



THE NETWORK

A publication of the NewLife Behavior Network of Alabama
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Saturday, December 30, 2006

Volume 1, Issue 3

FIRST NLBNOA PRISON/JAIL REGIONAL WORKSHOP SET

The **NewLife Behavior Network of Alabama (NLBNOA)** is less than a year old but has already had a tremendous impact on prison/jail ministry in this state. It is now to have impact on

the southeastern United States with the first regional workshop, scheduled at the Madison, AL Church of Christ building on Friday and Saturday, February 9-10. **Bill Edwards**, NLBNOA North Area Director, with the help of State Director **Ray Cox** and Communications Chairman **Chad Roberts**, has put together an intriguing schedule of workshop classes offering tremendous training to both new and experienced prison/jail ministry workers.



Bill Edwards

The class sessions are anchored by presentations from NewLife Behavior Ministries co-founders **H. M. Motsinger** and **Buck Griffith**. Buck is President of NLBM. Buck and H. M. have written most of the NLB courses.

H. M. will lead off on the Friday afternoon session with a *Demonstration of Using NLBM Courses*. He will show how to teach an NLB lesson with those in attendance providing a classroom atmosphere.



H. M. Motsinger

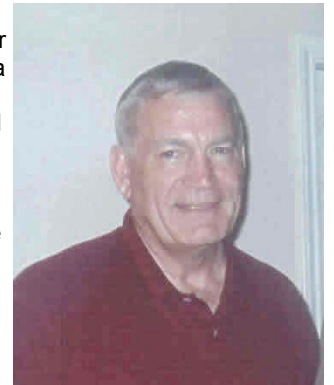
This session is designed specifically for those interested in receiving an "official certificate" from NLB that you have received training and are qualified to be an Instructor of NLB curriculum.

Buck Griffith will follow with an overview presentation of the NLB curriculum with some emphasis on the two courses he authored, *Christians Against Substance Abuse* and *Prisoners of Christ*. The latter course will be of particular interest to those who minister to men behind the bars of county jails.

These two sessions taught by H. M. and Buck will be repeated on Saturday morning because we believe many will come on Saturday who are not able to be there Friday because of their work schedules. But there will be other tracks on Saturday

morning for those who sat in on H. M.'s and Buck's sessions on Friday.

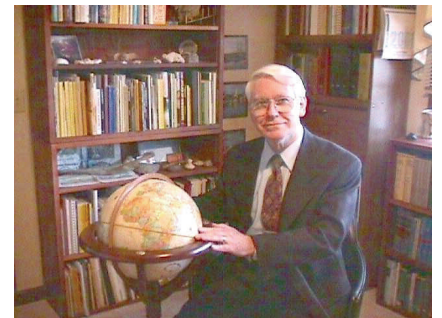
Motsinger has an undergraduate degree from Elon College, a Master of Arts from Abilene Christian and a Doctorate of Education from North Texas State University. He studied at Oklahoma State and East Texas universities to earn a license as a professional counselor in the field of marriage and family therapy. He is truly the very essence of the professional educator and has held a variety of administrative and teaching positions in public and private schools. More importantly, H. M. has been in prison ministry since 1984. From this work has come the NewLife Behavior curriculum now taught in more than a hundred prisons in 43 states and 35 nations.



Buck Griffith

Buck Griffith is an Abilene Christian graduate who has served his Lord as an evangelist for more than 40 years. Buck became involved in prison ministry in 1971. We will have available at the Workshop an article written by Buck recently which details his involvement in this ministry which certainly was not in Buck's planning. It is a fascinating account, and we urge you to pick up a copy at the Workshop. Buck's course, *CASA*, is a major plank in the NLB curriculum. Buck is a renowned authority in prison ministry and holds many positions in professional associations, especially in combating substance abuse.

One of the highly anticipated presentations at the Workshop is **Mac Lynn's *Earning a Bible Degree Behind Bars***. Mac is Chancellor of **Nations University**, a distance learning school where prison inmates have the opportunity to earn Bible degrees *free*. (continued on Page 2)



Mac Lynn

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Brother Lynn will tell us all about Nations and how to enroll inmates in Nations. He has a distinguished academic record with two undergraduate degrees, three Masters, two Science of Theology degrees, a Doctorate and a lot of additional study. Lynn served Columbia Christian Academy as Principal, Dean and Provost, was Professor of Ministry at Harding Graduate School of Religion before serving at David Lipscomb University as Chair and Professor of Bible. He also is well known for his association with the Churches of Christ in the United States directory.

Phillip Hines will be the keynote speaker at the banquet on Friday night. Phillip has been the evangelist at the Hartselle, AL congregation for the past 27 years.



Phillip Hines

He is known for his dynamic sermons and for outstanding service to Lads to Leaders over decades. He was named to Delta Epsilon Chi Honor Society by the AABC in recognition of outstanding intellectual achievement, Christian character and exercising leadership in the cause of Christ. Again, Phillip knows prison ministry because he has been

involved in prison evangelism at Limestone for the past twenty years. You will want to hear Phillip Hines.

Tony Cleveland, who directs the jail ministry for the Rainbow Church of Christ in Gadsden, and **Larry Kirby**, evangelist for the Fort Payne, AL Church of Christ, will share a session designed especially for people who are thinking about beginning a prison/jail ministry or in the process of establishing one. The session is titled **Starting & Growing a Prison/Jail Ministry**. Tony's work at the 9-story Etowah County Jail has been highly successful. The ministry includes 7 NLB Bible classes



Tony Cleveland

weekly at the jail, and there were more than 60 baptisms at the facility in 2006. Larry Kirby and the church at Fort Payne have just gone through the process of making a proposal to the new sheriff for NLB classes at the new county jail. Larry and Tony will pass out sample proposals to give you ideas of how to make



Larry Kirby

sample proposals to give you

presentations for classes. Larry will tell you how the process has gone and the problems they have had and the results to date whether good or bad. This is a *must* class for those just getting their feet wet in prison/jail ministry.



James Williams

James Williams, a chaplain at Limestone C. F., **Bill Edwards**, director of the prison ministry at the Madison Church of Christ, will tell you *How to Start and Operate a Faith-Based Dorm*. These two are veterans in Honor Dorm operation, James as an

assistant chaplain at Limestone and Bill as director of the Madison congregation's prison ministry which includes sponsorship of the Honor Dorm at Limestone. James is a graduate of Heritage Christian University and serves several churches as their evangelist. He is a veteran prison minister with years of service at several state facilities. Bill Edwards is a retired management professional with more than 30 years in various federal agencies, and a Christian who has served his



John Gallagher

Lord as a teacher, deacon, elder in varied ministries with congregations in several states.



Tony Hoover

Prison/Jail Ministry has a different impact than other mission efforts.

John Gallagher, an elder at Birmingham's Roebuck Parkway, has headed this mission there for about 20 years. John will share a session, entitled **Prison Ministry's Impact on Your Congregation**, with **Tony Hoover**, an elder at the Madison, AL Church of Christ. Tony is a long time worker and teacher at the Limestone

prison facility. In his secular career, he is a graduate of the University of Alabama with an MBA from Alabama A & M. Tony is founder and CEO of Hoover General Contractors. John Gallagher is CEO of Jay Electric, a large regional supplier of electric motors. These two elders bring a lot of knowledge and experience to this session.

Ray Cox, who directs a successful Bible correspondence mission for the Rainbow Church of Christ, titles his Workshop session as **Synergizing Your Ministry Through Correspondence Courses**. Cox has been a WBS teacher for 30 years and has developed a computerized system which speeds work and teaches in depth. The system will be made available free at the Workshop to any congregation that wants it. Cox will also make available free a computerized system enabling all the NLB courses to be used as correspondence courses. The combined Rainbow correspondence teaching and Jail Ministry brought 96 people to Christ in 2006.

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Attention given to the session entitled **Importance of After Care** clearly demonstrates the import Workshop organizers placed on this subject. Two hours are being given to three speakers: **Bill Carr** of East Tallassee, AL; **Chuck Spitzley** of



Bill Carr

Roebuck Parkway in Birmingham; and **Chad Roberts** of the Fort Payne Church of Christ. All three are recovering drug abusers who have been there and done that and understand the needs of those released back into the world without bars. Bill established and has

operated a halfway house (he says it is a home) in East Tallassee for more than 14 years. As far as we can determine, it is the only church-operated halfway house in this state. Bill has domiciled and helped hundreds of men over these years, and he has accomplished this on little money with a lot of ingenuity. And he

does this while maintaining a full-time job as an architect in Montgomery. Bill is a graduate of Auburn and is an avid Tiger fan. Bill says East Tallassee's **Labor of Love Home** is the closest thing he sees to first century Christianity. Our churches need after care facilities, and Bill has the expertise to help. Chuck



Chuck Spitzley

Spitzley initiated CASA classes at Roebuck Parkway fifteen years ago, and these classes now have the second longest tenure in the world. Chuck, an NLB Regional Director, teaches several NLB classes each week in the Birmingham area. Chuck, well known throughout prison ministry circles, is a pioneer in this work. Chuck is a painting contractor in the secular world. **Chad Roberts** is a remarkable young man of God. He attended David Lipscomb University, earned a Masters in Computer Technology from the University of Tennessee and was V-P of a Fortune 500 computer company. You can see Chad's photo and read his life story on another page in this issue. He has a tremendous desire to begin a halfway house in north Alabama. This is what Chad says about the need, "A person released from a jail or prison with no support group is doomed. A person needs the help of caring individuals who can provide comfort, support and the spiritual guidance for their life. The church needs to be able to provide all these needs. The church has to be in a position to offer these outreach ministries and plug the individual into the programs and get them involved." Chad has already established rapport with numerous court and parole authorities in north Alabama.

An adjunct to after care is a system to follow converts as they move through the prison system from facility to facility and into the world when they are released. The goal is to assist them in their maturation as Christians and provide them with a church family within the institutions and a caring congregation when they are thrust back into the outside world. Alabama prison workers are blessed with a cutting edge system put together by **Jeff Johnson** and **Daniel**

Wrenn. Jeff has a distinguished career as an attorney and administrator, having served as an aide to the



Jeff Johnson with his wife, Kylie, and daughter, Rose Marie.

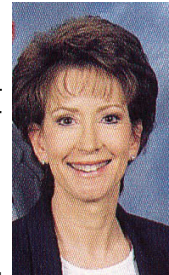
Governor of Alabama and Asst V-P, Faulkner University. He is a member at the Falkville Church of Christ and has been in prison ministry for more than ten years. Jeff has partnered with **Daniel Wrenn**, a major catalyst in development of the Alabama database. Daniel is a deacon at the Grant Church of

Christ and possesses extensive computer skills. The Alabama database is already developed. We only have to get input from congregations when they convert someone in the prison system. Jeff's and Daniel's session at the Workshop is **Tracking Christian Inmates**, and it will be an eye opener for states where prison workers want this system.



Daniel Wrenn

The Workshop has a single session devoted exclusively to teaching women behind bars. That will certainly change in future workshops. What the Workshop lacks in time committed to teaching the female population, it makes up in experience and expertise of the speakers. The Rainbow Church of Christ in Gadsden provides four of its veteran teachers to the session titled **Ministering to Females**. The female ministry at



Cheryl Bowling



Jane Watkins



Betty Hale



Rita Bowdoin

the Etowah County Detention Center is built around two weekly NLB classes, one on Monday morning and the other on Wednesday evening. More than a dozen women were brought to Christ during 2006 by teachers **Betty Hale, Cheryl Bowling, Jane Watkins** and **Rita**
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Bowdoin. These dedicated teachers are correspondence teachers as well. The fact is prison/jail ministry workers are



so dedicated you find they are involved wherever they can be. **Glenda Beersdorf** of Roebuck Parkway will join the Rainbow women in the **Ministering to Female** session. Glenda has long been involved in NLB teaching, especially at the Birmingham WRC. Above, in a Birmingham News photo, Red Cross volunteer Glenda is shown loading a trailer bound to the Gulf Coast to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. The man in the photo is Robin Robinson, a Birmingham police officer. This photo was early in the relief effort.

Chaplain **Charles Baggett** of Limestone C. F. Facility will wind up the Workshop with a session entitled **Building Relationships with Prison Staff**. Anyone involved in prison/jail ministry knows the importance of the chaplain



Chaplain Charles Baggett

and his staff. To have a successful program, you must find a way to work with the chaplain. Charles can share with you the best ways to do that. This Christian has been involved in prison ministry for more than 22 years. He is a treasure trove of knowledge available to us. He has utilized the NewLife Behavior courses at Limestone in an ingenious curriculum which fulfills the needs of the men there in such a way they can truly change their lives. Charles Baggett as the final speaker at the Workshop is a fitting touch to what we predict will catapult prison/jail ministry to the next level in the Southeast.

WESTGATE MINISTRY ALIVE & WELL

Adapted from reports by Joe Walden

Westgate Church of Christ's Prison Ministry is active and alive in the Dothan area! **Jeff Knox** has just been named Westgate's deacon to head this work. Jeff and wife **Donna** are long-time dedicated workers, and Jeff intends to strengthen the efforts in this ministry. Both Jeff and Donna bring tons of teaching and personal work experience to this effort.

A major effort of Westgate's ministry's is conducting worship services the second Sunday evening of each month at Ventress C. F. near Clayton. An indication of how well the work is going is demonstrated by the fact that a **record attendance of 155** was reached recently on Sunday evening. Attendance averages 140. The Ventress ministry team has been greatly strengthened with the addition of workers from the **Southside Church of Christ in Enterprise**. This congregation now partners with Westgate at Ventress, and Southside's evangelist, **Ira Belford**, often does the preaching. Ira is a retired top non-com from the U. S. Army. Ira, wife **Mae** and others from Southside let the love of Jesus Christ show through compassion for the incarcerated and the poor of Enterprise by these efforts.

The Ventress service will usually yield more than a hundred prayer requests. These requests are rolled up in a single "Prayer Request" document and handed out to church members for their personal prayer list. At each service, inmates are asked if they would like NewLife Behavior literature (*Families Imprisoned* and *If You Have A Loved One Locked Up*) to be sent to their loved ones. The offer generates many names and addresses for us to contact by mail. We get more than 80 such requests each month. Jesus is glorified in these mail outs!

Currently, Westgate conducts **three** weekly services at the Houston County Jail. On Monday night, we hold devotionals for maximum security level inmates. On Thursdays, a 12-step, faith-based recovery program for men is conducted by **Eric Greer**. **Jeff Knox** and **Joe Walden** lead the Monday night devotional.

The wives of three Westgate elders, **Libba Murphy**, **Gail Clements** and **Grace Dampier**, and a deacon's wife, **Brenda Ware**, conduct a two-hour Bible study with the women inmates at the Houston County Jail every Thursday morning.

The Westgate/Southside Prison Ministry Team has been greatly encouraged to learn that a "major" player in prison ministry for the southeast Alabama area, **Major Charlie Hilderbrand**, is returning home from Iraq very soon to rejoin us.

CORRESPONDENCE TEACHER CONVERTS 17 IN 2006

Consider this. **Kathy Overbey**, a Christian wife and mother, armed with the gospel of Christ and computer, brought **17 people to the Lord** in 2006! Utilizing a 10-course computerized correspondence system devel-



oped at the Rainbow Church of Christ in Gadsden and supplemented by the NewLife Behavior Courses, this Christian teaches hundreds and hundreds of people seeking Christ daily. The fact is that she averaged the equivalent of **seventeen personal Bible studies each and every day** of 2006.

Kathy is able to do this and still take care of her husband, **Ken**, and children **Alex** and **Kellie**, all active for the Lord. Ken competes as a weight lifter in world championship meets. He just won two trophies at Las Vegas, achieving two 2nd Place finishes at the World Power Lifting Championships. The point to that is . . . don't mess with Ken! Kathy travels to these meets with Ken and serves as his assistant.

Many of Kathy's correspondence students are behind bars. She brought people to Christ this past year at Draper, Red Eagle Honor Farm, the Alabama State Cattle Ranch, Bibb C. F., a Bessemer halfway house, the Russell County Jail, Fountain C. F., Staton C. F. and Limestone C. F. She also converted students through her teaching in the outside world, including two women in Manchester, N. H.

One of the amazing results of Kathy's correspondence ministry is in one of the Alabama facilities where the chaplain vigorously opposes the church. He is open about his dislike for us and has rejected allowing us to teach the NewLife Behavior courses in his facility. But God has provided the way for Kathy and other teachers

to reach seekers in this facility through the U. S Postal System. Correspondence goes where we cannot go and teach classes. Kathy has more than 400 students in this facility. Six of her students there have obeyed Christ in baptism, and there are a couple of congregations within the prison meeting as the church. Kathy has provided them studies to use in their Bible classes. They are forced to meet out in the yard because the chaplain will not allow them to use the chapel or other meeting rooms. The men are persevering despite this opposition.

Another great facet of Kathy's work is locating men from the church working for the Lord among those incarcerated and making others aware of this. Her husband, Ken, works for BellSouth. One of his "perks" is that the family can make long distance phone calls at no charge. Kathy has used this to great advantage for the Lord. She finds people to baptize those who have requested it. **John Ellis, Matthew Conley, James Guy and Charles Baggett** are some who have helped. Kathy just had two men immersed at the Bullock C. F. through contact with **Michael Haynes**. Matthew Conley told Kathy about Michael, who is a member at the University congregation in Montgomery and also an employee of the Department of Corrections. He counsels inmates at Bullock and teaches his own 12-step rehabilitation program there. Michael baptized Kathy's students.

Kathy mailed out **6,212 courses** to students during 2006. That is an average of **119 each week**. She is able to do this because the computerized curriculum enables the teacher to handle more students and at the same time teach in more depth. This system is simple and available free to any Christian or congregation who wants to use it. Contact the Rainbow Church of Christ at 256-547-3731 or email raycox1927@bellsouth.net. Your questions are welcome as well.

Rainbow has **41 teachers** using this system. **96 people obeyed the gospel** in 2006 as a result of Rainbow's combined Prison/Jail and correspondence teaching ministries. Many of the NLB lessons are also in the computer system and the material is available to you if you want to use it.

Those of you who are already teaching Bible classes in prisons or jail should supplement your teaching by adding correspondence curriculums. This will greatly magnify your work because the student can study each day in addition to what is usually your weekly class. Kathy Overbey's work demonstrates what can be accomplished.

THE REMARKABLE ODYSSEY OF FORT PAYNE'S CHAD ROBERTS

Chad Roberts is a member of the Fort Payne church of Christ in Fort Payne, AL and started attending there in August 1997 after his parents moved to Fort Payne and eventually moving himself. He dedicated his life to the Lord at the age of 16 in a small, country congregation of Anderson church of Christ in Anderson, TN being baptized by Jack Hackworth.

Chad was like a lot young people and fell into the vast array of drugs and alcohol during his senior year in high school. Chad went on to Motlow State Community College in Tullahoma, TN transferred to Lipscomb and then to University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he obtained a Master's Degree in Computer Technology. He worked in the hotel industry while attending college and implemented many hotel systems over from a manual check in process to a fully automated system.



Chad went on to work for a Fortune 500 start up Computer Company in Atlanta and worked his way up to Vice-President of Computer Operations. He worked there for 8 years before the company started outsourcing jobs overseas. The company later sold out and Chad was left unemployed. He later moved to Nashville, TN and opened his own computer business in Brentwood, TN. Chad was able to meet the current computer trend and was ahead of the curve and made good money in that area. Chad felt at age 26 that he life by the horns but his life was spiritually void and always unhappy.

Chad suffered from being an alcoholic and cocaine addict. He fought with this addiction for 9 years and finally his addiction won. Chad was faced with huge legal problems in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia and after spending times in and out of jails, prisons and treatment centers. His life was emotionally, physically and spiritually empty. Chad thought what could there be for him in this vast world.

He was led back to Kilby Correctional Facility, Montgomery, in 2005 and was released on parole in January, 2006. Chad has completed numerous drug treatment inpatient and outpatient programs, worked with Crisis Hotline, Narcotic Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous and Substance Abuse Treatment programs. Chad stated, "I finally got to the point of being sick and tired of being sick and tired. I knew that God could fix all my problems, but would never really surrender it all to Him. I was baptized and raised in a church home, but never had that personal relationship with God."

Chad began taking World Bible School correspondence courses and advanced Hilliard courses from Fort Payne church of Christ and began a relationship with Larry Kirby, minister at Fort Payne while at Kilby. "The day after my release, I meet with Larry at the church and we had prayer together and meet to discuss how I could be an active

Christian with the local church."

Chad was restored back to the family of God and was given the task of updating the church website after the current Webmaster, Tommy Callahan, had past away. Chad redesigned the look and feel of the website and helped train church members on implementing this site. "God opened the doors and my talents were able to shine for His glory." The church website, found at www.fortpaynecoc.com, includes all church activities, calendar of events, church photo gallery and important churches of Christ events. Chad volunteers his time and efforts to the local church and takes care of the daily changes and design of this site. Chad has since helped 6 other churches of Christ in implementation of websites. Chad has had a desired to implement a Jail and Prison Ministry at Fort Payne and the doors are opening at the local Dekalb County Detention Center. Chad is leading the Jail and Prison Ministry at Fort Payne and hopes to be teaching the Prisoners for Christ curriculum from NLB at the jail by March, 2007.

Fort Payne church of Christ is implementing a CASA (Christians Against Substance Abuse) program at Fort Payne in January 2007. Chad and Larry Kirby attended the New Life Behavior Ministries National Conference in Dallas, Texas in October and got the materials needed to get this program working.

Chad states, "God continues to open the doors for me. I go and volunteer my time to the church and help with bulletins, flyers and the design aspects for the church. We started using PowerPoint earlier this year, and now I work closely with Larry and guest speakers to implement this into services and devotionals." A willing servant will find work in the vineyard. I have an opportunity to be closely involved with the work at Fort Payne and in return they are helping in my spiritual walk. I am so grateful for the opportunity that the Eldership at Fort Payne has trusted someone with my background with so much responsibility. I give God the glory daily."

James 1:2 states, "*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*" Chad asked for a door of opportunity to open and that prayer was answered with him starting at Heritage Christian University in Florence in October 2006. Chad felt the need to gain a formal training in foundational biblical training. "I come in contact with people everyday working at the church and feel that I do not have the training to give a biblical or spiritual word to help comfort someone. I need the training that a Christian University can provide."

His future plans are to obtain his degree from HCU and help implement a half way house in the Fort Payne area. Chad sees the need for such a program and with the drug problem in Northern Alabama - the need is urgent. Chad feels that a half way house teaching New Life Behavior materials, an outreach support group of a CASA program, and a church that can cater to addicts is one aspect for church growth. If these area are not there,

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which was the case at Fort Payne, "then make it happen." Chad has been working toward this goal and has been helping to implement the different phases to make this become reality. "A person released from jail or prison with no support group is doomed. A person needs the support of caring individuals that can provide comfort, support and the spiritual guidance for their life. The church needs to be able to provide all these needs. The church has to be in a position to offer these outreach ministries and plug the individual into the programs and get them involved."

Chad has overcome a \$3,500 a day cocaine addiction; attends support group meetings; overcome paying back over \$45,000 in restitution and fees; to helping the local church use his talents for His glory. Chad works is a World Bible School Teacher with more than 35 students; assists with all the Multi-Media and Jail and Prison Ministries, and is actively involved in all facets of church work.

"The key to helping people is trusting them enough to get them involved in church work. Plug the individual into an area that will use their talents and let them roll with the project under direction from a mentor. You will build a personal relationship that is unheard of and the individual will be a working asset to your local church and possible be a church leader one day."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Chad has been a major factor in organization of NewLife Behavior Network of Alabama, serving on the 7-person Advisory Committee. He is Communications Director for the NLBNOA Southeast Regional Prison/Jail Workshop on February 9-10 and will be one of the speakers. Chad is a valuable asset in prison/jail ministry, and you will be hearing much about him in years to come.)

NEWS AND NOTES: The **Madison Church of Christ**, host for the February 9-10 Workshop, has a prison ministry that should make the rest of us envious (in a good way) and making efforts to emulate Madison with all our being. **Bill Edwards**, who is Director of the North Area of Alabama, heads the Madison prison ministry. Madison is a part of the Freedom Through Truth (FTT) at Limestone Correctional Facility which includes several congregations in that area. As Bill says, "It is difficult to separate the Madison church of Christ from FTT because I serve as FTT ministry leader at Madison and as an assistant chaplain at Limestone." Madison does a tremendous job with the NLB curriculum at Limestone. Madison which begins a new semester for the classes on January 9 with eighteen classes, and eleven of these are from NLB. FTT is a consortium of Christians from different congregations involved in the work at Limestone directed by a board of churches of Christ members. The Limestone ministry offers all kinds of courses to provide a working foundation for men now and when they are released into the world. Madison and Hartselle each sponsor a Faith-Based Dorm at Limestone. Much

ellowship is shared between the congregations and Faith-Based Dorm residents. For example, Family Night in Madison's dorm is to be January 4, and 15-20 Madison members are expected to be at the dorm serving food to the residents and their families. The fellowship is a tremendous encouragement to the inmates. Incidentally, Chaplain Baggett gave Christmas gifts to 162 inmates during December who had no funds of their own. The gifts included personal hygiene items, food, pen, envelopes and writing paper. The results speak in the **101 baptisms in 2006** as a result of all the good things being done by the congregations in that area. You will get to know the Madison congregation so much better during the Workshop. We believe you will be impressed with their facilities and even more by the members you meet. We appreciate so much this great congregation agreeing to host this Workshop. Madison also has given **\$300** to the NewLife Behavior Network of Alabama. **Rainbow** has given us **\$500**, **FTT Ministry \$250**, the **Fort Payne Church of Christ \$200** and **Chad Roberts** gave our group **\$200**. That gives us, in our financial account, a total of **\$1,450**. If your congregation can help in this, to offset some of the Workshop expenses, make the checks to Rainbow Church of Christ, and send to 2201 Rainbow Drive, Gadsden, AL 35901. . . . Please help us publicize the Workshop. **Gary Wyder**, who heads a Florida prison ministry, has been telling people about it, and we have already had an inquiry from someone who heard it from him. Please tell people in any way you can, orally, email, snail mail, phone, you name it. This workshop is going to be good for anyone involved in prison and jail ministry. We urge you to bring several from your congregation. You will need several to have people covering all three tracks of classes on Saturday morning. . . . The **Alabama Prison Ministry** will hold its quarterly meeting at the **Roebuck Parkway Church of Christ** on Friday evening, **January 19**. Fellowship and food begin at 6:00 p. m. The meeting, fellowship and food each January at Roebuck Parkway are great. Let's all be there! . . . Speaking of Roebuck Parkway, **Larry Kirby** will be joining their mission to **Belize** which leaves on Friday, January 12. Larry is the evangelist at the Fort Payne Church of Christ and active in prison/jail work. He goes about every year to Nigeria where he teaches at the School of Biblical Studies in Jos and campaigns throughout northern Nigeria. This is an area where about 90% of the population of 52 million is Islamic. The church there, because of the efforts of Larry and many like him, is growing by leaps and bounds. As an example, in Plateau State where Jos is the capital, the number of congregations have increased from one in 1984 until there are about thirty today! . . . **Paul Mayberry**, Blackwater Macedonia Church of Christ, Nauvoo, reports he began NLB classes at the Hamilton A & I on November 3 with 13 students. Paul also teaches at the Walker County Jail in Jasper as he has for many years. Paul **baptized 10 men** in October alone at the Jasper jail. Paul says the effort on Death Row at Donaldson C. F. is lagging since Donaldson does not have enough officers to insure safety. Most of the time, he has to teach the men through the bars.

INSIDE FAITH BASED HONOR DORM 16

(This is the finale of a 3-article series on the question, **WHAT IS A "FAITH BASED" DORM?** This article is written by **Bill Edwards**, North Area Director, who is responsible for Honor Dorm 16 as a part of his direction of the Prison Ministry at the Madison Church of Christ, sponsor of Honor Dorm 16 at Limestone C. F. For those who have interest and want to read all the articles, archived copies of previous Issues can be found at www.alabamalnbnetwork.org.)

The long rectangular building with the loading dock and double doors looks like a warehouse, and it was, before it was a dormitory for the "chain gang" and later home for special unit inmates, but now it's quarters for 250 residents of Faith Based Honor Dorm 16.

Honor Dorm 16 is unique in that it is a modified warehouse. It has no cells; everyone sleeps in the open area. Unlike the standard dorms at Limestone, it has its own chapel, library, training room, dining room, barber shop and hobby shop. This arrangement is conducive to changing one's behavior because the residents very seldom have to mix with the general population. It also supports our objective of creating an environment that is conducive to Christian living.

As you approach the entrance you are greeted by a sign stating, "Welcome to Honor Dorm 16 — "Be the Best."™" As you enter the dorm you are not greeted by prison-grey walls, but instead by bright multi-colored walls with inspirational murals located throughout the dorm. You see virtues such as, "faith," "honor," "honesty," "integrity" painted on the columns throughout the dorm as constant reminders of what is expected of honor dorm residents and what we want them to become.

Administration of the honor dorm is shared between security personnel and the chaplain. Security violations are quickly handled by security personnel on site whereas other rules violations are handled by the chaplain's office. The management structure of the dorm is headed by the chaplain who is responsible for the overall policy, guidance and procedures to be followed. This, of course, is subject to approval by the warden.

Inmates (called "residents") are responsible for "running" the dorm and are under contract containing strict behavior guidelines including church attendance. At the head of the structure is the Coordinator who coordinates all activities of the dorm and acts as liaison between the residents and the chaplain and the security personnel responsible for the dorm.

Below the Coordinator are two Senior Representatives whose primary responsibility is to manage the dorm and to help with any problems the Crew Chiefs can't resolve. The Crew Chiefs are equivalent to first line supervisors in the free world. This is where the work gets done.

Each resident is required to contribute four hours of work to the honor dorm each week in addition to his regular institution job. In addition he is required to attend a minimum of one religion class each week.

Inmates who apply for honor dorm residency are closely screened by the chaplain for general suitability and by the

Chief of Classification to assure he has had no disciplinaries in the last six months. Applicants must also have either a high school diploma or a GED certificate or be willing to attend classes toward GED certification. Once the applicant is accepted and moved into the dorm he is oriented on the standard operating procedures (SOPS) and rules and regulations he must comply with. The dorm operates on a merit system. The resident receives 50 points when he enters the dorm. SOP violations penalties vary from a simple warning with no demerits and no additional work to immediate removal from the dorm for violation of a cardinal rule. Most violations carry demerits of one or two points and one or two hours of extra duty. A loss of ten points requires counseling by the chaplain. A loss of fifteen points requires removal from the dorm. However, there is a program for point restoration for deserving residents.

In addition to the overall improved environment and non-hostile surroundings where inmates can practice their faith, there are other incentives, the most popular being "Family Night." Twice a year those residents who have a good record, that is have not dropped below 45 points at any time during the last six months, are entitled to attend "Family Night," held in the prison visitation area. At this time those on the residents' approved visitors list can bring food and visit for four hours. Those residents who don't have visitors are treated to a meal by the dorm sponsor. Dorm 16 is sponsored by the Madison Church of Christ. Usually 15-20 members from Madison are there to serve the inmates and to talk with them and their families and encourage them in any way they can.

Honor Dorm sponsorship requires funding for just about everything other than security and includes such things as:

- feeding indigent inmates on Family Nights
- religious books, commentaries, and so on for library
- paint for dorm interior
- purchase and upkeep of dorm computers, software, audio equipment and auxiliary equipment and systems
- microwave ovens
- televisions
- tables and chairs for classroom and library areas
- sports equipment and games
- office supplies necessary for dorm administration

In addition, sponsors of Dorm 16 are active in assisting with the overall administration, conducting worship services, mentoring residents, and teaching classes throughout the week.

The Honor Dorm program at Limestone is the largest in the state and considered by many to be a model to follow. For more information on the program you may contact the chaplain at LCF.