August 2022



Since 1984: Reconciling persons to God, families and society

# THE ONGOING NEED FOR BIBLES

There will never be a slow-down in Bible requests nor a limit to how many we can distribute. The limiting factor is

funding, time, manpower, shipping, etc. Mostly by trial and error, we have learned a multitude of valuable lessons on providing this essential tool over the years and pass them on to others involved in jail-prison ministries.

The most important lesson learned about Bibles is to *keep it simple*. It is impossible to satisfy all requests for Bible variations: version, language, size, cover, color, redletter, print font-size, tabs, references, maps, dictionaries, and concordances. We seek to meet basic needs of the masses at reasonable prices rather than cater to individual whims.

Due to shipping fees, size and weight plays a major role. Shipping *one* Bible cost more than most Bibles. Postage does not contain the Gospel. We hand-deliver tons of Bibles as we teach *live* classes. When possible, we supply *cases* of Bibles to facilities rather than shipping them one-by-one.



We believe that if one reads, learns, and obeys what the Bible says – that person is saved. If this is true, we ought to be covering the globe with Bibles! It is a "plus" if we are able to teach face-to-face, enroll in Bible study courses, etc. Thus, the easiest funds for us to raise "should" be to purchase and distribute Bibles.

This is a public plea for help. The need is so common and ongoing that we overlook making a Big Splash about it. We ought to do this more frequently, but we usually wait until there is a pressing need. On the other hand, it would be amazing if – on their own – donors would just write and send checks marked "Bibles."

#### IN LOVING MEMORY ~ IN HONOR OF

Family Upreach expresses gratitude to those remembering loved ones and honoring those cherished with gifts. These remembrances allow souls to be taught how to transform destructive behaviors into positive behaviors.

Received from: M/M Buck Griffith Jo Ann Knipp Wanda G. Nite In loving memory of: Marlene Glasson Nancy Motsinger Kris Padgett

Received from:
M/M Don Crofton
M/M Buck Griffith

In Honor of: M/M Deiter Carroll Robert Dodd, Jr.



Mondays, 7-8 pm *Winners Orde*, 3833 S. Staples, Suite S-101 Wednesdays, 7-8 pm, *Coed Group*, 5901 Yorktown Boulevard Thursdays, 7-8 pm, *Winners Orde*, 2722 Rand Morgan Road Fridays, *Relapse Prevention*, 3833 S. Staples, Suite S-101

# Future National Jail-Prison Workshops

Mark your calendar to gather and share ideas to start, grow and improve local ministries!

49<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop – June 2023, New Orleans 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration – June 2024, Corpus Christi

### **NEW WORKERS - ADDED OFFICE SPACE**

We welcome Merced Aguilar to our staff. Merced is a longtime member at Kings Crossing Church of Christ. She has served as a prison ministry volunteer at the Coastal Bend Detention Center near Robstown where she has taught NLB courses in English and Spanish. Merced has been active in our Christians Against Substance Abuse (CASA) groups. She is retired from Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a chemical dependency counselor and maintains her LCDC license. Her duties with us include helping keep up with our rapidly growing Spanish participants and records on their status and progress.

Merced

Merced's bilingual ability is a plus and brings relief to the heavy burden of work that

has previously rested on the shoulders of Raquel Rivera. This will release Raquel to attend to her many other duties,

increasing overall efficiency.



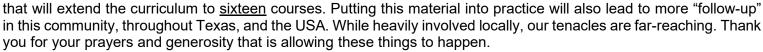
We are also pleased to welcome Brianne Villanueva as an intern for the rest of the summer. Also bilingual, you will find her at the front desk at our main outside office entrance. She greets everyone and connects folks with whoever they need to see. With the transition of NLB curriculum from CDs to flash drives, she is busy with the transfer of data for all fifteen

courses. Brianne assists with a multitude of other special tasks. In August, she may still help parttime but working Tuesdays and Thursdays with our Rainbow Express program.

By August 1 we expect to take advantage of an additional suite adjacent to our current space. In the photo to the right, you see

a wall where a door and entrance will be made from our main office into the added space. The main outside entrance to the complex remains unchanged but workers can freely go from one area to the next internally.

This ministry continues to grow by leaps and bounds. We have been blessed to have this specific space (next door) become available at this strategic time. Our student body has jumped from 30,000 to 45,000! Dr. Dale Underwood is developing a new "Re-Entry" study





## DAY OF GIVING: 2022

2022 is NLBM's 8<sup>th</sup> year to be invited to participate in the Day of Giving (this November) spearheaded by the Coastal Bend Community Foundation. With 2021's "matching" of \$21,800, we totaled near \$92,000 - closest ever to the goal: \$100,000. We need YOUR help to surpass it this year!

The Day of Giving is our most exciting day all year because in this 24-hour period, gifts are made online. In 2021, we asked you to *preschedule* gifts to "guarantee" the match by 9:00 am and...*you did it!* This is a huge stress-remover. After that, it is just a question of "How high can we go?"

We will be sharing more and more about this "special" DAY over the next few months. Today – we simply want to sound the alert like the old "Burma-Shave" road sign commercials and ask you to become mentally ready.

#### Flash Drives

We now have a sufficient number of NLB

courses available on flash drives to invite our licenseholders to request and receive them.

Moving forward, we will ask new users to indicate if they prefer a CD or flash drive.



Storage space as well as convenience concerns most if not all of us.

Thank you for your kind encouragement, support and patience as we made this transition.