

THE 6TH ANNUAL NLBNOA REGIONAL JAIL/PRISON MINISTRY WORKSHOP

Friday and Saturday,
February 17-18, 2012

At
The Rainbow Church of Christ
Gadsden, Alabama



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

FREEDOM THROUGH TRUTH

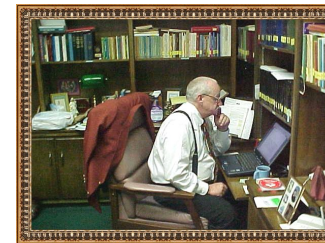


FREEDOM THROUGH TRUTH

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2011

From the Pen of Chaplain Baggett

NewLife Behavior, 2011



So many great things are happening in the great state of Alabama with NewLife Behavior. At the present time we are teaching 15 classes in our Honor Dorm at LCF. The Falkville congregation is also using the NewLife curriculum in the Honor Dorm program at Decatur Work Release. We are also encouraged to announce that many congregations have incorporated the NewLife Behavior series into their teaching program. Dona and Sam Drake are using the CASA program at the Madison Church of Christ, and they are also teaching CASA at Project Rescue. In addition to the CASA program at Project Rescue, several other classes are being taught from the series each week. We have also received reports from across the state that many other congregations are using NewLife programs in the prisons and jails where they are working.

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We were honored to have NewLife Behavior of Alabama include a tour and meal at Project Rescue, Inc. at their Annual busi-



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ness meeting. The meeting was held at the Priceville Church of Christ, located only a half mile from PRI. A tour of our facilities was provided beginning at 9:00 am and a meal of Hot Dogs, Chicken Salad and all the fixings at 12:00 pm. Everyone seemed to have a great time and enjoyed a productive meeting. We are so grateful to John Gallagher for his leadership with NewLife Behavior.

If your congregation is not involved in NLB, contact some of the people in the program and find out how NLB can help your work. There are people who would be more than willing to come to your congregation and make a presentation of this outstanding program. Hope to hear from you soon.



Project Rescue main house

(Chaplain Charles Baggett)

“Pushing” our Goals

I spent some time counseling with a man the other day that said he was an alcoholic. He was in a recovery program that was eight weeks long. He seemed to be dealing with quite a lot of guilt, so we spent some time talking about the Lord, and about whether he’d been baptized for the remission of his sins. He said he had. What I found interesting was that he had been through eight or nine substance abuse treatment programs, but none of them apparently had worked. So I asked him why he thought the treatment programs didn’t seem to be working for him ... he was in prison for felony DUI, where a death resulted. His response was that he didn’t know.

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Freedom Bible Institute

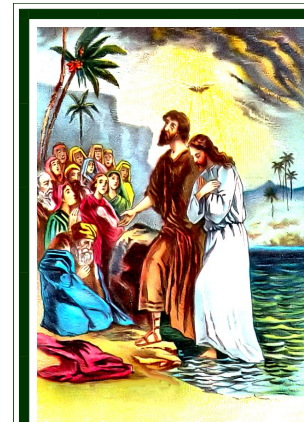
Freedom Through Truth has just completed its latest study book in the Freedom Bible Institute series. This latest installment is a study on the first eleven chapters of Revelation. The guide is intended to be an overview—and not comprehensive, though you will find it very thought provoking.

Those who have not taken advantage of our studies may feel free to contact us for a CD with our complete set of books, which includes complete survey studies through the Bible, studies on Islam, The Joy Filled Life (death and dying), Romans, Proverbs, and Judges. This complete set was over seventeen years in the making, and has been a joy to compile for your benefit.



COMING NEXT: “Studies in Revelation—Part II”

“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:” (Acts 10:34)



Baptisms
at Limestone
Correctional Facility

For 2010 — 264

For 2011 to date — 63
Tracts Distributed — 1039
Prayer Requests — 190

New NLB Deputy State Director

State Director John Gallagher's moves to strengthen NLBNOA leadership at the state level were ratified at the Annual Meeting. Gallagher now has made it official— Bill Dean, who directs the prison ministry at the Killen church of Christ, has been named as our Deputy State Director. It will be Bill's task to assist Gallagher with particular emphasis on organization and planning. This is Dean's forte from a lifetime spent doing this for the U. S. Army as a combat officer in Viet Nam and other places, for schools serving in a career in the educational system. But we are most interested in the work he has done for the Lord because he brings skills that are truly outstanding.



Bill Dean with Mark Lytle—who is the Prison Ministry Coordinator for the Killen church of Christ.

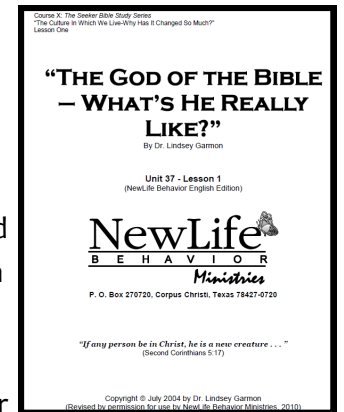
¹⁴ What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

James 2:14–16 (KJV)

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Somewhere in the conversation I asked him if he knew when he would be getting out – and then if he had any goals set for when he got out. What he said really stuck with me – and his answer addressed an issue that we as a church need to help others deal with. He said that the only goal he had was to get out and spend more time with his wife and kids. That answer should raise a red flag to us all.

Having dealt with addiction in my own life, one thing I found was absolutely necessary – both in dealing with addiction, and in the Christian life in general. The word “repentance” doesn't just mean “confessing” the wrong we have done, and feeling bad about it. It doesn't just mean leaving it behind. In fact the original Hebrew word (teshuvah) means to “return”. It refers to leaving the old goals behind and turning around while actively embracing new goals. Many of us return to our old lives because, while we have confessed our wrongs, we have never set new goals for ourselves. Addicts return to their old hangouts and old ways because they don't have new goals which reflect a Christian walk. And as long as all we want to do is “be made better”, we'll keep returning to our old lives.



“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2, KJV)

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Departing from our past of sin or addiction requires not only setting our goals, but also “pushing” our goals. “Pushing” our goals means that the goals should always be just out of our reach. Set the goal realistically, so that you don’t despair in thinking you’ll never accomplish them – but always push them just a little farther out – so that you always have something to work toward. Otherwise when you reach all of your goals, you’ll relax, let down your guard – and your past will try to creep back up on you to enslave you once more.

NewLife Behavior is a good program in training men to do just that. The courses train you to think, act, and plan with a Christian future in mind. Project Rescue uses this as a vital curriculum. And good brethren from many of the Lord’s congregations help train up those whose lives are broken. This is the work of Freedom Through Truth, and Project Rescue. We thank you for your prayers and support.

“...good brethren from many of the Lord’s congregations help train up those whose lives are broken ...”

Your prayers and support are vital to what we do. And so are your efforts to assist men in setting life changing, and life “style” goals ... NEW LIFE BEHAVIORAL goals.

(Preacher, LCF Church of Christ)

BAPTISTRY AT DECATUR

Decatur Work Release, where Rodney Rice is the chaplain, recently received a new baptistry. The Decatur WRC baptistry was a gift from the churches of Christ around the area. Bill Edwards, a volunteer chaplain at Limestone C. F. and from the Madison Church of Christ, spearheaded the effort. Once approval was obtained from the Decatur WRC, Bill decided to contact Baptistries Around the World for its help with the purchase. As Bill points out, **“This is a great resource. If you are not already familiar**

“¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

Mark 16:15–16

with the mission of Baptistries Around the World, learn about them and the help they can provide.”



Chaplain Rice and his volunteer teachers have really put the baptistry to work with ten inmates baptized so far. There have been 36 baptisms year to date in 2011.

GOSPEL MEETINGS HELD

Madison church of Christ completed a three day gospel meeting, on August 29th thru the 31st, at the Limestone Correctional Facility. Additionally members of both the Madison church of Christ and the Central church of Christ were in attendance to assist in the ministry efforts. We are thankful for all those that participated, and greatly appreciate the efforts of the brethren to reach the lost at Limestone.

Another Gospel meeting was held in the LCF Faith Based Honor Dorm Facility, being held by the Hartselle church of Christ. This meeting lasted four nights, from October 5th thru the 8th.

Both of these meetings were well attended by inmates at LCF, and we continue to feel the impact of them.