give it a try and see that God can use them in Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry.

Prison Ministry Schedule

Every Tuesday Advanced Bible Study Hopkins County
Every Thursday Bradshaw Prison
Every Sunday & Thurs Hopkins County Jail
Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday Titus County Jail
Twice a month Teen Challenge Ranch

Nov 1 Telford,
Nov 13 Gurney
Nov 15 Skyview
Nov 18 Hodge
Nov 22 Hodge
Nov 26 Cole



Spiritual Maturity Is Never An End In Itself

“Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28 TLB)

We are commanded to serve God. Jesus was unmistakable: “Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28 TLB).

For Christians, service is not something to be tacked onto our schedules if we can spare the time. It is the heart of the Christian life. Jesus came “to serve” and “to give” — and those two verbs should define your life on Earth, too. Jesus taught that spiritual maturity is never an end in itself. Maturity is for ministry! We grow up in order to give out. It is not enough to keep learning more and more. We must act on what we know and practice what we claim to believe. Impression without expression causes depression. Study without service leads to spiritual stagnation. The old comparison between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea is still true.

Galilee is a lake full of life because it takes in water but also gives it out. In contrast, nothing lives in the Dead Sea because, with no outflow, the lake has stagnated. The last thing many believers need is to go to another Bible study. They already know far more than they are putting into practice. What they need is serving experiences in which they can exercise their spiritual muscles. Serving is the opposite of our natural inclination. Most of the time we’re more interested in “serve us” than service. We say, “I’m looking for a church that meets my needs and blesses me,” not “I’m looking for a place to serve and be a blessing.

” We expect others to serve us, not vice versa. But as we mature in Christ, the focus of our lives should increasingly shift to living a life of service. The mature follower of Jesus stops asking, “Who’s going to meet my needs?” and starts asking, “Whose needs can I meet?”