

Prison
Ministry

FREEDOM THROUGH TRUTH

NOVEMBER —DECEMBER 2007

From the Pen of Chaplain Baggett



A LOOK BACK....A LOOK AHEAD

A LOOK BACK: This sounds familiar, but it's a fact: we have just completed the best year in terms of growth, physical and spiritual, in the history of this work.

Though it is true we baptized more people in some previous years, over 300 at least a couple of years, we were not able to get all of those new converts "rooted and grounded". Today we are in much better position than we have ever been in the past— to not only reach out to the lost in the camp— but also to provide classes, taught by Christians, that emphasize spiritual growth.

NewLife Behavior has done much to help us take the new convert from his spiritual infancy, through his growth by the addition of the 'Christian Graces,' all the way to the end of the earthly journey. We have excellent material, excellent teachers, and a great environment in which to conduct these classes.

Inside this issue:

LCF Well Represented at NLB Conference	3
Help Indigent Inmates	4
Beltline Hosts 2nd Annual Workshop	6
Volunteers Go Extra Mile	7
Azbell Named Area Director	7

In addition to the daily diet of spiritual food, there is the feast at least once a week when the saints come together to worship. With only a few exceptions,

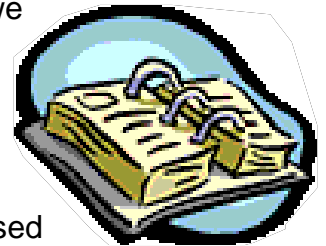
(Continued on page 2)

every Sunday night service is conducted by members of the Lord's church. Phillip Hines and the Hartselle Church of Christ, James Williams and the Northwest church, Madison church, and Dwight Tapscott and Moulton Heights church of Christ all rotate services. Currently, these services are filled to capacity, and we are turning people away because of restrictions of the fire marshal.

So many good things have happened with our Honor Dorms it's not possible for us to relate them all. Our H/D system at LCF continues to be the largest in the state. We even have plans for future growth, hopefully in early '08. Things just keep getting better, and to God be all the glory!

We are especially happy to announce the appointment of a new volunteer chaplain, Sam Drake. Sam and his wife Donna have been involved in this work for some time. We know that Sam will be a great asset to our effort in His service.

A LOOK AHEAD: As God continues to bless this work, we are looking forward to the New Year with great anticipation. James is planning to return to Mexico to continue the work he started there in 07. Several are planning to attend the annual conference in Detroit, Michigan in June. We're looking at doing more Bible studies with the power point projector and also developing videos to be used across the state.



One of the most exciting things is the regional New Life Behavior workshop February 22 and 23, at the Beltline Church of Christ. Then on Sunday, February 24, Beltline will host a Correctional professional and religious volunteer appreciation day. Bro. Ron Goodman will be our speaker at the worship hour, and Buck Griffith will teach the combined classes. We have a full day of exciting activities and great speaker planned, so we hope you're making plans to join us.

Martha and I wish all a family filled holiday and great new year!

(Chaplain Charles E. Baggett)

LCF and Alabama Well Represented At NLB Conference

The eleventh National NewLife Behavior Ministries Conference held in Dallas on October 12-13, 2007 was well represented by the State of Alabama with 39 in attendance. Six volunteers from LCF attended, four from the Madison Church, one from the Highland Park Church in Muscle Shoals and one from the Northwest Church in Huntsville. They arrived by van, air and motorcycle. Yes Grant Azbell rode his motorcycle over 1200 miles round trip. Most of us went by van, courtesy of the Roebuck Parkway Church of Christ in Birmingham. In fact they provided two vans this year. If you have never ridden a van filled with enthusiastic jail and prison workers for 1200 miles you have missed a lot. You can't describe the fellowship, camaraderie, encouragement and excitement that results from this togetherness.

The Alabama group showed its colors on Saturday, the second day of the conference, by all wearing the special polo shirt that was designed and procured by Chad Roberts of the Fort Payne Church. The shirt is dark blue with yellow lettering identifying the NewLife Behavior Network of Alabama along with the individual's name and/or church.



The conference included a wide range of topics and speakers including two speakers from LCF and several from other areas of the state. The conference provides opportunity for networking with and learning from other attendees of like mind from throughout the country. It also provides training on how to teach NLB courses and how to expand and improve our work in jails and prisons. Attendance at these meetings is a real blessing.

If you have never attended a jail/prison ministry workshop, I encourage you to plan now to attend the NewLife Behavior Network of Alabama workshop to be held at the Beltline Church of Christ in Decatur on 22-23 February 2008. More information is contained elsewhere in this newsletter.

(Bill Edwards, Assistant Chaplain, Madison Church of Christ)

Help an Indigent Inmate

We again have the opportunity to contribute to the Christmas Package Program for indigent inmates at Limestone Correctional Facility. This program provides gift packages to inmates who will not be receiving a package from anyone outside the prison during the holiday season and have no money on their prison account. The recipients are truly indigent.

This program is run by the chaplain and is from voluntary contributions. If you would like to participate, acceptable items are listed below. **Items should be provided to Chaplain's office by 18 Dec 2007.** It is important that items be limited to those on the list and as described. For example, if it states that shampoo must be in a clear plastic container, then a container you cannot see through would not be acceptable. Your generous response to this program will be greatly appreciated, not only by the inmates, but also by the chaplain, warden and all the religious volunteers at Limestone. Please keep the prison ministry and our brothers at Limestone in your prayers

Acceptable Items

- Deodorant – stick only
- Shampoo – clear plastic container
- Conditioner – clear plastic container
- Toothpaste
- Tooth brushes
- Soap – bars only
- Writing paper – loose leaf or legal pads
- Ball point pens – clear barrel only
- First class postage stamps
- Assorted chips – individual size corn, potato, etc
- Assorted cakes, cookies, candy bars, crackers, honey buns
- Kool-Aid packets – pre sweetened
- Cocoa mix
- Peanuts – shelled
- Instant soups
- Noodles – just add water individual packs
- Instant coffee – plastic container or bag.

News From NewLife Behavior Ministries

Dr Hillery Motsinger recently made an historical announcement that NLB Course One , **A Sense of Self**, is now on the internet and ready for student use. You can take a look at <http://www.nlbintl.org/>. Just click on the “second chance” link under “You Can Have a Second Chance” and follow the instructions. Dr Motsinger would appreciate your evaluation of this first on-line course. Comments can be sent to hmot1@sbcglobal.net.

On The Lighter Side

An old man lived alone in Idaho. He wanted to spade his potato garden, but it was very hard work. His only son, Bubba, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament.

Dear Bubba:

I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my potato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If you were here, all my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the plot for me.

Love, Dad



A few days later, he received a letter from his son.

Dear Dad:

For heaven's sake, Dad, don't dig up that garden. That's where I buried the BODIES.

Love, Bubba

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local Police showed up and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left.

That same day, the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Dad:

Go ahead and plant the potatoes now. It's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love, Bubba

Beltline Hosts Second Annual Workshop

The Beltline Church of Christ in Decatur, Alabama is host for the Southeastern Regional NewLife Behavior Prison/Jail Ministry Workshop February 22-24, 2008. The Workshop drew rave reviews from more than 150 prison ministry volunteers from seven states who attended the inaugural presentation in 2007. The Workshop is sponsored annually by the NewLife Behavior Network of Alabama.

Featured speakers this year include Buck Griffith and H. M. Motsinger, founders of NLBM; Mac Lynn, Chancellor of Nations University; Jerry Jenkins, Evangelist for the Roebuck Parkway Church of Christ in Birmingham; Ron Goodman, founder and director of Federal Prison Outreach Ministry.

The 3-track agenda has sessions with veteran prison ministry workers covering such topics as approaching authorities with proposals to initiate classes, how to teach these classes, the use of correspondence courses, establishment and use of non-profit corporations, building and funding a halfway home, grants, working with an inmate's family and other sessions of interest to a congregation's prison/jail ministry. Those attending will hear actual conversion stories and how their lives have changed as a result.

The complete agenda, dates, registration form and motel accommodations can be downloaded from www.alabamanlbnetwork.org. NLBNOA's publication, *The Network*, can also be viewed on this website as well as archived issues. Or, for this information or for any questions, you can email ray-cox1927@bellsouth.net.

(Ray Cox, Director, NewLife Behavior Network of Alabama)

**BAPTISMS TO DATE AT LIMESTONE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
FOR 2007 - 106**

Azbell Named NLBNOA Area Director

Grant Azbell of Muscle Shoals has agreed to serve as Area One Director within the NewLife Behavior Network of Alabama organizational structure. Grant is well known in prison ministry circles. He was baptized into Christ at the Highland Park Church of Christ in Muscle Shoals in 1959 and has been a member there ever since. He has served as a deacon for more than 25 years and has taught and served the church there as worker and leader in a variety of areas to include various jail ministries. His wife Sheila is also active in teaching the women in the Muscle Shoals City jail each week. Grant now teaches in the Colbert County, Muscle Shoals City and Sheffield City jails each week and also teaches a NewLife Behavior class at Limestone Correctional Facility each week. He is highly respected by law enforcement and corrections officials throughout the Shoals area. Grant and Sheila have two sons and one daughter who are all actively involved in the Lord's work.



Grant Azbell

As Area Director, Grant will be responsible for promoting, encouraging and assisting congregations and individual Christians in establishing or expanding prison ministry in Area One which includes Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin and Lawrence Counties located in the northwest corner of the state.

Volunteers Go Extra Mile

One of our volunteers, who we'll call Joe, kept track of an inmate he had studied with and almost led to conversion while here at Limestone. Upon his recent EOS from another facility, Joe made arrangements for a bus ticket home to be waiting for the inmate when the correctional officer dropped him off at the station. The trip home required a short stopover in Huntsville. With good planning, Joe and another volunteer, who we'll call Sam, met the "ex felon" at the Huntsville bus station, took him to lunch, gave him some personal items, studied the Scriptures with him, took him to the Central Church of Christ and baptized him into Christ, truly setting him free for that trip home to Indiana and eternity. How's that for good planning and faithful follow-up?

(Bill Edwards, Assistant Chaplain, Madison Church of Christ)

Madison Church Says “Thank You”

The Madison Church of Christ showed its appreciation to the staff at Limestone Correctional Facility by hosting a bar-beque luncheon with all the trimmings at LCF on 19 October 2007. The luncheon was served to all employees by volunteers from Madison and has become an annual tradition just to say “thank you” to the warden and all the employees for the job they do and for their support to the prison ministry at Limestone. In addition to providing a host of religious volunteers, Madison sponsors Honor Dorm H and provides for two Family Nights a year.



FREEDOM THROUGH TRUTH

P.O. Box 1271
Hartselle, Al. 35640
Bus. (256) 773-8417