

FAMILY UPREACH, INC.

NewLife

BEHAVIOR MINISTRIES

April 2021

Since 1984: Reconciling persons
to God, families and society

APRIL: “ENDOWMENT FUND” MONTH

The *Family Upreach* “Endowment Fund” insures the long-term stability of *NewLife Behavior Ministries*. It is less than two years old but already stands near \$20,000. New status reports are available every 90 days. Our initial plan was to make a special push each April to build it up but at this time last year, the Covid-19 pandemic was in full swing so, we “skipped” it.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice announced the reopening of prisons on March 15th and we now have a more optimistic mindset. We hope you are able and willing to boost the Endowment Fund this month. Of course, gifts may be (and are) made at any time. Be sure to note that your donation is specifically for the “Endowment Fund.”

Caution: Contributions to the Endowment Fund are *special*. We humbly request that this effort does not hurt our General Fund. Meeting the daily financial needs of this ministry is challenging in itself and we can ill afford to see a drop in general revenue. However, we also realize that if we spend “every dime” as soon as it arrives, we will find ourselves in a crisis situation at some future point. The Endowment Fund is *insurance* against unexpected calamity.

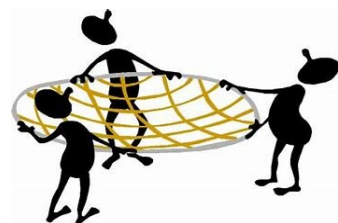
Hopefully, the “Endowment Fund” remains untouched and steadily grows over future years. We visualize it reaching unimaginable heights but doing so – *one day and one dollar at a time*. Patience and persistence are essential. No gift is too small. The Coastal Bend Community Foundation (CBCF) manages our account. The CBCF hosts the *Day of Giving* each November that “doubles” donations to our General Fund on that magical Tuesday. CBCF is able to generously support nonprofits because they are wise investors. We are confident in this relationship. If you desire to donate stock directly to our Endowment Fund to save even more dollars, let us know. We will connect you with our friends at CBCF.

We make one last request of you. Pray for God to bless this effort. Add it to your daily list. The best plan *ever* is doomed without the Lord. It is more about Him than any financial goal or smart investment choice. *He makes a way when there is no way!*



WELCOME HELP FOR OUR ARMED FORCES

We extend a heartfelt “welcome” to **Jodie Alley** for volunteering to help us keep up with our **VetNet** program one day per week. These are military personnel and family members (active, reserves, veterans) requesting the NLB curriculum. Many return from combat with PTSD, chemical addiction, and strained relationships. **VetNet** seeks to provide a spiritual “safety net.” **VetNet** now has students in twenty-two states.



VetNet was launched in 2012. We spent thousands of dollars in advertising to reach our target audience with minimal success. We discovered each military branch has its unique protocol plus anything connected with the U.S. government is hesitant to endorse “Christian” or “faith-based” programs. The most effective form of advertising continues to be “one beggar telling another where the bread is found” but it slows the process down,

Next, we learned sizeable pockets of vets are in U.S. prisons. Our initial “target” had zero to do with prison ministry but looking back, it makes sense. Many entered the military with substance abuse issues that did not improve while serving our country. Others harbored anger and exercised it in combat situations. Dreadful experiences produce PTSD. Marriages were damaged or relationships destroyed. In the so-called *free-world*, blowups quickly end in arrests. Letters from **VetNet** students often begin with an embarrassed apology: “I am better than this. I know better. My actions have dishonored my country. Thank you for not giving up on me and providing this excellent material. With your help and that of my God, I will do better. Please pray for me.”

IN LOVING MEMORY • IN HONOR OF

Family Upreach, Inc. expresses gratitude to those that choose to remember loved ones and honor those they respect by donating generously to this good work. In this way, others – even strangers – receive God’s message of hope and redemption.

Received from:

Don & Linda Crofton
Buck & Janet Griffith
John Henry Pruitt
HM Motsinger
Buck & Janet Griffith
Mary Ann Cloud
Bob & Maggie Wachtel

In loving memory of:

Lavora Gates
Lavora Gates
Tony Craig
C. W. Lowrimore
Charles Baggett
Mary Ann Dodd
Lavora Gates



Received from:

Jim & Sue Crabtree

In Honor of:

Dr. H.M. Motsinger



OPENING PRISONS

Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) announced the state prisons will be “open” again beginning March 15. The process now is to contact each unit to schedule classes/services. They will be one-hour sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 1 until 6 p.m. and on Saturdays or Sundays, 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Volunteers are to arrive one hour early and remain in vehicles for a 15-minute rapid Covid-19 test. Masks must remain on throughout sessions, social distancing will be enforced, and food plus physical contact (including handshakes) are prohibited. Hand sanitizer is available.

47TH NATIONAL JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY WORKSHOP

June 9-11, 2021

Midwest Church of Christ in Louisville, Kentucky is the host of this **VIRTUAL** workshop. Director, Jerry Stephenson, announces the theme: “Networking: Creating a Safety Net for Success.” Many believe “virtual” will be a permanent feature of future gatherings. This allows a participant to join in for topics of special interest and as available. It spares time, travel, motel, and food costs.

A tentative schedule is enclosed with this newsletter.

The \$35 per participant fee includes workshop access, program, and CD. The rate to register your entire congregation is \$300. May 1 is the registration deadline.

You may register online by going to www.midwestchurchofchrist.org (the “donate” button is on the right, select “Community Outreach,” and include “Jail & Prison Workshop” in the description box on the following page). Payment and registration can also be mailed to Midwest Church of Christ, P. O. Box 11148, Louisville, Kentucky 40251. More information is available at (502) 774-3986 or by emailing midwestchurchofchrist@aol.com.

**47TH NATIONAL
JAIL AND PRISON MINISTRY WORKSHOP**
"NETWORKING: CREATING A SAFETY NET FOR SUCCESS"
PRISON OUTREACH - PRISON MINISTRY

JUNE 9-11 2021

2021-Virtual Workshop

HOST:
MIDWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST
2115 GARLAND AVENUE
LOUISVILLE, KY 40211
502.774.3986
MIDWESTCHURHOFCCHRIST@AOL.COM

JERRY L. STEPHENSON
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Register online at midwestchurchofchrist.org or
facebook.com/midwestchurchofchrist

Trustees serving Family Upreach, Inc.: James L. Burrus, Don & Linda Crofton, James Curry, Lyndah Drum, Buck Griffith, Eric Jackson, Dave Olson, Gaylord Sturgess, Barbara Tubbs, Craig Tucker, Gary Wyder