

**Texas Department of Criminal  
Justice**

**Rehabilitation Programs Division  
Chaplaincy Department**

# Chaplaincy Program

The chaplaincy program supports the agency's mission by rendering pastoral care and providing morally enriched programs which assist in institutional adjustment and prepare the offender for successful reentry into the community.

# Chaplaincy Program

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) chaplaincy program is composed of:

- 109 unit level chaplains of multiple faiths
  - Two chaplains on larger units (2,900 to 4,000 offenders)
  - One chaplain on most units (378 to 2,899 offenders)
  - Seven chaplains on 14 cluster units such as Central and Jester IV
  - Five area Muslim chaplains
- 358 Certified Volunteer Chaplain's Assistants (CVCA)
- Five chaplains in the regional parole offices
- Six regional chaplains in the Correctional Institutions Division (CID) regional offices
- Two Native American contract chaplains
- One Jewish Rabbi contract chaplain
- 17 chaplains on privately contracted units



**Chaplaincy serves more  
than 160 different faith groups**

Faith groups include, but are not limited to:

- Protestant
- Baptist
- Catholic
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Mormon
- Jehovah's Witness
- Native American
- Others

Worship Services for Fiscal Year 2009 - 39,620

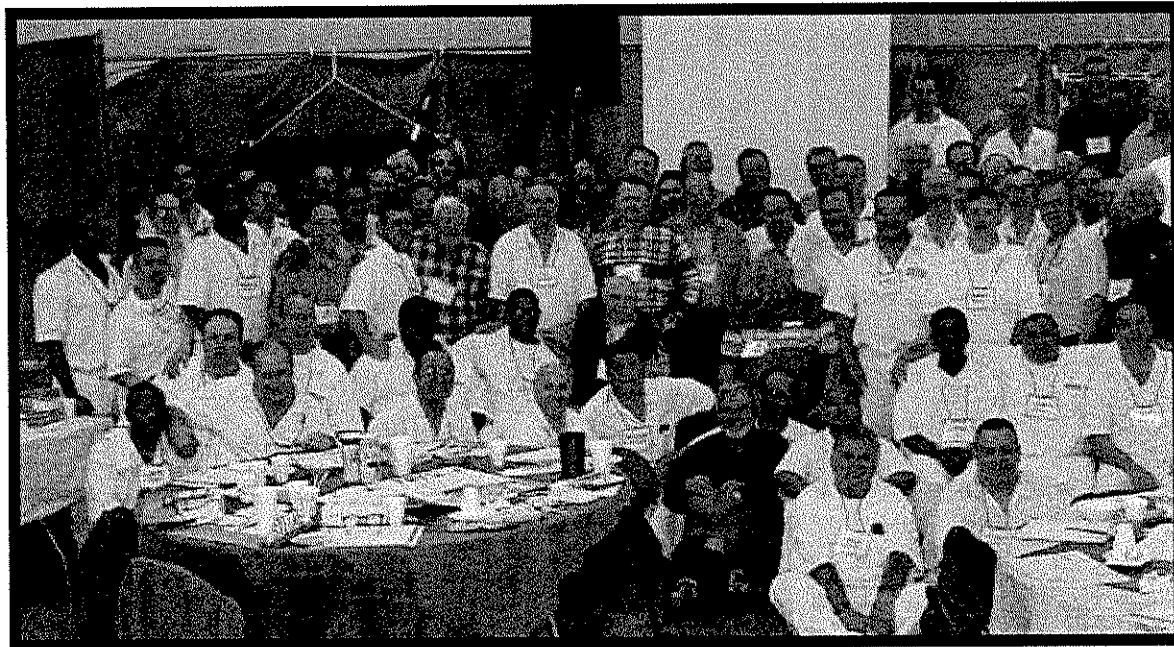
Spiritual Classes for Fiscal Year 2009 = 37,906

- Bible studies
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
- Qu'ranic studies
- Experiencing God
- Basic Life Principles
- Growing in Christ
- Journey to the Cross
- Kairos Prayer and Share
- Master Life
- Women of Wisdom



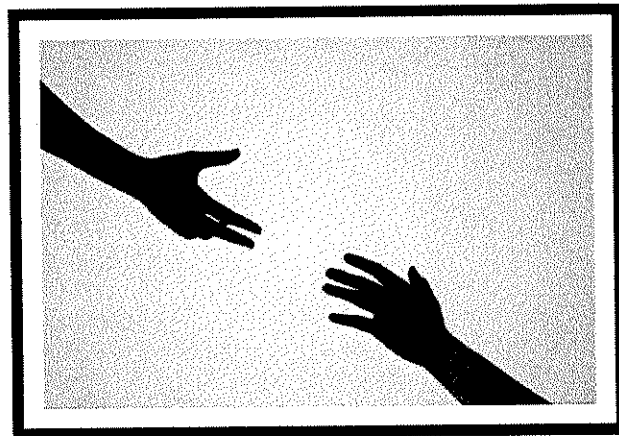
## Crusades for Fiscal Year 2009 = 488

- Rock of Ages
- Bill Glass
- Sisters of Saint Mary
- Brothers of Saint Dismas
- Kairos Weekend



Mentoring visits for Fiscal Year 2009 = 11,530

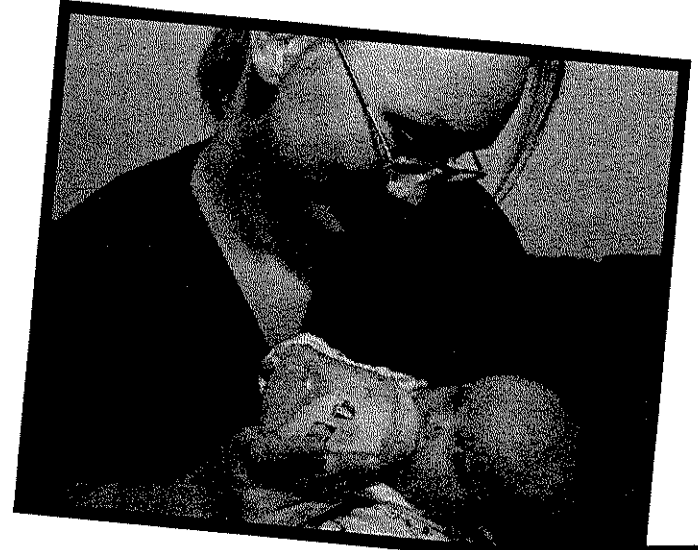
The volunteer mentor offers a relationship with the offender that focuses on rehabilitative needs. The mentor fosters care and support, encourages personal development, and assists with reentry into the community upon release. Volunteer mentors require additional training. Volunteers can participate in mentor training on-line through the agency website or with the unit chaplain.





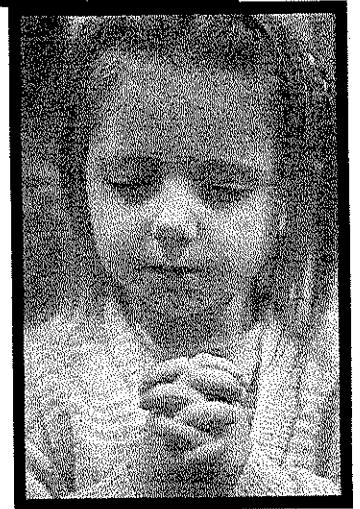
Parenting Initiatives/Classes for Fiscal Year 2009 = 500

- Storybook Project
- Adults Relating to Kids
- Parenting from the Inside
- Christian Parenting
- Baby and Mother Bonding Initiative



Miscellaneous Services for Fiscal Year 2009 = 488

- Mother's Day Service
- Father's Day Service



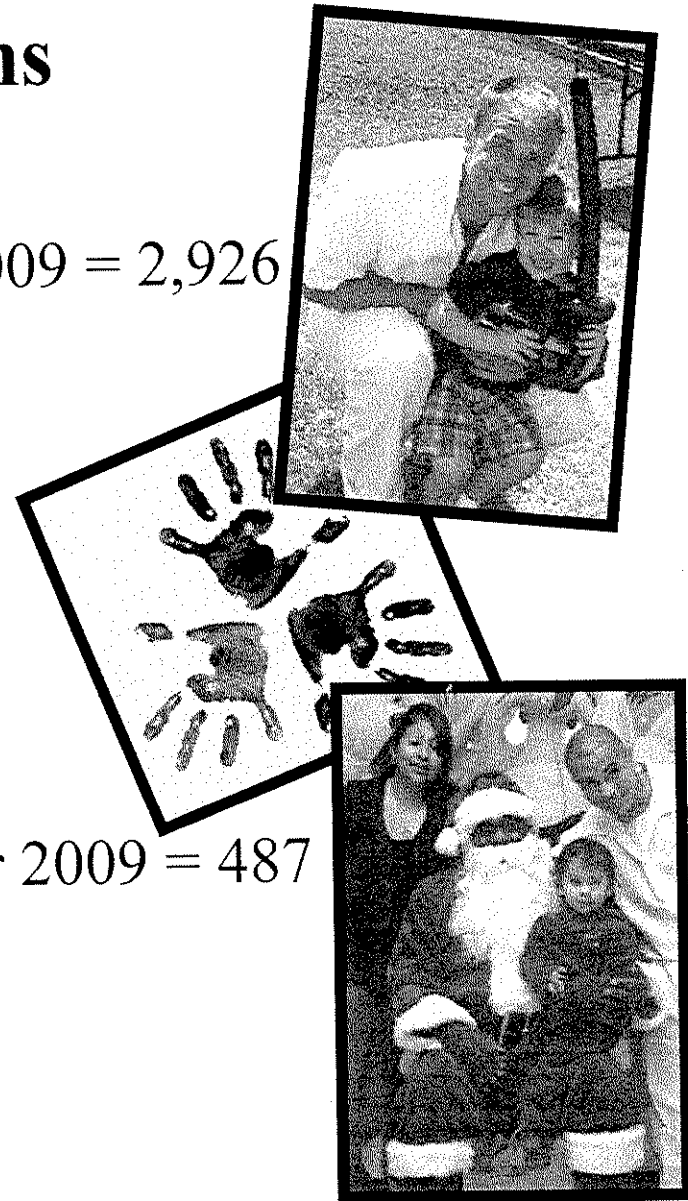
# Faith Based Family Programs

Family Events for Fiscal Year 2009 = 2,926

- Building Family of Integrity
- One Day with God
- Day with Dad
- Day with Mom

Marriage Classes for Fiscal Year 2009 = 487

- Healthy Marriage
- Covenant Marriage



# Faith Based Rehabilitative Programs

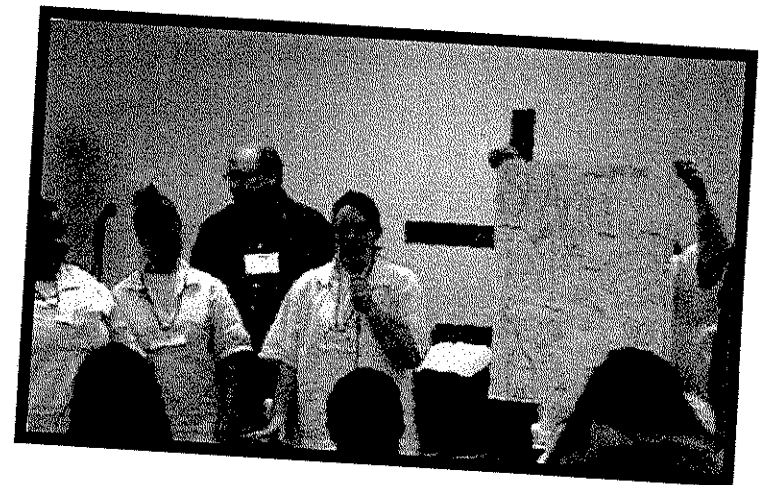
Life Skills Classes for Fiscal Year 2009 = 9,728

- Going for the Gold
- Biblical Living
- Boundaries
- Quest for Authentic Manhood
- Faces of Anger
- Voyager
- New Life Behavior



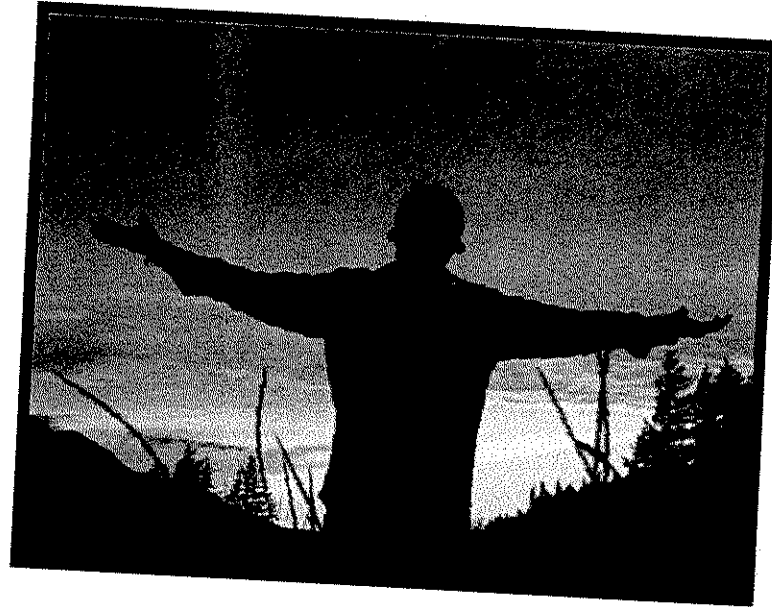
Support Group Meetings for Fiscal Year 2009 = 4,281

- Conquering Chemical Dependency
- Celebrate Recovery
- Faded Blue Jeans
- Emotions Anonymous
- Overcomers



# Faith Based Educational Bible Studies/Classes for Fiscal Year 2009 = 12,858

- Hope Literacy
- Therapon Institute of Biblical Studies



## Faith Based Reentry Initiatives for Fiscal Year 2009 = 4,584

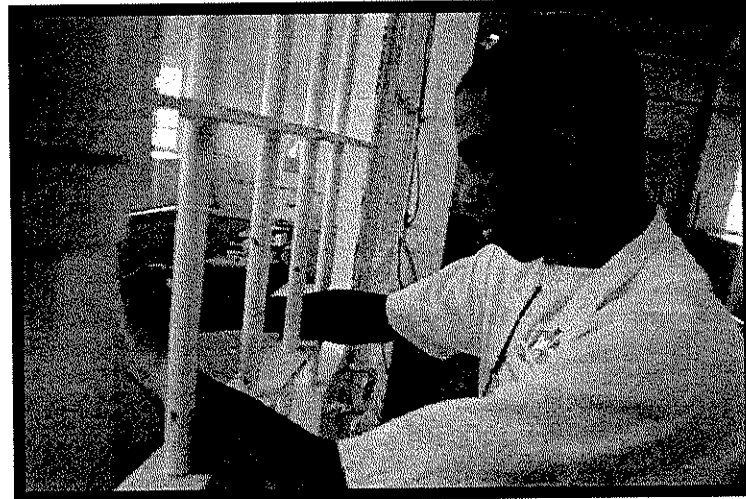
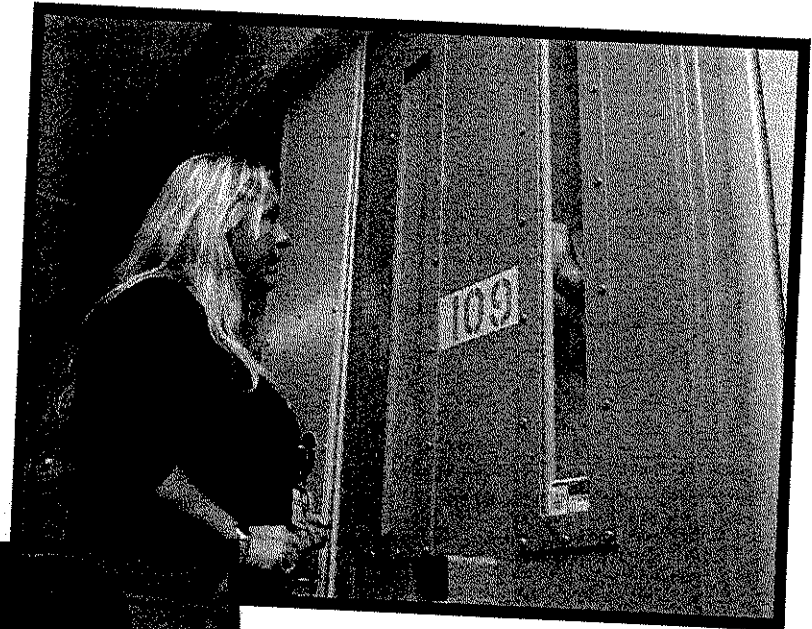
- Managing Finances God's Way
- Christians are Recovering Everywhere
- Islamic Spiritual Financial Management
- Life After Prison
- Alpha United States of America
- Family and Faith Based Reentry Task Force Participants

Prison Fellowship partners with the agency in the following initiatives:

- InnerChange Freedom Initiative
- Helping Ourselves Prepare for Employment
- Here Is a Responsible Employee

Other Faith Based Initiatives for Fiscal Year 2009 = 3,700

- Administrative Segregation Ministry
- Death Row Ministry
- Hospice Care
- Buddhist Meditation
- First Contact
- Welcome Back
- Rabbinical Student Tour



# Faith Based Dorms

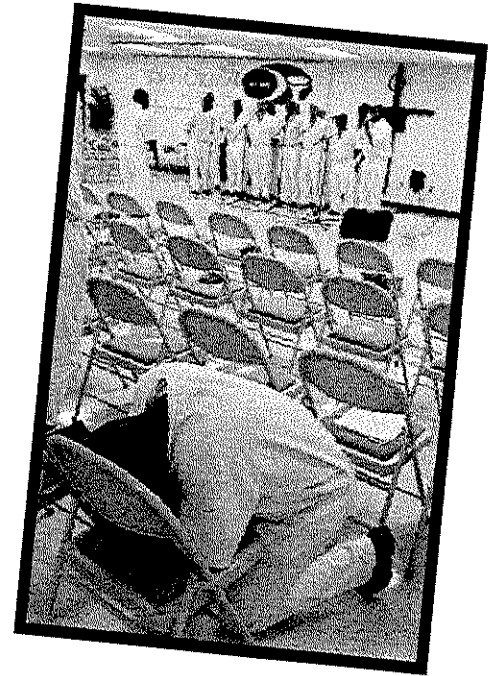
A total of 2,744 beds on 24 units as of April 2010

Faith based dorms consist of offenders of all faiths and generally includes:

- life skills classes
- spiritual classes
- worship services for multiple faiths
- structured activities
- limited television
- accountability/support groups

The faith based program promotes an atmosphere of:

- forgiveness
- honesty
- personal accountability



# Faith Based Dorms

- Target Group**

Offenders who are ready to change are selected through collaboration with unit administration, classification, and unit Chaplain. Offender must volunteer.

- Eligibility**

Varies depending on unit type.

- Duration**

Varies depending on unit type. Offenders will continue in work and education/vocation assignments as determined by unit administration.

- Space**

A section of a dorm/pod/building that can house offenders as well as additional group meeting space as needed.

- Goal**

Assist selected offenders who desire to incorporate religious faith and practice with rehabilitation needs in order to effect improved institutional adjustment or successful reentry into the local community.



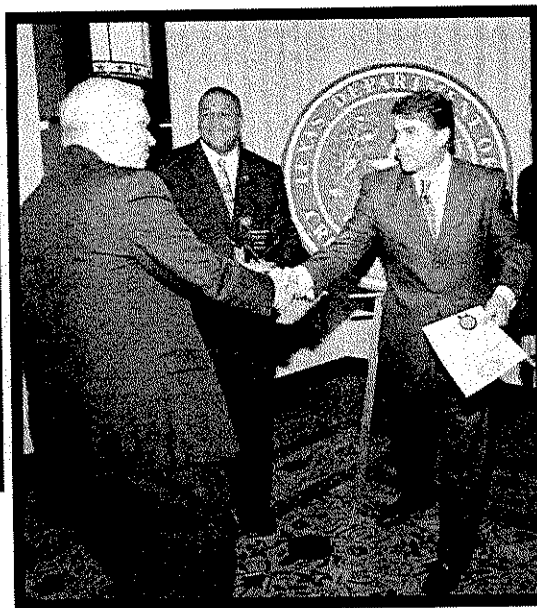
# Faith Based Dorms

<u>Unit</u>	<u># Beds</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u># Beds</u>
Allred	48	Lindsey	48
Beto	396 (2 wings)	Lockhart	50
Bradshaw	256	Mineral Wells	95
Bridgeport	50	Murray	56
Darrington	62	Ney	64
Dawson	482 (9 dorms)	Plane	112 (2 dorms)
Eastham	80	Polunsky	48
Ferguson	80	Terrell	56
Goree	22	Torres	84
Hobby	56	Travis County	56
Hutchins	58	Vance	378 (unit)
Kegans	48	Wynne	59
<b>Total Beds</b>	<b>2,744</b>		
(as of April 30, 2010)			

# Religious Volunteers

Communities of faith are powerful partners with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in bringing religious or faith based programs to the offenders.

As of March 2010, there were more than 19,000 approved TDCJ volunteers. Of these, 17,230 participate in the chaplaincy program.



# Special Volunteers

Special Volunteers are individuals that have not gone through the approval process to become an approved volunteer. They visit units on a limited basis providing religious activities or services.

Special Volunteers have contributed more than 50,000 hours of volunteer service since September 2009.

# Religion Matters

Research shows there is a direct correlation between religion and positive institutional adjustment promoting pro-social behavior, family restoration, and a positive impact on recidivism.

# Religion Matters (cont'd)

In a comprehensive review conducted through Baylor University of studies between 1944 and 2007 on crime and religion, 89% of the studies find a beneficial relationship between religion and some measure of crime.



# Religion Matters (cont'd)

The findings of research support the notion that frequent participation in religious activities helps individuals learn values that address anti-social and illegal behavior.



# Religion Matters (cont'd)

Faith and character based initiatives produce positive outcomes:

Improved prison safety due to fewer disciplinary reports and increased positive offender behavior, which improves life in prison for offenders. As a result, there are lower incidents of contraband.

# **Religion Matters** (cont'd)

In a study conducted of the Horizons Faith Community from January 2004 through December 2007, the Allred Unit experienced an 85% reduction in disciplinary cases (major and minor) incurred by offender participants in the faith-based dorm for the four year control period.



# Religion Matters

*“ ...inmates who regularly participate in volunteer-led Bible studies or who complete a faith-based program are less likely to commit institutional infractions or commit new crimes following release from prison.”*

- **Byron R. Johnson**  
Director, Institute for  
Studies of Religion  
Baylor University