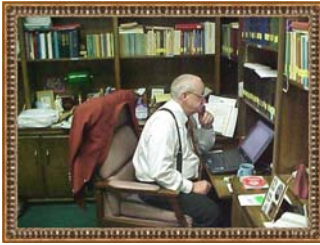


# FREEDOM THROUGH TRUTH

JANUARY — FEBRUARY 2008

## From the Pen of Chaplain Baggett



### A Very Special Event

This year is off to a rapid pace. Lot's of changes. A major move in our Honor Dorms. Everyone in the office has been busy every day of this new year and there is no end in sight. As of this date, there have

been 8 baptisms here at Limestone. A new tri-mester is under way and the college classes are progressing nicely. There is a lot to do and a lot of opportunities.

Then right in the middle of all this activity, we're planning one of the biggest events of the year. Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> is going to be an exciting time for all prison ministry workers throughout the south east. The second NewLife Behavior Network of Alabama conference will be conducted at the Beltline Church of Christ Building in Decatur, Alabama.

Two days of exciting classes and instruction with outstanding leaders and teachers in prison ministry from across the nation. There will be a banquet on Friday night for all participants, followed by a powerful presentation by Bro. Jerry Jenkins of the Roebuck Parkway congregation in Birmingham.

Saturday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> will feature a host of outstanding speakers, including Warden Billy Mitchem from the Limestone facility, the largest prison in the state. He will be speaking on what a Warden looks for in a prison ministry. There will be a question and answer session following his presentation.

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Then on Sunday, a special day at Beltline to recognize the work of those serving in prison as administrators, officers and support personnel. Bro. Buck Griffith and H.M Motsinger will speak at the 10: 00 am service and Bro. Ron Goodman from Nashville, Tenn. Will speak at the 11: 00am hour. Following the morning worship a delicious meal will be provided by the ladies with a special award service to follow.

We hope that you're making plans to attend this GREAT day of praise and encouragement. *(Chaplain Charles E. Baggett)*

## Working with Inmates That Have Been Released From Prison – Part II

In my last article I addressed that working with inmates can be a challenging event because of all the external problems associated with their lives. The environments that these men have lived in as children and their residing in prison has had a negative affect on their spiritual and moral lives.

All kinds of addictive habits have become adaptive to their personality; things that normal people have never conceived of, nor experienced in their wildest dreams played an enormous part on them staying out of prison. When inmates have been released from prison they often have no real tangible goals in mind. The idea of being released and set free, to do what their emotional desires want, weighs heavily on most of them.

They are united with family and friends – and start doing some of the things they used to do, that they could no longer do in prison and those habits, addictions and lusts attack them like a herd of wild animals. And before you know it **that old lifestyle** that they had been a part of invades their lives and enslaves them all over again. This is a major reason why the recidivism rate is so high in prison. It's not that the men don't want to do better, but the environment that they are placed back in is so very powerful and corrupt.

There are also other demands placed upon these men that normal people don't have to face, such as find a job that paid well enough to meet their needs.

In a conversation with one ex-inmate who had been released from prison for several months, he divulged to me that he couldn't make the adjustment in lifestyle because he wasn't making enough money on his job. Too many others had grown dependant on all the money he used to make before he went to prison, and they were still dependant on him for helping them.

A major problem with most of these prisoners is they have no real skills or training in order to get a high-quality job. And yet still they have the responsibility to take care of dependants. Not that they can't obtain some training or skills while in prison, but because of the over

population in prisons in the United States and, with so few classes offered of any type it's difficult to get any kind of good education in anything.

To accommodate the lifestyle that this young-man was used to before he entered prison would have taken a lot. His remarks were, **"I can't feed myself on what I make"**. At that time this young man was making over ten dollars an hour, but before he went to prison he was making thousands a day in only a *few* hours. I have always heard that it was hard to go from eating T-Bone steak to eating bologna when you know of an easy way to make money to eat T-Bone again. **(What a temptation to eat steak once again!)**

In another interview with former inmate who was older, after serving several years in prison he obtained a skill. He got a job as a brick mason making over fifteen dollars an hour, and his statement was **"his body couldn't handle the work demand getting up early in the morning working twelve hours days six day a week in the cold and heat"**. Simply put his body could no longer endure that physical demand. **A demanding job can wear on the best of us.** In both cases their old habits and lifestyle settle in and **set up house** there, and so destiny was to determine if both ended up going from there back to prison. **They became slaves all over again to the same old influence that causes the whole world grief.**

This reminds me of a story that Jesus told in **Matthew 12:43 - 45** <sup>43</sup>*When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. <sup>44</sup>Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. <sup>45</sup>Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation."*

The reason I'm sharing this story is because I believe that most of the inmates whom I've work with in prison as a Chaplain are faithful to the Lord while in prison. The real issues come when they are released from prison into what inmates call the "free-world". The reason why? The exposures and access to the negative influence, friends, alcohol, drugs and sex, and things that we see every day in society on TV have no effect on us. But when inmates are exposed that's when all those experiences come to life. It's like the devil leaving home and coming back more powerful than ever.

Think about all the things that tempt you to sin; you have built some immunity to them and they don't faze you like they used to. The man that has been in prison for a number of years hasn't built any type of resistance from those influences. Those feelings lie dormant until he is placed in the right circumstance – and then the flood gates are open and he's overtaken.

The inmate is completely overwhelmed by the stronger desires, as they rage like wildfire. He hasn't felt like this in several years. The devil is telling him he has no chance. It's just like Jesus said the devil returns and find his house empty, swept and garnished. Then he goes out and finds several worse than himself and moves back in making the person's desires worse than ever before.

When we look at the unclean spirit we notice it left and wanders through dry places searching for a new home to corrupt, defile and destroy. Prison is a time where some inmates can clean up and try to reevaluate their life. They turn to the only source that can help them survive prison and that's religion. But there are so many religious groups in prison teaching all kinds of doctrine, that they leave the prisoner more confused than ever before. The inmate is filling an empty house with false hope, and when he goes back to the street he finds that the Christians that he met in prison are nowhere to be found when he needs help.

His mind is free from some of the problems that he had in prison, but he has no one to help him to grow spiritually. And as soon as he's back on the street the tempter is waiting with all of his worldly pleasures. How can the church help in spiritually maturing these men's lives?

The challenge I pose to a congregation is to try to change the environment of the ex-inmate and allow him to grow in an environment that is conducive to spiritual soundness. In a church family that really cares and not just shows up for a service and think that they have done their Christian duty. One who is willing to keep up with the inmate and invite him to church. But there's only a hand full of halfway houses that are run by members of the Church of Christ.

But it goes deeper than that the Lord's people need to have the heart for inmates. Until we come to the unity of the faith we will never change. *(Asst. Chaplain James E. Williams)*

## **Sam Drake Selected as Volunteer Chaplain**

We are pleased that Sam Drake is now serving as volunteer assistant chaplain at LCF. Sam has been a faithful volunteer here at Limestone for several years. He has taught classes, preached, served during family nights, annual fish fries, work shops, appreciation luncheons and anywhere else he has been asked. He will provide much needed help in counseling, teaching, supervising the honor dorm and providing chaplain services throughout the camp. We recognize that Sam would not be able to provide this level of effort without the support of his loving wife Dona who also supports the ministry in every way she can.

## Honor Dorm Emphasizes NewLife Behavior Curriculum

The First trimester of 2008 began January 8th and will end April 29th. NLB continues to be the core curriculum balanced with salvation and faith building courses. Below is a list of classes taught by Church of Christ volunteers:

CLASS	CONGREGATION	TEACHER
NLB 1 A Sense of Self	Madison	J. Hiley
NLB 2 A Sense of Family	Cox BLVD., Highland Park	J. Rhoden, G. Azbell
NLB 3 Parenting Matters	Austinville	J. Hall
NLB 3 Parenting Matters	Madison	L. Smith, S. Drake
NLB 4 True Freedom	W. Fayetteville, Elkmont	D. Wallace, B. Watkins, B. Bryant
NLB 5 Christian Marriage Skills	Madison	S. Drake
NLB 7 Attitudes and Behaviors	Madison	M. Houts
NLB 8 Christians Against Substance	Madison	C. Lamb, R. Peck
NLB 10 The Seeker Series	Madison	J. Hiley
Christian Life Applied	Cox BLVD., Highland Park	J. Rhoden, G. Azbell
Searching the Scriptures	W. Huntsville	B. Skipworth
Christian Living	Madison	J. Walton III, J. Walton, IV
First Book of Samuel (Pt 2)	Shiloh	J. Dryden, R. Little
Christian Evidences	Madison	S. Bill
Battle For Truth	Madison	L. Cockerham
Life Skills	Hartselle	T. Reynolds

# NewLife Behavior Network of Alabama

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Southeastern Regional  
Jail/Prison Ministry Workshop

February 22 – 23, 2008

Hosted by: Beltline Church of Christ,

Friday, February 22:

11:00 - 11:30 a.m.:	Registration/Name Tags
11:30 – 11:45 a.m.:	Assembly and Welcome
11:45 a. m. – 1:00 p.m.:	<i>Demonstration of Using NewLife Behavior Courses – Dr. H.M. Motsinger and Buck Griffith</i>
1:00 – 1:15 p. m.:	Break/Visit Displays
1:15 – 2:15 p. m.:	<i>Earning a Bible Degree Behind Bars - Mac Lynn, Chancellor of Nations University.</i>
2:15 – 2:30 p. m.:	Break/Visit Displays
2:30 – 3:30 p. m.:	Charles Baggett, Chaplain, Limestone Correctional Facility
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.:	Break/Hotel Check-in
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.:	Banquet, Presentation
7:00 p.m.:	Jerry Jenkins, Evangelist - Roebuck Parkway Church of Christ

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We request a \$25 per person contribution to cover:

- Light refreshments at noon on Friday
- Banquet meal on Friday night
- Continental breakfast on Saturday morning
- Lunch at Saturday noon
- Informative Workshop study materials to be given out

# Saturday, February 23, Beltline Church of Christ

TIME	TRACK 1 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ROOM	TRACK 2 ROOM 317	TRACK 3 ROOM 321
8:00 – 8:30	Continental Breakfast/Registration	Continental Breakfast/Registration	Continental Breakfast/Registration
8:30 – 8:45	<i>New Life Behavior Update</i> Buck Griffith, President NLB		
8:45 – 9:45	<i>Demonstration of Using NLBM Courses</i> Buck Griffith & Dr. H. M. Motsinger	<i>Approaching Authorities to Initiate NLB Classes, Martel Pace</i>  <i>Assembling Teaching Teams for Your Prison/Jail NLB Classes, Joe Walden</i>	<i>Working in County/City Jails: The West Fayetteville, TN Story</i> <i>Don Wallace, Elbert Watkins</i> <i>Chief Jailor Robert Rowe</i>
9:45 – 10:00	Break	Break	Break
10:00 – 11:00	<i>Utilizing the Computer to Increase Your Effectiveness</i> Chad Roberts	<i>Working with the Inmate's Family.</i> Bill Draper  <i>Using the 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Corp,</i> David Scott, Attorney	<i>Ministering to Females</i> Betty Hale, Rita Bowdoin, Jane Watkins, Glenda Beersdorf, Cheryl Bowling
11:00 – 11:15	Break	Break	Break
11:15 - 12:15	<i>Faith-Based Initiatives and State Government Assistance</i> Joe Thomas, Special Projects Mgr., Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs	<p style="color: red; text-align: center;">There is a special Sunday Service to Honor Correctional Professionals, Support Personnel, &amp; Religious Volunteers.</p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">A Meal will be provided by the Ladies of Beltline.</p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">For More Information go to : <a href="http://www.ALABAMANLBNETWORK.ORG">www.ALABAMANLBNETWORK.ORG</a></p>	
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch		
1:15 – 1:30	NewLife Behavior Intl. Update Dr. H. M. Motsinger, President		
1:30 – 2:15	Warden Billy Mitchem Limestone C. F.		
2:15 – 2:30	Break		
2:30 – 3:15	<i>The Positive Impact of Prison/Jail Ministry on the Congregation,</i> John Gallagher		
3:15 – 4:00	<i>NewLife Behavior at LCF</i> Panel – Chaplains Baggett, James Williams, Bill Edwards		

## Honor Dorms Undergo Change

The ever increasing prison population in the state with no accompanying increases in facilities is requiring wardens throughout the state to house more inmates in the existing available space. At Limestone Correctional Facility this has required the consolidation of honor dorm residents. Residents of Honor Dorm D have been moved to Honor Dorm H, increasing the number of residents there from 250 to 350. This releases Dorm D to house the increasing general population. This increased density in Dorm H offers some new challenges, but the news is not all bad.

Dorm H offers many advantages to those inmates who have made a decision to change their lives and prepare themselves for life outside prison walls. The dorm is isolated from the general population. This offers residents the opportunity to limit their association to others who are trying to better themselves and to avoid those inmates in the general population who have as their objective pulling as many into their heathen lifestyle as possible. Remember “evil companions corrupt good morals.” Dorm H also has its own library which is well supplied with religious books and other study materials including a computer with Bible software and a video player with accompanying Bible courses on VHS tapes and DVD’s. There is a chapel in the dorm for daily use and worship services are conducted weekly by the Madison and Hartselle churches of Christ. Both the chapel and the library are used for honor dorm classes throughout the week. Another big advantage to living in Dorm H is that it has its own dining room as well as its own hobby shop. It even has its own medicine dispensary. An added blessing from living there is that the residents don’t have to face the rain and cold to obtain those services which are provided on site.

As seen from the forgoing, a resident can live in Honor Dorm H and very seldom leave its environs. He has every opportunity there to develop into a new man without the pollution and temptations that come from continuous association with the general prison population.

As a result of the move from Dorm D, an interim dorm housing 50 inmates has been set up in a room adjacent to and in the same building as Dorm H. The interim dorm will provide a place for inmates to adjust to a structured lifestyle and prepare for entrance into the honor dorm. Here they can be evaluated to determine their sincerity and suitability for honor dorm living. *(Bill Edwards, Volunteer Assistant Chaplain, Madison Church of Christ)*

**BAPTISMS DURING 2007-110**

**BAPTISMS TO DATE AT LIMESTONE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY FOR 2008 - 8**

## **Thanks Siegfried!**

Many religious volunteers put in a lot of hours ministering to inmates at Limestone. The work is done quietly without fanfare and unknown by most people. They don't do it for recognition or honor. They do it because of their love for God and concern for lost souls. Matthew 25:40 states "...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" — you know the story. The Scriptures teach us to give honor where honor is due. In looking back over the years, I can't help but think of Siegfried Bill and the contributions he has made to the ministry here at Limestone. Siegfried is a member of the Madison Church of Christ and has been a religious volunteer for about eight years, the last four of which he has served as an assistant chaplain.

When no one else wanted to spend his time in the Special Unit and in the Segregation/Lockup Unit, Siegfried accepted the challenge and began conducting classes and meeting with inmates in both units. He meets with the Special Unit residents each Saturday for Bible study and counseling and conducts worship services in the Special Unit and in the Segregation/Lockup Unit each Sunday. In addition he conducts weekly honor dorm classes and either conducts or assures worship services are conducted weekly in Honor Dorm H. Siegfried still finds time to organize family nights for the honor dorm and provide a variety of other duties required of a chaplain. All of this is done in addition to his other duties as a deacon of the Madison church and the high demands of his secular job. Siegfried receives strong support from his wife Patti who is also involved in other aspects of the prison ministry.

Siegfried, we appreciate you and commend you for your dedication and support to the men in white at Limestone.

## **Welcome Back Joe**

It's good to see Joe Rhoden back conducting his honor dorm classes after suffering a heart attack last trimester while teaching here at Limestone. Due to the quick thinking of his fellow volunteers he was quickly taken to the Huntsville Hospital where they did emergency surgery installing a stent in one of the arteries to his heart. After a few days in the hospital and a period of recovery, Joe is now back at work and looking better than ever. Joe, on behalf of your students and all the religious volunteers — welcome back!

## 35TH NATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY WORKSHOP JUNE 11-13, 2008

The Wyoming Avenue Church of Christ is this year's host for the National Workshop which will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Livonia Michigan (near Detroit). They have selected an inspiring theme: "Unlock the Mind and the Soul will follow." NLB will have a special time allotted for training new volunteers in how to use the curriculum.

You can find all the necessary information by visiting this website:

**[www.prison-ministry-detroit.org](http://www.prison-ministry-detroit.org)**

At this website you can find those that you need to contact, hotel location, rates, amenities, transportation, honorary chairs, and soon they will be displaying metropolitan Detroit tours, workshop schedule/banquet, online registration, fees and so much more!



# FREEDOM THROUGH TRUTH

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