

# Fruitful Harvest **PRISON** Ministry

Charlie & Melba Sickles  
Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry  
PO Box 1130 **NEW!**  
Sulphur Springs TX 75483  
<http://www.fruitfulharvest.net/>

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

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

## ALWAYS GIVING!

There are many ways Charlie and Melba Sickles are giving to God through the ministry of Fruitful Harvest and God continues to open doors to supply the needs of people. The new FH Food Pantry is now located at 413 W. California Street here in Sulphur Springs. They have many volunteers and supply a box of food weekly to 100's of people in our community not to mention those exiting prison who need a start. This pantry started in a small building in their back yard in 2010. In July of this year they were able to move to a 2 bedroom house that has been remolded and gives much needed space. Without donations of money and labor this could never have happened. They are grateful to the Lord for the community coming together to make this happen. Melba has a small budget that she purchases the food from North Texas Food Bank in Dallas. If more funds were available she could feed more people. Also they could use strong young men to help with the moving of the food try.



**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:

- Prayers
- Financial support for recently released prisoners with bus tickets and motel rooms on their way home.
- Fuel for travel back forth to the prisons all over Northeast Texas.
- Send financial gifts to address at top of newsletter.

## Prison Ministry Schedule

**Hopkins County Jail, Tuesday's Advanced Bible Study**  
**Bradshaw Prison, Thursday's**  
**Hopkins County Jail, Sunday & Thursday's**  
**Titus County Jail, 2nd and 4th Wednesday's**  
**Hodge Unit Rusk, TX 4th Sunday and 3rd Wednesday**  
**Telford Unit, New Boston, TX 1st Sunday**  
**Skyview Unit, Rusk, TX 3rd Sunday**  
**Michael Trusty Camp, Tennessee Colony, TX 2nd Saturday**  
**Gurney Unit, Tennessee Colony, TX 2nd Friday**  
**Moore Unit, Bonham, TX monthly**  
**Cole Unit, Bonham, TX monthly**  
**Crane Unit, Gatesville, TX October 9th**

## Prison Ministry Update!

We had a great service last night although there was a lot of opposition from the enemy but all were still encouraged. My wife Tammy, brother Homer Morgan & myself ministered at the gurney unit witnessing four men saved. We had 15 - 20 Men saved at the Michael's Unit and praise God for the excitement at the church on the rise. Watching what God is doing in the Michael's Unit. At the Hodge Unit Services had 4-5 men accepted Christ with 157 in attendance. Heard the most amazing testimony from a guy from the Philippines. It is in our newsletter on the back page. To God be the Glory. Charlie and I traveled to Rusk to hold church services at the Hodge Unit. Praying for a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Great move of God this past Sunday night as many came to know the Lord Jesus Christ at the Cole unit in Bonham. I praise God for a fruitful harvest. There has been over 50 salvations in the past month at the prisons and county jail. Chaplain Gratsy says in the past month at the Gurney unit there were 150 salvations plus baptisms. As usual, we had a great night at the Gurney ,over 200 men to minister to Praise God for 11 new souls and new men in Christ at the service and worship with brother Bryan McFarlin and Jason Cole. If you are interested in ministering at the prisons and jails we have room. Email us at the above address.  
Sincerely, Morris Wilks



## Prayer Needs

- Charlie Sickles returning to the Philippines Sept. 27-Oct. 27 2016
- Protection and health
- Fruitful Harvest Bible Students
- Philippines Sponsors for students
- More Prison volunteers

## Our Purpose

Until the return of Christ, it is the Christian's duty and privilege to seek the fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission and to minister in His name to a needy world. We are to be instruments of Jesus Christ as Holy Spirit ministers redemption and reconciliation in the world.  
(Matthew 25:31-46; 28:18-20)

*"Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20*

## **A LIVING WITNESS!**

My walk with God did not change my life but it did change my life around.

He is the reason that I am alive today. Being on death row for 18 years is where

I found Faith and Hope. During the moment when I was about to be **given an execution date**. I didn't Panic at all. I asked God to give me strength even to the point of death. I didn't give up on Hope. I prayed over and over again and was led to ask other inmates on death row if they knew of any law firm that I could write to. I felt the need to change my court appointed lawyer who didn't really want to help me. He just let the appeal run out at the last moments of my life! I finally got some help from the Texas Defender service who was gladly to look into my case. Some inmates were laughing at me and saying it's too late.

## **God heard my prayers**

and proved to them it was in His timing. He granted me with new lawyers at the Texas Defender service. I was about to die in 4 days but on February 18th 2003, I was given a stay of execution. From that moment on I received good news and just broke down on my knees with tears on my eyes. I started thanking God for saving my life. Before I accepted God to be my Lord and Savior I didn't have anything going for me. I couldn't read or write. I followed other people who only led me the wrong direction but after I went to death row is when I started learning to better myself. The next thing that happened was a person gave me a New Testament Gideon Bible and asked me if I wanted to get rich? I said how? He or she handed me this small brown Bible. I looked at the Bible and started reading. That's when I realized what that stranger was talking about. He was talking about getting rich and faith. I never did stop reading the New Testament Bible. That's how I learned to read and write. When the time came I won the hearing **was leaving Death Row** to be transferred to the Burn Unit. I was a little shaky. I kept saying to myself am I really off death row?

Anyway it was about Christmas time when they handed me a turkey meal with all the good stuff that goes with it. I looked at the tasting meal which brought me to tears. An officer was watching me from a distance and she came to my cell and said son why are you crying? I said ma'am for the first time in 18 years I was able to taste the food that I was eating. She ended up crying along with me. God wanted me to live because he still has some use for me to witness to others. The old me is dead and gone. I made a choice to do God's work. Now, I am correcting the wrongs by making it right. Two years ago my mother came to visit me. She was so happy to see me. She said son I want you to be a preacher and teach the Word of God to others. I said Mom, that's what I have been doing all this year in training. I've been training myself to be a strong believer. My mother seems to be very pleased about it. I got word that on May 22nd of this year my mother passed away. I didn't know she was sick. Her liver was failing. She also had stomach cancer. My mother didn't want me to know that she was dying.

I cried all that night. I decided that I would not let my mother down.

I will succeed by accomplishing **her wish for me to be a man of God and preach His Word**.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to share my testimony. May God bless each and every one of you and continue to hold on to our God of love because he is your stronghold!

Respectfully,

Gregory Van Alstyne Hodge Unit 1471 278

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