

Since 1984: *Reconciling persons to God, families and society*

THE RISING COST OF MINISTRY

Last month we shared information on the rising cost of Bibles. This time we want to inform you of how our student workbooks are dramatically affected. “Christian Marriage Skills” was the first NLB course produced in the bound format, followed by A Sense of Self, Parenting Matters, True Freedom, Attitudes and Behaviors, Christians Against Substance Abuse (CASA), and Managing My Anger. We have been blessed to maintain our cost per book to slightly above \$6 per workbook (plus shipping) for the past ten years. Workbooks are like Bibles, very heavy. It costs at least \$25 per case to ship the lightest one within the USA. It costs more to ship to a residence than to a business address. We keep looking for every way to reduce expenses.

Counting our pennies with the cost of *everything* increasing, we made a list of every step in the workbook-making process and the current cost has nearly *doubled* (\$11.50). Some paper we used to use is not available now *at any price* and shipping paper has *more* than doubled. This was illustrated well last month when our focus was on Bibles (shipping is *more* expensive than the workbooks).

How will this effect jail and prison ministries? Without additional financial support, some will no longer continue. A few already find it necessary to “loan” the workbooks, supply separate test sheets, and take used books up and use them repeatedly with future classes. The workbooks, as appealing and impactful as they are, may be replaced with the old office *copier-produced* lessons again. In the past, we have sought to supply workbooks to chaplains with zero budgets when possible but this is no longer an option.



CHANGES IN INMATE CORRESPONDENCE RULES

We have received calls from workers ready to throw up their hands in disgust over recent changes in *correspondence* rules affecting Bible lessons sent to offenders. Tablets are available to those in prisons and county jails. Mail is being scanned to these devices to reduce contraband. This has created questions of all kinds. We are researching this and will relate answers as soon as possible. States vary on requirements and expectations. The safest procedure currently is to send lessons only (without Bibles, tracts, return envelopes). This is what we are doing *today* but subject to change tomorrow. Someone said years ago: “*Change* is the only thing you can *always* count on in prison ministry!”

50th National Jail & Prison Ministry Workshop



June 12-14, 2024 Corpus Christi, Texas

IN LOVING MEMORY ~ IN HONOR OF

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

Received from:

M/M Buck Griffith
 Dr./M/M Dale Underwood
 M/M Buck Griffith
 M/M Bob Wachtel
 M/M Buck Griffith
 Dr./M Dale Underwood

Received from:

M/M John Barnhill

In loving memory of:

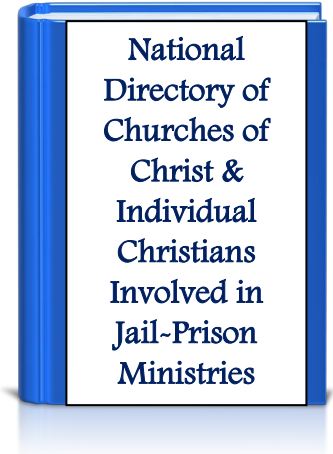
Glen Walton
 C. D. Davis
 C. D. Davis
 Don Crofton
 Don Crofton
 Don Crofton

In honor of:

Helen Horne

THE POWER OF NETWORKING

The above title is part of our training for *Certified NLB Instructors* because it is a critical piece of what an instructor does for students. We never teach a 13-week course without the loss of students due to transfer or release. This means referrals are essential. Without the help of contacts, it is not possible. Thus, we lean on our *National Directory of Churches of Christ & Individual Christians Involved in Jail-Prison Ministries*. It contains 1,000+ congregations and 2,000+ individuals. We need more along with more detailed information.



Not everyone is engaged in identical aspects of this unique ministry. When looking to get a person baptized in a federal prison, help is needed from a co-worker with clearance to do it. A congregation or worker only sending Bible lessons by mail is not going to help with this need. We must find out the nature of the ministry and names of institutions served. For instance, our listing includes contact data for the church, phone number, email, coordinator's name, names of volunteers, and how as well as where they serve. As much detail as possible helps. The "how & where serving" portion may appear something like this:

**Correspondence Courses
Substance Abuse Recovery
Family Outreach Ministry
Aftercare/Gideon Project**

**Nueces County Jail, Main
Nueces County Jail, Annex
Garza West-Beeville
Glossbrenner-San Diego**

**Coastal Bend Detention-Robstown
Core-Civic (Halfway House)
TDCJ-Parole Division
Nueces County-Community Supervision**

The value of listing volunteers accomplishes several objectives: (1) Enables you to keep up with your own workers; (2) Honor to whom honor is due; (3) Reflects the growth of this ministry. A few give only the ministry leader followed by the number of volunteers. For example, one recently gave the ministry leader's data plus *10 other workers*. As the number of congregations and individuals grows, brethren understand that those on the *cutting edge* of evangelism today are engaged in this ministry. This is a "good" thing.

Between now and June 12-14, 2024 (National Workshop date in Corpus Christi), we will be making a concerted effort to update the current *directory*. We will delete those no longer involved (including all unresponsive to our appeal). We will correct errors and add new congregations, ministries, workers, and "how & where involved" details. This has not been done since 2019 (before Covid-19). This updated directory will be available on a flash drive "free" to all attending the 50th National Jail-Prison Ministry Workshop next June. Thank each of you in advance for helping improve the effectiveness of this tool.

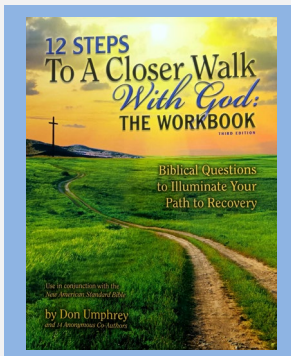
[A Work in Progress](#)

We have "talked about it" but progress is being made now to format Dr. Donald W. Humphrey's "Twelve Steps to a Closer Walk with God" into another NLB course.

We are excited to have it combined with our CASA series and the similar one on overcoming sexual addiction. Since most of those in prison struggle with addiction, it makes sense.

Other NLB series that also help include Sense of Self, True Freedom, Attitudes & Behaviors, True Freedom, and Managing My Anger.

It is appropriate to place this heavy emphasis on addiction recovery.



["Gideon Project" Inching Closer](#)

Dale Underwood and Recardo Reyes visited aftercare programs in Tennessee and Alabama on behalf of the



Gideon Project. We have one serious candidate now to consider. We will need the assistance of many and are also seeking funds for basic needs to help him stand on his own two feet.

We need everything from furniture, dishes, pots & pans, appliances, a job, transportation, etc. He will play an important role in CASA, classes, jail/prison teaching/training, workshops, while gradually assuming more his individual support. Some will make this their home and remain; others will be assisted as they chart the next step in their journey.

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