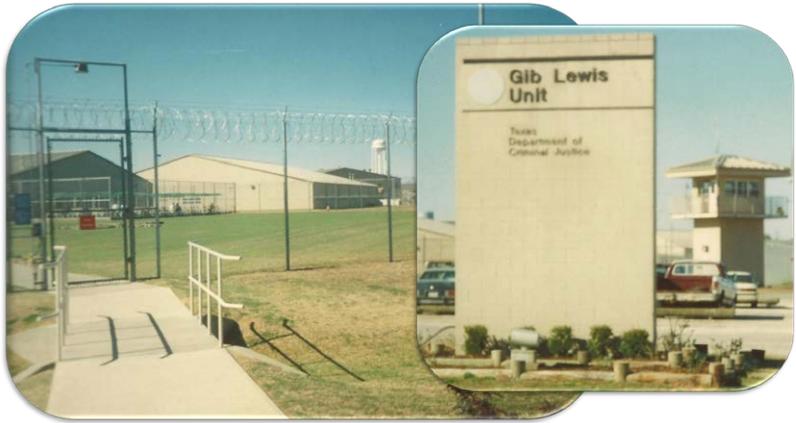


**Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Gib Lewis Unit**



**Senior Warden Cody Ginsel
Warden Frank Helm
Warden Wayne Brewer**

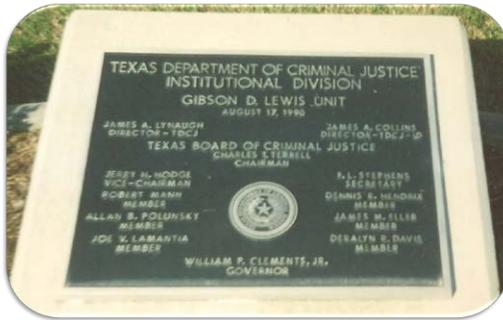


**Chaplaincy Department
Faith-Based Initiatives**

**Chaplain Michael G. Maness
Six Volunteer Chaplains**



Gib Lewis Unit Est. August 17, 1990



TDCJ Values

Professionalism
Teamwork

Integrity
Competency



TDCJ Chaplaincy Mission Statement

The mission of the Chaplaincy Department of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice is to positively impact public safety and the reduction of recidivism through the rehabilitation and re-integration of adult felons into society. The rendering of pastoral care, management of quality programming and a therapeutic community allow for such an opportunity. It is the purpose of Chaplaincy to provide guidance and nurture to those searching for meaning in life. A variety of programs, activities and community participation are prudently managed wherein an individual is able to pursue their faith, reconcile relationships and strengthen their families.



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Gib Lewis Unit Chaplaincy



Dir. of Chaplaincy Bill Pierce
Region 1 Chaplain Steve Ulmer
Gib Lewis Chaplain Michael Maness (L-R)



Christmas Card Distribution 2012
Volunteer Chaplain Duncan Parish (L)
Volunteer Chaplain David Rust and wife Eugenia
Gib Lewis Inmates around 9,000 Christmas Cards



Faith-Based Wing – Virginia Haynes

In February, 2012, the Gib Lewis Unit established a faith-based initiative, led by seasoned Volunteer Chaplain Virginia Haynes.¹ She has networked with the community pastors, ministers and volunteers to provide a full spectrum of intensive ministry and life-changing skill training to inmates who are housed together. Forty-one will began for a year-long program with classroom-quality instruction in biblical backgrounds, discipleship, substance abuse every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Tuesdays and Fridays the inmates will work on their in semi-programmatic accountability and Life Changes Groups.



Faith-Based Wing Coordinator Volunteer Chaplain Virginia Haynes

This comprehensive program has been planned and networked across several counties and religious denominations. Chaplain Haynes is a sought-after speaker

¹ See Chaplain Haynes web site www.LydiasPorch.com for more on her woman-to-woman ministry and Women's Leadership Conferences.

and conference leader herself, a retired school teacher who went back school, even seminary, and earned a Masters Degree. The Faith-Based Wind will include the following, who have already committed to helping, with others in reserve.

Larry and Susan Woodall, *Experiencing God*, will lead a 15-week popular, inter-denominational intensive discipleship program

Bible Studies by several local pastors, including the Rev. Dr. Clark Mahoney (pastor, Hillister Baptist Church), the Rev. Calvin Harris (pastor, Antioch Baptist, Buna), the Rev. Dr. Keith Bellamy (pastor, Church of Christ, Woodville), the Rev. Ken Derouen (pastor, Fellowship Church), the Rev. Duncan Parish (minister, Woodville United Methodist)

Rev. Dr. Keith Bellamy, pastor, Woodville Church of Christ, District Coordinator for New Life Behavior Curricula, will lead several modules, including Anger Management, Family Values, Sense of Self, Parenting Matters, and Christians Against Substance Abuse (CASA, the latter he has led for years as a Gib Lewis Volunteer Chaplain)

Mike Whitely, deacon, Hillister Baptist, will lead a special topical Bible Study on Biblical Love

Trey Allison, President, Citizens State Bank, will lead a class on Financial Planning and Stewardship

Darby Kethan, retired regional Texas education supervisor, member, St. Paul's Episcopal, will lead a class on Conflict Resolution

Accountability – Life Changes Groups

Inmate Self-Study Component

There will be inmate accountability groups and Life Changes Groups from the start, where the inmates will be guided in *self-study* groups. Already, the New Bethel Baptist Association with another donor has given \$400.00 for books that have been purchased on *Nehemiah – Men's Servant Leadership Course*.

Community Support Solicited – Committed

Included in these classroom intensive programs, there has been contact with the following:

Tyler County Art League, to provide some training in art and music appreciation

New Bethel Baptist Association, to help provide study material and resources.

Hillister Baptist Church has donated a 42” high definition TV, awaiting approval for delivery.

Woodville United Methodist, St. Paul’s Episcopal, and Fellowship Church churches have opened their doors for consult, and committed give some yet TBA support

Tyler County Ministerial Alliance in formal meeting has committed itself to support of the program

The six Volunteer Chaplains committed themselves to be available for as ye

Six Gib Lewis Volunteer Chaplains

In addition to all of the above, the Gib Lewis Unit’s six Certified Volunteer Chaplains have committed to help in an ad hoc fashion, to help facilitate what they can as they are available. They include Volunteer Chaplain Virginia Haynes who is coordinating, the other five chaplains include the following outstanding résumés:

David Rust, Lead High Security Chaplain, WWII Flying Tiger with 100+ combat missions, retired ngeineer from Schleberger International, published author, and local volunteer at Caring Is Sharing, Heritage Village, and other places

Dr. Keith Bellamy, pastor, Woodville Church of Christ, District Coordinator for New Life Behavior Curricula, 40-year member Lions International, former insurance executive

Deacon Jim Banks, member Roman Catholic Church, Livingston, retired IBM executive

Rev. Melvin Bell, Kentucky police officer, supervisor for Frito Lay’s production plant, life-long resident of Tyler County

Rev. Duncan Parish, former TDCJ Officer in the 1960s, ex-TDCJ Director of Rehabilitation, ex-parole officer, former pastor of Woodville Christian Disciples Church, and currently Lions District Vice President and a member of a dozen professional and civil organizations.

The work-in-progress at the Faith-Based Wing will involve the inmates themselves on a level unprecedented and will offer then the opportunity to grow together spiritually, psychologically, and, hopefully, more wholly to becoming honorable citizens of faith.



Tyler County Ministerial Alliance

From left to right – Dr. Keith Bellamy, Father Edigio Vecchio, Fa. Steve Secaur, Chaplain Michael Maness, Rev. Todd Christy, Rev. Grady Arnold, Rev. Tommy Williams, Rev. Mark Tolar, and unnamed minister



Mentor Program

The Gib Lewis Mentor Program has been going strong for over twenty years. From fifteen to twenty-five free-world volunteers come every first and third Thursday evening to give one-on-one mentoring to prisoners under the direction of Chaplain Maness. Volunteer Chaplain Melvin Bell is the lead coordinator assigning new mentors an inmate and tracking attendance.



Mentors Mentoring!

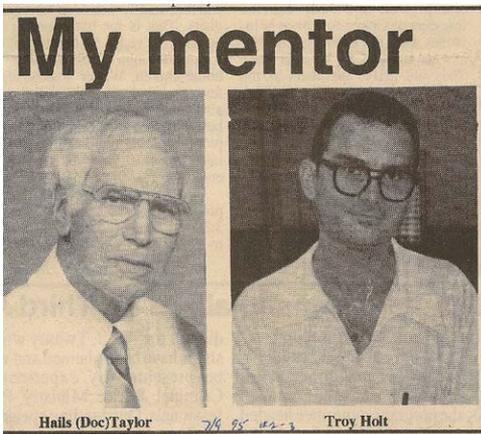
Volunteer Mentor Rev. Calvin Harris (T)
Volunteer Mentor Harry Baker (C)
Mentor Coordinator and Volunteer Chaplain
Rev. Melvin Bell (B)



Volunteer Mentor Rev. Warren Diggles



One time, mentor and match made the Tyler County Booster Newspaper, as inmate wrote of his relationship.



Mentor Hails “Doc” Taylor



High Security and AA – David Rust

Volunteer Chaplain David Rust has been leading our High Security ministry since it opened, though the other volunteer chaplains also too. This involves cell-to-cell and counseling in family crises and deaths.



Volunteer Chaplain David Rust

Rides His Bicycle to Prison in Fair Weather

Left: receives Governor's Award in 2010

Chaplain Rust has led our AA / NA program for sixteen-plus years which meets every Monday night, himself having a 40-year sobriety coin. Traditional Alcoholic Anonymous and Narcotic Anonymous meetings under Rust's guidance challenge and exhort members to overcome their addiction.



Thursday Night Studies Rev. Jack Lewellen

Every Thursday we have had an open Bible Study, led for the last fifteen years by the Rev. Jack Lewellen, pastor of Beech Creek Baptist Church in Hillister, Texas. He was pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist for 33 years. He has also been the moderator of the New Bethel Baptist Association *twice*.



Volunteer Bible Study Leader Rev. Jack Lewellen

Receives a custom hand-made quilt by Bessie Smith made out of squares signed by about 100 Gib Lewis prisoners. With a law-enforcement background and many in his family in law enforcement, Bro. Jack (as he is affectionately known) has a saying that he uses, from his father, that is so apropos to prison life:

Walk Slow, Talk Low, and Watch Out for Snakes.



Thursday Night CASA Dr. Keith Bellamy

Volunteer Chaplain and Church of Christ Minister Dr. Keith Bellamy has been leading a New Life Behavior series for over ten years, focusing on the block named CASA, which stands for Christians Against Substance Abuse.



Chaplain Keith Bellamy (R) with fellow Church of Christ ministers Norman Turner (2nd from R) receive a hand-made quilt dedicated to the Woodville Church of Christ's three main prison ministers from Chaplain Maness. Today, the quilt hangs in the fellowship building of that fine church.



Card Ministry – Eugenia Rust

The Chaplaincy Department for 19 solid years has made greeting cards available to the prisoners, to any of the 2,200 who would like one. Mrs. Eugenia Rust has been doing this for the last fifteen-plus years and has joined recently by Mrs. Willena Moore. Typically, for every thousand inmates, there are several hundred that do not get a dime placed on their accounts, and another several hundred that may only get ten or twenty dollars a month. So “buying” a card from commissary is prohibitively expensive. Making these available for Birthdays, Thinking of You, Get Well, Sympathy, and so forth provides an essential *human* touch from the inmate to his family.



Mrs. Eugenia Rust
Director of Card Ministry



Quarterly Special Volunteers

There are several senior and tenured volunteers that are scheduled throughout the year on about a quarterly basis to provide variety, denominational diversity, and cultural exposure to the inmates in the chapel programs. These include the following:

Raymond Philips aka, Preaching Machine



“The Preaching Machine” Setting the Captives Free

“The Preaching Machine” sets the captives free at Gib Lewis Correctional Unit in Woodville, spiritually speaking. Rev. Raymond Phillips, with Charles Busby drives from Houston to share the Gospel with the men gathered for chapel services. Most recently on a steamy Sunday morning in July the two made the trip; they will return for the Christmas service. They must get a very early start to make the 7:30 a.m. Chapel service in Woodville.

Rev. Phillips’ prison ministry in The Texas Department of Criminal Justice started about 20 years ago when the Lord opened doors through his wife, Vernice Phillips. She was attending Volunteer classes in training for the ministry behind razor wire and encouraged husband Raymond to join her. As a team they began to minister in the Ramsey II Unit, the hook was set. Anyone that goes behind those walls is immediately stricken with the great spiritual need plus the great appreciation of the men in white receiving the Word. Servants such as the Phillips’ and Busby are blessed in serving the Lord anywhere He sends them, behind institutionalized bars or to those in prison on the outside (that are bound by strongholds other than steel doors).

Rev. Raymond and Ms. Vernice’ ministry grew to other prisons, including the Gib Lewis Unit with Chaplain Michael Maness. Maness speaks of “Rev. Raymond Phillips as being an outstanding family

man and minister of the gospel. He has been coming to the Gib Lewis Unit for as long as I can remember, perhaps 13 years or more. He has been scheduled to do our Christmas message every year since, and it has become a tradition for us: I jokingly say we have him booked for the next ten years, as I did ten years ago and did his last Christmas. He is affectionately called “The Preaching Machine.” If a his debonair and dynamic style, and for us at the Gib Lewis Unit he is a big part of a fine team.”

Rev. Phillips talks about his relationship with God that has led him to Tyler County: “Due to the right relationship with our Living God above me and with the love He has placed in my heart for the people in the Gib Lewis Unit and throughout the TDCJ, I’ve got to answer His call. We’ve seen His men and appointed by God, and we have to keep the appointment of Love.” He is also very thankful to Charles Busby for his assistance in the prison ministry and the 12 Step Plan, which is an aftercare of men and women from the units.

Statistics are not available to substantiate the good accomplished by faith-based programs in prisons. But those like Rev. Phillips and Mr. Busby believe their own faith is increased by ministering to those in prison and also claim the promise that God’s Word will fulfill its purpose as it is shared, setting the captive free.

Gertha Rogers and JOY Prison Ministry



Above: Gertha Rogers with ret. Deputy Exec. Dir. Ed Owens and two TDCJ Wardens



Above: Gertha Rogers with Maness, author of her biography



Left: Loyce Johnson and Bertha Ross, executive members of JOY Prison Ministry



Rep. Jim McReynolds
Keynote Address

He has been a keynote address at several volunteer banquets and given commencement addresses at several Gib Lewis Unit Windham ISD GED graduations.



Honorable Jim McReynolds (top)

Rev. Dr. Chet Haney, Pastor (upper right)

Marriage Seminar



Melissa Carson
Officially Declared “Singer of the County”
by Tyler County Judge



Ms. Carson sings regularly on Sundays, at volunteer banquets, churches, and special events in Southeast Texas.



Volunteer Appreciation

The Gib Lewis Unit and the Chaplaincy regularly honor the volunteers with a semi-formal banquet every two years, with letters of appreciation on the alternate years. For many years, Chaplain Maness has facilitated the making the hand-made quilts that have been given to several volunteers for special service.



U.S. District Judge Jerome Owens
gave keynote at banquet

Each banquet is meticulously planned and decorated around a theme to maximize appreciation for our beloved volunteers. Many times, we have included the Tyler County

Hospital and other volunteers, like volunteer fire fighters, in our celebrations.

Many guests and special people related to the volunteer program



As in the above, including on occasion, a Gib Lewis inmate trustee



Grief Ministry – Betty Sanderson

In memorial, we would like to pay special respects the late Mrs. Betty Sanderson who worked tirelessly behind the scenes as our Grief Coordinator and passed on to her eternal rest several years ago. Mrs. Sanderson filled a unique role that has not yet been replaced. We all know the deep-seated pain of grief, and that is especially so for those in prison; we all likewise know that the pain does not soon depart, but takes time. As the chaplains notify inmates of deaths in their families – hundreds a year – especially with respect to the deaths of mothers, fathers, and siblings of prisoners, Mrs. Sanderson would send a note from the Chaplaincy Department to the prisoners after one month and after six months, to let the prisoner know the Chaplains Still Cared and were thinking of the prisoner as he still grieved.



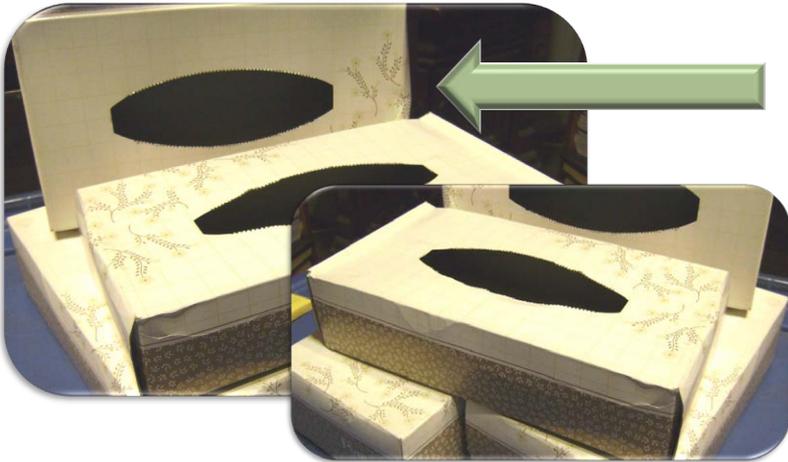
Ed and Betty Sanderson



We Care About the Heart



Tissue boxes from Chaplain's desk



Emptied from the TEARS of inmates



Gib Lewis Chaplaincy Department