



[SAVE TEXAS PRISON CHAPLAINCY](#)

Cumulative Up-Date #1-20 – 1-30 to 2-19, 2011

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[#1 - 1-22-11 – Duncan Parish Initiative to Sen. Nichols, Reps. White and Gallego](#)

From Rev. Duncan Parish shared the following:

Michael: I have written to Senator Nichols, and Reps White and Gallego (Dist 74, Alpine) the following:

I understand the legislature will be considering doing away with prison chaplaincy. Please don't. (1)Religious and chapel programs quite probably help reduce the recidivism rate for parolees and dischargees vs. the general population of inmates who do not participate in chapel programs. (2) The chaplain's work would have to be done by a staffer anyway, quite likely resulting in no real saving. (3) Inmates who regularly participate in chapel programs also

participate in other programs which help rehabilitate them and prepare them for a more successful life in the free world.

In addition, Chaplain Michael Maness of the Gib Lewis Unit in Woodville has for years advocated a Warden's Parole Option, by which Senior Wardens and their staffs could directly parole from their units a percentage of inmates. According to Rev Dr Maness, this could result in a savings of \$100 million for the prison system. (I would imagine some of this money would have to be used for an increased need for parole officers).

You can find his proposal at www.preciousheart.net/Save_Chaplaincy.htm, and the Parole Option is at the top of the page. Perhaps you and your State Senator could co-sponsor legislation to help this idea into fruition.

Thank you for your consideration, and
May God continue to richly bless you and yours eternally,
Rev Duncan Parish
Prison Chaplain Volunteer
Gib Lewis Unit, Woodville

#2 - 1-22-11 – Additions to Local Network, “It Is Just Paper” – Web Page

Welcome to several more to ... Save Chaplaincy ...

I have taken the liberty to add Rev. Jack Lewellen, Rev. Melvin Bell, David Rust, and Deacon Jim Banks, who I know will be a part as time unfolds.

Yes, as one friend put, it *is* just paper, and it might not eventuate into anything. I hope so. I am vested, and as far as I can, will not take a pay cut of take-home pay if I retire. Yet, the squeegee has not cleaned the glass, I do not take chances with my rice bowl, and this is much larger than all of us. It is truly about the value of religion.

At the web site, I have created a table for supporters.

www.preciousheart.net/Save_Chaplaincy.htm

< POINTS OF FOCUS >

Web site - www.preciousheart.net/Save_Chaplaincy.htm

Cost Saving of Chaplaincy - www.preciousheart.net/chaplaincy/Chap_Cost_Savings.htm -

Facebook - www.FACEBOOK.com/pages/Save-Texas-Chaplaincy/177142625658379?v=info

Chaplaincy Contribution - www.preciousheart.net/Texas_Prison_Chaplains.pdf

Save TDCJ Millions - www.preciousheart.net/Warden_Parole.pdf

FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR - www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/ -

#3 - 1-25-11 – Web Site, Action Plan, Universities, Urgency, Possible Media Connection, Newspapers, Muslims too, Religion Greatest Source for Change

Friends, I have the web site ... [SAVE TEXAS PRISON CHAPLAINCY](#) and included a couple of photos.

Our network on this distribution is up to 75, and there are several others in progress. Big thanks to Emmett Solomon for writing the Action Plan which you will see below. I have sent notices to Governor Perry. Contacted by phone president's office at SWBTS, Baylor, and SMU, and sent them a pleading with a rendition of the following. At the urgency of a friend, I have

initiated contact with both past President Bushes, and posted notes on their Facebook pages for help.

I ask you for prayer for a Mason friend who is a lead attorney in San Antonio, and since he is not overly religious and because I do not know how he might feel about his name being tossed up for prayer – I simply ask you to keep in prayer. He and his firm represented the largest media lawsuit in US history and won! I have initiated contact with him about getting on the radio statewide.

Also ... I have told the men at the prison what they can do, since it is fact. I have NOT, and will NOT, and you chaplains should NOT “Ask” or “Encourage” them to write home. That will come back to haunt you. But letting them know that ... the best thing they can do is their family writing the State Rep and Senator in their district.

Also, Volunteer Jeremy Landrum is getting the 25-50 lead Newspapers and their links ... coming soon.

FUNNNNY story. I have a Church of Christ minister as a Volunteer Chaplain, Dr. Keith Bellamy. Well, my Regional TDCJ Muslim Chaplain Akbar Shabazz called and gave me the referral to a led C of C minister in Huntsville, a good friend of his for 30 years. And he is on board too ... No, that is funny no matter who you are. And THAT is what we have to do. This is about the value of religion itself.

What we have to do, rhetorically speaking and kindly enacted, is start a firestorm comparable to the Tokyo Fire Bombing in WWII (have just finished a tape series on WWII).

Right now, we have just begun, and have a few camp fires, but some of the crackle is reverberating through the night!

RELIGION is the greatest source of change in human history ... period. Think about clicking the Facebook page, and spending some time passing that and the Save Chaplaincy page around the internet ... Here is the up-date of the top part... more to come. Mike

[Insert of Top of Web Page for Info Summary and Links – [click to see latest version below](#)]

#4 - 1-26-11 – Rep. James White Helping!

Friends, I had a great chat with my Representative James White, who assured me he was waiting to see who would be named chairman of the House Corrections Committee, who he would approach directly about Chaplaincy Funding. More to come.

STRATEGY QUESTION: As I prepare the next update in the next couple of days, I need someone willing to search out, pull together, a list of the 30-40 top Christian Universities in Texas, by Name, City, Web Site, and Internet Contact LINK to President’s Office with Phone Number. Is there ANYONE willing to do that? I would like to post those and look to contacting them. I have *already* made contact with Baylor, SMU, and SWBTS – no results yet.

#5 - 1-27-11 – Links, Reluctant Rep, Old Friend Carol Vance, Clint Moore, Bellamy – KEY Is as Many Constituents Connecting as Possible

Friends, I have been apprised that the e-mails on the [SAVE TEXAS PRISON CHAPLAINCY](#) site do not work. Anyone willing to find the right ones, please forward. If not, I’ll try and work on them tomorrow.



Heard through the grapevine from one chaplain in contact with Rep - who did not want name posted - Rep. said they needed to cut \$26k PER classroom in school without raising taxes and that anything not essential was looking to be cut. Be a hard sell ...

Carol Vance, our old friend and former prosecutor of Harris Count and ex-TBCJ chairman is drafting a letter and willing to go to Austin to testify. Keep that fine man in prayer.

Our own Clint Moore from Chaplaincy HQ did some lobbying work in Ohio, is offering his expertise, and is on board networking with churches in his area, and has a key volunteer itching to get going – more to come.

One of my Volunteer Chaplains Dr. Keith Bellamy is tapping into his vast New Life Behavior Network people, and Buck Griffith the author of that fine series – more to come.

The KEY is as many Constituents Connecting to as Many Reps. and Senators ... then hammering the four crucial committee members as soon as we know who they are: finance members in House and Senate, corrections members in House and Senate. As many times as is KINDLY possible ...

Thanks again to all.

#6 - 1-27-11 – Chaplain Casey Celum, Leonard Johnson and FACEBOOK Olstein Sister

Friends, TDCJ Chaplain Casey Celum shared that he shared on FB, then a lead volunteer of his shared with Faith Family Church which is pastored by Tamara Ostein, Joel Osteins sister! That volunteer got responses from all over the world! Including Congressmen and a man who plays golf with the Governor.

If you have not seen the series Facebook Obsession, I suggest EVERY one watch it. I mentioned early sharing on the site of Laura Bush and a couple of others. Permission granted by Celum to share – here's the e-mail and placing Johnson on network too ...

From: Leonard Johnson <leonardj1948@live.com> - **Date:** January 27, 2011 10:08:06 AM CST
To: "Chaplin Casey Celum" <drcaseycelum@yahoo.com> - **Subject:** Celebrate Recovery!



Went in Last Night (without Breif Case) had a great service, everyone wanted to know about Rick and Karen, I told them if God wanted him to be there that he would still be there, That God has other plans for him and this is probably the only way he would stop coming in. They wanted to know why he wasn't allowed to come back, I told them that the circumstances may could have been overcome but the fact that he changed his story, he said one thing then wrote another was what could not be overlooked. They all seemed to accept that.

Chaplaincy! I posted the Prayer Request to all members on fb I have responses from all over the world. Some of them personal know the senators, Congressmen, One plays Golf with Rick Perry, They are making calls writing letters, some are talking about starting petitions. I was amazed at the amount and quality of the responses!

Have a Great Day!

Don't know why I have not thought of it before ... but the most connected people are on Facebook ... let's get people to comment there too ... I think, am sure Gov. Perry has a Facebook page too ... and if not now, I am sure the Speaker does or will have soon, too ... let's get'm! Over the weekend, expect to see links to their Facebooks on the web site.

#7 - 1-27-11 – FACEBOOK and Governor Perry

Friends, I promise not to give more than a two a day, maybe only one every few days. But after the note from Casey, and seeing the Facebook Obsession on tv last month (on again this week), you know? Facebook could really save Chaplaincy.

Here is Governor Perry page www.facebook.com/GovernorPerry which surprisingly has only 57,000+ members so far, must be new for someone so famous. Famous enough to NOT allow all Wall Posts to show, just his responses, and apparently HE himself is responding so far. Many as famous have other responding, like perhaps Laura Bush where each response she posts gets thousands of “likes” and so forth. You know, I might get called to see him if our friends shut his sight down, and that would be work time as I am his employee ... yippee ... just a joke there.

FACEBOOK ... I’ll bet the more progressive Reps and Senators have one. My Rep does and responds ... cheers.

See the Save Texas Chaplaincy page too on Facebook ... just a wee little fellow now ...

#8 - 1-28-11 – Muslim Shabazz, If Funding Partial, We Lose SOME Chaplains

All Friends – Akbar Shabazz mentioned that he heard that funding for “treatment” was in SB 1, but no confirmation yet on Chaplaincy. Hope to know soon. Also, I tweaked the web site, added others, still others to add today. Some have asked again about “data” sheet on “what” chaplains do. Here is the link below, also on web site. Removed point under TEARS about psych or security supervising, seemed too negative, though we ALL know some security like to help there, and HAVE to help from time to time, only we have also heard and SEEN – all of us – how some security handle such calls. My heart pleads there ... you would not believe it if I told you ...

Akbar Shabazz is my regional Muslim Chaplain with 35 years experience and is networking too and clued in more than most – thanks, Akbar, for the chat and all you do. Always good to chat with you my friend.

I don’t know how ... hope we can get full funding ... seems to me the KEY is as many Constituents *connecting* with as many Reps and Senators as often as possible over the next 3-4 months ... next, as many Constituents *connecting* with the four committees, the finance committees in the House and Senate and the corrections committees in the House and Senate ... any ideas on how to network the mosques in Texas. Here is the link to the contribution sheet ...

[Texas Prison Chaplains.pdf](#)

Here is an email clipping of web site ... several are sharing and encouraging others to share ... any suggestions on it too ... don’t know what else to do ...

Calling all Texans, Volunteers, Inmate Families –

Here is the web site and Action Plan - http://www.preciousheart.net/Save_Chaplaincy.htm - any help you can give in *connecting* to a Texas Representative and Senator, the better ... think about YOUR son in prison, and who he would have to come to in the time of death. Also think about religion, all religion, including yours. The Religion is the GREATEST source for change in Human History ... All of our faiths give evidence of that in a profound way ... *Connect* ... Thanks.

[Insert of Top of Web Page for Info Summary and Links – [click to see latest version below](#)]

Top of Web Page – Latest Version

SAVE TEXAS PRISON CHAPLAINCY

It is threatened: [LBB Recommendations 2012.pdf](#) for the Ominous News
Original site: www.TDCJ.state.tx.us/announcements/Ibb_Recommendations.pdf



Message to Texas Representatives, Texas Senators,
and The Honorable Governor Perry
[Visit Governor Perry on his Facebook Page Too](#)

“Don’t you let them cut out
Texas Prison Chaplaincy on YOUR watch”

As many as possible, As often as possible,
Until we are ASSURED Texas Prison Chaplaincy is retained
Religion is THE most powerful source of change in Human History

FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR > www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us

Calling ALL who have been helped - of ALL RELIGIONS.
Staff, Inmates, Volunteers, Ex-Offenders, Families of All.
Chaplains have been there in times of
Death, Dying, Near Death, Critical Illness, Accident, Rape, Fire
We Care for the Soul, the Precious Heart, irrespective of Religion or Race.

Regarding Prison - Religion is the Greatest Source of Change in
Human History - the Chaplaincy Department is the ONLY Expert there!

ACTION PLAN

Courtesy of [Emmett Solomon and Restorative Justice Network](#) - *get on his list too!*

CONTACT - CONTACT by Personal Visit, Phone, Letter, Fax or Email your State Rep & State Senator - preferably once a week.

1. Address your **State Representative** - The Honorable (Name), Texas House, P O Box 2910, Austin TX 78768-2910
2. Address your **State Senator** - The Honorable (Name), Texas Senate, P O Box 12068, Austin TX 78711

Also please contact your Statewide Officials:

1. **The Honorable Rick Perry**, [Governor's Office](#), P O Box 12428, Austin TX 78711 - no email, [Website Contact](#)
[Visit Governor Perry on his Facebook Page Too!](#)
2. **The Honorable David Dewhurst**, [Lt. Governor's Office](#), P O Box 12068, Austin TX 78711 - 512.463.0001, fax 512.936.6700
campaign@teamdewhurst.com
3. **The Honorable Joe Straus**, [Speaker of the House](#), P O Box 2910, Austin TX 78768 - phone 512.463.1000, fax 512.463.1064

joe.straus@house.state.tx.us

4. **Esperanza "Hope" Andrade**, Secretary of State - secretary@sos.state.tx.us
5. **Susan Combs**, State Comptroller - comptroller.help@cpa.state.tx.us - phone

The Ugly Reality Facing Texas:

1. The primary budget cutters do not value what Chaplains do. They have cut the entire department. These trained professionals manage the religious programs at each Texas Prison.

It is threatened: [LBB Recommendations 2012.pdf](#) for the Ominous News

Original site: www.TDCJ.state.tx.us/announcements/lbb_Recommendations.pdf

2. If they are cut, the program will *have* to be managed by a correctional officer or a secretary. These new *managers* will be pulled from their other duties -- little savings, HUH! -- no savings at all -- will actually cost more.
3. Chaplains also provide "Pastoral Care" for everyone in the institution. It is difficult to find a community of 500 people in America which does not have pastoral care. Such care will be very hit-and-miss without the Chaplaincy Department if it occurs at all.
4. To recover his ENTIRE salary, all a Chaplain has to do to is influence one prisoner a year to give up his criminal activity. The state will pay more on the person's next incarceration than is paid to the chaplain in a year! See the statistical tables below.
5. The very effective Religious Programming which we now have in Texas prisons, does not happen automatically. Religious Volunteers must be recruited and managed. That is the task of our chaplains. Without them, the programming will become very uneven, if it is able to exist at all.

FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR > www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us - [Visit Governor Perry on his Facebook Page Too](#)

Time - We Don't Have Much Time - Months! - CRITICAL

HB 1 has Chaplaincy listed as "zero funded" ... which means if it is NOT "funded" in House Bill 1 (the Appropriation Bill), and if not "funded" in Senate Bill 1 (the Finance Bill), here's the FACT: in a couple of months after the House and Senate go through THEIR version, the Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee - each one - will appoint about 3-4 from each body. That body will form the Conference Committee which works out the differences between HB 1 and SB 1. **It could be TOO LATE** - if chaplaincy is NOT "funded" **before** the conference committee. The **KEY** is encouraging people (constituents) to get with their Rep and Senator and express how important it is to you and how it is good for Texas to continue the Chaplaincy Department with at least one chaplain at each prison. As often as possible, as kindly as possible, as persistently as possible --

Say to them: "Don't Let Chaplaincy fail to get Funded on your watch" -- "If we lose it here, we may NEVER get it back."

Worst of all -- Prisoners' Family **STILL die**, get cancer - who are they going to see?

#9 – Revised Save Chaplaincy Handout – List of Key Committees

Friends – the KEY is *connecting* with *our* Texas Representatives and Senators ...

Note the [REVISED SAVE PRISON CHAPLAINCY](#) ...

- First, let me say thank you for all you have done. Obviously, the KEY is for as many Constituents to *connect* to their Texas Representatives and Senators as possible. Below are a few more resources, and – from one of my own posts – again the reason for *Constituents* to connect. The Senate has posted the Finance and Corrections committee members, and I have put together a list with links and by city of office in district, with links to the senator’s page at the legislature’s domain. It is posted also at the [REVISED SAVE PRISON CHAPLAINCY](#) web site. I have tweaked it further, to remove some fluff and remove some negative stuff. We have to positive. I would also like to point there the performance measures, a not readily known element, and how the stats on chaplaincy have never been taken into consideration regarding Texas own standards! A moot point now, but not so moot for serious considerations – and I will debate them with anyone – also moot ☺ at this point.
- BGCT Christian Life Commission (CLC) Director Suzii Paynter is hot after the trail too, is super experienced in Austin politics, and a great asset. Chaplain Bobby Smith is the Director of the Chaplaincy Department for the BGCT (under Paynter’s CLC) and he is mobilizing some hospital chaplains to lobby for us in Austin in a couple of weeks – more on that later. Paynter is a personal friend of mine who has helped us in years past and she affirms the KEY of Constituents *Connecting* to the Texas Reps and Senators. And now we know the Senate committees.
- Eastham Senior Chaplain Dr. Vance Drum is on the go, as always and said this:

Thank you Mike. I returned today from the American Correctional Association winter conference in San Antonio where I sat at the head table today for the ACA Luncheon (leading the Invocation and Benediction), next to TDCJ Board member Terrell McCombs. I spoke with him, and also with TDCJ Deputy Executive Director Brian Collier (also at the table) about our concerns. They are not legislators, and could not make promises ...
- Vol. Chaplain Virginia Haynes sent a succinct e-mail to the Baptist Press, and I have initiated contact with the Baptist Standard.
- In addition to other entities, I have contacted the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) Executive Director Daniel Vestal who took an immediate interest (he was in Texas at the time too). We can look forward to help from the CBF with extensive ties in Texas.
- Thanks to Volunteer Jeremy Landrum for pulling together the major Newspapers in Texas, [See Texas Newspapers](#), and we really need some people to start contacting them. This is news worthy. And I plan to follow-up on my contacts with Baylor, SMU, and others next week. Vance Drum will shortly make a trip to TCU too and try to draw them.
- I know some *personal* friends in a couple of Texas cities, particularly Lubbock, Dallas, Greenville, and San Angelo – districts of several Finance Committee members.
- Murray Batt has engaged John Harrington who is the current Chair of the United Methodist Texas Conference Restorative Justice team, and their network is going to work too.

We have to network ... and we ONLY have a few months.

Do see [REVISED SAVE PRISON CHAPLAINCY](#) and the [FACEBOOK page](#) – we can really make an impact if we can stir a crowd to connect to celebrities like

[Governor Perry's Facebook page](#)

we cannot overestimate that medium today. These are too easy to access and we need someone willing to try to FIND government-connected celebrities to connect to on Facebook – any takers there?

Also, attached is a copy of **Get a copy of [Texas Committees](#)** - That will be revised when I have the House committees and that you can send to others.

The KEY – is, well, trying to get our friends to speak their mind, before it is too late.

Here is the list to date ...

[> Find YOUR Legislator < click](#)

Senate Committee on Finance, cities of Dist. Offices

- [Chair Sen. Steve Ogden](#) - Dist. 5 - Bryan
- [V-Chair Sen. Juan Hinojosa](#) - Dist. 20 - McAllen & Corpus Christi
- [Sen. Bob Deuell](#) - Dist. 2 - Greenville & Mesquite
- [Sen. Robert Duncan](#) - Dist. 28 - Lubbock, San Angelo, Childress
- [Sen. Kevin Eltife](#) - Dist. 1 - Longview, Tyler, Texarkana
- [Sen. Craig Estes](#) - Dist. 30 - Denton, Sherman, Wichita Falls
- [Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr.](#) - Dist. 27 - Brownsville, Weslaco
- [Sen. Jane Nelson](#) - Dist. 12 - Grapevine
- [Sen. Dan Patrick](#) - Dist. 7 - Houston
- [Sen. Kel Seliger](#) - Dist. 31 - Amarillo, Big Spring, Odessa, Midland
- [Sen. Florence Shapiro](#) - Dist. 8 - Plano
- [Sen. Royce West](#) - Dist. 23 - Dallas
- [Sen. John Whitmire](#) - Dist. 15 - Houston
- [Sen. Tommy Williams](#) - Dist. 4 - Beaumont & The Woodlands
- [Sen. Judith Zaffirini](#) - Dist. 21 - Laredo & San Antonio

Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, cities of District Offices

- [Chair Sen. John Whitmire](#) - Dist. 15 - Houston
- [V-Chair Sen. Joan Huffman](#) - Dist 17 - Lake Jackson & Houston
- [Sen. John Carona](#) - Dist 16 - Dallas
- [Sen. Rodney Ellis](#) - Dist. 13 - Houston &

[> Find YOUR Legislator < click](#)

Senate Com. Finance BY cities of District Offices

- Amarillo, Big Spring, Odessa, Midland - [Sen. Kel Seliger](#) - 31
- Austin - [Chair Sen. Steve Ogden](#) - 5 - *no district office listed*
- Beaumont & The Woodlands - [Sen. Tommy Williams](#) - 4 -
- Big Spring, Amarillo, Odessa, Midland - [Sen. Kel Seliger](#) - 31 -
- Brownsville & Weslaco - [Sen. Eddie Lucio](#) - 27 -
- Childress, Lubbock, San Angelo - [Sen. Robert Duncan](#) - 28 -
- Corpus Christi & McAllen [V-Chair Sen. Juan Hinojosa](#) - 20 -
- Dallas - [Sen. Royce West](#) - 23 -
- Denton, Sherman, Wichita Falls - [Sen. Craig Estes](#) - 30 -
- Grapevine - [Sen. Jane Nelson](#) - 12 -
- Greenville & Mesquite - [Sen. Bob Deuell](#) - 2 -
- Houston - [Sen. Dan Patrick](#) - 7 -
- Houston - [Sen. John Whitmire](#) - 15 -
- Laredo & San Anto - [Sen. Judith Zaffirini](#) 21
- Longview, Tyler, Texarkana - [Sen. Kevin Eltife](#) - 1 -
- Lubbock, San Angelo, Childress - [Sen. Robert Duncan](#) - 28 -
- McAllen & Corpus Christi [V-Chair Sen. Juan Hinojosa](#) - 20 -
- Mesquite & Greenville - [Sen. Bob Deuell](#) - 2
- Midland, Amarillo, Big Spring, Odessa - [Sen. Kel Seliger](#) - 31 -
- Odessa, Amarillo, Big Spring, Midland - [Sen. Kel Seliger](#) - 31 -
- Plano - [Sen. Florence Shapiro](#) - 8 -
- San Angelo, Lubbock, Childress - [Sen. Robert Duncan](#) - 28 -
- San Antonio & Laredo - [Sen. Judith Zaffirini](#) - 21 -
- Sherman, Denton, Wichita Falls - [Sen. Craig Estes](#) - 30 -
- Texarkana, Longview, Tyler - [Sen. Kevin Eltife](#) - 1 -
- Tyler, Longview, Texarkana - [Sen. Kevin Eltife](#) - 1 -
- Weslaco & Brownsville - [Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr.](#) - 27 -
- Wichita Falls, Denton, Sherman - [Sen. Craig Estes](#) - 30 -
- Woodlands, The, Beaumont - [Sen. Tommy Williams](#) - 4 -

Senate Com. Criminal Justice BY District Offices

Missouri City
[Sen. Glenn Hegar](#) - Dist. 18 - Katy
[Sen. Juan Hinojosa](#) - Dist. 20 - McAllen &
Corpus Christi
[Sen. Dan Patrick](#) - Dist. 7 - Houston

Corpus Christi & McAllen - [Juan Hinojosa](#) - 20
Dallas - [John Carona](#) - 16
Houston - [Chair John Whitmire](#) - 15
Houston - [Dan Patrick](#) - 7
Houston & Lake Jackson - [V-Chair Joan Huffman](#) - 17
Houston & Miss. City - [Rodney Ellis](#) - 13
Katy - [Glenn Hegar](#) - 18 -
Lake Jackson & Houston - [V-Chair Joan Huffman](#) - Dist 17 -
McAllen & Cor. Christi - [Juan Hinojosa](#) - 20
Missouri City & Houston - [Rodney Ellis](#) - 13

ALSO – when I posted to the Senate Finance Chair’s site – as usual and not unexpected – I got an auto response. Know this, they have computer recognition software too, someone told me, and somehow they know what is sent in. Regardless, notice how specific he (his office) was on CONSTITUENT concerns:

Thank you for contacting this office. I appreciate input from constituents regarding legislation important to them and will give your comments every consideration. However, due to the substantial increase in correspondence I receive immediately before and during the legislative session, I cannot provide personal responses during this time.

If you are a resident of Texas Senate District 5 and in need of my staff’s assistance with a specific matter involving a governmental entity, please contact my office by regular mail or phone at:

Senator Steve Ogden
Texas State Senate
P. O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711
Tel: 512/463-0105
Toll-free: 888/694-2609

We can do this, and should do this. It is important that Religion not become a lazy issue in prison, which it certainly will if we lose the Chaplaincy Program.

Sincerely, Mike

#10 – Suzii Paynter’s CLC, Dr. Keith Bellamy, and Murray Batt

Thanks Murray – good news.

Friends – I am passing this along as another up-date in itself. Suzii Paynter, director of the BGCT Christian Life Commission and head of the lobbying wing of Texas Baptists, also

head legislative up-dates, and her chaplaincy department is heading something on the 18th – perhaps she will connect with these people too.

One of my volunteer chaplains, Dr. Keith Bellamy, received a nice letter from Senator Nichols too. Be nice to know for certain about the hearing, kind of quick I think, but worth the trip there to testify. Seems like the Corrections Committee would have something to say on the CJ budget first ... but that I simply do not know. And notice that the a couple are on BOTH the Senate Finance and Senate Corrections committees. Carol Vance also said he would be willing to testify ... former TBCJ chairman and former prosecutor for Harris County.

Cheers to all ... we need all these and more ... we need to save the entire Chaplaincy, as it has been bare bones for the longest anyway.

Sincerely and good night, [Michael G. Maness](#)



From: Murray Batt [\[mailto:murray@crjma.org\]](mailto:murray@crjma.org) - **Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 11:56 PM
To: Michael G. Maness - **Subject:** Re: Save Chaplains - Up Date #9

Mike,
Keep up the good work. Here is my update:

I was in Austin Tuesday for CASA Day at the Capitol along with some 400 other CASA volunteers and staff from across Texas to advocate for CASA's budget. I also had the opportunity to present the Chaplaincy Budget Issue at the offices of 3 House Representatives and 3 Senators and file the attached at the Senate Finance Co hearing. The following were very supportive: House Rep. John Otto, Doug Clements - Legislative Aide for Senator Whitmire, Mark Hey - Legislative Aide for House Rep Jerry Madden (Likely new chair of the House Corrections Committee).

Sen. Tommy Williams (a personal friend from my church who sits on the Senate Finance Committee) seemed to indicate his support. See attached picture of him (behind his chair) with CASA volunteers and myself. The other Senator office contact was for Sen. Robert Nichols and the other House contact was for Rob Eissler.

All of the contacts were very receptive to the fact that the Chaplaincy like CASA is highly leveraged with volunteers and needed the guidance of clinically trained and accountable paid staff. In that regard, the impression I got from several legislators is that the cuts were certainly not done deals. Feb. 21 may be a key day for prayer as that is when the Senate Finance Co. has a hearing on the Criminal Justice budget.

Since Tuesday, I have had an exchange of emails with The Rev. T. Randall (Randy) Smith, President of Texas Impact, a lobbying arm for the churches of Texas. He was offering his office to set up a lobbying day at the Capitol to save the Chaplaincy. I directed him to John Harrington as the contact person for the United Methodist in East Texas. FYI here is his email address trsandsws@prodigy.net and that of his Executive Director, Bee Moorhead bee@texasimpact.org See that organization's web site at <http://texasimpact.org/> ...

For Jesus, Murray

#11 – Former Harris County Prosecutor Carol Vance and Frank Graham Leadership

Friends – two influential people are working steadily.

First, as mentioned previously, former Harris County Prosecutor and former TBCJ Chair Carol Vance is finalizing a letter that – well, he is how he said it:

Mike, I am still gathering information to put my letter together. I want to put this in some final form and send it to the world,....i.e. all of those who are decision makers and all of those we might help get in the hunt to influence the decision makers. So if you would, would you start keeping a master list. I will copy Emmet and ask him to do the same thing. With those addresses and email addresses we can start sending out all of the stuff that anyone fighting for our cause has to say. Thanks, Carol Vance

Please keep him in prayer, as he has the wherefore to accomplish this ... and he, like a precious few others, has a pivotal point in the history of Criminal Justice and a credible influence in many quarters.

See below another old friend and – not kidding too much – a kind of bull-dog of a fellow, the inimitable Frank Graham. We have only a precious few networking like him, and NO one in the crucial area of Dallas and environs ... Keep Frank in your prayer. He has also made powerful points on marketing that I shall dutifully follow through with on adjusting the web site further to FOCUS MORE ASTUTELY on cost savings: Here is one well-made point ...

Mike – Your “Save Texas’ Prison Chaplains” needs some modification. Please consider the fact that Pastoral care & Religious programming issues do not financially justify continuation of chaplaincy. Legislators will provide funds to keep children in school, build highways or provide Medicaid to the poor before providing pastoral care for a criminal.

\$ saving issues like the follow will get \$’s for TDCJ Chaplaincy:

1. Reduced litigation costs,
2. Management of hundreds of thousands of volunteers hours,
3. Reduced violence against officers,
4. Reduced recidivism, etc.
5. **Other \$ saving issues I have not thought of – ANYONE send them to me TODAY > [Michael G. Maness](#) so that I can process a first-rate brochure ... and, as Larry the Cable famously says, “Get’r Done” -**

We need a simple, talking points brochure, which financially justifies TDCJ chaplains, that people can print on the internet. Right now, I am more concerned about what a brochure would say. We can get it graphically designed and printed once we know what we want to say. Pictures would help. The brochure talking points would match the discussion on Trey’s radio program (see previous email). We could also make a video with the

same focused facts and the brochure, audio & video would explain how to use the brochure to talk about budget saving ideas with their legislator.

TDCJ Chaplains save Texas money!

Yes – Frank ... is right ... and I will be developing brochure today and fine-tuning the web site further ...



Frank Graham also wrote the following :

Mike,

#1. I met with the Prestonwood Church prison committee Last Thursday night and we voted to invite Rep Jerry Madden to come to Prestonwood Church to speak to our people, and any others interested in prison ministry, about what is happening relative to Chaplaincy in TDCJ; and, how can we most effectively lobby for Chaplaincy funding. We had 75-100 people from Madden’s district at our last meeting with him. Hopefully it will take place on the week-end.

#2. My son, Pastor Trey Graham, 1st Baptist Melissa, has both a weekday ministry radio broadcast at 10:00 AM and weekend politically orientated radio broadcast on Sundays at 4:00 PM on the Word, 100.7 FM. The WORD is probably the #1 rated Christian radio station in the metroplex. <http://www.thewordfm.com/> Check out his personal web site <http://www.treygraham.com/>

Trey has offered to focus his Sunday, 4:00 PM radio program, to be broadcast Feb 20, on the issue of supporting the funding of the Chaplaincy in TDCJ. He will need to interview people by phone on the prior Tuesday to Thursday, Feb 15-17. Once the radio show is completed, we can use it as a audio link for people to include in emails and/or mail out CD’s to churches and other potential supporters.

Help needed –I want Trey to interview 3-5 people. (1) Please give me your suggestions of who Trey should interview and how to get in touch with them to schedule the interview over the telephone. (2) Suggestions of 3-5 specific questions for the radio show. (3) We could possibly create an expanded audio of the program for emails that includes additional people and provide detailed explanation of what to do to support chaplaincy.

#3 Ask everybody to keep Rep Ken Madden (R-Plano) in their prayers to be appointed Chairman of the Corrections Committee. Rep Madden has been the Chairman or Vice Chairman of Corrections Committee the last several sessions. Rep Madden is a great friend of prison ministries. Speaker Joe Straus won't make committee assignments until next week, according to a reliable source. See attached.

<http://trailblazersblog.dallasnews.com/archives/2011/02/house-committee-assignments-ne.html>

Thanks for the great work you are doing.

In His service, Frank Graham [Chapel of Hope Ministries](#), Inc. Office (972) 980-1009, Cell (214) 557-9663



Friends – the KEY is *connecting* with *our* Texas Representatives and Senators ...

We can do this, and should do this. It is important that Religion not become a lazy issue in prison, which it certainly will if we lose the Chaplaincy Program.

Sincerely, Mike

#12 – Article by David Rust and Chaplain Loren Edwards

Friends,

Tyler County Booster – this week, regular editorialist **David Rust** and 16-year veteran Volunteer Chaplain at the Gib Lewis Unit wrote an excellent article in his weekly column ... how it speaks to the issues at hand ... will post it too on the web site soon ...

Just a couple hours ago, I met the **chaplain from Duncan or Diboll Unit, Loren Edwards** and his wife (I believe – not as good with names as I used to be). We chatted, and he has frequented our Baptist Association from time to time. He was a part of the reduction in force in 2003 that cut chaplaincy by 33% and then got BACK into TDCJ Chaplaincy about five years ago. He and his wife, in their 60s – as most chaplain enter the profession later in life – have given up internet access, yet he was passing the word out, had spoken to several pastors, and – he said – would be getting to speak at his church about this.

This is the grass roots ... and many like him ... across the state ... Keep Loren and others in your prayers ...

Sincerely, Mike

#13 – Revised Save Chaplaincy Handout – List of Key Committees

Friends,

Thanks for the prayers ... keep them coming.

See the attached [Save Texas Chaplaincy Document Summary](#), also uploaded to the reconfigured web site ... [SAVE TEXAS PRISON CHAPLAINCY](#) -- that sums the reason for Saving Texas Prison Chaplaincy ... I give credit to Mr. Frank Graham for helping me focus – THE ISSUE is cost savings, and the Summary outlines five (5) ways Texas Prison Chaplaincy Recovers its Entire Operating Cost, yes, that is Total Cost Recovery, several times over. Back up by several documents at the web site. Distribute it ...

Today, my senior warden passed to all of us an email from his regional supervisor; it was an email of an article from a reporter from the Austin American-Statesman, and it was a report from queries to TDCJ about cuts, and it was ominous ... some 2,500 jobs ... and not pleasant. I am supposing the undercurrent and reason for the wardens sharing it, was on a compassionate side ... but like with a cancer or terminal illness ... you want to share and be with your grieving family ... SERIOUS ... the ax is coming.

I have not had time to accumulate the last series of up-dates, and have not heard from very many. But this is where we are at today, and forgive me if I left anyone out.

A new development was heard by a credible source, that the TBCJ has initiated contact with the 8 other state prisons that deleted their chaplaincy programs, apparently to see how they did and are going!!! We will have more info on that as soon as it is in ...

GREAT news – **Buck Griffith**, President of the [NewLife Behavior Ministries](#), that Dr. Keith Bellamy of the local Woodville Church of Christ has been teaching at the prison for 10 years, is tapping into the vast Church of Christ network in Texas.

Frank Graham of [Chapel of Hope](#) is getting folks together in Dallas; more on that to come. He is planning on going to Austin at dates mentioned below too ...

Emmett Solomon of [Restorative Justice Network](#) said the following:

If a more rational budget approach to corrections is going to be taken, legislators and their staff must do the brain-work to figure out [what units to close](#): TDCJ is obviously digging in their heels and beyond the Central Unit (which the local Chamber of Commerce set wants closed for reasons unrelated to TDCJ institutional priorities), they've already said they'd [fire 7,300 employees](#) before closing more than one prison facility. If other more sensible strategies are to win the day, IMO they'll have to be imposed on the agency from without. The Lege won't get there simply following TDCJ's increasingly absurd recommendations.

Plus, Emmett is organizing a get together prior to a pivotal luncheon

Many of us have been greatly upset by the very real threat of eliminating the Staff Chaplains in our State Prisons. We are gathering with the Texas Baptist Chaplaincy Endorsing Council and the Christian Life Commission at First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity, Austin TX at 9:30am on Wednesday February 16, 2011. If you are upset about TDCJ threatening to eliminate chaplaincy, I invite you to meet with us at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church. We will discuss strategy to counter this threat.

If you would like to join the Legislator Luncheon at noon, contact Marilyn Davis by phone or email. It would also be good for you to contact your Representative and Senator with an invitation to the luncheon.

After the luncheon at 1:00pm we plan to visit the Capitol. Each of us will visit the office of our State Representative, State Senator and some key legislators.

Now is the time to speak up! Grace and Peace, Emmett Solomon

And if you can make it ... I am going to try ... check out this meeting organized by **Suzii Paynter**, Director of the BGCT [Christian Life Commission](#) in Austin:

Join the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission and legislators from your district for our Legislator Luncheon

February 16, 2011 - 12 pm - 1 pm—First Baptist Church, Austin, 901 Trinity, Austin, Texas - Legislative Briefing for Luncheon Constituents - 10:30 am | First Baptist Church-Austin | Fellowship Hall - RSVP marilyn.davis@texasbaptists.org (214) 828.5194

Yes, though centered on Christianity, these meetings are open to ANYONE of any faith, including my Muslim Chaplain *friends* ... we ARE in this

The KEY is a Constituent *Connecting* to a Texas Senator and Representative ...

KEY – those who *connect* with *their* Senator and Representative **HELP** a lot, and those who help others to *connect* help even more.

Again ... this [Save Chaplaincy Document Summary](#) will be duplicated and passed out in mass. It is good to be on the same page ... It cannot get to too many people ...

Let's --- yes --- Get'r Done! Pray ... as you have been ... and, dare I say, faith without works is ... well, you know ☺ --

We only have a month or two ... it WILL get harder as time progresses, that is for certain.

And, there will be a point of no return – after which .

Sincerely, Mike

#14 – the Gathering – Need in Rep. Otto – New Articles – Networking

Friends,

Several have been busy. A small book has been written between Carol Vance, Frank Graham, Emmett Solomon, Vance Drum, and a few others. Many are networking ... and the meeting in Austin is looking good. My Honorable Representative James White will be my guest to the 1200 luncheon, and Graham will have Corrections Chair Madden (though a bit late do to prior engagement), and several other legislators will be there. This is usually a big event and not new, as BGCT Suzii Paynter has been doing this for YEARS, only this time, we are honored that Suzii and Emmett Solomon worked in another meeting at 0930 in the chapel exclusively for the Save Chaplaincy cause, and be assured it will roll over in some manner into the luncheon ... here is the data again ...

- **GATHERING - February 16, 2011, Wednesday, 0930 - Texas Baptist Chaplaincy Endorsing Council and Christian Life Commission at First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity, Austin TX, to discuss Save Prison Chaplaincy strategies ... ALSO - there is a Legislator Luncheon a noon - invite yours! Contact [Marilyn Davis](#) or 214-828-5194 to RSVP.**

Keep Suzii in your prayers ... gathering like the luncheon are hard to put together ... and Emmett, though he too is no stranger to gatherings, it is difficult to get people together for chaplaincy because of the shear diversity ... but I know of no one who can do it better.



Constituents Connecting - KEY

NEED - We really need someone, several Constituents *connecting* with > [Rep. John Otto](#) - **Dist. 18 – Dayton – Chair of sub-Committee on TDCJ funding** – while we cannot overstress this enough – says Frank Graham – we NEED some constituents here. Pass the word to ALL of your networks ASAP ... while it might make a difference for anyone to call, it is not as important as a Constituent *Connecting* ... so if you NOT in his district, your time would be better spent getting someone you know to write a letter with the attached [Save Texas Chaplaincy Summary Handout](#).



I have updated the file here [Key Texas Committees](#) and online ... as I needed to find Chairman Ogden’s home city, Bryan, and updated it. As part of our strategy, even essential part, though we lack an up-to-date cork board of tracking, even a dedicated Air Traffic Controller, to identify each and every legislator contacted, and so forth – we DO NOT have time to Track – still, we need to TRY to connect with a FEW of the key people ... and here are a FEW – we really need help here ... and some have connected with Whitmire and Frank has Madden as his guest. Gertha Rogers of [JOY Prison Ministry](#) will be touching bases with Turner, as she knows him.

If you can *connect* with any of these, and especially Rep. Otto ... waste no time ... cheers.

Senate Finance Committee
[Chair Sen. Steve Ogden](#) - Dist. 5 > Bryan
[V-Chair Sen. Juan Hinojosa](#) - Dist. 20 > McAllen & Corpus Christi

House Appropriations Committee
[Chair Rep. Jim Pitts](#) - Dist. 10 > Waxahachie
[V-Chair Rep. Sylvester Turner](#) - Dist. 139 > Houston

Senate Corrections Committee
Chair Sen. John Whitmire - Dist. 15 > Houston
V-Chair Sen. Joan Huffman - Dist 17 > Lake
Jackson & Houston

> **Rep. John Otto** - Dist. 18 – Dayton – **Chair of sub-Committee** on TDCJ funding
House Corrections Committee
Chair Rep. Jerry Madden - Dist. 67 > Plano
V.Chair Rep. Alma Allen - Dist. 131 > Houston

Constituents *connecting* is key ...> [Key Texas Committees](#) and of course anyone can find who represents them here > [Find YOUR Legislator](#)



Posted new article by Buck Griffith below Vance Drum's excellent article [Professional Correctional Chaplaincy](#) on the web site, and added some old articles that are as relevant today as at any time. Also, if you read Griffith's article, you will truly understand his meaning and challenge today, in "Either YOU run your prison's chaplaincy or someone else will run it for you – and you will not like it." Spoken in a kind and forceful Church of Christ preacher's way ... from his experience of being called in as a consultant over competing "ministerial associations" who wanted to "run" a large county jail facility (some of might not be aware, some county jails are huge, Houston's Harris County has 10k inmates!) – here is a link to the new articles:

[Value of Texas State Prison Chaplaincy](#), by David "Buck" Griffith, President, [NewLife Behavior Ministries](#), Corpus Christi, Texas

[Carol Vance on Chaplaincy](#), former TBCJ Chair

[Desert Storm & Prison Chaplaincy](#), retired senior TDCJ and military Chaplain Michael Mantooth

[Measuring Complex Nature of Prison Chaplaincy](#) ~ *Restorative Justice News* article, Sept.-Dec., 2001, by M.G. Maness

In addition to the signal argument of Cost Savings and Total Cost Recovery, many avoid the HIGHER values in networking, fair religious use, not the least of which is the diversity of pastoral care.

Another piece published in the Tyler County Booster (2-11-11) in his weekly column, 15-year veteran Volunteer Chaplain David Rust wrote encouraging *connecting* from his vast experience, "[Poor Texas](#)"—[Prison Chaplaincy](#) highlighting the best and what a waste it will be to loose chaplains – and as a scientist too; he not only flew Flying Tigers in WWII China, but after a stint as an engineer with Schlumberger Limited, he became the editor of their international technical journal ... a real champ of a fellow.



^ click to see full picture ^



Welcome to **Paul Carlin**, who has experience with TDCJ executive staff and the legislative process. His Prisoners Bible Institute and [Therapon Certification Program](#) has been widely accepted, and even praised by former President George Bush. In some communiqués with Frank Graham, Carol Vance, and others – something of what we all know – but Carlin drove this home – do NOT underestimate the power of TDCJ Executives and Brad Livingston. The legislature has always loathed to micro-manage the affairs of any agency. And we are looking at former executive directors to see Brad on that ...

Given what we can do with the TDCJ executive staff, and influencing the Texas Board too to influence Brad ... we STILL have the Senate and the House committees, and in Texas as in any democracy, they RUN Texas and still force in Chaplaincy. None of us believe we will have to force chaplaincy – no one WANTS to cut anything. And many have confidence that some portion of Chaplaincy will remain. But we need at least one chaplain on each unit to be retained ... and we still need to fight.

=====

Got word that our Muslim Chaplains are networking – we only have five, fairly representing the percentage of numbers of Muslims in TDCJ

And I know our Jewish Chaplain is networking too – as is our contract Native American Chaplains ... more later on them

=====

I did mail 133 letters, see attached, with our [Save Texas Chaplaincy Handout](#) to all of the TDCJ Chaplains yesterday, and they *should* receive them on Monday. Attached is a Chaplain Label List (Avery 8930 labels, 1”x2.63”) and though it is late in our very hurried gaming, it is not too late for anyone, not by any means. These chaplains are scattered across the state and need all the encouragement anyone can give them. None of them have internet at work – certainly most all have internet access. In addition to the inmates and their families – who we are really fighting for, especially in crisis – the chaplains have the most to lose. Perhaps there is one more person who will try to connect to them and encourage them. I am convinced they do not know the seriousness of this ... this is about all I can do with them myself.

=====

Did you see the news about EGYPT? Yes, because of facebook some are saying, though a closer analysis as already said only 20% of Egypt has been connected to the internet. Still, some do believe that it was facebook, and other social networking like Twitter and YouTube that helped start the firestorm. One thing is for sure, when they shut down the internet, it forced everyone into the streets ... and one of the quickest non-violent revolutions in our history took place in two weeks ...

Paul Carlin said, “It is not the *dog* in the fight, but the *fight* in the dog that matters.” And though we have only a little time, it does look like several people have made several substantial contacts. I do not know of anyone who has substantially used facebook yet ... and I have not had the time pull some celebrity links ... and this is NOT about connecting to the facebook site I set up ... NOT REALLY ... but as we have seen, a FEW people have mentioned prayer requests and got immediate responses. Facebook is a reality of the world and it still has potential to help us with relatively little effort - again, not merely joining it and signing the facebook link I set up,

not really, but by – as they said in WWII – flooding the airwaves with news at Texas people of influence ...



We can do this. As Paul Carlin said, “It is not the *dog* in the fight, but the *fight* in the dog that matters.” And as Buck Griffith said in his fine article on the [Value of Texas State Prison Chaplaincy](#), “Either YOU run your prison’s chaplaincy or *someone else will run it for you* – and you will not like it.” And one signal point for Texas prison chaplaincy, #1 on the handout, is defense of the First Amendment rights. Religion is an entitlement. If it is not carefully guarded, then some volunteer group will dominate a prison here and there, and even worse, some inmate group will dominate - something ALL of us in prison ministry know very well!

Let’s hold the line ... and network and network ... we ONLY have a couple of months ...

This update #14 will be the last part of the second Cumulative Update, seen now in succession for those just joining this small network:

1. [Cumulative Up-Date #1-8, 01-30-11 on Action Plan](#)
2. [Cumulative Up-Date #9-14, 01-12-11 on Action Plan](#) - to see what others have done and encourage others

For those who want to know ... we only have a couple of months ... maybe one month for the most substantial impact.



I think of Mr. _____ Harrison Sr. – who calls almost one time a month. A senior with severe health problems, who sometimes calls and talks to the Warden or Major, or even the warden’s secretary. He *thanks* the Warden for taking care of his son, “his Rabbit” he affectionately calls him. I envision Mr. Harrison as about 5’7” and frail, while his son is about 6’5” – and the kindness Christian deacon you can imagine. His son reflects his father’s kind demeanor. One cannot mistake him, either. Often he calls nearly wheezing – he has terrible problems with his lungs. Now he knows I cannot connect him every week, but about every two to three months (to be fair), I connect him with “his Rabbit.” Yet each and every time he calls, he ALSO calls for prayer, because I ALWAYS say a prayer for him and his son. My five volunteer Chaplains know him, as do the Wardens and Majors, but I GUARANTEE you, he will not be calling a volunteer coordinator. Nor the 100,000 other family members CURRENTLY in a crisis or life-death struggle, and we all know that though we have some fine Christian Wardens, there are precious few at the prison day in and day out READY to give a prayer ... and the continuity over the last several years for this single man is something ongoing in every prison chaplaincy ... every one of us have anywhere between 5 to 10 ongoing cases of death and dying, cycling through them, and this ENDS or is essentially degraded to a sloppy affair. If we fail, I can imagine the Warden getting a call from Mr. Harrison, being kind, and then *radioing* a shift lieutenant to “pull inmate Harrison out and give him a call” and the shift lieutenant setting the phone, cussing, ordering a Sgt. get “inmate Harrison” to the supervisor’s building, put on a speaker phone, allowing the call ... struggling to hold back a cynical grin as “inmate Harrison” hears his father say, “How’s my Rabbit, God, I thank the warden, he is such a good man, and I

need you here. Hope you are doing OK.” And the lieutenant hurrying through that ... and we ALL know ... no prayer at all ...

We CANNOT let this happen. We NEED at LEAST one full-time chaplain at every prison. There is still some fight in this dog ☺

More to come.

Mike



#15 – LAR Budget

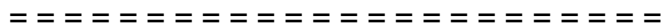
Friends,

Here is a thing of interest ... we are looped with treatment all the way ...

http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/publications/finance/2012-13%20LAR_ALL.pdf – the whole enchilada 480 pages. You can search the PDF for “chaplain” and see on pages 113 (p. 97), 180 (p. 158), 197 (p. 175), 369 (p. 347), 383 (p. 361) – the first page # is by the PDF reader and one in () is actual number on report. Zero funding for 2012 and 2013 – looks like to me ... take some doing to thoroughly digest these ...

Here they are as posted on TDCJ’s site ...

- [FY 2012-13 Legislative Appropriations Request \(LAR\)](#) - as submitted to the Governor's Office of Budget, Planning and Policy and the Legislative Budget Board.
- [Fiscal Year 2011 Operating Budget and Fiscal Years 2012-13 Legislative Appropriations Request \(LAR\) Summary Document](#) - TDCJ’s summarized request for funding for Fiscal Years 2012-2013, as submitted to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice.
- [Agency Strategic Plan for the Fiscal Years 2011-15](#) - A formal document that communicates TDCJ’s goals, directions and outcomes for Fiscal Years 2011-2015. Includes legislative history of Texas’ corrections from 1829 to present, and an overview of TDCJ’s organizational structure.



Friends ... an opportunity is afoot that we should not miss ... like the special tide that comes once ... never to really return. It will not be end if we miss this tide, but it will go easier IF we ride this tide and take this opportunity ... is there anything any of you can do ... in week or two special committees will meet to decide budget issues affecting TDCJ chaplaincy budget. ASAP I will know all the members of the sub-committees ... the KEY folks ... Right now, this week ... if at all possible ... we need to connect with **Representative Bill Otto in Dayton** ... by phone and email ... help us connect this week ... send the Summary ... he is a CPA, an accountant ...

this is how Frank Graham put it ...

HELP NEEDED: If you know any prison ministry volunteers/supporters who live in Dayton, Texas, please help me contact the volunteers. Rep Bill Otto, from Dayton, is Sub-

Committee Chairman for Prison Funding on the House Appropriations Committee. He will have tremendous influence on how the Budget for TDCJ will be formulated. We desperately need church Pastors and prison volunteers who live in Dayton to lobby Rep Otto.

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/member-page/?district=18>

In His service,

Frank Graham

Chapel of Hope Ministries, Inc.

Office (972) 980-1009 Cell (214) 557-9663

www.chapelofhope.org

#16 – John Otto – District 16 – NEED

Friends,

We are making progress ... and several will meeting Wednesday morning and with several legislators in the afternoon in person.

We still need the rest of the committee members to the sub-committee on appropriations and it is still apropos to make *connections* with **John Otto's** District 18 that includes 100% of **Liberty County** has Ames, Cleveland, Daisetta, Dayton Lakes, Devers, Dayton, Hardin, Kenefick, Liberty, Mont Belvieu, North Cleveland, and Plum Grove and **Polk County** has Blanchard (unincorporated), Camden (unincorporated), Corrigan, Dallardsville, Goodrich, East Tempe, Leggett, **Livingston county seat**, Moscow, Onalaska, Seven Oaks, and West Livingston – [for John Otto't web site CLICK HERE district=18](#)

On that note, Dr. Keith Bellamy is going to connect with a church of Christ there, Chaplain Dan Chapman is networking there, and CBF state coordinator Rick McClatchey is connecting with the pastor of FBC of Onalaska – welcome Rick too ...

Dr. Martha L. Owens, Regulatory Compliance Specialist with the Methodist DeBakey Heart and Vascular Center is networking and is telling others:

I am pleading with you to help save the Texas Prison Chaplaincy program. I cannot imagine prison without the chaplaincy programs and staff. I have worked as a volunteer at the Prisons and I have seen firsthand the difference the programs can make in the lives of the offenders.

Way to go Martha ... Long-time friend Murray Batt said regarding John Otto:

Mike, I will send him [Chair Rep. John Otto] a personal letter with a picture taken with him on Feb. 1 - as a way of reminding him of our previous exchange that day - and ask directly to support Chaplaincy. For Jesus, Murray

=====

Paul Carlin shared an interesting document that I have posted online, [Texas Senate Concurrent Resolution 44](#) (SCR 44) – 75th Legislature (1997) -- encouraging an equal amount of resources for Faith-Based programs in prisons - good precedent! Yes, ENCOURAGING an equal amount of resources. Thanks Paul!

=====

Emmett Solomon, President of [Restorative Justice Network](#), sent out a reminder to his network with the list of the Senate Committee Members from [Texas Key Committees](#), and gave this insightful encouragement:

The members of the Senate Finance Committee will have much to do with the Funding of chaplains in our Prisons. There is actually a threat to cut them out of the budget completely. Texas has had paid prison chaplains from the beginning. (In 1888, the prison chaplain from the Rusk Prison led in prayer at the Dedication of the State Capitol Building.) Chaplains have been on the payroll from the earliest of times. We do not want them to be cut now, especially because they produce much more for the state than they cost.

=====

And I would encourage any not already on his network, to get on it – [Restorative Justice Network](#) – cheers.

=====

Since I will be in Austin Monday and Tuesday, our Director of Mission of the New Bethel Baptist Association Jerry Redkey will be making copies of the Save Texas Chaplaincy Summary for distribution there by my Volunteer Chaplain Rev. Melvin Bell.

=====

From an Open Records request for the chaplaincy budget, I received from TDCJ Kathy Good, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Fiscal Year 2011 Operating Budget and Fiscal Years 2012-2013 Legislative Appropriations Request published on the Agency website, to which she provided following link:

http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/publications/finance/FY_2012_13_Board_Document.pdf

Attached is the page from that document that gives the budget with 5% reduction across the board for “treatment” – that was the initial offering in August 2010. That is, the annual budget for the entire Chaplaincy Department is *less* than \$5m – and we have documented how we recover that entire cost several times over, twice over in volunteer facilitation alone! See **ATTACHED** SB-1 Summary for budget on Chaplaincy as first proposed – till the ax fell a couple of months ago.

=====

Last but not least, Murray Batt received a not from Michael Meyer, Budget Analyst, Texas Senate Finance Committee, which reads as follows:

Dear Mr. Batt, The Chaplaincy Program is funded through the line item in TDCJ's budget called "Treatment Services". If you look at the Senate version of the introduced budget (http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Bill_82/1_Recommend/Bill-82-1_Senate_Recommend.pdf), and go to p. V-13 (which is p. 585 of the pdf), you will see that C.2.4 Strategy: TREATMENT SERVICES is funded at \$16.4 million in each fiscal year, for a total of \$32.8 million for the biennium.. This reflects a reduction of \$5.2 million from the previous biennium's appropriation, or a reduction of \$5.7 million from actual and projected expenditures. The reduction is applied to the entire strategy (not specifically to Chaplaincy, which had a budget exceeding \$9 million for the current biennium).

Please let me know if you have further questions or would like to submit additional information to the Committee. I have received your document and will see that it is distributed to all of the members' offices. Thank you and take care, Michael Meyer (512) 463-0370 - Michael.Meyer_SC@senate.state.tx.us

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While we do not want to see any cuts from anyone, Chaplaincy is *already* bare bones, and any cut will mean SOME prison without a chaplain. While it looks like a LITTLE progress has been made, we are still a ways from the goal. We NEED to keep it going ... the KEY is Constituents *connecting* and in this case with the Senate and House committees of finance if at all possible.
Yours truly, Mike

#17 – SB 1 Jan. 14 – and Lottery Commission Funding

Friends –

You will NOT believe what I am going to tell you. But I have had a little time – seems like that is *all* have had, a little – but on a closer review of [<CLICK TO SEE S-Bill > 82/1 Recommend Jan.14.pdf>](#) - you will see that that very *revised* Jan. 2011 proposal p.733 allocates *precisely* \$32 million for media advertising EACH year – YES, \$64 million for two years for Lottery media advertising, \$931k for market research EACH year, and on p. 734 \$1.7m EAVH year for surveys, *surveys!*, for the Lottery for the biennium – yes – to find out who *knows* about the Lottery! Do the best we can with TDCJ ... but that is not all by any stretch.

Oh, funny story, when several of us led the effort that secured our first pay group raise in 40 years, at that time they had a Director of Bingo Services making 5 times the Dir. of Chaplaincy ... each and every time that was mentioned, it got laughs. Dan Ellis was my Representative then, and we SHOOK are heads in sync ... The next Legislative session ... NO such title. Today, in the 900+ page SB 1 linked below (which includes classification schedule) there is NO title at all for anything “Bingo” – but, YES, the *revised* SB 1 Lottery folks ARE going to have a fight to keep that \$64 million, and I doubt very seriously the Lottery folks will keep their \$5 million for surveys in this difficult time ... cause I am going to tell the world about. Shoot fire ... they have refused ALL sticky notes and are scrutinizing toilet paper usage in TDCJ – TDCJ is **doing ITS part**, and the Lottery wants to spend \$5 more million dollars ... oh ... and they report that ONLY 59% of adult Texans know about the Lottery ... goooooo talking points for our constituents ... We will try to get as many constituents as possible ...

Sincerely, Mike

[<CLICK TO SEE > S-Bill 82/1 Recommend Jan.14.pdf>](#) -

#18 – Former Harris County Prosecutor Carol Vance and Frank Graham Leadership

Friends,

Whew ... what a week. There is hope!

Urgent ... a few are looking to what, precisely, this means for TDCJ Chaplains. HOT off the press ... [TDCJ Summary of FY 2011 Budget Reductions \\$40.0 million](#), my warden passed this to me today, as it was posted on TDCJ’s web site shortly after an email to him from TDCJ HQ. It LOOKS like chaplains are NOT there to be cut ... but it ALSO appears like the deal has been made at this juncture, to the affect that *Reduction in Force Procedures* will move into action: “Employees in positions being eliminated will be notified during the first week of March. The effective date for elimination of the positions will be April 15.” And the warning – “Do not assume the decreases ... will be the only budget reductions required of the agency.” Yeah ... we should NOT assume that chaplains are safe, not just yet.

What does this mean – I hope Suzii and Emmett will find out that TDCJ Chaplains are NOT at all in this cut. That is NOT certain, as this is just a summary. If the TDCJ Chaplains are NOT in this cut, then we have a little breather, as we have, as it were, weather “round one” of the massive cuts to come. IF – IF – that is so, no chaplains will be laid off on April 15, but that does NOT mean that Chaplains or even Chaplaincy HQ are safe ... not yet. More to come as soon as I know.

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A super fruitful **Meeting** took place in Austin, FBC, Wednesday morning at 0900 (2-16-11). BGCT CLC Director Suzii Paynter and Chaplaincy Director Bobbie Smith both hosted a special meeting for Save Texas Prison Chaplaincy. Ret. Chief of Chaplains Emmett Solomon had tapped his vast network, and others too, and perhaps 50 showed up, including – surprise – Ret. Chief of Chaplains Jerry Groom. Suzii had in hand a first-rate [CLC Legislative Summation](#) of the issues to date from the House and then the Senate side, reflecting *again* the elimination of Chaplains in the House version and the line item of Treatment in the Senate version that will be allocated by a percentage.

Senate Finance Committee Hearing: SB 1 Relating to appropriations for the 2012-2013
Article V - Public Safety and Criminal Justice
Monday, February 21, 2011
2:30 P.M. E1. 036

Crucial to this effort, Frank Graham of [Chapels of Hope](#) came with 1,000 copies of the [Save Chaplaincy Summary](#) handout ... and his connections and network will play a crucial and pivotal role in the success of this effort, among the several pockets of networks across the state, and Graham is going the extra mile in getting House Corrections Chair Jerry Madden to Prestonwood Baptist in Dallas for a gathering ... The CLC provided another 500 copies, and the 50 took most of them the Capitol for legislator visits and dissemination.

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At the CLC Legislative Luncheon, that BGCT CLC Director Suzii Paynter has led during many of the past legislative sessions at FBC (her husband is pastor) which is located within walking distance of the Capitol, many legislators were present among what appeared to be 200 present. A magnificent gathering ... not easy to pull off anywhere ...

Frank Graham introduced me to [House Corrections Chair Jerry Madden](#) who said in essence that he felt like they should keep the chaplains, though they will have downsize something, perhaps with a few over two or three smaller prisons. In light of all, that was GOOD news – from the HOUSE Chair – not talking about elimination anymore, but cuts. We had a short discussion. Pray for Frank Graham who played such a important role there ...

At my table, District 29 (Pearland) [Representative Randy Weber](#) and I chatted and joked, and he was clear in his support of Saving Chaplaincy.

My guest from District 12 [Representative James White](#) was there and he was clear. In sum, after that visit and another in his Capitol office, White said, “Saving Chaplains is a no brainer. My father is a minister who volunteers at a prison in Huntsville, I can hear him asking, ‘You’re not going to dog the chaplains are you?’” And in another wise statement, White said, “How can we show where our priorities are? It’s where we put our money. What we value we

finance.... What is worthy to us is where we put our money: We do believe religion changes people.” Indeed ... we have his solid support.

Volunteer Chaplain Virginia Haynes had a special letter she created that she shared with numerous legislators, and played a pivotal role in helping me stay on track ...

TDCJ Daniel Williams was there and went to the Capitol and networked as well.

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My good friend and fellow Chaplain Vance Drum, 27 years at Eastham now, was there as we travelled that familiar ground yet again.

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Got in the mail from an Open Records Request the current staffing of TDCJ Chaplaincy as of Dec. 31, 2010, as follows:

Title	Active	Vacant	Total
Accounting Tech I	1		1
Admin. Asst. I		1	1
Admin. Asst. II	2		2
Admin. Asst. IV	1		1
Chaplaincy Serv. Asst.	1		1
Clerk IV	1		1
Chaplain I	50	2	52
Chaplain II	60	3	63
Chaplain III	7		7
Manager I	1		1
	124	6	130

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Friends – there is hope. Pray for the next month or so ... only have a month or so. Make another contact or two, and encourage others to touch bases.

Let’s continue to pray for the best. Sincerely, Mike

#19 – Frank Graham at Prestonwood with Chair Rep. Jerry Madden

Friends, Frank Graham of Chapels of Hope give the following at a crucial meeting in Dallas.

Mike,

We had a great meeting at Prestonwood Church last night with Rep Jerry Madden, Chairman of the Corrections Committee. Probably 85+people from across Dallas were there. Rep Madden gave an excellent explanation of the Legislative process for passing funding and let us know honestly what he was dealing with in “finding” the \$9.6 million in (two years) funds to pay for Chaplaincy. In addition to Chaplaincy, he needs about \$200 million to pay for multiple types of alcohol, substance abuse and other types of crime preventive programs.

Rep Madden spoke and answered questions for nearly 1 ½ hours. I feel very comfortable that we will have a TDCJ Chaplaincy Corps in the future and all is not lost. The real question is how much of the \$9.6 bi-annual budget can be saved.

In 2007 he was instructed by the Speaker to make sure there were no more prisons built. The population of TDCJ has remained fairly constant since then and no new prisons have been built. The Central Unit is definitely gone. (see below commit about chapel at Central Unit). Interestingly, TDCJ prison population maintenance has been maintain more on the front end by programs letting fewer inmates in, than TDCJ programs that let more offenders out. Therefore, programs that prevent crime before incarceration have more public appeal than programs that reduce recidivism. There is still a pervasive “Tough on Crime” mentality. As Emmett Solomon has said, we need to promote “**Smart** on Crime” ideas.

Rep Madden asked for any ideas about how to save more money in TDCJ or increase income to TDCJ. One interesting idea for producing more income came from an ex-offender. His idea was to raise the price of commissary. They charge a lot more in County Jails for commissary and the offenders still buy their junk food. A savings idea came from a groups of Officers who have submitted ideas to Rep Madden on positions that can be eliminated in TDCJ. Among many savings ideas, these officers think there are too many Asst Wardens, which I thought was funny.

The operational cost of juvenile units, eliminating TYC, will mostly be managed by moving the juvenile incarceration and treatment burden out to the counties. TDCJ could save a lot of money if they could move the 4,000 illegal aliens out of TDCJ. But, Madden is not comfortable that ICE would actually make sure they were deported and not release them back into the US. They are currently in negotiations with ICE.

Lots of programs and procedures will be studied to ascertain areas where money can be saved. There is only a limited amount of money available so the more we can save in the proposed budget or the more revenue that can be brought into TDCJ – the more can be applied to Chaplaincy and other recidivism reducing programs.

TDCJ staff and volunteers need to let Rep Madden know their ideas about where \$’s can be saved, or income earned, in TDCJ. Email suggestions to jmaddeninsurance@aol.com

I believe that God is at work in many ways in TDCJ. As an example, **we were looking for someone to lobby Rep Otto, Sub Committee Chairman** over Prisons on House Appropriations Committee. Rep. Madden and Rep Otto live three doors apart in their Austin apartment house. They have already spent evenings together over beer & pizza discussing prison funding. Rep Madden said there are multiple Reps on the House Appropriations who favor funding chaplaincy. Rep Madden has worked closely in the past years with Sen. Wittmire and he definitely supports chaplaincy. Our hopes are alive because Chaplaincy has supporters in the Legislature but we cannot stop praying and working for Chaplaincy.

Our goal to maintain Chaplaincy in TDCJ is definitely attainable and there is hope if we all keep contacting our respective Representatives and Senators.

CENTRAL UNIT update: Last week, in Austin, I visited with Louis Powers, from Houston, who was responsible for leading the effort to build the chapel at the Central Unit. In 1996, they knew that one day the Central Unit would be eliminated. Therefore, they designed and built a portable chapel that could be moved in the future. Lou gave me a copy of a Letter from Wayne Scott, on TDCJ Letterhead, to Lou, which says, “*If it is deemed necessary to relocate the chapel, TDCJ will assume the responsibility of cost in doing so.*”. God guided the

building of His chapel at the Central Unit. Again, just another example of so many I have experienced of how our God built chapels in TDCJ and has protected the TDCJ Chaplaincy Department.

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A not from Vance said, "We need to keep the pressure on."
Friends ... keep up the good work. Mike

#20 – Former Harris County Prosecutor Carol Vance and Frank Graham Leadership

Friends ...

We have a need ... I have initiated contacts with the pastors of First Baptist Churches of Onalaska and Livingston ... waiting for their response.

We really, really, really need *SEVERAL* people to call and write [Rep. John Otto](#) from Polk and Liberty Counties ... While we have made progress ... we are in special need of some people connecting with [Rep. John Otto - Dist. 18 – includes 100% of Polk and Liberty Counties – here are the cities in the counties ...](#)

Polk County - cities

Blanchard, Camden, Corrigan, Dallardsville, Goodrich, East Tempe, Laurelia, Leggett, Livingston, Moscow, Onalaska, Seven Oaks, West Livingston

Liberty County - cities

Ames, Cleveland, Daisetta, Dayton Lakes, Devers, Dayton, Hardin, Kenefick, Liberty, Mont Belvieu, North Cleveland, Plum Grove

[Rep. John Otto](#) < click for contact info

Otto is the chair of the sub-committee on Criminal Justice ... to request that he look out for Chaplaincy ... it saves money, and the human cost and cost to our First Amendment values would take a serious blow. See the attached ... Mike

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#21 – Haynes “In Color” and Cumulative Up-Date

Friends,

Here is a cumulative up-date of ALL 1-20 – just uploaded

<http://www.preciousheart.net/Cumulative Up-Date 1-21 1-30 to 2-19-11.pdf>

You all have done a magnificent job, so many taking leadership in your pockets of influence, and all this in ONE month. Please, do not be discouraged, and please pass the word. I aware of a few chaplains NOT on my e-distribution too that have taken some initiative and leadership in their areas around the state (got a call from an Amarillo newspaper columnist who is also a volunteer – had to be careful there – but his mind was made up and knew what he was going to write about).

Also, Volunteer Chaplain Virginia Haynes has written a great letter to several, [You Should See It in Color](#), to state legislators, Senators and Representatives – check it out!

We have so much to be thankful for. Though we have weathered one battle in this war, the war has NOT been won yet, not at all.

We should help our networks to make another flurry of connections, if at all possible, in the next couple of weeks.

Sincerely,
Mike

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