



Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADVENTIST PRISON VOLUNTEER NETWORK

OCTOBER 1, 2005

Volume 4, Number 4

*"Verily I say
unto you,
Inasmuch as
ye have done
it unto one of
the least of
these my
brethren, ye
have done it
unto me."*

- *There is nothing
wrong with
making
mistakes. Just
don't respond
with encores. --
Anonymous.*
- *Laughter is the
best medicine.
There is no co-
payment.*

IN THIS ISSUE

- **104 Years Old . . . I'm Not Tired Yet!**
- **Trained Evangelist Goes To Jail . . . As The Chaplain.**
- **Ministerial College Dropout . . . Ministers To Fellow Inmates.**

FROM ELDER JOHNSON

In the full spirit of our North American Division Adventist Prison Volunteer Network slogan, "Serving Those Who Serve," I have chosen a straight forward "self help" approach for my encouragement to you this month.

As quiet as it is kept, while the very act of doing Prison Volunteer Ministry is very satisfying, our service can also be subtly stress inducing. We share many of the pressure points of those that function in the arena of direct service to other people.

Times just come when application of practical relaxation/coping strategies are appropriate. To the degree that we practice care for ourselves, it is to that same degree that we will gather energy that will contribute to peaceful and positive longevity in our ministry. Here are a few strategies that I gathered from the *Support Family Bulletin*:

- Find a hermit spot. Use it daily.
- Give support, encouragement and praise to peers and to management. Learn to accept it in return.
- Remember that in the light of all the pain we see, we are bound to feel helpless at times. Admit it without shame. Caring and being there are sometimes more important than doing.
- On the way home, focus on a good thing that occurred.
- Be a resource to yourself! Get creative – try new approaches. Be an artist as well as a technician.
- Say, "I choose" rather than "I should", "I ought to" or "I have to." Say, "I won't" rather than "I can't."
- Laugh and play!

God bless you as you continue to practice some of these strategies! Write us a note so that we can share with the *Network* how they are working for you. May the Hand of Our Lord ever be upon you, those of your household, and those to whom and with whom you minister.

MEET THE DIRECTORS

Each issue of *Network News* will feature a Local Conference or Union Prison Ministry Director.

"I'm a layman! I'm not a minister. I can talk to the laymen because I'm one of them. I talk their talk" These are the words of E.W. Dempsey, originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee, a former teacher and coach in the public school system, now the Director of Adult Health, Personal Ministries, Lay Evangelism, and Prison Ministries. Eleven years with the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, eight of those years in prison ministry, Elder Dempsey (as I've always called him, others call him "E.W.") has the bull by the horns and is going at top speed.

With 145 churches, half in Georgia and Tennessee, it is a necessity to have Prison Ministry Coordinators. There are Volunteer Lay Assistants for Prison Ministry who work very closely with the Prison Ministry Coordinators, with Elder Dempsey leading out in the training programs.

Elder Dempsey says they work on a regional basis. It works like this: Regional teams are organized; these teams will have a Regional Director working closely with the Volunteer Assistant to coordinate any church program with the local prison ministry leaders. With the local Regional Director being much closer to the members, it will be much easier to schedule meetings and planning sessions. This makes sense. The key is working together.

Establishing a program with the inmates' families – similar to the Lamb's program in Florida, you get the names of the children of inmates – you visit them - you see what can be done for them. The ages are 5-12. Concentration will be on how to organize and set up prison ministry programs conference-wide and regionally. Elder Dempsey says he wants to involve the Regeneration Program which comes under Health Ministry; because he feels there is a strong tie to the Regeneration Program with the families of inmates. With programs such as these he'll have to bring in the experts, the big guns, such as Frank Barton, who will conduct the Children's Program, and Hal Gates, who heads the Regeneration Program. Chaplaincy will also be included.

As far as the future of Prison Ministry is concerned, Elder Dempsey believes that Prison Ministry is very important. He says it's biblically plain that Christ specifically said to reach out to those in prison. Prison Ministry is an important segment of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, a slow but developing and growing program. So, while Elder Dempsey continues to encourage the churches to engage in prison ministry, he will continue to provide training.

His office at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference has a strong program where hundreds of lessons are sent to inmates. There have been more than 40 baptisms. The goal of this Director is to have a local prison ministry program in every church. EVERY CHURCH! A big goal – but definitely reachable.

With these kinds of aims, goals, plans, I agree with E. W. Dempsey when he says, "The Georgia-Cumberland Conference is SIZZLING!" "Sizzle on! E.W."

Who'll be next? Directors, look for your personal call from the editor, it's coming!



WHAT'S HOT!

Minister Without Setting Foot In A Prison!

You can minister without setting foot in a prison! How is that possible? So glad you asked. By using the resources of the **New Discovery Bible Study Correspondence School**, that's what makes it possible. Appeals have come from prisoners wanting to find God. Prisoners who are literally begging for help. "I need your help and all the help I can get to help me find my way to the Lord. So, will you please help me, please?" Each week, members mail Bible lessons to prisons from their own home. Many prisoners want a new life. They want to know how to get right with God and learn to pray.

New Discovery lessons give these people what they are looking for. And the inmates respond: "All my life I have been trying to learn about God, and I prayed that I could learn about Him. Now I can. Thanks for helping me change my life." At first, doctrine is not the concern of these students, but after they form a relationship with God, they are excited to learn more. **New Discovery** includes four series of lessons, 108 lessons in all. The Texas Conference was given 250 names of people who finished all 108 lessons and want to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. (Give God some Praises!)

James Burton, head chaplain of six prison units in Gatesville, Texas, said, "There are no lessons like **New Discovery**, and there are no other lessons as popular with the inmates as **New Discovery**." One inmate said, "These lessons have really changed my life and my thinking."

(Reprinted by permission from Southwestern Union Record.)

Really, have you always wanted to do prison ministry, but didn't want to go on the "inside?" Opportunity has just knocked at your door (or more appropriate, appeared on your computer screen). Right now, someone may be saying, "This is an answer to prayer." Well, my friends put feet to your prayers and take the first step. Open the door, invite opportunity in, and begin. Peter Cohen said, "There is no giant step that does it. It takes a lot of little steps." Don't wait another moment, write now to New Discovery Bible Schools, Inc., Offering a Better Life Headquarters, P.O. Box 614, Keene, TX 76059 or call 817.6454.5761. Happy Stepping!

THEY NEED US! A Prison Ministries Message from the President of Southwestern Union, Elder Max A. Trevino.

What would you say are the most important ways we minister to others in our society? Which ministries do we make the most time for? Which do we invest the most funds and energy in? In Matthew 25, Jesus gives us a glimpse of the judgment and, with that, some ideas as to what His top six ministries might be.

- Feeding the hungry.
- Giving drink to the thirsty.
- Showing hospitality to strangers.
- Providing clothing to those in need.
- Caring for the sick.
- Visiting those in prison.

Finding prison ministries on this list reassures me. It would be easy to look at the other types of people Jesus wanted us to care for and assume that they didn't deserve to be hungry or sick or in need. They were just caught in unfortunate circumstances. But those in prison may very well be there because of bad choices they've made. They've broken the law, injured or defrauded others. Certainly the prisoners Jesus ministered to in the last hours of His life were guilty. But Jesus didn't turn away from them. He accepted the thief on the cross and promised him a place in heaven.

Jesus' example to us is to minister to anyone in need. Few in our society are more in need of spiritual counsel, comfort, and healing than those who are incarcerated.

Few in our churches are following Jesus' example more closely than those who are involved in prison ministries. We should invest ourselves in prison ministries for two simple reasons: Prisoners are God's beloved children and they are in need. (Reprinted by permission from Southwestern Union Record.)

A NEGLECTED MINISTRY. A message from the Southwest Region Conference President Billy E. Wright.

In our churches, there is a work to be done. "I was in prison," Christ says, "and you came to Me." The righteous answer Him, "Lord, when did we see you in prison and come to you?" And the King will say, "Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it to me."

To those who neglect this ministry, Jesus will declare, "Depart from me, for I was in prison, and you didn't come to me." Then they will also answer Him, "Lord, when did we see you in prison and not minister to you?" He will answer, "Inasmuch as you have not done it to one of the last of these, you did it not to me" (Matthew 25).

Those within prison walls need our comfort and encouragement. What is etched in your appointment book this year? Does it include ministering to ones behind prison bars?

God's law plainly reveals the duty of man to his fellow man. In disregarding "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." In passing by the suffering, the needy, and the wounded, we leave the side of Christ and take the side of the enemy of God.

Our blessing or reward will be realized when we hear Jesus say, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

WILL YOU become a part of a prison ministries team and bring hope, encouragement, and salvation to those behind prison bars? Christ is depending on YOU.

(Reprinted by permission from Southwestern Union Record.)

Director: J. Alfred Johnson II

Jalfred.johnson@nad.adventist.org

Editor: Carol Barron

Carol.barron@nad.adventist.org

Consultant: Cleveland Houser

clevelandhouser@bellsouth.net

Published monthly by the North American Division Adventist Prison Volunteer Network.

A Ministry of the Adult Ministries Department to the Prison Volunteers, Conference and Union Directors of the North American Division.

**North American Division
Adult Ministries Prison
Volunteer Network**
12501 Old Columbia Pike,
Silver Spring MD 20904

Phone
301.680.6430

Fax
301.680.6464

E-mail
Carol.barron@nad.adventist.org

We're on the Web!
Nadadultministries.org

Q & A

What Are the Eleven Steps of a Criminal Case?

Before a person accused of a crime can be brought to trial, certain steps must be taken to establish that a crime has been committed and that there is a reason to believe the accused person committed it. Although the sequence of steps may vary from state to state, most follow the following outline:

Complaint and Arrest – After the police investigate a crime, the prosecuting attorney files a written statement (called a Complaint) with the court describing the crime and naming the suspect. If a judge decides there is sufficient evidence, he issues an arrest warrant. Upon arrest, the suspect is informed of his rights. If a suspect is arrested at the scene of a crime, the Complaint is filed afterward.

Booking – At the police station, the suspect is searched, photographed, fingerprinted, allowed to contact a lawyer, and given a receipt for any personal property that is impounded. For a misdemeanor, the suspect is usually released and assigned a date to appear in court. For a felony, he is usually jailed.

Initial Court Appearance – At this hearing, the judge informs the suspect of the charges and his rights as a defendant. He also decides if the suspect should be released on bail or kept in custody. If charged with a misdemeanor, the suspect can enter a plea at this time; if accused of a felony, he cannot. The suspect's next court date is set.

(November Issue: **Information, Preliminary Hearing, Grand Jury**)

VOLUNTEERS

"My mind is very clear! Why, I can remember the first school I went to 100 years ago! My body is getting old! But my mind is great!" And with those words, thus began the most delectable and delightful conversation and interview with Violet Richardson, the **104** years "young" active prison ministry volunteer, who still goes to the prison each Sabbath. I asked Sister Richardson to tell me a little about herself, her family, about being a prison ministry volunteer, and to share a bit of counsel (for the young and old). As she talked, I typed. Enjoy her story!

In 1900 my family, moved to Montana. I was born in Montana. My Dad and his father had gone there a year before in a covered wagon with all their belongings, took up a claim and built a log house. Very few people lived there. There was no church and my folks didn't belong to any church. But we figured Sunday was a day to "take it easy." My father chewed tobacco and swore. My mother was a very refined lady. They were good people and parents to us.

Several years later, a couple moved in and they took up a claim. They were Seventh-day Adventists. We had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists. They built a school and they started Sunday School using Adventist literature. We loved going to Sunday School using *Our Little Friend* and the little cards with the memory verses on them. These people didn't preach the doctrines to us – they just witnessed. The man would give a little sermon after Sunday School.

As time went on, they hired a Seventh-day Adventist preacher to hold meetings in that little school house. There was nothing else to do, nowhere to go but to the meetings. The few people came until the preacher starting preaching about the Sabbath. All the others stopped coming to the meetings, except my folks, who kept right on going to the meetings and accepted the truth. My folks were baptized right away. I was 11 years old at the time and was baptized later on.

I married, had three children moved to California and then to Oregon. My husband died in 1984. I lived in Oregon until I started losing my eyesight due to Macular Degeneration. I then sold my home and arrived in Butler, Tennessee in September 1998.

We heard (my daughter Lepa and my son-in-law Carroll), that they were building this prison and we said, "Why don't we go to the prison as volunteers?" We took a class at the prison telling you what to do and what not to do (sometimes we don't pay too much attention to that) preparing us to go on the "inside" We've been going to the prison in Mountain City (Tennessee) ever since it opened 15 years ago.

Sabbath, right after potluck, we go in from 1:30 to 3:30. We sing songs and have testimonies. In times past we used the *Mission Quarterly*. Then someone preaches, either Inmate Willie or another inmate that can preach. Inmate Willie was on death row for 12 years in another prison for murder. He prayed that the Lord would send him where he could witness. The Lord answered his prayer and sent him to this prison several years ago, where he continues to be a God-fearing witnessing inmate. I remember the first night he came to our meeting. He's a good Bible student and he can really preach. We have good preaching. On Monday nights we show videos to the men. We've had over 31 baptisms.

The inmates call me Grandma and they think the world of me. I shake their hands, some hug or kiss me on the cheek or forehead. I don't object because I say, "They are my boys." There's sadness now, because we will be leaving this area, moving to another state, and the prisoners are just heartsick about it. They are having a farewell party for us November 6. They said they're going to feel bad.

Prison Ministry is a wonderful work. The inmates need help. There is nothing to be afraid about going inside a prison. I have never been afraid. Ask the Lord to help you, go in and obey the rules. Be a good witness. We feel like we can help them, and going to the prison has helped us spiritually. It has made us feel more aware of their [inmates] needs and to help them in a spiritual way. Even though I'm blind and can't do much, the men say, "You're here, Grandma, and that's what counts."

Sometimes I wonder how long I'm going to live – as long as the Lord allows, and as long as I can be a blessing to someone. We're living in times when terrible things are happening. The end is very near, it won't be long. My counsel to young people, study the Bible and listen to (read) the Spirit of Prophecy.

104 years old! What a joy! Prison Ministry Volunteer Violet Richardson, you, your daughter and son-in-law are a blessing.

"INMATE SPIRITUAL COUNSELING" Curriculum Segments

"Inmate Spiritual Counseling" with an emphasis on Volunteer Prison Chaplaincy, is the new training curriculum for those who are very serious about updating their prison ministry skills. The 46-hour course is offered by the North American Division Academy of Continuing Education, and will be conducted in association with the International Institute of Christian Ministry of the General Conference Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department, which has a direct relationship with Griggs University. Continuing Education Credit is a possibility for college credit in the future.

Curriculum Segment Highlights: How to Teach Basic Adventist Doctrine. Have you ever questioned What faith is? The judgment? God's Law? Salvation?

Eternal life? Questions! Questions! Questions! Well this Module will answer all of these questions and more. Although the major theme of this Module is How to Teach Basic Adventist Doctrines, students will become acquainted with a series of Bible studies, with an emphasis on often asked questions and supportive scriptural answers.

The student will not only attain a fundamental knowledge of the doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but will understand the fundamentals and how to teach the basic doctrines. This Module will aid the student in becoming acquainted with the basic beliefs of other groups and denominations, learning how to address these groups in the spirit of Christ, and to make practical applications of these lessons to every day life situations.

Each issue of **Network News** will feature a segment from this 17 Module Curriculum. We, at the North American Division Adult Ministries Academy of Continuing Education, encourage our readers to enroll. Call Carol at 301.680.6430 or click www.adventsource.org for registration information.

RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Prison Ministry Handbook, prepared by the Adult Ministries Department of the North American Division, is a complete guide for Prison Ministry Coordinators and Directors. Helpful information on How to Work with Security, How to Work with Inmates, How to Communication with Inmates, How to Organize Your Prison Ministry, and so much more. Contact AdventSource, 800-328-0525. **99 Days and A Get Up: A Guide to Success Following Release for Inmates and Their Loved Ones, 3rd Edition**, by Ned Rollo. **99 Days** gives honest, direct advice for dealing with the major barriers ex-offenders must overcome to achieve long-term success. Order online www.aca.org - \$9.95 #410-SF4. **No One Will Hire Me! 2nd Edition**. Authors Ron and Caryl Krannich, Ph.Ds., outline 15 key mistakes job seekers frequently make in organizing and implementing a job search. They share a wealth of information and advice on how to quickly turn an ineffective job search into one that results in job interviews and offers. Order online www.aca.org - \$13.95 #906.SF5. **As Free As An Eagle: The Inmates Family Survival Guide**, by Daniel J. Bayse. This is an excellent survival guide for inmates and their families. Written in an easy-to-understand language, it examines the complex issues and problems families must cope with during incarceration and after release. This self-help guide teaches the offender how to establish productive relationships, develop problem-solving skills, and reenter society upon release. Order by phone 1.800.222.5646, ext. 1860, #211-SF5 – Nonmembers \$20.00, ACA Members \$16.00. **Man, I Need a Job in Spanish! Necesito Empleo. Man, I Need a Job**, by Ned Rollo. One of the toughest challenges for the newly released offender is to obtain employment. Written by an ex-offender and an experienced correctional counselor, this book focuses on the unique employment needs of individuals with a criminal history. It's designed for use as a training guide and pre-and post-release programs. Order both by phone 1.800.222.5646, ex. 1860, #520-SF5, \$7.95 each. **The Holy Bible**. Available at all book stores. Prices vary.



HAPPENINGS

Prison Fellowship Canada (PFC) and the Angel Tree Program. Two exciting happenings. First, let's talk about PFC. This is a non-denominational Christian organization that mobilizes over 1,400 volunteers to provide programs and services in prisons and in the community for inmates, families of inmates, victims of crime, and ex-offenders.

They are a national movement of reconciliation and restoration. Powerful!

Second, let's talk about the Angel Tree Program. This is a tangible demonstration of the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. The kindness of strangers is quite foreign to many prisoners and their families. Because these families are often cast aside, socially and economically by their communities (this can include families and friends), Angel Tree can be the sole light during an otherwise dark and lonely holiday. Children of inmates are seven times more likely to become offenders themselves. Angel Tree endeavors to break this cycle of crime by sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the children of inmates.

Now, let's see what happens when two powerful programs come together, uniting their energies for a good cause – PFC and Angel Tree. Since the Chaplain sponsors Angel Tree, participants look upon the Chaplains as supporters. Prisoners, in turn, are more inclined to participate in chapel programs when they have been involved in Angel Tree. Parent-child bonds are severely strained when the parent is incarcerated. Angel Tree reinforces this bond by giving gifts to a child on behalf of the incarcerated parent. Volunteers help to show that the parent still cares about the child. When the volunteers buy presents and deliver gifts with Angel Tree, ideas about prisons and prisoners begin to change. Many people become more willing to volunteer in the prison. And last, Angel Tree offers opportunities for developing year-round relationships with Angel Tree children and their families through Angel Tree Camping, monthly church activities.

If you want to know more about PFC, and Angel Tree, contact Alison Block, Director, Angel Tree Programmes at atinfo@prisonfellowship.ca.

H.I.P. This stands for **Hope, Inspiration, Protection**. Back in August I had the pleasure of speaking with Pam Plummer at **H.I.P.** She got me totally excited about this program. Based in Little Rock, Arkansas, their ultimate goal is to prevent the future incarceration of children of offenders. They want to break the cycle of intergenerational incarceration. **H.I.P.** is about relationships. Any child, who is between the ages of 5 and 15, who has a parent incarcerated for a felony in a correctional facility, who has a guardian, custodial parent, or a state agency that is agreeable to the child's participation in the mentoring program, is eligible.

When you read some of the startling stats about the children in Arkansas,

- Arkansas is home to more than 680,000 children
- More than 60,000 Arkansas children are affected by parental incarceration
- Every week, an Arkansas child or teen dies by gunfire
- Arkansas taxpayers spend 3.2 times more per prisoner than public school student

you can understand why **H.I.P.** is so needed. They also provide education classes for mothers and fathers in prison. Interested in learning more about their mentoring program? Do you know of a child or caregiver who would benefit from **H.I.P.**? Or maybe you're interested in becoming a mentor. Call them toll free at 1.888.868/0023 ext 3314 – or www.youthandfamilies.org -Centers for Youth and Families. Reta Johnson is the coordinator of prison programs.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

"There is but one way to reach folks in any situation in which they are in," says, Lyndon DeWitt, trained, retired Texas Conference Evangelist, now an active Prison Chaplain, "and that is love." Elder Lyndon and wife, Martha Sue are dedicated

workers for The Lord, having served in the Chesapeake, West Virginia, Newfoundland, Arizona, North Dakota, and Texas Conferences. (Elder DeWitt retired from the Texas Conference in 1994.)

They received and accepted a General Conference call to Iran in 1960. Served in India, Honduras, Ukraine, Belarus, and Rawanda, where they experienced 2,000 baptisms. "As we figure it," says Elder DeWitt, "we have had close to 10,000 baptisms that we have had a small part in."

Now the Evangelist has gone to jail -- the Johnson County Texas Detention Center, where, some two years ago, he was commissioned by Sheriff Bob Alford as the Chaplain. Chaplain DeWitt says that they have some 500 "students" in our Johnson County System. The Chaplain and his team are allotted two hours on Tuesday and Thursday for Bible study. With his fast moving schedule, his wife, Martha Sue, fills in for him with the women inmates until he arrives. With so many coming to the meetings, it's hard to get together in the small rooms. They asked the Captain if he would approve of their using the basketball court. Yes being the answer, that's where they meet. The ladies sit on the cement floor. It's hot! But the women are excited, and Chaplain DeWitt preaches the message to them just as he has done many years before when he held evangelistic meetings.

One lady told the Chaplain that she has begun keeping the Sabbath. She said, "I am ready for Sabbath when the sun goes down on Friday. I spend the time with Jesus in my bunk." When Chaplain DeWitt finished a three part series of Revelation 10, going through the Great Disappointment, the 2300 Days, and the Rise of the Advent Movement, one inmate raised his hand and asked, "How can I get into that Church?"

So far 159 inmates have been baptized. There are 2 or 3 baptisms each week with a "backlog" of people waiting to be baptized. There have been 14 weddings so far. The last wedding was a woman inmate who was baptized in jail. When she was released, she wanted Chaplain DeWitt to perform the ceremony. The woman said, "It's about time, because we've been living together for 9 years." Now the husband and wife are taking Bible studies in their home by video tape.

"Sunday morning two services are held, one for the men and one for the women. We use tapes by Elder C. D. Brooks, the people love them. Since the time is short, we have to use just half of the sermon one Sunday and finish it the next Sunday. When Elder Brooks made his appeal the following Sunday, all the men stood up to dedicate their lives in obedience to God's law."

United Prison Ministries International (UPMI) happily supplies them with several hundred copies of *The Desire of Ages*, *Bible Questions Answered*, *Bible Readings for the Home*. The first Christmas at the prison, they gave a copy of *The Desire of Ages* to every inmate, the staff, the Sheriff and the Captain.

Plans are being made to make a documentary of the work Chaplain DeWitt, Martha Sue, and Morris Lowry are doing at the Johnson County Jail, by UPMI. The county judge has agreed to be in it, along with the inmates, the sheriff and the captain of the jail.

Chaplain Dewitt has an assistant who doesn't have to be urged to do prison ministry because of his great love for it. His name is Morris Lowry. Now Morris has been doing prison ministry for a number of years. Every day Morris finds something new to give to the inmates. He has spent hundreds of dollars for Bibles and books. He prepares special handouts, and if he should find a good

story, he'll make copies of it for each inmate. Morris has been sending out **New Discovery** lessons to the prisons for many years. He's right on top of everything, compiling handouts, preparing baptismal certificates. You name it; Morris will see that it gets done. Chaplain DeWitt says that Morris Lowry is a "gentlemanly person, always tips his hat." What an assistant! Oh! By the way, did I mention that Morris Lowry is 90 years old? Isn't that wonderful?

The Chaplain has extended an invitation to me offering free room and board in Bob Alford's "Bed and Breakfast." Soft bed, hot shower, free coffee and hot meals, full time TV, lots of company and a visit by the Chaplain. I'm thinking about accepting this invitation – just as long as my stay is short, very, very, very short.

Chaplain Lyndon and Martha Sue DeWitt are making great changes in the lives of many men and women. Eternity is keeping track, there we'll know the full story. You can talk to the Chaplain at lyndew@cleburne.com.

MINISTRY BLESSING/SUCCESS STORY

Scott started out to study for the ministry at Pacific Union College, but dropped out before the second year was up, due to failure to fully commit to the ministry. Later, Scott ended up in a California State Penitentiary, obviously a failure to maintain his walk with Christ and His leading. But God made something good come out of it all. Scott turned to the Lord and studied the Scriptures, becoming proficient with biblical languages. He started sharing his faith with fellow inmates, and on Sabbath, he was allowed to use the prison chapel under the sponsorship of the Muslim prison Chaplain. Scott started giving Bible studies in English and in Spanish with the aid of a translator.

Scott works doing prison ministry just as hard as any paid missionary in giving studies. His influence doesn't stop in the prison yard. One of his converts, Frank, was transferred from Scott's yard to another yard. After a few years, Frank contacted the Pacific Union College Church, saying he had 20 inmates who had completed the Amazing Facts Bible Course, and wished for someone to come to the Seventh-day Adventist services being held in the prison.

Opposition arose again and it was determined that these prisoners could not use the prison chapel on Sabbath (Saturday). However, when the prison Warden, a Bishop in the Mormon Church, found out about the plight of the Seventh-day Adventist group, he ordered that they be allowed to meet in the chapel on Sabbath (Saturday).

What started as Scott's failure, became God's opportunity. Scott says, "Wherever you find yourself, God can use you if you are willing to be used."

This article was submitted by Arthur Westphal, Prison Ministries Coordinator, Pacific Union College Seventh-day Adventist Church - awestphal@puc.edu.

BEST PRACTICE TIPS

- When communicating with inmates, face the speaker.
- Listen to the speaker.
- Listen to ideas and underlying feelings.
- Allow for your own bias.
- Keep your mind on what the inmate is saying.
- Don't judge ideas by inmate's appearance or delivery.
- Don't interrupt immediately if you think a statement is incorrect.
- Make a conscious effort to evaluate the logic of what you hear.
- Don't judge the inmate's motives.
- Let Christ, who is The Answer, have the last word.

HELP THE NETWORK GROW

Calling all our readers! Please ask your friends to sign on to *The Network*. Feel free to forward the newsletters to people on your e-mail list. The newsletters are archived on our Web site www.nadadultministries.org - just keep us posted on how many people you forward **Network News** to. Thanks for keeping *The Network* growing!

EDITOR'S P.S.

I bet you, our readers, think I do this big job of putting this newsletter together all by myself. Gathering information, putting it together, thinking, writing, meeting deadlines, etc. You're partly correct, but I have friends in "high places" that help me out. I think of the people that I make phone calls to, how helpful they are, so willing to give me information, to take the time to chat with me about their ministry, sharing their hopes and aspirations, sending me e-mailings.

The words to a great song go like this, *"I need you, you need me, we're all a part of God's body, stand with me, agree with me, we're all a part of God's body."* It's a wonderful song, and it says how I feel. I need you, You need me, and We all need each other.

And with that said, I want to thank all the people that have helped in various ways the people who have been devastated by Katrina. You rose up to the occasion when people needed you – you helped to meet the need. God bless you.

Indulge me, if you please, just a little bit longer while I'm in this Thank You mode. Joyful thanks to J. Alfred Johnson II, who always has his editorial in on time, written with such great wisdom. Chaplain Oliver Johnson, way up in Alberta, Canada, sent me the information about the happenings of Prison Fellowship Canada, thanks, Chaplain. Pam Plummer, thank you for **H.I.P.**, you're making a difference in Arkansas. Jerry Thomas, editor, Southwest Union Recorder, thank you for permission to reprint articles. E. W. Dempsey, Arthur Westphal, and Violet Richardson, thanks for your contributions. And my BIG thank you, to YOU, Our Readers! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

We're still waiting to hear who is forwarding this great newsletter and to whom! Talk to me, people – carol.barron@nad.adventist.org.

I' m out of here. Until next month!

CB