

First Five Letters

Background to Sourcebook on Longest Cover Up in TDCJ History



The Case of Sherlock Holmes and the Enchanting Chaplain

**High Security Prisoners Given Computers, Cameras, Scanners, Printers to
Use Unsupervised in the DARK for YEARS,
and Other Cover Ups, Infamies, Protection for Favored, and
Retaliation for Whistle Blowers**



Michael G. Maness

20-year Senior Clinical Chaplain
Activist in State Chaplain Equity

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for many supporting documents see
www.PreciousHeart.net/chaplaincy



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2. 2012-10-29 – **Polunsky – Exposure 1** – Livingston-Collier-Thaller – 21pgs – with DVD of MS OneNote with many documents
3. 2013-01-17 – **Polunsky – Exposure 2** – Livingston-Collier-Thaller – 13pgs – did extortion, what is going on, and rehirability
4. 2013-02-18 – **Polunsky – Exposure 3** – Livingston-Collier-Thaller – 35pgs – with Lewis Prison exposures, and no commendation
5. 2013-06-18 – **Bryan Collier 30-Minute Plea** – recorded – 4pgs – No acknowledgement of wrong at Polunsky, cover up inequality



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The 50-page Faith-Based Letter, not wholly relevant, is here

www.PreciousHeart.net/Maness-Faith-Based-Housing.pdf

Here at this site is the professional chaplaincy documents

www.PreciousHeart.net/chaplaincy/index.htm



TDCJ IOC

To: Warden Muniz

Date: 7-11-12

From: Chaplain Michael G. Maness

Subject: Chaplaincy Security and
request this placed in my personnel file

I believe I need to send this to you, as a kind of second of command to Chaplain Collier as viewed by Chaplaincy HQ. Chaplain Collier has essentially claimed all is okay with Warden Simmons after I talked with Simmons. That is fine with me. And so I dare not take any serious action without your knowledge, and eventually without chaplaincy HQ's and especially Mr. Marvin Dunbar's knowledge, as this will affect so many volunteers that have a lot of resources and clout.

So I would just like this to go into my file that I have made the concerns known.

Regardless, trusting the inmates so much is very fun and enjoyable, and I am seeing a totally new side of chaplaincy that I did think possible. The items below are just a few among others.

Mid- to Late June, 2012: began to question inmates in Media Office all day with zero supervision and especially with the *lights off*. How long? From the beginning! Years.

Collier said everyone has seen and approved it, including Upshaw, Ortiz, and Dunbar. He said Warden Simmons even had the room appointed for the computers, since it had A/C to keep them cool. When asked about the "lights out," Collier defended the offenders needing the lights off in order to "see the buttons' lights" that operate the sound and video recorders and such.

Found out DVDs for Hazlewood did not have proper TDCJ Media Releases. Though some said DVDs were being cut for volunteers, some with a warden's approval, some volunteers said DVDs were being cut by inmates and given to volunteer ministers as a normal course.

July 2, afternoon, in Media Office (where staff restroom is), seemed like I heard CVCA Reeve's voice faintly on speaker, speaking from Chaplain's Office, as though inmates in Media Room were able HEAR what was taking place in Chaplain's Office via a clandestine mic of some sort.

July 2, evening, regardless, I felt the need call Chaplain Collier that evening around 9 p.m. and expressed my concern that the warden/s be brought up to speed, told him about the suspected surveillance. Requested a private meeting with him first thing in the morning up front, confidentially, to share multiple concerns.

July 3, because he was busy, we did not get to get together until about 9-10 a.m. in the 1 Bldg. Chaplain's Office. I explained most of my concerns and was shocked to find out that Chaplain Collier had asked the inmates earlier in the morning if they had set up such! That shocked me. Of course if the prisoners had done such, they would have denied it and dismantled such – maybe dismantled. That explained some of the inmate reticence and apparent less-than-usual jolliness first thing in the morning.

I explained the necessity to KNOW what was going on. We did not even KNOW what they had or were capable of. I mentioned that I had talked to a computer expert, Tommy Hubert, of DCS Computers in Chester, who explained many technicalities I STILL not fully understand. I strongly recommended to Chaplain Collier the need to get this checked out, even though his ministry budget if the prison could not, as all these were volunteer computers. This did not seem to register as important!

The darkroom and 10-12-hour days with ZERO supervision seemed inconceivable, but was of no concern – with four computers, a digital camera, a digital video recorder, high-quality scanner, and two printers, one a high-quality color laser printer! And female volunteers and officers having to enter the dark room to use the staff restroom past the prisoners!

The inmates in the Media Office could see staff and volunteers BETTER than we could see the prisoners!

Also – key control – a set of 10-11 keys kept in the cabinet that inmates come and get whenever they need to unlock something in the chapel without so much as saying what they were doing to staff or volunteers.

Collier did not seem to relate how the wardens and even Hazlewood, et al, assumed we knew what was going on in the Media Room. He defended the darkroom, because the inmates need to see the lights on the switches. The board covering the window was mentioned to a shrug. The barrier to the in-gym sound equipment area was needed to keep stragglers out during the services. There appeared to no concern about observation of inmates, by security or chaplains or cameras. I strongly wanted us to develop a plan to present to the wardens to regain control of things. He did not commit to that or even appear to see the need.

Regardless, we agreed to hold off and think about these things until Monday.

July 4, daytime at home, I was slightly troubled about a virus warning when I plugged in my flash drive into my home computer, that I have been taking in and out of prison for about ten years without a problem. The bug had been strangely appearing on my flash drive from time to time over the last month or so, picked up by my top-of-the-line ESET Security Software on my home computers. When I actually looked up the virus being deleted, I found it was a “Win32/Peerfrag.FM” worm that placed itself on all removable media (like my flash drive), being described as “a worm that spreads via P2P networks. The worm contains a backdoor. It can be controlled remotely.”¹

July 6, morning, Friday, I brought in two flash drives to find out which of the two computers (state computer or the volunteer network of 6-7 computers). I almost just going report it all. But decided to tell the volunteers and inmates about the virus and need to have all checked out. The prisoner brought in the one laptop donated-loaned with the most up-to-date virus (and ESET Virus Protection) which picked up the virus which was being put on my flash drive from the state chaplaincy computer – it was isolated to the state computer that we will have to take to IT soon.

CVCA Tommy Dill was there and offered to take the computer on and off the unit to update the computer’s virus program and even asked the inmate clerk to draw up the clearance.

I was also told that Chaplain Collier would not be in on Monday.

INVENTORY: since we had no accurate inventory, I decided it was necessary to initiate a complete inventory. I was not surprised by the slight reluctance. That was about 7 a.m., and by about 4:30 p.m. they had not completed it. I said that I expected them to finish it by Monday by noon.

July 9, morning, Monday, I found a note from Chaplain Collier that voiced some frustration from him that I did not wait for him, that a couple of his SSIs were ready to quit, and said to stop everything. At that time, I felt it was becoming clear that my concerns about policy violation

¹ See www.ESET.eu/encyclopaedia/win32-peerfrag-fm-p2p-worm-palevo-kxw-trojan-meredrop-axqx?lng=en for a full description.

were not being taken seriously. I had a staff meeting with CVCA Dill and four inmate clerks. They presented me with the completed inventory that needed only some minor corrections.

But the inventory was still not complete.

I also ordered the clerks that, as long as on my shift, that the lights would remain on in the Media Room, charged to take seriously not only the inventory, but also take with the utmost seriousness the extraordinary blessings given and even entrusted to chaplaincy. I also challenged the inmates in the Media Room to develop a work schedule of what they were doing, as a minimal starting point to getting a handle on things.

Later, when I sought to get a copy of the Chaplaincy Audit, also I found out from Compliance Sgt. Stringer that she had concerns about computers, passwords, and more, including how she was not aware of inmates being alone in Media Room for such long periods.

July 9, near noon, I had a talk with Senior Warden Simmons about all this, to which he thanked me for coming forward. He had suspected some of this and that he himself had to some degree previously charged Collier. He indeed did not know that there was no supervision of Media Room inmates and expressed concern about other irregularities and supported the need to gain control. I mentioned how my flash drive had picked up a virus and had isolated it to Chaplain Collier's computer via the donated volunteer computer's similar ESET virus protection (and need to take it on and off, and willingness of CVCA Dill handle that).

Warden Simmons was also concerned about chapel services exceeding stated capacity last Sunday, and I too reflected that I had something similar to Chaplain Collier and need to address that or have the Safety Officer recertify capacity.

He said that Asst. Warden Muniz was going to be getting with us about several things.

I expressed my fear over these things, as the ministry is precious to us, and felt Collier was a good man who had bought into some of the inmate dominance, himself doing what a pastor would most probably normally do in a free-world church.

June 10, Tuesday, morning. Amazingly, for the first time in months, the lights were on in the Media Room and remained on all day. I *guess* the inmates had decided to leave the lights on after my talk the previous day, but I did not ask the inmates or Chaplain Collier. I was just glad the lights were finally on, but I still wonder why they had been off for years.

I did remember a list of volunteers on the inmate computer network, and decided to wait no longer – and should have called immediate attention to that (I am sorry to say) – I had inmate clerk remove list of volunteer addresses from their computer network and placed excel file on Chaplain Collier's computer. Chaplain Collier did not seem surprised or shocked, nor even CVCA Ratcliff. That was super strange.

Again, without getting this addressed, who knows? but that somewhere that long list of volunteers' addresses, phones, driver's licenses, and dates of birth is still there. God have mercy.

I mentioned to Chaplain Collier that I had talked with Warden Simmons about my concerns, that we were in trouble, and that I expected Asst. Warden Muniz would be calling soon.

June 10, Afternoon. Collier leaned over and said he talked with Warden Simmons about not knowing what the inmates were doing. That Warden Simmons said he would not have put them down there if he had not trusted them, mentioning something about as "long as the spirit of the policy" was followed, that was all that mattered, and all was okay – something I do not believe Warden Simmons would agree to.

Chaplain Collier also mentioned his concern about me not losing my job and himself not getting a disciplinary. Sure, there were a lot of things. Again, in so many words, Chaplain Collier affirmed the trust of the prisoners on the computers. "Plus," said Collier, referring to his chat just minutes ago with Warden Simmons, "You know how many times you have torn these computers down and found nothing." And then Chaplain Collier mentioned Simmons desire to keep this all "in house," which I am happy to do, but again suspected this was not precisely Warden Simmons. Chaplain Collier whispered this to me while other volunteers and inmates were in the office; I doubt they heard, but still. Chaplain Collier also mentioned how he had heard, via hearsay-but-appeared-credible-and-worthy-of-repeating how another TDCJ chaplain had just recently gotten into trouble for allowing inmate clerks to do his 5.01(c)3 papers at work for his ministry on the job, but, said Chaplain Collier, "All of mine are all in Ed Reeves' name and Warden Simmons was okay with that."

"That was great to hear," I said.

June 10, Afternoon, about 1430. I walked over and visited with CVCA Gary Schools in 7 Bldg Gym as Kairos volunteers left. Inmates on computers with no staff watching and inmates in back classroom with door closed playing guitar. Volunteer Gary Schools and I chatted for about 30 minutes on his love for Kairos and prison ministry. As our conversation shifted casually to chaplaincy, I mentioned the Media Room lights out of months gone by and the inmates being alone, and he did not understand that either.

When count cleared, the officer was in gym left, an inmate came into the office and shredded the count sheet, and Vol. Schools let rest of the inmates out. I got a call that Chaplain Collier was leaving and asked me to come back. I left Vol. Schools to lock up 7 Bldg. Gym and headed back to 3 Gym.

Back at 3 Gym, we added one more thing to inventory list, now five days in the making. It was clear they had never taken a good inventory. Even though I had repeatedly over the last days said "everything" we were still getting every "thing" on the list. Wednesday, from all the handwritten additions since the first list turned in on Monday, we will clean up the list.

At about 1545, the 3 Gym inmate clerks were ready to go home and I let them go to their houses.

June 10, Evening, at home. Since I had transferred the volunteer file from the volunteer computer network to Chaplain Collier's TDCJ computer, I fully expected that my computer ESET Security would again pick up the worm, but it did not. Had someone cleaned Chaplain Collier's TDCJ computer?

I will check again today to see if the worm is still there, just to be sure, and still believe Collier's computer need checked out by IT given all. But I dare not do anything without further support.

I am so concerned that the ministry to the inmates be kept going, within security guidelines, and that the precious hearts of the best inmates and our great volunteers be preserved. Also, at this time, I believe the main inmate clerks to be just following orders with NOTHING seriously amiss going on, just helping chaplaincy. Maybe there is a better way to put this.

Please handle with care. I am happy if only this be placed in my personnel file and go nowhere else, if you are truly happy with all. It is very nice after all.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Maness, Your Chaplain

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Original FAXED on October 29, 2012
This was in the original and left by accident
as part of the first draft.

July 29, 2012

Brad Livingston, Executive Director
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
P.O. Box 99
Huntsville, TX 77342-0099

Bryan Collier, Deputy Executive Director
Rick Thaller, Director, Institutional Division

Dear Brad and Bryan,

As you receive this, my retirement becomes effective on Oct. 31st, Halloween, ironically enough, and mostly for departing under pressure for exposing a **huge years-long series of security breaches in the Polunsky Chaplaincy Department.**

The last letter I wrote you two, Brad and Bryan, was in December 2011, the 50-page letter on Faith-Based Housing and problems therein. Still have not heard any official response on that load of work. Like that 50-pager, I send this because I believe there are a lot of good people in TDCJ, and it is the *Right Thing* to do – you need to know this too. Don't let Warden Alford destroy the good work in the Polunsky Chaplaincy Department, and you would do well to initiate an investigation before too much more is covered up.

Bryan, I still have something against you for taking 5 chaplains of the 25 and putting them in parole, and I did not share this with you at our last meeting, as you seemed determined to make out that the 25 additions were not much my fault – and I was beholden to your mercy then. Rep. Jim McReynolds ramrodded that – you know – but did you know that he won Tyler County by only two votes or so the previous election. When I went to McReynolds, it was not only as a chaplain, but as coordinator of the Tyler County Ministerial Alliance that had hosted the last Community Thanksgiving Services for decades, as a member of several civic clubs, and – importantly – I took with me my good friend Audre Pelly (409-283-2141) who at the time was the president of the Tyler County Chamber of Commerce. I had asked for 50 chaplains and raises to Chaplain III for 50 more. McReynolds *had* to listen to me, not so much as a mere TDCJ chaplain, but as one of influence in Tyler County, but more than that, it was the right thing to do. He liked to do the *Right Thing*.

Bryan, you can listen to whom you wish, but there is a need to rectify the wrongs done to me, and you, Brad and Rick can investigate the following rather easily. Let me recap a tad.

Not too long after that 50-pager was sent to you, a series of events found me with three disciplinaries including the recommendation for dismissal. While appealing all those disciplinaries, the authorities said the 50-page letter on Faith-based Housing was *not* a part of those disciplinaries, yet the 50-pager was *present* nevertheless in all stages. The 50-pager was on the table and discussed, and I was derided for it in so many words. How dare I give input as an educated specialist to those who have never sat in a chaplain's chair.

You all will not easily believe they are related to this last month, not easily, and I cannot prove it – except as you might look closely and *really* dig.

Regardless, Bryan, on the disciplinary you dismissed, because you said they should have gotten with me earlier, you also have to admit the number of errors and misrepresentations in the process, that I documented clearly, and my rights even as employee to engage fellow preachers from my home email, including David Valentine. You may remember that his church-starting adventure was couched by you not as “church-starting” but as simple churches helping inmates, yet at the week-long mandatory chaplaincy training, Valentine was given priority time and called his adventure “church-starting.” Prior to that chaplaincy training, Bryan, you may also want to

know that Reg. 1 Director Michael Upshaw also *ordered* all senior wardens and their chaplains to his HQ in about February for a two-hour session led by Mark Hollis (214-275-1141) at which Valentine was present too, that Valentine helped cheerlead, which closed with Upshaw's *expectation* that all chaplains will "inform Mr. Hollis of your dates for the Experiencing God Weekend" – another unconstitutional use of mandated state time to *order* a Baptist program. And Mr. Upshaw plays, perhaps, a critical part in my dilemma below, one way or another, which makes some of the investigation worthy of a closer look.

CAUTION – send an OIG person today: I hope you will allow your OIG internal affairs people to verify this AS SOON as you get this, before Warden Alford further undermines and further hides his fault in this. Very easily, Mr. Thaller could have the Polunsky on-unit OIG person wander into the chapel in 3-Gym, where the main chaplaincy office is, and he should see inmates in the front office media room *by themselves on computers* as they have for years (lights on now because of me). Then look to the right to see an audio *cave*, where one inmate sits during services nearly completely hidden and in the dark. That same OIG person can ask Major Hutto and others, just about any rank or officer that has been to that chapel in the last years this: how long were the inmates in the dark in the computer media room by themselves?

Years! Inmates in the dark by themselves – only *part* of the story I blew the whistle on.

To my retirement. After a grievance hearing on Friday, October the 19th, appealing a contrived "Letter of Instruction"¹ in my file for tools *that had been in the chapel for years* inventoried and checked by previous security officials, and Warden Alford's essential denial to remove that letter – I applied for my retirement that Friday. The worst part of the Letter was and "inattention to our department" because I have made more security changes in that department in the last month – up hill – than all the previous chaplains combined, some of which are articulated here. But to the point, Alford was more concerned about locked tools than unsupervised inmates – that is the short story. Not feeling well, I called in sick Monday, as I had in the past, telling Chaplain Collier (several times telling Collier *or* the Warden's secretary Marla, about 10-12 times since I came in June), then again on Tuesday saying my ailment would carry over until Wednesday. "Not a problem," said Chaplain Collier, and he wished me well.

On Tuesday, October 23rd, the ERS approved my retirement, and I called Polunsky's HR Chief Tabitha Taylor, who instructed me to come in and sign the papers. Not well, I said I would be in Thursday or Friday. Wednesday – the *day* after my retirement was approved – Warden Muniz called and said he had written me up for failure to call in sick and that Warden Butcher would handle the disciplinary on Friday. He said for the **FIRST TIME** that I should have told him or the majors. All other times – I don't remember ever calling in sick and talking to a warden, maybe once – at all other times since June to this October, it had been sufficient to tell Collier or Marla the warden's secretary, who I assumed told them.

Until Wednesday, the day after my retirement was approved, there had been *no problem!* Just how convenient is that for me?

After calling Polunsky's HR Taylor, I came in on Thursday and signed all my retirement papers and left, effective Oct. 31st, time running off the books. This is not how I wanted to

¹ Bryan, like the contrived stuff before in other disciplinaries, I outlined with clarity, especially the one you overturned.

retire, but Warden Alford was clear in his trying to cover his tracks, clear to me in wanting to hide his mistakes in years past, and in so many words, actions, and harassments his desire to make me their fall guy. Not happening. Your investigator can verify some the following in less than hour! What I give you here, though, is the full story, though it could go onto to 100 pages.

Brad, Bryan, Rick – **do NOT let Alford destroy the Polunsky Chaplaincy Department** because of his failure in leadership and his failure to help guide that department in proper security protocols, this month and also during his own time in the past as Polunsky asst. warden.

Possible Key?: Let me also add this, if you chose to read all, then this may be a key to unraveling or a key to a good investigation: it seems very much like the utter freedom given to Chaplain Collier and his volunteers was do to some flippant comment Collier made to me in our many conversations about the escape attempt under Simmons. Collier had several times mentioned that it really was *not* chaplaincy's fault, but in one comment Collier said *something* about Simmons asking Collier for his department to take rap to cover for others. I did not believe that or know what that meant. As the months unfolded, not until now, that had an eerie ring to it. Just a couple of weeks ago, after hours and hours of talking with Collier, about the favor given to him and how so much had been overlooked – he said, "It's because I know where the bodies are buried." A joke for sure, but the reality is that there where so many violations, I did ask, "There certainly appears like there is something you have on someone, or something you have done that has put you in their favor." Who? When? When in August, I told Simmons, "If he was really happy with all this, I would camp out in the chaplaincy office in 7-Gym." But Simmons said to me, "You're not leaving 3-Gym," which was a kind of encouragement to my experience at the moment, at least I thought, a confidence in me – Simmons was so good at inspiring confidence and NEVER threatened anyone. When Warden Alford came on board, it was eerier still to hear Alford in one of his early humiliating remarks, to say to me, "There are so many violations there. You don't want me to come down there." But, strangely enough, Alford HAD COME by and sat two hours in the darkened room that I wrote up. Really? Does Chaplain Collier know something of the escape NOT in the final Critical Incident Review? That would also explain why Collier is not really stressed, and also why the wardens and especially Warden Alford had NOT talked to Collier with the same tones, and even perhaps Reg. 1 Dir. Upshaw's involvement. It would take some tact, but I suspect Collier is not even aware of how he has been used in all this. But what does Collier know there? These are just educated surmises.

Here is the SUM: Chaplain Maness discovered and articulated in WRITING the largest and most long-lived security breach in TDCJ history – see the attached 5-page IOC given to them in July, just over a month after arriving. Thus began the harassment just after Warden Alford arrives at the beginning of September. After two months of snide remarks and harassment for it, I chose to retire rather than face another series of contrived disciplinaries.

Coming to Polunsky on June 1, after the removal of dismissal recommendation, I thought I had moved from the sticks of Woodville's Lewis Unit into the Polunsky's Beverly Hills of chaplaincy programs. And shocked! How did this level of support escape me and all chaplains? I have been the most assertive and curious chaplain in TDCJ history, researching every conceivable aspect of correctional chaplaincy, and taking that research to the legislature – you

know that.² By July, as I talked with inmates, volunteers, and staff (walked and talked, *you know the drill*) and then – poof – the unbelievable *years-long* serious security breach appeared to me, about which I first brought to Chaplain Collier, then Warden Simmons, and then wrote the 5-page IOC attached (that Wardens Simmons, Muniz, Butcher, and Major McMullen saw, that Simmons discussed with Alford in their transition). In August (I think I have the notes somewhere?), I drove to Huntsville to see you, Bryan, and then Rick Thaller, who were not available, but **Thaler's secretary took notes**, she said (don't remember her name). Bryan, you instructed me to send what I had to you, Ortiz, and Simmons, and then I called Simmons and came back to the Polunsky Unit. Warden Simmons convinced me of no need to go “downtown” on everything, and he was going to send Warden Muniz to “check things out.” Simmons was such a champ then, so understanding, and confirmed again why I respected him so much. Then he retired August 31st. Mid-September, Warden Alford threatened me that going off the unit with anything, “would disrespect him,” while he had no problem disrespecting me. Only he had the right to criticize. Maybe so.

Still, doing the *Right Thing* is everyone's responsibility, and hiding stuff like this is near criminal anywhere, but especially so in the great TDCJ.

SUMS of THREE Security Breaches

SUM OF SECURITY BREACH #1: for YEARS prior to my coming in June – and would have continued had I myself NOT said or *written* a thing! – five to six inmates, two especially (Cavasos and Ramy), were in the media room IN THE DARK, lights OFF, with thousands of dollars of computers, high quality scanners, color laser printers, digital camera, digital video camera, live phone line, and NO ONE TURNED THE LIGHT ON – years. I finally moved the cameras into the chaplaincy office in October to the grumble of all. Yet that does not take away from YEARS in the dark.

Adding substantially to the problem, the Polunsky Chaplaincy is the pride of the chaplaincy fleet to Chaplaincy HQ, with 17 volunteer chaplains and its load of programs (though secret to other chaplains). Manager 1 Bill Pierce and Reg. 1 Chaplain Steve Ulmer came to interview just a month ago, to get ideas about Volunteer Chaplains. Chaplain Collier even told me that Ulmer annual initial evaluation of Collier was *returned* by the wardens, for they would accept nothing but top marks for Chaplain Collier – mark that down – and so Ulmer gave Collier top marks on a second writing. Furthermore, in the pre-audit we were given, Ulmer had written up some unsupervised inmates in the gym area, but had NOT written up any in the dark lights-out media room.

So then, hear this with clarity *please* – I brought to light in writing and verbally and was then quickly being crushed for this after Warden Alford arrived. The inmates were in an office for 10-15 hours a day, 7 days a week, for YEARS in the dark, unsupervised:

- NO ONE knowing for sure**
1. WHAT they were doing,
 2. WHAT they are capable of doing, and no one tracking –
For years. Not a day. Not a week. ***For years!***

Bad enough you say! No sirs! That is nearly the worst thing, but also in the DARK with lights OUT! Then add to this: just about anything the inmates wanted over the last several years has been approved in writing by Warden Muniz, and Chaplain Collier has all of the IOCs. So much came in, sometimes by inmate ordering of videos, that the Mailroom had to initiate special

² See www.PreciousHeart.net/chaplaincy and www.PreciousHeart.net/Save_Chaplaincy.htm.

protocols with signed IOCs from the wardens for the load of volunteer-purchased PERSONAL property that the inmates use WITH ZERO tracking – for years in the dark with the lights OFF.

Honest-as-the-day-is-long Volunteer Chaplain Tommie Dill told me early on, “We trust them [inmates in dark media room] absolutely, 100%!” I mentioned to Tommie, “You have got to know that statement would rise the hairs on the back of any staffer.” And since then, made reference to that comment and how that “100%” is illegal in prison. Call Tommie Dill Tommie Dill (936-933-1545 or 936-328-4959) and ask him. He has invested heavily in this department too, emotionally and financially. You’ll hear about that fine man below.

Bad enough you say! No hardly.

SUM OF SECURITY BREACH #2: Even though, as the 5-page IOC attached said, that I *tried* to bring to you in in Huntsville in August, that Warden Simmons and Warden Alford discussed – hear this, when Warden Alford was asst. warden at Polunsky, the LIGHTS WERE OFF, and in anticipation of Warden Simmons’ retirement, the most active volunteers were HOPING FOR ALFORD because he supported chaplaincy so much then (or Warden Hersch). I was trying to get what I could into compliance so we would not have to worry about who came, Alford or not, and was met with shrugs and disrespect. **As Lewis Unit Warden Helm was fond of saying, “If you are in compliance, you have nothing to worry about.”** But hear this, *please*: after I put my foot down about the lights in the media room, that the lights would be *ON!* during my shift, when Chaplain Collier came in a day later, the inmates had COVERED the lights with paper per Collier’s permission. Now then, instead of a dark lights-out room, it is merely a darkened room. What could I do?

That is not all. Saying he would address my concerns and 5-page IOC attached, Warden Simmons said he would have Warden Muniz come by and “check things out.” A week later in the afternoon, Warden Muniz and Major McMullen came by while Chaplain Collier and I were both there. Warden Muniz and Major McMullen stood IN THE DARKENED office with paper taped over the lights and talked with the two inmate SSIs for several minutes – saw that the inmates were *not* supervised in that darkened office. Then the warden and major walked around and saw the audio cave, and said the partial cover over the bookcase needed to come down. But still the inmate would be in the dark and 90% obscured! And after the IOC – Warden Muniz and Major McMullen did NOT tell the inmates to take the paper off of the lights!

What Warden and Major of a prison anywhere in the entire world would EVER do that?

None I have ever met. So, essentially, the darkroom is *now sanctioned? Certified? The non-supervision of inmates is now sanctioned and certified! Are you kidding me?*

In late Sept. or early Oct. Warden Alford came and set IN THE DARKENED room with the paper over the lights with a volunteer and the inmates and watched the whole two-hour church service. A good investigator would like talk to CVCA³ Tommie Dill (936-933-1545 or 936-328-4959) on that. Hear this: Warden Alford did NOT tell the inmates to take the paper off the lights! So, to this point, EVERYONE has essentially sanctioned the dark room and unsupervised inmates in the 3-Gym, and Collier and the Volunteers are left with my own word that such is out of place. Yes, after the IOC and Senior Warden Alford’s visit, the dark room is certified to some, just not me.

Talk about swimming up a creek. I am alone in defending the *Right Thing!*

³ CVCA – Certified Volunteer Chaplain’s Assistant.

I was alone here for months trying to GET THE LIGHTS ON in that room without forcing myself, and make improvements to move toward compliance verbally and in writing, determined NOT to act alone. I am new to the Unit. It was not until early October after another humiliating meeting with Warden Alford that I got *implied* permission to take the paper off the lights. Finally, I told the inmates to remove the paper on one light. Chaplain Collier, the key volunteers, and of course the inmates were in bad spirits, to say it mildly, but conceded in ugly tones that “you won, chaplain, and got your way.” The lights are on, a sad story, but not at all the worst part – the real security breach is UNSUPERVISED inmates on computers with scanners, cameras! color printers! and live phone line! By GOD IN HEAVEN, what is happening? Major Hutto even quipped to me, “If the lights are off, we’ll be escorting volunteers off the unit.” To which I replied, “Major, you remember I told you my position when you were a captain.” No comment from him. Amnesia, I guess – lot of that lately.

I had talked for hours with ALL, and, mark this down – been recommending since July this:

Buy a Video Camera with Sound for LIVE Feed to the
Chaplaincy Office, with intercom system – *to start inmate supervision*
and I said repeatedly the scanners and printers *need* to be in the main office!

Still no commitment. When I mentioned the video at first to Chaplain Collier in August, he shrugged, as though there was no need. In August and September, when I mentioned it Warden Simmons and then Warden Alford – and removing scanners and printers – there was no comment. Then other threats from Warden Alford – he would get a new chaplain if compliance did not come, whatever compliance meant him in this context.

Then newly minted Major Hutto finds an extension cord in the locked closet on the Faith-Based Pod, and then he wants all the cords in all of the chapels – fine by me – “the cords need to be tagged like the ones in maintenance,” he said. Fine. But Hutto was ramped up as though Chaplain Collier and I, myself, were breaking some tool policy, when ALL of the extension cords had been purchased by volunteers in years past by a warden’s signature and NO instructions from the wardens – used in the chapel for years, *until I spill the beans* on the lights-out media room. They lay in the 3-Gym and 7-Gym chapel floors for years. And, see the mainframe emails attached, I have to add to that fuss on extensions cords ***the rope made out of woven TDCJ bed sheets*** that Major Hutto and *all* the wardens have been seeing the inmates using in tug-of-war contests for YEARS – I myself said that should be added. If we are being consistent, which they were not, being consistent would have meant a greater fuss over ***rope made out of woven TDCJ bed sheets***. Mark that down. Chaplain Maness adds the *rope made of TDCJ sheets* to the collection of extensions cords. *Think about this scenario for a minute:* fuss, fuss over extension cords *while* walking pass inmates *holding* in their hands a **20 foot rope** made from TDCJ bed sheets! See the mainframe email I sent just in anticipation of this very letter!

Oh, yes, I saw the writing on the wall, and wish to high heaven I had made a diary.

Remember too, Polunsky has the million-dollar eyes-in-the-sky, with three cameras in 3-Gym, and so the senior warden has SEEN the inmates constructing rope out of TDCJ sheets woven-braided together – two inmates on the floor in front of the camera *weaving* sheets together in front of the chaplain’s office *and* in front of the one eyes-in-the-sky warden’s camera! And Chaplain Maness *himself* has to add the rope to the fuss about extension cords!

That same camera is poised to see the lights-out media room for YEARS!

You all must see the strangeness here ... and if all is going according to plan, the **rope** and extension cords got their tags and are in the 3-Gym chaplaincy as you get this.

If a change in direction needs to happen that reverses years of precedents, just tell us instead of harass and threaten. But so much unraveled *after* I submitted that 5-page IOC in August. Bear in mind as you read this, that Chaplain Maness, me, has made more security changes to the Polunsky Chaplaincy in the last six weeks than all of the previous chaplains combined, including Chaplains Collier, Mary Berry, and Loren Edwards, the latter two of which I talked to too, and you should too.

One volunteer, Walter Bennett (936-756-1681, 713-851-7666), an ex-banker, escorted an inmate from B-Side to A-Side, a policy he was allowed under Simmons (Collier said). Warden Alford and Major McMullen escorted Bennett to our chaplaincy office in 3-Gym and Alford instructed me to “write him up, and if he ever does that again, I am pulling his badge and he is off the unit for good.” Bennett and I sat for two hours and reconstructed what he did. Latter, Warden Alford chided me for “just writing a history” when Alford wanted me to drill Mr. Bennett and let him know that he almost lost his volunteer status, etc., rather than just what write what happened. It was not ethical for Alford to charge me to drill Bennett for something he was allowed to do.

This was just the same tactic Alford used in the toolbox affair, where Major Hutto previously instructed us on a shadow box, correcting years-long wrongly numbered tools that *Hutto* himself had been aware of as a captain, ask volunteer Tommie Dill (936-933-1545 or 936-328-4959). No, per Alford, Major Hutto was to *write up* the chaplains for something Hutto himself *knew* for a long time, indeed most of the unit knew, as the chaplaincy *fixed* numerous things for years! See the attached inventory list, and note that two scissors had a security cable attached to them that *security* itself had attached. Alford apparently consults others, maybe Reg. 1 Dir. Michael Upshaw, but did NOT sharing all I have done. Or perhaps Upshaw is a party to the cover-up too – don’t know, but Upshaw knew about the lights-out darkroom too, as he has been by several times. I am seeing a continuity with Upshaw I cannot prove, not clearly, but it is clear that Warden Alford is contriving things, and most clear wants to cover-up his own failure as quickly as possible.

Major Hutto is a young newly minted major, beholden to Alford. So Hutto does not share his knowledge of the tools that Volunteer Tommie Dill confirmed, and changes his first inclination of shadow box or removal to *write the chaplains up* per Alford’s direction.

As in a previous disciplinary by Marvin Darbar, is it right for the person charging to also be the judge? Dunbar goaded Pierce to write a disciplinary that Dunbar judged at the first level, just as here where Alford goads Major Hutto to write a disciplinary that Alford judges. That is a conflict between branches of government, and a policy violation too. But the Letter of Instruction on tools and more importantly “inattention” from Alford through Hutto – that is a cover-up of years of their own inattention, and worse, to cover my own exposure and whistling.

Warden Alford is upset that I would not be as easily compromised as Major Hutto and turn hostile to volunteer Bennett for something Bennett was told was right. If Alford changes policy, fine, he is the chief. Bennett apologized, but was hurt, because he is as attentive as any; he was doing what he had done for *years* and was told it was okay. Moreover, the B-Side Inmate Ho himself had been to the A-Side many, many times since my arrival, for months until discovery. But Alford’s charge to me to elevate a hostile demeanor to Bennett was not ethical or professional, only it did not work on me regarding this fine volunteer. I wrote the truth and was not going to change it.

Instead of correcting or changing direction, or even guiding us in his new direction, as with Bennett and other instances I could name, Alford is charging me especially to be hostile to

volunteers and inmates. I was not his dog to sic onto folks. The other reason for Alford's harassment should become crystal clear: he knew he had goofed years ago and had now a public relations nightmare on his hands and he wanted Chaplain Maness to be the bad guy – and Maness would not – so Alford attempts to make Maness the fall guy!

Well, sirs, I have a pen too!

How many times in the past has Warden Alford played these elementary games? There are far better methods of supervision, and the class on supervision by supervisors is one, not mention a host of leadership books out today. It is a sorry tactic, but does not work with staff having grit.

Quietly Investigate NOW. I chose to retire, just in the nick of time too, and then write this as soon as I could. Even if you gave all this to Alford, before you investigate, there are plenty of indisputably clear witnesses to the gross years-long failure that he is covering up. But if you, Brad, Bryan, and Rick will simply initiate a quiet OIG investigation, **within hours** you will know the basics. But you all **could get piles of evidence** that substantiates what I am sharing. Later, I will tell how Chaplain Collier is more innocent in this. And, what if?, truly *what if?* a portion of the prior escape attempt *was* covered up, to more truly fault the chapel than truly the chapel had culpability? And good *old* Chaplain Collier, the good guy that he is, just road with the flow, thinking he did a good service *for the wardens and dare I say others up the chain*, but in reality was used by them instead, rewarding Collier with carte blanche support. If that is case, then, wow – let you all discern that – but if so, likely the rewarding was not consciously accepted by Collier. He just accepted fault and built his department ... with favor *unseen favor* toward any chaplaincy department in the history of American prisons. Only speculation, but, given all, I cannot understand so much favor and so many violations going on so very long – to come crashing down the weeks after I share in writing grave concerns.

SUM OF SECURITY BREACH #3: that leads me to this outstandingly terrible breach of security that I undressed, that I discovered, that I even wrote up in that 5-page IOC attached and was essentially ISOLATED for it all – with another ominously threatening and even inconceivable twist **not in the 5-page IOC** attached! Let me introduce this slowly. After hours of talks with Chaplain Collier, only after hours, he was finally seeing the light here. Chaplain Collier is more innocent here than Warden Alford or Muniz will allow, that is for certain. Alford was the *hoped for* warden, remember, because of Alford's support in the past. All the major CVCAs and major volunteers hoped for Alford to replace Simmons! That was strange to me. The media room is a huge investment in time and money, and certainly all knew my concerns. Here is the third security breach that **you should VERIFY before the crime scene is tainted or MORE cover up takes place.** Here is how to verify – have one of the OIG people pull his badge off his side and causally talk with any of the CVCAs to verify this or calmly call them. Here it is in its entirety: yes, inmates YEARS in the dark, in the fortified media office (bars on windows), with \$1,000s of computers, software, scanners, cameras, color laser printers – oh yeah, did I mention the *live phone line* too – and printing material, and staff/volunteer restroom through which staff and volunteers had to go *through* the dark room to the restroom *with* a stairway portal to the 3-Gym's roof – HOLD it, no, that is not all ... **hold your breath** ... here is the worst of all: **volunteers IN the dark fortified room with the inmates with NO staff even in the entire building!**

Yes, it has been an essential part of Polunsky Chaplaincy success that volunteers can be in the 3-Gym and 7-Gym **buildings and locked in**, with inmates and **WITHOUT STAFF** present

(no staff chaplain or security staff). With up to 25 or 30 inmates, and for years. That is okay by me, especially with the eyes-in-the-sky and all, but not something that ever happened at the Lewis Unit, and also a huge liability. But how much more odd is it that volunteers are allowed in a **lights-off off fortified room alone with inmates within a locked building with NO STAFF!**

Come now! And years! After I write this up, are the wardens *just now seeing?*

What were – again – Chaplain Collier and I written “Letters of Instruction” for? For a toolbox and “inattention” – not my inattention, that is sure. Warden Alford thought I was an idiot to humiliate and threaten, cowed down because of previous disciplinaries. And then I get a call the day after my retirement – after months of fighting and isolation and rude behavior because of my stand on security issues – I get a call for *another* disciplinary for not calling the warden himself about being sick! Yes, another *change* of precedent *without warning*. What kind of professional behavior is being led here?

But, let me *drill* this in. Years in the dark, two months struggle by me to turn the light on, and written IOC, and inmates *still* unsupervised in media room – and we chaplains are written Letters of Instruction for “inattention” when I myself and alone have made *more* security upgrades in the last month – the *last* month – than ***all the previous chaplains and wardens combined***. It is a crime that I am being humiliated for bringing it forward!

If that does not speak volumes to you, I have oceanfront property in Arizona to sell you.

Brad, Bryan, Rick, et al, you all REALLY need to look at this. If this can happen to me, who is the most vocal chaplain TDCJ has ever had – even the most bold – then think about what some wardens and Warden Alford have done to weaker chaplains and staff. No, TDCJ is not playing prison, there is no slide out front on the lawn; it is a real prison striving for professional standards among staff who are human beings with lives and family.

The staff are not dogs to goad to bark, but people with frailties.

What makes all this worse – and Warden Alford surely has been shaking his head AFTER my 5-page IOC was made aware to him, and Simmons told Alford of my own drive to Huntsville, and likely AFTER consultation with Reg. Director Michael Upshaw ... let's NOT let Chaplain Maness' credibility come to light here.

Can you hear it? “Run Forrest, Run!” is echoing from the Senior Warden's office!

Really ... the honorable way would have been, *thanks* Mike. Then, how can we correct this? Of all the wardens I have met, that is what Senior Warden Michael Roesler would have said, and – him – like Warden Ginsel I suppose – would have NEVER engaged in this kind of shameful behavior.

Instead of “*thanks*,” they chose *nothing*. Silence. And Alford mistakenly thinks because of my other disciplinaries he did *not* read, that I could easily be his whipping boy – his dog. Still, Alford comes on board in September and after sitting in the media room himself, ***begins not there and then*** like any good warden, and ordering the inmates to remove the paper *covering* the lights. Instead, Alford ***begins by humiliating*** and threatening me. Going off the unit would “disrespect him,” he said as he humiliates me! And Alford talks to Collier *differently* who helped build all this up with Alford's own help and Simmons' help!

Cover-up makes me sick!

Even on the Bennett IOC, Alford told me he drilled Collier on Collier's claim that Simmons had allowed such “chapel” inmates on B-Side to be escorted to A-Side, and that Alford himself

had called Simmons. But when Collier and I talked about it, **Collier said Alford never said anything** about such (you can get a copy of the IOC that Bennett and I wrote about his escort from Warden Alford or Chaplain Collier). So, either Alford or Collier lied to me – and I shared that thought with Collier, too, saying there was no way could clarify that with Alford. I suspect Alford lied to Collier, at this point, and suspect Alford talked to Collier *differently* than Alford talked to me – whichever, it is crazy. Regardless, Bennett (936-756-1681, 713-851-7666) will tell you the truth, and tell you of his humiliation for something he himself was told was alright until that day, and Bennett was profoundly thankful for how I myself treated him – ask him! I will not be Alford’s dog to go after others for his pleasure or his cover-up.

REAL REASON FOR HUNTSVILLE TRIP. The real reason, Bryan and Rick, I tried to see one of you two in August – was NOT so much to chatterbox about my discovery, not merely to expose and blow the whistle on the wardens and others that NO ONE knew what the inmates were doing 10-15 hours a day, 7 days week, etc. – no sirs – but was **to redeem my reputation**. More important to me was to shove some of this on YOUR DESK Bryan, unbelievable security breaches that ALL who have been a party to disciplining me where a party to – even Ortiz, Dunbar, Reg. Chaplain Ulmer, Bill Pierce, Upshaw, wardens, majors, and – everyone – so then, ***what I got into trouble for was NOTHING compared this!*** Simmons even said legal sided with me on the photos fiasco, for which I had TDCJ lawyer created media releases! Here, at Polunsky Inmates were taking pictures of fellow inmates **every day with a digital camera!** By still digital camera and live digital video camera! DVDs of services have left the unit for years! without a staff member checking them, with only *claimed* media releases.

Just trusting the inmates’ DVD creations! Dare I share this too soon?

I should be rewarded for bringing this VERIFIABLE years-long super-serious *series of security breaches* by so many security chiefs, of so many broken protocols, too many to count, and by so many – heck fire! Now then, my own exposure is being covered up, making it all worse. Heck fire! again, by the standard I was judged, Upshaw, Simmons, Muniz, Hutto, McMullen, Ortiz, Dunbar, Pierce and so many others should have had 5 to 7 disciplinaries written! Why not? How many clear rule violations have you counted so far? Are you counting the rule violations at all? How often do you pass by a dark room with unsupervised inmates at computers and SAY NOTHING?

And after this chaplain, Chaplain Maness, reveals and blows the whistle, then such is *still* covered up, *still* going on, even – bet ya \$100 – *still* going on this week!

There is no timeframe on justice or doing the *Right Thing*. I want redemption of my honor. My record cleared. And more.

NOW? Chaplain Collier and I get what? Letters of Instruction for tools and “inattention to our department,” tools that were under double lock, that Major Hutto knew about as a captain, that Major Hutto immediately said “make plans for shadow box” (which we did), then Hutto is ramped up by Warden Alford to “write us up” and Alford’s other humiliation – It is a mercy to me, the wayward chaplain already under two disciplinaries for minor stuff – that I myself was *only given a Letter of Instruction* instead of another disciplinary. Alford wanted to give another disciplinary, but “consulted” he said, and chose the Letter – and Collier said Upshaw was the one consulted. Really, that is merciful. How many violations is Alford allowed? And a host of

others for *years*? How many? I would say at least one for EVERY DAY of violation? And other for every day of cover up.

Baloney! \$@#\$\$@! NO SIRS. Alford is *covering* up his gross negligence with a cheap hat trick, sub-par supervision skills, just as several others did in the first disciplinary on my Valentine mess, and on the third about the photos I had TDCJ lawyer created media releases on – ironically enough here, where, strangely, Reg. 1 Dir. Michael Upshaw is interwoven in all.

And STILL inmates are in the media room by themselves. Still, likely, a virus with a back door capability is on Collier's TDCJ computer. Still, perhaps, there is a list of volunteer personal information hidden way in 30-plus gigabytes of storage on the *inmates'* computers that no one except this chaplain has really tried to look at – and still cannot because of the *inmates'* password protection.

EASY SOLUTION. The easy solution that I suspect Warden Alford is just giddy and ready and waiting for the right moment to invoke: just say, “Chaplain Collier, back up your pickup to the back gate and load all your stuff in it and take it home.” Agenda, volunteers will be mad for a few weeks, but because they LOVE the ministry, will adapt as Alford hugs them, as Alford hugged a few KAIROS volunteers a couple of weeks ago, CVCA Tommie Dill told me

Do NOT allow Alford to destroy the good ministry there – after a good investigation, ask Warden Alford why he did not JUMP to my idea of a live video camera and sound installed into the media room with live feed to the main chaplaincy office? Why silence on that?

I have made repeated recommendations for a live camera and sound piped into main chaplaincy office, so we can **BEGIN** to supervise. Two times, Warden Alford just looked at me when I said that! After many hours over a couple weeks, good Chaplain Collier is finally willing to buy it – **something I wrote in our security pre-audit.** Yes, I answered our pre-audit *over* a month ago, and was just *this week* able to get Chaplain Collier to turn it in, days before the deadline (hope he turned in the one I filled out too – I trust he did). The major part was my recommendation for a camera and sound – to gain some supervision and allow us to keep the inmates in that room.

HAVE OIG Pull a copy of the pre-audit and see if the inmate supervision portion does not say in my handwriting – “recommend live video and sound or special warden's permission.” I had to struggle with Chaplain Collier to answer that straight. We had a tiff over that.

Brad, Bryan, and Rick – I was in heaven when silent to a wonderful and most productive chaplaincy department as I sat and enjoyed the ambience, piping in with my experience on a dozen items, UNTIL I began to see that the inmates were running nearly everything. Very much like a free-world church. Normal security, with eyes-in-the-sky, was out to lunch for years. Let me repeat – one camera positioned over the chaplaincy main office in 3-Gym can SEE CLEARLY the lights-out in the computer media room! For years, could see the lights out, vague shadows of inmates in that room. There is no excuse there, *after* I notify verbally and in writing that *no one knows precisely what they are doing or what they are capable of doing!*

REST OF THE STORY. In July, after a month or so, I began looking closer, taking initiative to discover what was actually going on. I found a volunteer list with personal addresses, phone numbers, birth dates, and driver licenses on the **INMATE computer network!**

Yes, the inmates have a live wireless network, not on the internet. I took that Excel list off and put it on Collier's computer. No thanks there.

Found list of computer passwords on inmate network! Including power-on password to Collier's TDCJ computer, and took that off. No thanks there.

Several other things. No thanks.

Instructed inmates to remove passwords from their computers so any staff can check them anytime. Inmates fussed. Chaplain Collier intervened. Still cannot access some things on inmate computers. Okey dokey – told Collier, darn. Was going to address that after lockdown, but decided to retire after last meeting with Warden Alford.

Found the virus on Collier's TDCJ computer, listed in 5-page IOC attached! IOC read by all! No one says a single thing! Not even to today! Read the IOC for the kind of virus, a virus that allows some kind of backdoor access! *God have mercy!* I said we should have Collier's TDCJ computer checked by TDCJ's experts to look at all this pronto. No response. Told wardens. Wrote in IOC. *Silence to this day!* A couple of weeks later in September, and new memo from Major Dickerson, newly promoted to Asst. Warden – NO MORE FLASH DRIVES on unit. Including mine AFTER my discovery.

Now I do not believe the inmates are savvy enough to get into TDCJ's network with their high-dollar computers, not yet. And I do not believe, *believe*. Still, my point that has fallen on non-responsive ears – we DO NOT KNOW what the inmates are capable of! How many times have I said and written it? Bear in mind, not just the SSIs either, but what a real expert is capable of with the high-end computers in that media room – we do NOT know! Totally unacceptable!

Computer Expert Finally Onboard? Just after Polunsky's Capt. Fitzpatrick's promotion, Warden Alford brags that we have a captain "that is computer savvy and that I am going to have him check out the computers." Wow. Fine. Okay. And Capt. Fitzpatrick got my cooperation. He gave a clean bill of health, which was no internet access. Yet, with no offense of Fitzpatrick, I am about as savvy as he, I suspect.

Still, come now, both of us are not experts, not in the business. Here's the kicker, if Capt. Fitzpatrick was a *real* expert, he would not be a TDCJ security captain, but making twice to three times as much elsewhere. Alford *knew this too*, that the true experts are in IT and even more so in the free world. I respect TDCJ's IT, yes I do, but the free world PAYS three times as much.

I suggested IT *and* an independent computer expert that was also an expert in sound engineering, because we have more sound equipment here than most of the churches in most of the counties in Texas. Silence there too. What we have in Polunsky Chaplaincy is unique, but, still, we need REAL experts and certainty ... and I am talking to the wind here.

We are not playing prison here. There are no slides out front on the lawn. But who can tell?

WE DO NOT KNOW. To this day, we still do NOT KNOW – how can I spell it? Why do I have to spell it? Why is the *chaplain* taking the initiative, having to be persistent, and why do I have to repeat myself for months on end? We do not KNOW for certain what the inmates are doing and do NOT, NOT, KNOW for certain what they are capable of doing.

Collier and I get a Letter of Instruction for a toolbox and "inattention to our department"? While just weeks earlier the wardens override Collier's annual evaluation.

I can spell cover-up clearly here. The wardens know what is going on, know what I was doing, and the *attention* was giving to everything! What I myself and you all will have to

discern, is this: just how much was Collier used or in the loop with the wardens? I choose to believe Collier was used, the good old pastor that he was. But a real investigation should tell all.

After revealing and *fighting uphill alone* about all this? Now I am writing to you after retiring by the hair of chinny-chin-chin before they could again contrive more trash.

Moreover, my taking the list of volunteer personal information OFF the inmate network does NOT mean is that the volunteer personal information is absent from the inmate network. **I must repeat this!** I would like to believe the inmates do not have the file stashed somewhere on their 30 or so gigabits of storage, but – hear this – I DO NOT KNOW. No one knows! Just last week, the inmates received *another* 16 gigabyte external harddrive, signed off by Warden Muniz, and that is a lot of space into which one could hide files. Listen to this phrase, that just sounds creepy in prison, but hear this: *the inmates have three external harddrives now*, I think.⁴ Stuff comes in EVERY week, sound equipment galore; since I came in June, I suspect Warden Muniz has signed off on nearly \$7,000 or more of *equipment* and no end in sight. Really. What a gold mine for chaplains, until one sees just about anything the inmates want is bought and cleared, that the inmates are driving the vision without a really clear unit-based chaplaincy strategic plan.

On the recent 16 gigabyte external harddrive, let's not even talk about my struggle to get copyright releases for the movies and even to get a good list of the movies they have. Still working on that as cordially as I could since July – I cannot fix everything at once. Not cordially, and I refuse to be forceful too often or become a dog.

As mentioned in the 5-page IOC, I had to struggle to get a good inventory accomplished. A thorough inventory had NEVER been done. See the early inventory version on the cd. The inmates received in their media room recently a spool of 100 dvds, as part of their supply train, and when I asked a key CVCA if he knew where they all went, he shrugged – didn't know. How much more attentive do I need to be.

Shutting Down. My version of shutting all down would be vastly different from Warden Alford's, to be sure. His would be permanent. Mine would be to clean, refine, and strategize *with* the fine CVCAs that helped build this. But sure as I am sending this, Warden Alford is waiting for the most opportune time to shut it all down with as little as flak from YOU ALL, with not much real concern for the volunteers or inmates regarding his own failure help chaplaincy thus far.

I kind of believe – yes, I am a chaplain with 20 years – all of us know there are inmates that are trustworthy to a point. We hope the chaplaincy SSI clerks are. One of them, Inmate Ramy, I was told used to cook Alford's meals or bring Alford his meals – was told that many times by Collier and volunteers, as a kind of legendary trust between Inmate Ramy and Warden Alford. I am sure the inmates are protecting the chaplaincy department, as best they can. But that is NOT the point. Trustworthy as some inmates may be, that is NOT the point!

Inmates Ramy and Cavasos are just doing what all good inmates do, getting what they can, feathering their own nest and, in this case, making their office as comfortable and, yes, *useful* as possible. They enjoy helping the church house! And they are doing good. I believe they are men of integrity and most of what they produce is outstanding church stuff. But our staff and

⁴ Did you hear that: the *inmates* have three external harddrives, but they are the only ones who use them. I know that sounds creepy for TDCJ, but I also hope that we can work that out where they can keep one, once we get the supervision issue solved. Still, remember, Chaplain Maness is bringing this to light, in the formerly dark room.

volunteer *confidence* in them is NOT THE POINT! Why do I have to mention this? And over the years, good volunteers with deep pockets have been buying stuff without end – wow, nice.

WE DO NOT KNOW what they are doing 10-15 hours a day – even as you get this – and we do NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF – that is TOTALLY unacceptable. And the greater challenge is *not* to throw the baby out with the bath water, but to strategize on how to clean this up and recover good security protocols, even write some if necessary.

The fact that I have to retire to avoid more humiliation – and write this, expose this, is nearly as bad as the security breach itself, and is in fact a security breach in itself. I want credit for this. I want my record cleared. And the good volunteers need mercy. The good Chaplain Collier needs mercy, if he is truly being used and not a party to the cover up. And Polunsky needs a good senior warden who will lead them!

The **ONLY CERTAIN thing that makes this letter credible** – that makes me credible – is that the above would be bad if done for a single day of no inmate supervision in the dark. One single day! Worse, would be one single week! Sirs, not a week or month, no sir. YEARS! And to this very day – *nothing* is actively being done. I suggested at least a live camera in the media room. We also need to clean all the harddrives to make sure no volunteer personal data is there. Need to clean the back-door virus off Collier's TDCJ computer.

But what about DEALING with those responsible for the YEARS in the dark with no inmate supervision of computers, scanners, cameras, color laser printers, live phone line, and volunteers locked in building and in dark room? And under the eyes-in-the-sky camera that looks DIRECTLY at that dark office? Grab a hold of that – with the testimony of HUNDREDS of staffers and volunteers!

And now – the whistle blower is *slammed* for the exposure! TDCJ is not playing prison here. No sir, there is no slide out front on the lawn. And justice *ought* to apply to staff chaplains. Praise them for revealing security breaches, like this at the Polunsky Unit, and praise them and reward them for Titanic work as given to Brad and Byran a year ago in that 50-pager on Faith-based problems.

This letter is Titanic work too, that no other chaplain could have written. Even your most senior Regional Chaplain could not have discovered this. Only sitting in the chaplain's seat with 20 years of experience was this chaplain able to see all. And, if it is not clear now, it also took years of wardens looking away and – please add this – and years of wardens *not helping*.

Lewis Unit B-Team? Moreover – in addition to the multiple offenses already stated and implied from any human concern, let me add another. When I mentioned to Warden Alford that I missed Lewis Unit Warden Frank Helm, knowing him for 20 years and so many others that would not have put with this and who (silently thinking) would never treat me like this, Warden Alford said of the Helm and the Lewis Unit, "They are the B-Team, this is the A-Team."

Not hardly. The Lewis Unit is the A-Team who would have never, ever, let all this get to this point – never have had inmates in a dark office for a single HOUR! Thinking about this should turn the stomach. It is likely the most absurd thing in American penal history, it seems. No prison in the world would allow such, and certainly not crucify the whistle blower.

Staff need wardens who look out for them! Reward staff for revealing and exposing weaknesses and problems. When they do Titanic work, as I have done, reward them Titanically.

And, ask a few of the volunteers listed – I, Chaplain Maness, was scaring some of the volunteers, scaring the CVCAs for all my concern, lest they lose it all! Call them. See my isolation forced by Warden Alford, instead of being helped by the chief of the unit.

Also, likely, hopefully – discreetly – **ask Warden Butcher why he NEVER came** into 3-Gym. He will likely tell you that, one main reason, was because he would have to correct so much to the dismay of the senior wardens – I suspect he would say that.

In the first part of October after Warden Alford humiliated me, threatened me, and asked, “Why is the paper there?” So I had the inmates take the paper off the lights. After the next meeting with Warden Alford and another general humiliation – I had had enough. Of my own accord, I had the inmates take off **all the paper off the lights**, to their sadness and volunteers’ and Chaplain Collier’s sadness too, and I got maintenance to repair the lights that had been disconnected years ago. For the first time there was full light in that room, first time in years! And *still* a few of the lights are only half working, perhaps a ballast needs replaced.

Really ... did I win something here? Not really, because the more important thing of inmate supervision has YET TO BE ADDRESSED. By all!

All my disciplinaries COMBINED pale in comparison to this.

So ALL of the security up-grades are DEPENDENT upon the new mean old Chaplain Maness coming in and trying to destroy their wonderful program and freedom. Warden Alford said nothing. Warden Muniz and Major McMullen said nothing. Chaplain Collier is not saying anything until last week. The inmates, volunteers, and even Chaplain Collier portray me as nearly acting alone – am I acting alone?

NO HELP from Warden Alford there, or Muniz, or Major McMullen.

That is not team work. That is ramping others up to cover for YEARS OF GROSS neglect, and Chaplain Collier will be their next victim, almost certainly.

Please, do not let Warden Alford destroy the Polunsky Chaplaincy Program.

Chaplain Collier is nearly innocent, I suspect. Hear this – Chaplain Collier is a good man who was very, very comfortable, even PRAISED, and ogled at. The screen-saver on his TDCJ computer has a photo of his **Chaplain of the Year Award** (2009?), the last time chaplaincy gave one. Despite Collier’s time at Polunsky and time in in-service, *please*, do not fault Collier too much. Chaplaincy HQ has *praised* and *rewarded* him, everyone coming and sitting his office, as a kind of **Chaplaincy Command Center** for the largest array of chaplaincy programs with more real estate devoted chaplaincy than any three TDCJ units combined has stood in awe. Also, to what extent was Warden Simmons’ Administrator of the Year Award given to him in August (just before he retired) owed to *his* Polunsky Chaplaincy Department’s vast array of programs and volunteers? That is a good question, and if any debt, then all those who participated in the commendation for Simmons are a small party to this years-long security breach as well – so, CAN we find an answer to that question too? Should we?

Addendum on Other Things – I was “Attentive To”

Ramadan. While I am thinking about, and my “attention” to things, the Muslim inmates met at seven places twice a day during Ramadan, and came by every morning to get 7 rolls of toilet paper every day! I was shocked that Muslim inmates were assigned by chaplaincy to work in the food service that were *not* food service workers, according to the 25-page Ramadan collection of IOC’s, all signed by Warden Muniz. I had one page at the Lewis Unit A-Team for Muslims, still, Polunsky is unique.

Property Control. Regardless, the week before I left, during lockdown, I returned to Property-Supply a whole case of toilet paper and four six-packs of two-inch tape. We already had two cases of toilet paper in 7-Gym, and over a case in 3-Gym – result of inmate orders, only beginning to get a handle on that.

Chemical Control. And I was making head way about chemicals, having the week before returned six gallons of hi-light and cleaners to A-side turnout boss that was NOT being tracked. Told Warden Alford about these, but these did not make into my Letter of Instruction or likely was said to Reg. 1 Dir. Alford.

Utility Inmate Gone Wild. And week prior, I called newly minted Major Hutto about his major’s utility squad led by Inmate Ricky Dotson, who “had done a lot of work for us” said Chaplain Collier, after hours maintenance and electrical work “for the administration” Inmate Dotson told me – YES, as this inmate was discussing *more* electrical upgrades, I fumed that all should go through maintenance first, as only maintenance knows all of the transformer loads, etc. After my call to Major Hutto – don’t see Inmate Dotson anymore, and no “thank you” either from Major Hutto for revealing that security breach, just a week or so before he himself was ramped up to write us chaplains up for a toolbox and “inattention” to our department. *Think about that.* But as far I can tell, the inmate got no disciplinary for work UNAPPROVED by maintenance, and no real investigation for that security breach either. But you can ask Collier and the CVCA’s about Dotson’s “help” for the last years.

Key Control. I got our keys under control. Most were on a ring in a cabinet for years, and the inmate SSI’s were unlocking the media room camera cabinet, all the storage areas, and office filing cabinets. I got the keys standardized, common locks, per the – what do you call her? – the key officer. And just a week ago, began to initiate to some hesitation that ONLY staff and volunteers should unlock locks and lock them. I doubt you want to read more about that? Told that to the Warden Alford too, yet I still get a Letter of Instruction for the toolbox that says in essence I was lax about my department! No, sir. So after grieving Warden Alford’s Letter that he had initiated through Major Hutto, that is, I am appealing what he himself initiated ... and Warden Alford *knowing* all I have done ... it is clear. Warden Alford is seeing clearly his own mistakes in years past and wants to chuck blame away from himself as quickly as possible, and he is ramping up Warden Muniz, Major Hutto, and Major McMullen to help him cover all of their own tracks. Lesser extent to Major Hutto, since he was just promoted.

No Non-Clerks Inmates on Computers. Just prior to the lockdown, I cancelled the use of the computers to inmates NOT SSI Clerks. Collier and others, sad again, had trouble understanding. Several inmates, including a couple in the high-dollar media room, were inmate janitors who were “in training” and regularly used all of volunteer-supplied computers. No thanks there either, from any warden, though I made a point to tell them.

No Commissary and Necessities Bags. I was about to initiate a policy of no commissary bags, no craftshop bags, and no necessities bags in the chapel. Unlike the Lewis Unit, inmates are allowed almost unrestricted within bonds to carry pillowcase-type bags around, which in and out of the chapel meant carte blanche for contraband. Especially given the \$1,000 of purchased

free-world equipment. Just recently, the Religious Practices Committee DENIED a Hare Krishna prisoner (ironically from the Lewis Unit on my own HQ 150) permission to have a small bag to put his prayer beads in, but here at the Polunsky Unit inmates carry LARGER bags, about a third the size of a pillow case, ALL over the unit, and IN AND OUT of the chapel, NEVER searched! One CVCA Ratcliff commented, “Come on now, chaplain” to me when I asked one of the inmates what was in his bag. Warden Alford told me, “You should have told the volunteer to take off for the day.” Easy for Alford to say. The inmate said his craftshop clothes and obviously some book or something. I did not bother to look closer. Just putting an end to bags in the chapel ... then, anyway.

All of the above Warden Alford knew, and made no mention in my Letter of Instruction!

Most Attentive Chaplain EVER! All this can be verified rather quickly. And my Letter of Instruction was on what? A toolbox and inattentive and lax, when the truth is that Warden Alford certainly knows is this – I, Chaplain Maness, have personally been responsible for MORE security upgrades and corrections in the last month than ALL the previous chaplains *and* – check this – ALL of both Warden Simmons’ and Warden Alford’s staff as well to date!

Mark that down, please. And Reg. 1 Dir. Alford is aware, yes?

No Changes by Maness – Per Manager 1 Bill Pierce. Still – EVERYONE has been by and seen the lights-out room, and of late because of mean old Chaplain Maness, the darkened room with paper over the light – and now hated chaplain – the room is **lighted** after years in the dark. Please, hear this, EVERYONE saw the years-long DARKROOM, including Reg. 1 Director Michael Upshaw, Ortiz, Bill Pierce, and Reg. 1 Chaplain Steve Ulmer; Polunsky wardens, majors, captains. Hear this too: CVCA Ed Reeves (936-425-1095) told me in a huff just the other day – oh, I trained Vol. Ed Reeves at the Lewis Unit 10 years ago, and he left the Lewis Unit for reasons to be told over coffee – CVCA Reeves was *the* Polunsky chaplain for many years, and has given perhaps \$20,000 dollars of equipment to Polunsky Chaplaincy. Yeah – they love him. As I started to negotiate, cajole, persuade ... hours on end ... tedious with Collier and others ... at one time and in a huff, Ed Reeves KNEW me and when I was coming asked Chaplaincy Manager Bill Pierce about me, afraid I would change things.

Ask that fine honest man Ed Reeves about me BEFORE Alford gets to him. Ask Reeves (936-425-1095). He is HONEST and will tell you what he told me, **“I asked Bill Pierce about you [Chaplain Maness], and Pierce told me there would be NO CHANGES!”**

That is nice. Kind of confirms my letter to you, Bryan, in which I said something about Dunbar and Pierce and about – you remember – a paraplegic and a bicycle.

God have mercy. We are not talking about bicycles anymore, but about the largest security lapse of judgment to come ... and I caught it. Dog gone it! I caught and had to FIGHT for it, and still have to fight for it.

Preserve Polunsky Chaplaincy. I am *fighting* to preserve the media room with the proper security, and I am challenging to high heaven Warden Alford’s attempt to hide my exposure of it, and hide my work to preserve it.

What is sad – no “thank you” to date. None. I am sure all are glad I am gone, except perhaps Chaplain Collier, as we had spent hours upon hours of my explaining to him how so many have let him down. Wardens and Chaplaincy HQ especially let him down. Not that a really need a “thank you,” but the worst of all is this – I reveal this, and am driven, harassed, and threatened for it ... and expected to keep quiet about it.

At this point – I might as well say what I am thinking, so I will put it in writing too. I fear that Warden Alford may ramp up an inmate about to be released to come and get me for this, if this letter gets the attention I am determined it will get. Maybe not something to worry about.

Brad and Bryan – it is likely too that Upshaw is aware of that 5-page IOC and a party to the cover-up and indeed a party to the harassment. I got into trouble for that 50-page letter that you, that no one really responded to, though the concerns are very real. And now this. It would take more access than I have link the 50-page letter in December of 2011 to all this, and the disciplinaries – but one thing is certain, most of THIS letter is easily verifiable.

MY REQUEST – RECORD CLEARED: I would like my whole record cleared and my record reflected to “rehire” for this discovery and attempt to right these gross years-long negligence.

MY DREAM: I would even like to be able to rehired at the Lewis Unit as a Chaplain III without retiring, a reward for services rendered, after Chaplain Joe Vitella transfers back to Polunsky. I could regain my soiled reputation at the Lewis Unit for the crap ramped up ... and even help one or two days a week at the Polunsky Unit, to help Collier and his fine volunteers restructure their program more into compliance with minimal depletion of morale, if Warden Alford was moved. **I can dream.** My preference is Warden Michael Roesler, one of the most honest and articulate wardens I have ever had the privilege to work with – as new Polunsky Unit Warden.

Dream 2 – clear my record and hire me as a consultant to help guide the recovery.

Addendum Two: you know they extended the Region 1 Chaplain’s vacancy. I was told by a good source that the reason was NOT because of unqualified candidates, but because they wanted Vance Drum to apply. Drum knew of the posting and deadline, and let the deadline pass. But he was convinced to apply if the deadline was extended, and he did. But after cajoling, and an extension, applied – an application process tainted with undo favor there. Only, unlike the others I documented 10 years ago, Drum will be the most qualified for a lot of reasons. Still, even with Chaplain Drum’s experience, even he could not discern all

Just thought you should know that too.

WHAT MAKES ALL THIS WORSE – IT IS THE FLAG SHIP ☺ - with the largest and most long-lived security breaches in prison history. Yes, if that is not ironic, including its own history of inmate with cell phone, that inmate comprising a staff chaplain, a CVCA getting arm cut off, AND an escape staged in Chaplaincy! Come now – ask me why I AM RETIRING again? Here, we have a super-ironic twist. The Polunsky Unit Chaplaincy is the model by Chaplaincy HQ, with everyone loving it without a real knowledge of how it works, and it has the longest lived super-whopper security breach in American Prison History, that even make a mockery of Colonel Clink’s Stalag 13 comedy of a generation ago.

WHY WRITE AT ALL? Listen to this, dear sirs – this is the best time I have ever had, until the honeymoon ended! Keeping silent and riding this luxury Flagship cruise all the way to retirement ... why NOT? I had nothing to lose here but my friends at Polunsky, and of course lose my honor and duty to TDCJ. Because this is NOT secure and RISKS to hell the professional chaplaincy I have labored for on and off the TDCJ time for 15-plus years, I write to you all one last time. And am not sure where else I will send this.

WHY IT CANNOT BE DUPLICATED. Hitherto, Polunsky Chaplaincy was the model at HQ, even Ortiz believed. Though hidden from all other chaplains, still, “How much we need more CVCA’s” is pushed on other chaplaincy departments as though CVCA’s can be plucked from trees. Because it looked easy at Polunsky with its 17 CVCA’s. Yet no one really knows WHY Polunsky Chaplaincy is such a success, not *specifically*, and even more specifically *why* its unique programming set cannot be duplicated. So, here, let this Chaplain Maness be the first to tell you why it CANNOT be duplicated. Does anyone why the Polunsky Unit Chaplaincy APPEARS to be the best?

Three Reasons for Success (? – or doomed?). FIRST – Volunteer Supervision. One thing not mentioned at meetings, as I believe Chaplain Collier might think this standard, was that the Polunsky CVCA’s can supervise up to 25-35 inmates in a building WITHOUT any staff! That is crucial, and a great need now with so much real estate given to chaplaincy (1 Bldg Chapel, 3-Gym and offices, 7-Gym and offices, sometimes 8-Gym and offices, 3-MPR, 7-MPR, and 8-MPR⁵). Always, on the Lewis Unit (Alford’s B-Team) and most others (I assume but do not know), a staff member (staff chaplain or a correctional officer) HAD TO BE in the building when any inmates were in the building, be that one inmate, or twenty or a hundred inmates. In other words, except for the 1-Building Chapel next to the searcher’s desk, there seems to be a huge liability in 3-Gym behind a locked gate when a volunteer is allowed to supervise inmates in a building with NO STAFF. Still, forget not, that is a CRITICAL REASON for the success of so many programs.

SECOND – Inmate Clerk Use and MS OneNote Sophistication. Another reason is the use of inmate clerks AND the additional personal computers that the inmate clerks use, in a sophisticated fashion using Microsoft’s powerful “One Note” archiving that allows inmates to “manage” all the non-secure affairs of chaplaincy under us staff chaplains.⁶ I could take up several pages here. Obviously, even as yet, I have not learned it all, but it is clear a crystal that – at present – we ARE dependent upon the inmates to help manage all the I-60s, property, layins, faith changes, literature requests, and – super important – all the logistics for all the multitude of classes. This is taxing and time consuming, and the volunteers *with the inmates* utilizing the Microsoft One Note archiving on the inmate network is, in TDCJ Chaplaincy, unprecedented and dependent upon the donated computers. One problem here, if it is a real problem, the Muslim inmates have chosen which of “their” inmates were allowed into the Food Service (FS) kitchen at all the many times to help during Ramadan – that is, a bit scary, inmates NOT regularly assigned there allowed to COME during chow times to “help” prepare. Many Muslim inmate volunteers have worked in FS before, but still ... regardless, this is chaplaincy submitting to the wardens a rigorous 25-page schedule for extra non-FS inmates for the FS supervisors to manage above those officially assigned – as best as I can see – INMATE directed.

THIRD – COST. Another reason for success should not be a surprise, but it is a secret to all the rest of the chaplains elsewhere. Also, and importantly, it is the essential question I asked *at length* in the 50-page letter on Faith-Based Housing that Marvin Dunbar skewed and laughed

⁵ MPR – Multi-Purpose Room by the picket in those respective buildings.

⁶ I could say super-sophisticated compared to other chaplaincy departments, but no one is comparing them statewide, even as I did 12 years ago, much less across the nation. MS One Note is COMMON across the country and, likely, ONLY utilized like it was meant to be used here at Polunsky. Wow ... that would make a good program at a chaplaincy conference, if anyone was interested in REALLY helping chaplains.

at, a reason that is still not addressed to any degree. Cost comes to play here at Polunsky as THE model and Flagship for other prison chaplaincy programs – COST. Really, no one is counting the cost at all! Brad, you can appreciate that more than most, since you are more of a fianance person than most of the other administrators, yes? Not for any chaplains as they (Ortiz, Dunbar, Pierce, et al) govern us, as Warden Bill Lewis said to me in one investigation, “You are just a bureaucrat.” Directors or supervisors or others that want all the prisons to add programs, *add, add, add* without doing what all good businesses have done for a thousand years and COUNT THE COST. I brought that up in writing in that 50-page letter to NO avail. And now, at Polunsky Chaplaincy, which is hailed as a secret model, but with no cost studies. If any of you have Microsoft OneNote on your computer, you can pull up Polunsky’s Chaplaincy OneNote database on the cd attached, I think, or if it is copied to your harddrive somehow. If so, you can check the passwords section for passwords to some before I took that off the inmate network (I hope). What is the cost – to date, likely \$50,000 or more. See also on the cd the now dated fixed asset list, first ever, that I had done, to which in the last couple of weeks several more thousands of dollars of equipment was added per Warden Muniz – but, I could not longer carry my flash drive on the unit, so my tracking of all is inhibited.

THREE REASONS – above, why it cannot be duplicated.

CARE FOR COLLIER. Let me say that Chaplain Collier inherited this and built upon it. It is HARD for me to conceive that the wardens and others did NOT know that Collier did NOT know what the inmates were doing. But, heck fire, I did not either until I began see from day to day just how things went. I might add that this deficit included all the previous chaplains to date and the most experienced Regional Chaplain, and Mr. Marvin Dunbar. Chaplain Collier is among the few chaplains that was SUCCESSFUL in his pastoring of a single church for 19 years prior to entering TDCJ, no small accomplishment in ministerial life! And this is largely why he is successful here, too, as this is the church in prison, sort of, but with a stretch.

CARE FOR INMATES. Let me say that the seven or so inmate clerks working like champs are not to be faulted so much for doing what, as they say in prison, “what inmates do.” On the contrary, the inmates are doing outstanding work. Last I looked, I believe, four were in for murder, three for aggravated sexual assault, all serving serious time, and I DO BELIEVE saved by the grace of God and good fellows. This is THE church at work. What a privilege I have to work with them and for the inmates, as well as being charged with supervising them. Still, this is a prison first! No play slide out front on the lawn.

DANGER. Since Mr. Dunbar ridiculed me for my fictitious newspaper clipping in the 50-page letter, let me give you all another newspaper headline. You all already know, perhaps, where I am going, but we MUST go there.

DALLAS MORNING NEWS. Eleven inmates escape from the TDCJ Polunsky Unit using free-world and officer clothes smuggled into the chapel, and finely crafted counterfeit TDCJ Identification Cards and Texas Driver Driver’s created with laser printers in the inmates’ darkened Media Room Command Center, shockingly allowed unrestricted access to thousands of dollars of high-end computers, scanners, and printers for years. This comes not long after a previous escape staged in the chapel. This same prison also had a volunteer arm’s nearly severed in an attack by a death row inmate and also was recently responsible for the increase in security statewide because of another death row inmate used a contraband cell phone to threaten Texas Senator John Whitmire’s family.

All the inmates were serving long sentences for murder or rape and had tied up the two volunteers who were locked in the gym with inmates. The volunteers were not hurt. But as the inmates got to the parking lot during shift change, they hijacked two vehicles, killing one officer, raping another, and releasing a third officer down the road severely beaten.

The search continues for the fugitives. Governor Perry is asking for the resignation of Brad Livingston, Byran Collier, and the governor wants to meet the unnamed chaplain that brought this to light.

I do NOT think that is very funny. But that is the reality. No playing prison here, nor “inattention” by the most scrupulous and attentive chaplain the Polunsky Unit or TDCJ has ever had in its history. Nor is the practical ignoring of me funny. Nor the FACT that this would have continued for years to come, until ... certainly ... UNTIL CERTAINLY some crazy inmate got just such an idea as given above!

I am the only one in the state ABLE to bring this forward. I expect a reward for it! And recognition for it. Even exoneration from all wrong. I would also like to be reinstated at the Lewis Unit as their chaplain, and wardens informed there of my *super-contribution* here. Or the **dreams** mentioned above. Hire me to consult for a couple years! Reward me for services rendered.

Sirs, ANY warden can cancel ALL. We all fear that.

Can we work on a peaceful solution together? And clear my record. Bear in mind, only because of the above 20 pages, with them in hand, could *anyone* in TDCJ really guide a truly efficient transition. With me record cleared, I am available for consultation with stipulations.

Sincerely,



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Enclosed: DVD with Polunsky Chaplaincy on inmate network and selected documents – only sending to you three!

1. MS OneNote Database (partial)⁷
2. 5-Page IOC to Muniz, July 11, 2012 (pdf)
3. Volunteer List (Excel), bold are main CVCAs, give them a call
4. Auxiliary Docs (pdf), containing mainframe email to Muniz on 5-page IOC virus, Major Hutto mainframe, etc.
5. ESET Virus Description
6. This 21-Page Letter 10-29-12 (pdf)⁸
7. Just for fun, original 50-page Letter on Faith-Based Housing sent December 2011

⁷ To access, you must have MS OneNote installed, which is usually installed with MS Office Pro or better. Plus, I believe you need to copy OneNote folder to your harddrive, then access your Programs folder, then Microsoft Office collection, then just click Microsoft Office OneNote 2010, and your computer should pull of the folder.

⁸ PDF – personal document file, needs Adobe Reader to read: <http://get.adobe.com/reader>.

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1. 2012-07-12 – **Polunsky – Muniz IOC** – 4pgs – Sent to Warden Muniz, to cover myself, given all that was going on, with copy sent to personnel
2. 2012-10-29 – **Polunsky – Exposure 1** – Livingston-Collier-Thaller – 21pgs – with DVD of MS OneNote with many documents
3. **2013-01-17 – Polunsky – Exposure 2 – Livingston-Collier-Thaller – 13pgs – did extortion, what is going on, and rehirability**
4. 2013-02-18 – **Polunsky – Exposure 3** – Livingston-Collier-Thaller – 35pgs – with Lewis Prison exposures, and no commendation
5. 2013-06-18 – **Bryan Collier 30-Minute Plea** – recorded – 4pgs – No acknowledgement of wrong at Polunsky, cover up inequality



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The 50-page Faith-Based Letter, not wholly relevant, is here
www.PreciousHeart.net/Maness-Faith-Based-Housing.pdf

Here at this site is the professional chaplaincy documents
www.PreciousHeart.net/chaplaincy/index.htm



FAX COVER SHEET

TOPIC

Polunsky Unit Exposure, Part Two

TO:

Mr. Brad Livingston
TDCJ Executive Office
P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX 77342

Bryan Collier
Rick Thaler
Rep. James White

Livingston fax 936.437.2123
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Collier's fax 936.437.8925
Thaler's fax 936.437.6325

FROM:

Michael G. Maness,
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Hard Copies to Follow in Mail
with DVD

TOTAL – 14 pages with cover sheet

January 17, 2013

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Rick Thaler
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Tom Mechler

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Dear Sirs,

Perhaps the worst time for you, but here is more on the exposure at the Polunsky Unit, and, worse, what is still looming – that of the 150+ DVDs that left the Polunsky Unit in years past the possibility that one DVD could have left of an inmate-on-inmate extortion or sex trafficking. The fact that we do not *know* all they did, and more, I've been torn on what to do since I wrote.

Sirs, I have put in my application for the Lewis Unit, which closes on January 17th. You can extend the filling of that if you wish, make sure that I say here is vetted properly. I have this against you both, now, that you have NOT initiated an internal affairs investigation yet, or even an Critical Incident Review (CIR) yet. My honor and value of chaplaincy means more.

Plus, I would like my Purple Heart for wounds encountered and courage displayed. Shoot, you can make me Deputy to your office too, if you have not lost your sense of humor.

Still, I have not heard from my Open Records request on my "rehire" status that Alford either signed "yeah" or "neah." Regardless, if "neah," that should be overridden for the things I exposed at Polunsky, even things that should have been taken care of years prior. How it went along so long is a mystery that has a history that can and ought to be discerned. And the number of violations are NOT all chaplaincy's fault.

What I want to share here – of which I have shared in a rougher form with Regional Chaplains Susan Matthis and Vance Drum – is a **correction** of one critical point of the 21-page letter sent in late October about Warden Alford's bullying and my final departure.

The sum of all of this, four things: 1) I want my to re-hirable, and 2) I want the credit, even a Purple Heart, for what I exposed at Polunsky, and that Purple Heart for wounds and bravery in services to TDCJ relayed to the Lewis Unit wardens, 3) to share additional information not sent in that 21-page letter of a possible on-going vulnerability because of years of lax oversight and failure to help chaplaincy, and 4) to admit a grave error on my part in that 21-page letter, namely that I did *not* first discover that the chaplains did not know the inmates were doing, but that Warden Simmons especially knew and *still* allowed all to take place.

This fourth one, my error, was the result of my long-standing respect for the venerated Senior Warden Timothy Simmons. As an Asst. Warden at the Lewis Unit about 15 years ago, we had a great time, even had keys to the local high school weight room (they were very loose back then), and he, I, and several others worked out together. So, though I tried to come and see you, Bryan, and Rick Thaler back then, after you were not available, I told Simmons what I had done and returned. What is important here, is that for anyone else, I would have sent you that 5-page IOC and data that I had then, just as you asked. But, Simmons was such a marvelous communicator, and we had such a marvelous history to-date – gosh, I just trusted him – and he

convinced me that all would work out. It appears I was wrong, that Simmons *used* my trust to stall the corrections of the many violations until after his retirement that Simmons *himself* had discerned many months prior to my arrival – that, sirs, is YOUR business to ferret out.

Since then, and all this, here is the rest of my story, and additional insight into the grossness of the violations, and, - extraordinary service to TDCJ's mission *again* – revelation of hitherto fore unrevealed continued threat to TDCJ because of those violations. And you have to know that Senior Warden Alford was a party to it, for there is no other reason for the years-long delays, and worse, the months-long delays *after* I put it all on paper.

I do not believe I discovered the worst at Polunsky Unit, but that the venerated Warden Simmons knew about it all, all along. That makes more sense, and makes the whole affair all the more – dare I say – criminal. Let me explain. Since you all have not initiated a real internal affairs investigation, when *many* such investigations and CIRs¹ have been done for lesser breeches of security, let me tell you something about an experienced chaplain. He or she is particularly adept as gaining confidences of staff and volunteers, and since he is active in the community, it is particularly difficult for volunteers NOT to share with their friends the chaplains. That trust between a staff member and the community is an incredible asset for TDCJ, and an asset peculiar to the chaplain most of all.

Actually, I believe, what happened to me is simpler than I made out in the 21-page letter, and, in a way, far worse. As mentioned, and God is my witness, previously, I wanted credit for discovering that – as I said to Warden Simmons BEFORE he retired on Aug. 31: I told Warden Simmons what every subordinate is *supposed* to share, as soon as the staff is aware, *fire, fire, fire*, “here and there are major security breeches” I said with even a tear in my eye. I CONFESSED to my *friend* Senior Warden Simmons that I discovered that he – *the warden* – did not know that Chaplain Collier and all the previous chaplains did NOT know what the inmate SSIs were doing in the media room 10-13 hours a day, 7 days a week for years *in the dark*.

The venerated Senior Warden Simmons nodded, understanding, kindly affirmed me, and said he would send Asst. Warden Muniz to visit.

Later, Warden Alford and Chaplain Collier finally relented and allowed me to turn the lights on, but that was the minor thing.

Yes, I want credit for that exposure! Deserve credit, for it took a lot for a TDCJ employee to fight the Warden, Majors, Chaplain, Volunteers and inmates – really, who should have to fight all to DEFEND policy? I had to retire to get attention, for my retiring lends credibility to so much other stuff that fell like rain after I wrote that 50-page Faith-Based Treatise.

Here is the simpler and far worse story. I was mistaken in perception. In sum, no sirs, I did not “*expose*” to Simmons that Simmons did NOT know that we chaplains did NOT know what was going on. No sirs. I was wrong. **I fully believe that Simmons KNEW that Chaplain Collier did NOT know what the SSIs were doing, as Alford before him when an Asst. Warden, for over a year or more.**

Sirs, whether I am right here or not is the lesser issue: if not right, I still discovered and confessed that we chaplains did not know what was going on all day everyday in the dark computer room; if I am right, that Simmons knew all along, then we – TDCJ – has a huge

¹ CIR – Critical Incident Review, or whatever you all are calling such these days.

conspiracy to *avoid* correcting many obvious policy violations, including Warden Alford, even to the point of asking for Alford's resignation. At least, a sincere apology to me for his *not* supporting chaplaincy as he should have BY policy.

This deserves to be fully explained, as with a CIR!

If I am right, then many employees were involved in a cover up

If I am wrong, then my confession was a super-extraordinary revelation.

One or the other, truly, all I ask is to give honor where it is due.

Since I held Simmons in such esteem, I actually was defending Simmons, just could not believe he would allow such with full knowledge. In July, sirs, hear this: please, it could NOT penetrate my mind that Simmons would allow such *knowing* that we chaplains did *not* know what the inmates were doing all day alone in the dark! My mind then, because of my trust for Simmons – as I had trusted so many wardens – did not even conceive it.

Hear this too: again, as mentioned in that 21-page letter, the reason I wanted to come and see you was *not* so much to inform or “rat” on Polunsky lapses, but to expose to you that, shoot fire, what I myself got in trouble was nothing, zilch, nada, compared to what was going there. Sirs, I wanted absolution. And, at that time, I REVEALED to Warden Simmons that all before me were operating under a false assumption, that, indeed the wardens and majors, et al, *knew* what the chaplains and volunteers knew – that, no, no one really knew what the inmates were doing all day alone in the dark. Chaplain Collier and several CVCAs reflected that to me not a dozen times, but almost every day in form or fashion, but I brought up the issue almost every day after I had pulled Chaplain Collier aside, after I spoke with Simmons the first time, and then wrote that 5-page IOC. “The wardens know,” was the refrain, the “inmates are trustworthy, or the wardens would not allow them to do it.”

But I was wrong then. In all, YES, Simmons knew! If I am wrong here, then I still deserve a HUGE Purple heart for wisdom and discernment and making it all known to Simmons – whew, at long last – so we could *begin* then the journey to compliance. But I do believe I was wrong, and that makes this all the more *criminal* for the Administrator of the Year used my trust in him to delay all – cover his own years of failure to TDCJ and, worst of all, cover his failure to support the delicate and precious chaplaincy with super-kind volunteers giving their hearts out to the staff and prisoners every day. For *years* Simmons knew of the violations, and Warden Muniz was signing off on tens of thousands of dollars of volunteer personal-property assets that were essentially *given* the inmates to use as they please, as the wardens watched each day with the TDCJ-funded million-dollar eyes in the sky!

This is a story that is not going to end here, as I will explain.

One thing you two MUST do is now discern if Reg. Dir. Upshaw knew too. And if at the Polunsky, where else are they, like Alford and Upshaw, also playing to their own tune?

Here is the rest of the story. Sirs, I walked and talked with captains, lts., sgts., and officers – all thought it strange, but chaplaincy was “hands off.” And have either of you asked Warden Butcher why he did NOT ever visit 3-gym? Even though he was the security warden? I think Butcher was a man of honor and was told “hands off” by Simmons, even ordered so! I did not mention this in the 21-page letter, but I approached Warden Butcher too, about the 5-page IOC and the flashdrive full of stuff, to which Butcher said, “I would prefer Warden Muniz deal with this, since chaplaincy was under his supervision.” But Butcher agreed that it was strange!

The core of that 5-page IOC to Warden Muniz, to CYA myself, was after my first consult with the venerable Senior Warden Tim Simmons, who was the most likeable and smoothest operator one could hope for, even getting the coveted Administrator of the Year Award given to him by Alan Polunsky himself at Simmons' own retirement party at the Polunsky Unit. The CORE of that 5-page IOC being that I said, in so many words, "Warden Simmons, you expect us to know what the prisoners are doing, but we do NOT know." Simmons nodded. Then I tried, your secretaries Byron and Rick will verify, I *tried* to come and see you two. And I *should* have sent the stuff as you Bryon said, BEFORE Simmons retired. But I trust him as I had 14 years or so prior at when Simmons was Asst. Warden, and as I did there.

Rest of the story.

Part of what I thought, and found hard to believe, but what I made crystal clear in that 21-page letter was that – hello – these SSIs in the media room were not only in the dark, and the hell of a time I had getting the lights turned on, fighting with Chaplain Collier who (I had to believe him) said he had talked to Simmons who said all was "OKAY" – yes, several times. Did Chaplain Collier lie to me. Little late for that. The lights remained out, even with the million-dollar eyes in the sky watching day and night for years. Sure it was okay, Chaplain Collier was telling the truth, I had to believe, because NO ONE really wanted the lights on until I had complained about how strange it was to every first shift rank, many officers, even several inmates, most volunteers, and even several non-security staffers.

I was alone wanting the lights on and more so wanting to supervise the inmates for months.

Yes, WORST of all! Warden Simmons – Administrator of the Year 2012 – knew for years that chaplains and volunteers did NOT know what the inmates were doing *in the dark* 10-13 hours a day, 7 days a week, for years. All wardens, majors, capt. Knew. ALL the officers that sat outside IN FRONT of the office NOT going in the inmates' office knew – it was as if the officers were told, "Don't interrupt the inmates in the office by themselves in the dark."

Get the picture.

ONLY this chaplain, Chaplain Michael Maness, was making a stink, for two months. After Simmons retired, let me say again, Alford spent an entire Sunday morning service in the darkened inmate office and did NOT have the inmates take the paper off the lights.

Let me lead up to something more scary still. Believe, the worst is NOT over yet.

Please, listen to me here please, I did NOT just talk to the Warden, but I walked and talked all over the unit: captains were miffed, "hands off chaplaincy"; lts. Never visited, only new sgts. The compliance sgt. said I should give to Collier the policy on computers (as she did in the past) and she retired Aug. 31 too (be GREAT to get her contact info and talk to her too). That is why I wrote the 5-page IOC; if Simmons is okay, well, just let me be covered.

Here is my mistake, I believe. Yes – I deserved credit for uncovering what had been going along for YEARS that the wardens KNEW was going on. Why don't I get credit for that?

I really want my Purple Heart with cluster. Or my Silver Star. Medal of Honor.

Polunsky Chaplaincy was the model for all super-saturated programming in the system. Bill Pierce and Steve Ulmer came on assignment to Polunsky to interview Chaplain Collier and how to cultivate CVCAs, because NO ONE was doing as much. Yippee. Dunbar was there. Ortiz too. Yes, how can we duplicate Polunsky, just prior to the week-long chaplaincy training.

Maybe, all that was why my dismissal hearing was delayed, so I could be given the choice, rather easy for me. Simmons knew me. Perhaps, because I was already discredited, I could be made the fall guy so they could "fix the broken chaplaincy" the WARDENS had allowed in writing to go too far. I don't know. But they did not expect me to act as fast as I did.

Why in heaven is there **no internal investigation** being done to prove this? NOT doing an internal investigation to figure this out is hard to understand!

If an account did not balance, every month for a year, why not figure out why the account did not balance?

I ran a lean ship at the Lewis Unit, and, believe this, Simmons knew I would not put up with all this for long. Only, Simmons did not expect me to react as soon as I did. Simmons got a gambling table at his retirement party, and betted I would NOT react so soon.

Leading up to something more scary: you see, if Vol. Joe Vitella, a supremely cautious and good fellow, who had volunteered there for years at Polunsky would have been allowed to KEEP his Polunsky Chaplain job, there would have been no changes. Joe was ALREADY there. Joe tried to implement many of the same things at Lewis Unit!

While I was at Polunsky, no one knows this, but Joe and I chatted a bit. Joe and I shared some misgivings about things, but I did not share all.

Hear this, as mentioned somewhat subtly in the 21-page letter, Chaplain Collier really, really, truly thought all was alright, sadly enough, BECAUSE the wardens never really, really truly did NOTHING and *supported* Chaplain Collier. And, bear in mind, UNLIKE any other prison in TDCJ, the Polunsky million-dollar eyes in the sky VIEWED the prisoner chapel games a thousand times over the years, and at least 1,000 times saw the inmates walk into the inmates' dark room with zero staff all day every day.

What did Chaplain Collier do for the wardens to get that kind of favor and protection that NO warden would normally tolerate? Ever, ever in the history of U.S. prisons.

It really was NOT chaplaincy's fault, not Collier's fault so much, and certainly not the inmates' fault? The inmates were just allowed freedom and tried to protect that. The FIRST supervisor to see the inmates all day long in that media room is at fault. God have mercy. The FIRST supervisor to see the inmates in that office with the lights OUT and failed to turn them on – failed and was at fault! Who was it? Why not find out?

At the time, I could not believe a warden, any warden, much less the venerable Warden Simmons would KNOWINGLY allow such. But I pulled the cat of the bag in Simmons' office, I brought the story out of the closet – definitively, certainly, clearly – we chaplains did not know what the inmates were doing.

Isn't that what you want out of every in-prison employee, even going to your office if the wardens and majors will not help you?

Here is the rest of the story of my being offered Polunsky, Joe Vitella had applied, was selected AND informed that he had gotten the position of Polunsky Chaplain. Officially! He was ecstatic. Do I need to get an Open Records request to prove that too?

My fist dismissal hearing with Upshaw was scheduled, then when my representative and I arrived, ooops, it was cancelled. No notice; so sorry. Then rescheduled. My representative and

I returned a couple of weeks or so later. Then after my explanations for my case – which is a sad story in itself – Upshaw offered me the LeBlanc Unit or the Polunsky Unit. Living in Woodville, I chose Polunsky, of course.

When Vol. Joe who had been officially offered the Polunsky Chaplaincy, when Vol. Joe came on the Polunsky Unit, Joe had NOT been told that I was chosen over him. I had thought it was my seniority that won it at the time. But Joe had NOT been told yet. When Joe came into volunteer that day, Chaplain Collier and myself were there and *we told Joe* I was chosen. That was an ugly piece of business, that Joe was told by us. Joe shed a tear. Unbelievable.

Joe was encouraged to apply for Lewis Unit, which he did, and got it.

Was my offer to go to Polunsky planned? For me to be a scapegoat after Alford got there, to be the “*excuse*” and fall guy? You all will have to determine that.

Gentlemen, there were no plans to clean up the Polunsky Chaplaincy until AFTER I exposed all. While Simmons was there, there were “no problems” with anything! Is that not scary to the uttermost?

Let me clarify in clearer terms. After I had my fateful meeting with Simmons, who was so kind and seemed to understand everything, even of my dilemma – Simmons said he agreed with me too. They disciplinaries were wrong. That made me feel good. Simmons defended me, he said. Smooth as silk. Simmons said he was going to send Warden Muniz over to chapel to “look into it.” Over a week later, Muniz comes over with a Major McMullen, and Muniz and the Major *talked with inmates in the media room with lights covered over with paper*. It did NOT matter that, after writing the IOC, after their chat with inmates – nothing was changed!

I uncovered the lid on something else – let’s be clear here too: that the wardens KNEW and had not done anything about it for YEARS, letting Chaplain Collier and his influential CVCAs do what they pleased, literally what they pleased, and even Simmons and Upshaw knew it had gone too far. Alford was sent on a mission to cover it all up and make sure fall-guy Maness would take the wrap. Why NOT find that out for certain?

What had Chaplain Collier on them? That is no empty question. After 20 years with the state, talking to chaplains all over Texas and over the U.S., I have NEVER seen such favor!

No, I did not go ballistic, because in many, many, many ways it was chaplaincy HEAVEN, until I finally saw. Really and truly, Collier did NOT know what the inmates or even his CVCAs did from day to day. And, a perfect solution arises, a rogue Chaplain Maness already under disciplinary with gobs of experience can become the scapegoat. I am more expendable than most, because all it would take would be one disciplinary to get me in the dismissal again!

Among the things I did, I discovered the Major’s Utility Squad inmates were granted all kinds of tools and access. I forgot the lead inmate’s name, but he owned the squad! Chaplain Collier that the inmate had “really helped chaplaincy over the years.” Yes, with electrical and maintenance jobs OUTSIDE of Polunsky Maintenance Department. When CVCA Dill ordered four (4) 1,000 watt spot lights, signed off by Warden Muniz, I asked the inmate SSI’s requesting if they had check the electrical load requirement first. “Oh yeah,” they said. When the *four* 1,000 watt spots came in and were plugged in, the breakers blew. Cannot use those, darn. Plans to rewire chapel were made. Warden Alford signed off on plans and materials list that CVCA Ed Reeves was going to buy. The Major’s Utility Squad lead inmate was snotty and a rude when I

DEMANDED that maintenance be brought into the loop. I called the Major Hutto, and he agreed, and I never saw that inmate again – Good God in Heaven, a real Major!

Then Warden Alford rescinded his permission to re-wire the chapel to handle loads.

Hmmm. Worse, the Polunsky Safety Officer never came by. I tried to get approval from Warden Muniz for a bridge over the power cables from media room to the sound area, because the blanket thing just laying of the *power cords* did NOT protect the cords from 100-pound carts and hundreds upon hundreds of feet traffic. No, Chaplain Collier could order it. It is still there! Worse, all of the extension cords in the attics of both 3-gym and 7-gym – installed OUTSIDE of the Unit Maintenance by the Major's Utility Squad – are all out of compliance with normal electrical codes. But who is listening. I was talking into the wind.

Chaplaincy was “off limits.” Everyone knew that.

Before I left too – grab this – I forced Collier to help me clean up the **weekly clearance**, because several volunteers info was wrong, some volunteers had been “denied” in Volunteer Screen. Grab this – NO CVCA's were even on the weekly clearance. I went to Alford, not Collier, and said, “We really should have a clearance out front with ALL the people who come to the Polunsky Unit – dah – including the CVCA's.” Warden Alford supported me there, finally on something, though Collier was hesitant and relented.

The CVCA badges were made by inmates and signed by warden, I said, that was not enough. Really, CVCA's had been coming on the Polunsky Unit with inmate-created badges, albeit signed by warden, but NO CHECKING at the gate. And so much more. I made two dozen changes like that, that I had negotiate, to BEGIN an approach toward compliance.

Should I be listed as “no rehire” when I brought more into compliance in 2 months than all the previous Wardens, Majors, and staff Chaplains had in the last 3 years! When I did so UP HILL? There are things that Joe should know NOW, that only I can fully share with him.

Of course, the wardens are going to defend themselves, but they CANNOT deny that I pulled the lid off it all BEFORE they took initiative! No one can deny that.

Brad and Bryon and Rick, you may not want to prove that the wardens and even Upshaw did NOTHING to help the Polunsky Chaplaincy. Believe this, they would NOT have put pressure on Joe Vitella who had been volunteering there for YEARS, who himself saw nothing. But after I wrote that 5-page IOC, well, heaven ended for me.

Remember, I TRIED to see Bryan Collier and Rick Thaller, BEFORE Simmons retired on Aug. 31. Even Thaller's secretary said she, “Was writing all this down.” It is CRITICAL that I exposed this BEFORE Simmons retired. Alford was NOT assigned to ?clean? up anything, really, that I exposed, because the cleaning should have been done BEFORE Simmons left ? Administrator of the Year ? the shining star, Polunsky, his last shining star, chaplaincy with super-programs and media galore. Susan, there is MORE.

And the Lewis Unit, where I hope to interview, do you really want to know what has happened since I left on the faith-based dorm and on the firing of a CVCA?

LESS CREDIBLE. The accounts are not balancing. I love chaplaincy and did not want to leave. But I would have been LESS credible if I had stayed and received another disciplinary with mandatory recommendation for dismissal. If that, then all this would have been merely a reaction of a disenchanting chaplain. Good administrators want the straight scoop to make good

decisions. If one is in possession of information, as I had, that could only be discerned by one of such experience, that it must be shared. I believe in the TDCJ mission with all my heart, and shared all to help Save Chaplaincy, even Polunsky Chaplaincy. At the first meeting with Simmons, my solution was a live video feed and sound, so we could BEGIN monitoring.

But NO ONE helped there. I made more upgrades, including key and chemical control, first inventory, having brought MORE things into compliance than ALL the wardens, majors, and previous chaplains COMBINED in the last three years! And then I get a "Letter of Instruction" from Alford that I myself am lax? And Alford himself will NOT help me get supervision of inmates in the media room?

I had to retire to avoid another disciplinary? I did an Open Records request, Bryan and Rick, to find my weekly time sheets. The LOST the October weekly time sheets and the disciplinary Warden Muniz was filing on me for failing to report time. Why? Because, likely, Warden Muniz had SIGNED my timesheet on Monday or Tuesday, that Chaplain Collier had sent, and forgot about that, when Warden Muniz called me on Wednesday to tell me I was receiving a disciplinary on FRIDAY to be run by Warden Butcher – because Muniz himself was not going to be there. Official Open Records request, twice I received, I was able to get September's weekly time sheets, but NOT October's – how strange is that?

The accounts do not balance.

Yes, I want my Purple Heart or Silver Star for facing the wardens and peddling UPHILL to begin to get us in compliance and SAVE Chaplaincy.

I want the Lewis Wardens informed of my valor. So, I think it would be so apropos that Lewis Wardens be informed of extraordinary service at Polunsky. It is out of this world that Alford get credit for my work.

VOLUTNEER TRUST? Two CVCA's did not trust a third CVCA and that is why they have separate cabinets on 7-gym, the keys of which were NOT on the chaplaincy key ring. No way to shake those down. I was just working with the CVCA's to get on the chapel ring up-to-speed prior to leaving. They could use a filing cabinet in 7-gym office and we could get rid of two more cabinets.

VOLUNTEER PINCHING INMATES? The Polunsky Chaplains should know which CVCA I had to correct *several times* for pinching inmates. I tried to fire him one day, but Chaplain Collier went ballistic. Then I was about to write that CVCA up and kick him off for smart talk, but since he had given nearly \$20,000+ in the last ten years, that would have thrown a real wrench in their gaming. Chaplain Collier having lived in that CVCA's apartment for months. The CVCA apologized. Want the REST of the story?

PAINT CONTROL? The Art Cabinet, with 20 quarts of paint, with its NEW inventory, but still a far cry from any kind of chemical control. That is not all, and I do not know everything. Joe is a GREAT fellow. But so much was going on there that NEVER entered anyone's mind. But it was normal for good old Chaplain Joe. Want to know more? Don't you think New Chaplain Joe ought to know how that "Art Program" was really run? No controls whatsoever. Yes, Warden Muniz signed off on 30 quarts of paint, brushes, air compressor, air brushes, that a generous volunteer donated, not through normal donation procedures, but as personal property. So the inmates could "decorate" the 3-Gym and 7-Gym with nice stuff. Yeah, anything the inmates wanted. The inmates unlocked the Art Cabinet and returned keys to

chaplain as usual, until I stopped that – and finally inventoried – but AS YET we need a weighing machine so we CAN START proper chemical control. Yeah, no controls today! I thought it extremely unprofessional of Warden Alford to say to me, in the light of all the above, that even the Unit Craftshop was so out of whack on chemical control, given an audit coming, and all. But why me? I do not know they are run craftshops. Maybe you all ought to look at that too. All I know is that the Art Cabinet was a free-floating source of *painting*, the “art crew” inmates came and went as they *pleased*, under the million-dollar eyes in the sky, and on two occasions, had to be told *not* to bring in bikini-clad photos. That was nothing. Want to know more?

CAMERA CONTOL? Before I left, I asserted myself after tireless hours of trying to get Collier to acquiesce. I simply moved the digital camera *and* video camera box into the chaplain’s office, just “ordering” that one of us would be handing it out AFTER we settled some procedure with the warden. Even the inmates SSI’s knew better, one of them saying, “No warden would sign off on us using them like we do. They just trust us to do what is right.” Really, even the inmates *knew*. To which I said, two weeks before I retired, “We’ll then, we will not be taking pictures on *my approval* until the wardens sign something.”

DVD VIDEOS of Prisoners OFF the unit – 150 or 600? Hello Pappa! Indicated in October in that 21-page letter, but clarified here: we, TDCJ, does NOT know how many inmate-created DVDs departed the Polunsky Unit WITHOUT a staffer viewing them. When I asked the question, it was clear *no one* was viewing them ... *ever*. It was strange to Chaplain Collier and the CVCA’s that I would ask such. I am a witness to this. For YEARS inmates made dvd copies of services, edited them, and the inmates took care of the media releases. So we do NOT know whether it was 150 or 600 dvds of inmate church services that LEFT the Polunsky Unit. At least 150 in the last several years.

I have one production with my State Representative James White that came on July 15, 2012, that the inmates gave to me to give to the Rep. White speaking to a Sunday church service. The Vol. CVCA invited him.² I’ll be sending you all a copy of that DVD and to Rep. White too, and the reason for the delay was because I had expressly told the inmates NOT to have inmates in the production. So this is important. The inmates did NOT follow my orders. I told the Warden, Chaplain Collier, and the inmates that. Hmmm? The DVD has about 30 minutes of inmate testimony, and, well, you’ll have to see the inmates about the media releases there.³

So here is tangible proof. And Rep. White remembers well the dark media room, but we cannot expect him to know the ramifications – we are supposed to take care of him, are we not? And did not – did NOT – as yet involve Rep. White, as he had helped us chaplain enough already.

Sirs, I tried, really tried to diplomatically to a handle on the DVD production. Told the inmates that no DVD shall leave the prison WITHOUT one of us looking at it. Told everyone. I was irritating the wardens, majors, and inmates. Talking to the wall! Chaplain Collier and CVCA Dill had the warden’s verbal approval, so said Chaplain Collier. And the now tiresome

² Sirs, though I would have loved to, I myself did NOT invite Rep. White, because of all the lobbying I had led and played a part in the recent legislative session in Jan. – Mar. 2011, I felt it would have appeared like I was “using” my job inappropriately. But since I was there, and the staff chaplain, I was glad to introduce Rep. White.

³ I have initiated an Open Request for all the media releases, but there has not been a response yet.

oft-repeated refrain, "We been doing this for years and no one has said a thing. The wardens trust us and the inmates."

In one hour long chat with CVCA Dill, he motioned to the media room and said, "We trust the inmate 100%. Everyone knows about it it."

I said, "You really have no idea how offensive that statement is. Regardless if we actually trust them, we are NOT supposed to trust like that. We are suppose to KNOW what they are doing." I shook my head. God is my witness.

DVDs – Of Extortion or Sex Trafficking? Let me set the stage for that potential revelation. As I said, we did not *know* what the inmates were doing in the dark all day long for years, at this advanced stage of sophistication, we did NOT KNOW what they were capable of doing. Really, in the highest profile maximum security prison in the U.S., we did not know what they were doing or what they were capable of doing, and – hear this now – Warden Simmons *knew* that *before* he left and as he received Administrator of the Year Award! And, worse, he took advantage of our friendship to cover it all up – sickening. HERE IS THE WORST. In my last few weeks, I initiated a policy that no commissary bags were allowed in the chapel and no SSIs could leave their property and commissary in chapel. That had been going on for years. At Polunsky, inmates travel over the farm with pillow-case type commissary bags, not red ones property bags; one CANNOT see what is in the bags as inmate travel to and fro. To and fro from chapel with bags of goodies. Nuts. Add that to the key control I initiated with the key officer, and we have a real problem. Until I put an end to it, for years prior, *even when Joe was a volunteer and all the CVCA's too* – when the chaplain or CVCA came in, the chaplain (or CVCA) would unlock the filing cabinet in the main chaplain office and GIVE THE KEY RING of 30+ keys stored inside the cabinet to the *Inmate SSI to unlock everything*, including camera lockbox in inmates' media office, and other cabinets in sound area. I was in the process of doing away with ALL the cabinets in both the Media Room and the Sound Area Cave (that Warden Muniz and Major McMullen SAW and did nothing about AFTER the 5-page IOC). And end of day, INMATES locked up. Yes, so the inmates could LOCK and UNLOCK cabinets in the Media Room and in the Sound Area Cave *without* any staff or volunteer seeing them. For years. And *because* of (1) the dark lights out Media Room and *because* of (2) the cabinets in the Sound Area Cave were HIDDEN from few, and HIDDEN from the million-dollar eyes in the sky, yes sirs, the INMATES controlled what was in the locked cabinets for years.

For years, until I stopped it. Was still *fighting* with Chaplain Collier and CVCA's. Had won and got all locks changed and on secure key ring. Inmates not longer UNLOCKED anything or LOCKED anything on my shift. Took all cabinets out of Media Room and was going take all out of Sound Area Cave too. No need for that. And I got a Letter of Instruction for being lax – I must remind you.

DVDs – Of Extortion or Sex Trafficking? We do NOT know what they were doing or what they were capable of doing – simple and clear. And Warden Simmons knew that, and knew the jig was up and knew the cat was out of the bag – when I told him so in his office. Simmons did NOT help me there, and that is part of the worst of it. Here's the worst. Given the super-unprecedentedly-sloppy state of affairs – that was the model to chaplaincy HQ's Pierce, Dunbar, Ortiz, Hazlewood, and more – given all the above, an inmate SSI could "lock up" and take a video camera to the wing, *film anything he wanted*, and return the next day or later in the day, and download to computer. Like an extortion video of inmate threatening a rich inmate,

demanding the family to pay up. Or the simpler filming of two inmates having sex, perhaps gang sex on an inmate sex slave. Selling it somewhere.

I never saw a single inmate shaken down or searched in my months there, nor even *after* I wrote that 5-page IOC, though I myself did check some of the inmates' sacks. But, heck, I'd have to be the Correctional Officer (CO) too, and often, there was not even a CO present. Volunteer CVCA in 3-gym, locked, with 30 inmates, and a few in a Media Room with lights out. Oh, the inmates were RUNNING the chaplaincy department, protecting it, making life EASY for Chaplain Collier and the CVCA's.

Since the inmate SSI's regularly produced the outgoing mail too, it would have been a snap to *MAIL anything* off the unit. Or, slyly, even produce a CVCA badge, forge the warden's signature. No officer *ever* checked the signature of a CVCA badge, not *EVER*. Mail out a template, and have a "volunteer CVCA" enter the unit and leave with anything. Not mention the escape scenario I offered you in the 21-page letter in late October.

Though I doubt any extortion happened, hope to high heaven no sex trafficking happened. But we DO NOT KNOW. Several of the inmates were honorable enough. But that is not the point. We all – hear this please – ALL staffers with ten-plus years have heard inmates lie and lie. Some do tell the truth, but lying is a common survival technique, as common as rain in prison. A lot of good church video stuff was produced FOR DIRECTOR HAZLEWOOD. I have those videos too. Yet it is staff's job to be vigilant. I was more vigilant than ALL the wardens, majors, staff and volunteer chaplains for the last three years – and I got a Letter of Instruction for being not vigilant!

Warden Simmons BETRAYED me and TDCJ – take that Administrator of the Year Award away from him *NOW*! In the aftermath, there is no other reasonable explanation. And you all DARE NOT to do a critical incident or review, or even an internal affairs investigation. Why? The accounts are NOT balancing here, and you have to see that. Yes, I was wrong, I did not *reveal* to Warden Simmons that we chaplains did not know what the SSI's were doing, no sirs – Simmons already knew that, and covered that up, and USED my trust in our 15-plus years in TDCJ to set me up. And perhaps with Upshaw and Alford, before Alford arrived – which means they PLAYED RICK THALER for a fool too. If I am wrong about that, I apologize, and then I only *revealed* to Warden Simmons what he failed to see for years, and I still deserve a Purple Heart. But uncovering the **betrayal of Dir. Rick Thaler too** and revealing a conspiracy against lowly Chaplain Maness – that deserves a Medal of Honor.

Which is it? If me, then you, sirs, MUST KNOW it happened many, many times over the last years to lower and less capable and less articulate and even less brave TDCJ employees. In the combined years of Simmons and Alford alone, what 60 years? – how many other employees, and other kinds of games. It was NOT the chaplaincy doing what it pleased, it was the wardens running the prison as they pleased, in other areas too, and in cahoots with Regional Dir. Upshaw, almost certainly! That is why you have other Wardens conduct CIRs, isn't it? Because, truly, only another "TDCJ" Senior Warden can truly see – Thaler knows that well – though you two, Bryan and Brad, can appreciate that from your areas of special expertise. That is true for Senior Chaplains too. Whatever, which is it? Did I reveal to Simmons what he already knew and was hiding that he knew for YEARS, or did I reveal to you that Simmons knew all along and DID NOTHING about it and even conspired to retire before it all came out. Letting Alford to take the FALSE honor of "coming to clean" up – like that soldier last year buying medals he did not earn.

DVDs – Of Extortion or Sex Trafficking? So, of the 150+ DVDs that have left the Polunsky Unit from the inmates' productions, do you KNOW for sure that all were clean? How do you know? So, you're going to trust the inmate SSI's 100% too. And NOT do an internal investigation on all this. Really? I hope not, that no sex or extortion

Sirs, ?produce? it, and find a way for that to exit with the hundreds of DVDs that left. Or a inmate sex video. There was NO supervision for years, in the dark, and I ? Susan ? I had trouble getting the lights ON, no help from both Warden?s Alford and Muniz, though EVERYONE I talked to thought the ?inmates in no lights? was insane, including captains and majors.

There was a conspiracy, and we are not over with it yet. Over 150+ DVDs left the Polunsky Unit and are **in the free-world** that no staffer screened ... for years.

EXPOSED by Chaplain Maness. The gravity *covered up* by Senior Wardens Simmons and Alford, et al, and who knows who else, because no REAL investigation has taken place yet.

Listen – if a chapel DVD of inmate extortion or sex DOES SURFACE – part of the reason for this letter – I want the WORLD to know that is was not the chaplaincy fault. Chaplaincy took so many hits at Polunsky already.⁴ The wardens WILL take responsibility for that DVD. And Chaplain Maness SHOULD get credit for *trying* to bring all in compliance, and Warden Alford should be punished for bullying me for my defense of policy.

If I did all that at Polunsky Unit, after only being there a few months, and know all of the operations at Polunsky in such a short, think about what I know of the Lewis Unit history for my 19 years there! And Warden Helm fired a CVCA Melvin Bell, was ordered to allow CVCA Bell back on the unit, an order that Helm disobeyed initially, then – get this – when former CVCA Joe Vitella became chaplain at Lewis Unit and after I retired exposing all at Polunsky, THEN Marvin Dunbar comes and gets Chaplain Joe to come to Polunsky – THEN Warden Helm set up CVCA Bell and FIRES HIM AGAIN. Sirs, I did at Polunsky what Helm did at the Lewis Unit, I would have had to FIRE five (5) CVCAs my first day! And, after all the above and the 21-page letter to you all, YOU ALL WOULD HAVE to write up 50 employees if not more for violation WORSE than I was written up last year. If one was to truly balance the books!

FOR ME: you can do one of two things, one, reinstate me with a promotion; or two, allow me to rehire with honors told to Lewis Unit. I do not want to go back with tail between legs.

ONE – grant me my Purple Heart with cluster or Silver Star, and preferred, fully reinstate me as a Chaplain III, step 4, at Lewis Unit with all my vacation and sick time I had when I retired (me not paying anything back), and notify all that such bold exposure is VALUED in TDCJ, even going above the warden if need be. Allow me to help chaplaincy in honor. Let me help new Chaplain Joe Vitella get a handle on it as the ONLY 20-year veteran chaplain to serve on the Polunsky Unit since it opened.

TWO – grant me my Purple Heart with cluster or Silver Star, make sure I am re-hirable, and fully inform the Lewis Unit Senior Warden of my valiant exposures, move Warden Helm to Goodman or Lubbock, and allow me to have CVCA Melvin Bell back (you should call him (Bell, 409-429-3289). At least, you see, Warden Helm does NOT know of my service, resented me for telling the truth about CVCA Bell, and telling the truth about the Lewis Unit history too.

⁴ Volunteer chaplain's arm nearly severed by death row inmate attack, letter from death row inmate who phoned Senator Whitmire taken off by chaplain, and escape set up in chapel. It is no wonder now!

Second Most Credentialed. Regardless, you will see, my application and attachments will tell you about me. I was the SECOND (2nd) most credentialed chaplain in TDCJ history, second only to Dr. Vance Drum. And you all, or rather Marvin Dunbar, extended the deadline for application because Drum did not at first apply. They came to Drum, and it about time, at the SAME time I exposed the Polunsky Unit as *not* the model they thought it was. Anyway, Drum is the most credentialed prison chaplain TDCJ has ever had, and perhaps only I can fully tell you why.

Regardless, I did you all, sirs, a great service here. I think you could grant my ONE above, as that would save the state retirement money and I could retire later with a better check. Or TWO, and perhaps with a bonus, and I can double dip before, perhaps, this very legislature ends the double-dipping as it is looking into – regardless, I want my Purple Heart for my wounds in battle, for my “taking one for the Gipper,” or “taking one for the team.”

Regardless of ALL – know this – **TDCJ Chaplaincy WILL not take the blame** if a chapel DVD does surface, and an **inmate sues** TDCJ for the inmate-on-inmate extortion or sex traffic, **KNOW THIS, I am witness**. It was NOT chaplaincy's fault, but a long-standing negligence by Polunsky Wardens Simmons and Alford who *allowed* a naïve Chaplain Collier more latitude and freedom than any pair of wardens EVER gave any prison chaplain in the history of TDCJ ... ever. I exposed this. I want to make certain chaplaincy itself will NOT be blamed for this.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Maness
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Woodville, TX 75979
c.409.383.4671
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P.S. Brad, think you would like to see me now? Just take an hour if you have already read the previous stuff I sent. Be glad to come to Austin too.

Hard Copy Following Faxes with enclosure

with DVD of Rep. White's extraordinary heart-warming message to Polunsky Inmates in July 2012, and other documents on DVD to include 50-Page Letter on Faith-Based Housing (12-2011), 5-Page IOC to Warden Muniz (07-2012), and 21-Page Letter on Polunsky Exposure (10-2012), and perhaps other stuff relevant.

I want my Purple Heart and honor and credit for exposing such.
I have not been defending TDCJ Chaplaincy for 16 years to let Warden Alford bully me.

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4 of 5

1. 2012-07-12 – **Polunsky – Muniz IOC** – 4pgs – Sent to Warden Muniz, to cover myself, given all that was going on, with copy sent to personnel
2. 2012-10-29 – **Polunsky – Exposure 1** – Livingston-Collier-Thaller – 21pgs – with DVD of MS OneNote with many documents
3. 2013-01-17 – **Polunsky – Exposure 2** – Livingston-Collier-Thaller – 13pgs – did extortion, what is going on, and rehirability
4. **2013-02-18 – Polunsky – Exposure 3 – Livingston-Collier-Thaller – 35pgs – with Lewis Prison exposures, and no commendation**
5. 2013-06-18 – **Bryan Collier 30-Minute Plea** – recorded – 4pgs – No acknowledgement of wrong at Polunsky, cover up inequality



Michael G. Maness – 409.383.4671

Maness3@att.net ~ www.PreciousHeart.net

The 50-page Faith-Based Letter, not wholly relevant, is here
www.PreciousHeart.net/Maness-Faith-Based-Housing.pdf

Here at this site is the professional chaplaincy documents
www.PreciousHeart.net/chaplaincy/index.htm



February 19, 2013

Brad Livingston
TDCJ Executive Office
P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX 77342
fax 936.437.2123

Bryan Collier
Rick Thaler
Representative James White

Dear Sirs,

THANK YOU for allowing me to be rehired. Yet, the Lewis Unit application deadline has been extended, because the wardens felt there were not “enough qualified” applicants, which at least says to me that you all have *not* shared with them my exposure of the Polunsky Unit violations. Without my Purple Heart and Letter of Commendation, certainly, Warden Hunter will not hire me back, as Asst. Warden Helm does not want me back. I will tell you why.

Did you want to know these things? If a DVD did get out of inmate-on-inmate extortion, chaplaincy should not take a serious fall in proper light. And if a fire breaks out because of the safety violations exposed here in this letter, what liability would there be? It is lamentable that a chaplain has to bring this forward, but, at least, it is coming to light.

First, let me share with my state representative. Bear in mind that ALL the volunteers at the Polunsky and Lewis Units are constituents of **Representative White**, and so he has vested interest in protecting them from dangers in policy violation as well as protecting them from cruel mob-like behavior that Lewis Unit Warden Helm has perpetuated on several.

Honorable Representative James White – a Note and Caveat

Rep. White, good friend, having the answers to Open Records requests, after having to go to the Texas AG's office for a few that did not come according to the law, I have in hand an affidavit from TDCJ that all available documents have been sent. That means, of the Media Releases from the Polunsky Chaplaincy, there was NOT a suitable TDCJ Media Release for any of us to publically show the inmates in the DVD I sent you of your fine presentation. Caveat - that means you, TDCJ, and I are *not released* of liability from those inmates in that DVD. You may, of course, share anything you yourself said, or I said about you, at your leisure, *if no inmates' faces are seen*. Remember, I did not ask you to come to Polunsky, because of the great help you gave chaplaincy and me in Austin, nor did I want to complicate our lobbying and friendship with my employment and relations at Polunsky. Still, I was glad you that day – especially now – and so very honored to introduce you. Also, I know this might be too much to read during this time in Austin, so glance down at the **Lewis Unit exposure** of insensitivity to our mutually good friend and TDCJ Volunteer Virginia Haynes; see Lewis Unit Warden Helm's insensitive treatment of her since the Faith-Based Housing commencement you attended in March of 2012, including Warden Helm's cancelling of programs in November to the end of the year – that's right, the Faith-Based Housing crew were NOT allowed to meet during the Christmas season, as our precious friend Ms. Haynes was simply told her program was cancelled without even the courtesy of a conversation. Ridiculous. *More down below*.

Here is an outline of all that follows:

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Introduction – Serious Question ... for better or worse, You All Should have been TOLD Long Ago

Brad, Bryan, and Rick, here is a most serious question: who is the highest ranking person that knew of the unsupervised inmates in the dark with \$1,000s of computers, scanners, printers, and cameras? I think it was Reg. Director Upshaw. And if only Warden Simmons and Warden Alford, how come they did not report it to Upshaw? And, Rick, if Upshaw knew, how come he did not report that years-long absurdity to you?

I valued my time as chaplain of the Gib Lewis Unit and never took it for granted. Yet, because of this last year, I am no longer inclined to hide slights to chaplaincy or hide anymore slights to volunteers, many of which are also good friends.

¹ CVCA = a TDCJ Certified Volunteer Chaplain's Assistant, who have to go through extra training, including six months of on-the-unit training with a TDCJ Chaplain, and have clearance to go just about anywhere on the prison and help inmates with crisis calls and do cell-side visits in solitary. Very valuable aids to TDCJ Chaplaincy!

Gentlemen, for better or worse, and whether or not you give me my hard-earned Purple Heart, I am going to share with you the rest of the story, including more violations at the Polunsky Unit, as well as offenses at the Lewis Unit. What I was disciplined for does not compare to the violations at Polunsky, that, to date, no one was disciplined for *years* of more serious violations. That is wrong. Moreover, regarding the Lewis Unit – you must find it as interesting – what I was disciplined for pales in comparison to what Asst. Warden Frank Helm has done to our chaplaincy department, especially since Warden Hunter arrived.

You all have to agree, what I exposed thus far was incredible and unheard of *crazy*. Surely, you all know that you would NEVER have found out, until some unlucky person was busted by the wardens sooner or later, to cover themselves, just as I exposed. In the light of all, I think you can agree, it is doubtful that I could have kept silent at Polunsky and nothing happen. What do you think, honestly? It is clear as day, now, that keeping SILENT was certainly what Chaplain Collier, Warden Simmons, Warden Alford and the volunteers WANTED me to. If I had of kept silent, gentlemen – what do you really think? – do you actually believe that Warden Alford would still be allowing inmates to meet unsupervised in the dark, and allowing all the other foolery? No, I believe Reg. Dir. Upshaw, Warden Simmons, and Warden Alford, even *before* Alford arrived, had *already* begun to plan the end of that foolery. And what part Chaplain Collier had in that, I think is still a mystery. Only, I acted too quickly and messed up their plans for me to be the fall guy.

Regardless, gentlemen, whether I am right on that piece of conspiracy crap or not, I do NOT really care. That's your job. I just did what was right, and should be rewarded for it.

You all MUST agree. It is an utter SHAME that such was going on for YEARS and you all – Brad, Bryan, and Rick – were NOT informed. You all must agree. And if you do, then I certainly deserve a Purple Heart for being the man to inform you. What is worse, nearly criminal, is that both Warden Simmons and Warden Alford worked hard to keep my exposure under wraps, and worst of all, how Alford attempted to make me the fall guy. Find out!

Dear Brad, Bryan, and Rick, please, bear in mind that the 50-page Faith-Based Letter had nothing on any specific warden I worked for, which is the only way to survive in most jobs. You do not bite the hand that feeds you. And in a private organization, one does not write such letters at all, not without invitation. But we all are **servants of Texas first**, in TDCJ, and dedicated to principles not wholly our own, being summed in the TDCJ's mission. I say this, because if rehired, I will not be disclosing unit activities anymore – one just does not do that.

Without your Letter of Commendation, I will NOT be rehired. That is simple – at least to me – so I shall tell the rest, with an exposure of the Lewis Unit too. **My honor is more important to me than to grovel without due justice.**

So this will be my last letter, I think, and take a note of this, *please*: with the 5-page IOC to Muniz (7-2012), the 21-page Part One Polunsky Exposure (10-2012, just as I retired), the 14-page Part Two Polunsky Exposure fax-letter (1-2013), and this 35-page Part Three of Polunsky-Lewis Unit Exposures, all verifiable, this is all I have to report to you gentlemen. All I can give, which is remarkable being that I have been away from the Lewis Unit for a year and away from Polunsky for four months.

Gentlemen, do you want to know? These security risks and safety risks unnecessarily and dangerously expose TDCJ to uncounted liabilities. I am also writing because I firmly believe there are *many* honorable people in TDCJ, including you fine men.

Below, is ADDITIONAL Polunsky Security and Safety Risks NOT previously documented that I attempted to fix before I left, and that now become a more ominous exposure because I

was implementing corrections *already* brought to light in the 2010 escape! Think about that, sirs, wardens *purposely allowing inmates do things revealed as security risks in the 2010 escape review*, exposed and attempted to be fixed by Chaplain Maness, even before he read that escape review! And I add the history of the Lewis Unit extension of application deadline, already fraught with spuriousness, and the Lewis Faith-Based Housing problems, vis-à-vis Polunsky, and hither-to-fore hidden history of the Lewis Unit chaplaincy problems that Asst. Warden Helm participated in when he was a Major – another reason Warden Helm will do all he can to see me not returning. Helm needs moved, not me, and I'll be very clear below.

So, with this letter, this is **all I can remember** at this time, written from the heart in good faith again – to, again, defend both the mission and security protocols of TDCJ. Defending standards and security protocols is good. Furthermore, I am serious about Polunsky Chaplaincy NOT taking the fall for the *ongoing* problems that Chaplain Collier could not really fix because of his naiveté and because the wardens primarily did not help him tow the line. Honor – I am beginning to wonder – really, gentlemen, honor demands I get credit for bringing these hither-to-fore hidden multiple violations to light. Furthermore, there is no doubt and plenty of verifiable proof that Warden Alford with Warden Simmons are caught in shenanigans nearly criminal and so very unethical it boggles the mind.

Really now, who is the highest ranking TDCJ official to know of the years-long violations of unsupervised inmates in the dark with computers, printers, scanners, and cameras? God knows this is an important question. Why not do a thorough investigation? Since Warden Simmons and Warden Alford did NOT STOP IT IMMEDIATELY, I'll bet the three of you \$100 Reg. Dir. Upshaw knew – no, I'll bet you \$500. Next, if Upshaw knew – then, Rick, what are you going to do to Upshaw for NOT reporting that to you?

Yes, I deserve a Purple Heart for forcing this question that should have been answered months ago. But, then again, this is so strange, it buggers the mind.

Then, perhaps a little old now, when this experienced chaplain came to Polunsky – after the honeymoon was over – and began to expose the gross looseness unseen in any chaplaincy in any U.S. prison in human history, *it was too much exposure*. Since the conspiracy to make me the fall guy did not work, because I acted quicker than they could – well, here is the rest of story.

What happened to me came to YOUR ATTENTION because of my fighting initiative, and – let me emphasize this – *against* what others were saying about me and *against* what others have tried to discipline me. Thinking about it now, I had just enough courage to take a *stand up* in the nick of time, in July and then in October of 2012 with copious documentation, that, had I NOT ACTED then, there would have been no credibility now. Worst of all, I had to retire to insure and even lock into place that I would get the credit for the exposure *before* Warden Alford, et al, undermined my credibility further. I had to expose *before* I was shot in the back, sort of speak.

Surely, you find it cowardly, too, when persons get shot in the back!

Someone needs to hang for this! Years of unsupervised inmates, and a chaplain set up.

Gentlemen, grant me this: again, was what I shared with you in October and January violations you wanted to know? *You all must agree* – no one would have ever exposed to you what I exposed about the Polunsky Chaplaincy, the highest profile prison in TDCJ.

Put it like this, had I not written, at that very time, and ended up with a third disciplinary and fired, and Warden Alford became the hero for cleaning it up – likely, no one would have ever known that such took place for, perhaps, *forever*. The volunteers paid for all the equipment because they LOVED video taping and SHARING all the good work; the volunteers told *everyone* of “God’s work” at Polunsky. But, now that the cat is out of the bag, everyone on

TDCJ payroll wants to hide it and shove it under the rug, will nursing the volunteers like children, so they too will be gently guided in to the corral of policy compliance. Rather than just say, “ooops,” we need to correct this. It was “NOT God’s work for so many security policies to violated.” Worse, Simmons retired knowing it all, and conspired with Alford to let Alford clean it up. Worst of all, a really ominous question NEEDS ANSWERED: did Reg. Dir. Upshaw sit at the head of the table as they worked all that out? Did Upshaw do that *without* telling Rick Thaller? That is your job.

Regardless, with great difficulty, I exposed it all for you in detail, and took a hit for it.

Purple Heart and even Silver Star, don’t you think?

Worst – Brad, Bryan, and Rick – please, for God’s sake, think about other employees and volunteers. If Warden Simmons and Warden Alford can do what they did to me, who was only able to bring this to light because of long experience coupled with an ability to write like the wind, and that *writing* itself being attached to the enormity of the exposure also attached to super-verifiability in two ways (1. inmates years in the dark, 2. 100s of staff and volunteers seeing all) – then, gentlemen, think about this, please! *Please think about this!* How many other times has this happened, to other staffers weaker and less articulate, who were set up with similar shenanigans, and lost their jobs? Gentlemen, I was NOT THE FIRST, you can be assured of that, and even today, as I spell out below, more shenanigans are taking place at this moment!

1. Lewis Unit Application Deadline Extension and History of Drum’s Hiring

a. Lewis Unit Application Deadline Extension

First, gentleman, bear with me on this, for a dual relevancy will unfold, I assure you. This extension of the application deadline went as follows. Last Friday the 8th, a message was left on my phone that an interview was set up for 10:10, Thursday, the 14th, at the Gib Lewis Unit. On Monday, I was told the time was 1:10 PM, Thursday. Since I had a wedding to perform at the Lions Club on that day and hour, I asked if the interview could be moved before lunch or forward to 2 PM. The young lady thought it possible, but called me back and said, “No, **the warden had a full schedule that day.**” So I confirmed the interview time, and my good friend ☺ adjusted his wedding so I could perform it.

No big deal to bother you gentlemen about, on face value, but since I likely will not be rehired anyway, because at this point it very much appears like you all have NOT shared my Purple Heart with the Lewis Unit wardens, I am impelled then to tell you all about Lewis Unit Warden Frank Helm, who will blockade me, if he has any inkling of what I am exposing here.

Regardless, without my Purple Heart and Letter of Commendation for the exposure of the longest lasting security breach in TDCJ history – you know, to add to my resume and all – then I certainly will not be rehired by Warden Hunter.

My qualifications are second only to Vance Drum in TDCJ, and second to none for the Lewis Unit because of my experience and job description requirement regarding my connections in the community, including coordinator of the Tyler County Ministerial Alliance for 15 years, active member of several civic groups, and more. Currently, to my knowledge, Drum and I are the ONLY “Certified Correctional Chaplains” by the American Correctional Chaplains Association, first affiliate in the ACA. Moreover, gentlemen, ALL the major volunteers and CVCAs will give me a good reference, since I recruited and trained most of them, but, really, because I have been friends and fellow Christians with most of them for 20 years! Yet, Warden Helm does not care about my connections and history, and I’ll tell you more in a moment.

Gentlemen, on Tuesday the 12th, the HR lady called me back. She was sweet and said, “**The application deadline has been extended.** They did not have enough applicants. You, sir, are still in the pool and qualified and all. Just, they could not hardly hold a board with so few. So you can go ahead with your wedding.” Great for the wedding, but not so much for me.

You can see my point, reading between the lines, surely. So, let me tell you more of what you ought to know about BOTH the Polunsky Unit and Lewis Unit, and either seal my fate or endear myself more fully to you all. Regardless, the Polunsky wardens continue to avoid fixing security violations – what will you do about that? And what do you do about a chaplain that has been maligned for *continuing* to defend and help lift the security of TDCJ into mere code compliance?

b. Corollary in Suspension of Region 1 Chaplain Application Deadline

There is a corollary with the extended application deadline for the Region 1 Chaplain position. Having seen the applications, only Vance shined like the North Star. My friend Dr. Vance Drum had not applied, for reasons I can share with you in private. They extended the Region 1 chaplain application deadline and came and ***talked to Vance and ASKED him to apply.*** Is that ethical? Not fully. Private companies can do anything, but not so much TDCJ.

Gentlemen, you were not at the top of TDCJ when Bill Pierce applied for the chief chaplain position in January of 2000. Several of us talked to Gary Johnson. I did not apply, because I had been involved in exposure of other unethical “tweaking” of chaplaincy applications, a tweaking that has not ended, it appears. Moreover, I knew I could not complain if I had applied in 2000 and was denied. Though they have destroyed Pierce’s 2000 application through records retention, yet, I found a copy I had asked for in 2000. Now then, this is relevant: Vance only included about 60% of his credentials with his application a couple of months ago, compared to what Vance included in 2000. Yet, how did Dunbar know if Vance was credentialed or wanted the position? No a big secret, that, but an agency of the great state of Texas has standards.

You should have seen Dr. Vance Drum’s 2000 application – a half inch thick with the best credentials any agency could hope for in the U.S. I have it, too, somewhere in my garage.

Do you want to know why Vance did *not* apply this time? Ask me to come and see you.

c. Solicitation of Dr. Vance Drum’s Application – Is that Really Ethical?

Anyways, upon solicitation, Vance applied and got the position at the same time I wrote you all about the exposures at Polunsky in October 2012, retiring in insure and lock in place that I get the credit for the exposure! Here is a question only you all have the ability to find the answer to, if you all are inclined. Did Dunbar solicit *before* or *after* he extended the deadline? If *before* the extension, then Dunbar’s solicitation was all the more unethical. Gentlemen, *before* is where I’d bet \$50.² Regardless, if *after* the extension, then Dunbar’s solicitation was still unethical since Dunbar did *not* solicit others as fairly. Dunbar as the signal interviewer has to at least *pretend* to be fair. This is a Texas agency, not a private outfit! Maybe that does not matter to most people. But this applies to my own application deadline extension, in a crazy way. It is, in all, just another of dozens of examples in the last decade of unprofessional and unethical playing with chaplaincy positions.

² You all will have to ask some delicate and tactical questions to discern that, and therefore fully discern the level of unethical behavior there.

d. The Rev. Dr. Vance Drum's Application vis-à-vis Pierce's Application in 2000 – Difference Between Wedding Cake and a Twinkie

Gentlemen, you do not have to like, and, in fact, you all should very much despise it. But it happened, was shameful, and was certainly swept under the rug. And it is still happening.

Perhaps Dunbar listened when I said to him in our first meeting a year ago, when Dunbar humiliated me for that 50-page Faith-Based Letter – and gave me a disciplinary for sub-standard duty in a disciplinary that he wrote so sub-standardly it was thrown out – and listened to me when I told him that I had written a 70-page exposure about the tweaking of the job descriptions for head chaplain from 1990 to 2000 (with documented timeline) from which Gary Johnson initiated an internal affairs investigation.³ I had told Johnson in 2000 that Vance Drum's application was like a “wedding cake compared to Bill Pierce's Twinkie.” I was not disciplined for that, then; it is not flattering, but the God's honest truth. And, Pierce, being naïve then, did not know why he was hired; you may think I am merely complaining, but, truly, Don Keil hired Pierce because Pierce *was NOT connected, not networked, and because Pierce was out of the loop*; Keil hired Pierce because Pierce was not informed! Gentlemen, this is an unpleasant fact. Pierce did not even have an accredited Bachelor's degree, which, when exposed, was not addressed. Furthermore, HR had NOT discerned the non-accredited degree which was a basic requirement of the Head Chaplain, and, worse, did *nothing* about it after that was exposed.

Gentlemen, Pierce is a good man just trying to make it, but at the time, in 2000, this was the state affairs in TDCJ:

**Pierce was the least qualified head chaplain of a major agency in U.S. history, and
Dr. Vance Drum was *the most* qualified applicant in TDCJ history**

See Pierce's application attached, and **handle with care**, for his application is not pleasant to look at. It betrays a very sad story of a man who failed at pastoring churches, who started his non-accredited college with A-B's and ended with C-D's. It is a clear story of a man who had lost his religious initiative decades before applying to TDCJ. See for yourself. Pierce did not add a single piece of training since 1974 to his resume.⁴ Be gentle. His was the poorest application in the bunch. Pierce was hired by Don Keil, simply, because Keil *knew* Pierce would and could not do any leadership whatsoever. Pierce was a bureaucratic pawn, purposely promoted to further slow the progress and dumb down professional chaplaincy, under orders then from Debbie Roberts or Carl Jefferies, or both – all *against* the best principles of TDCJ.⁵

You do not have to like that, and since my work in 2000 and the exposures of unethical treatment of chaplaincy then, the single Chaplain III position – head chaplain – was boosted up to Manager I, and that story is too long to include here.⁶

Where TDCJ Chaplaincy would be today if Dr. Vance Drum had been chosen in 2000?

³ I still have those letters and documents, btw.

⁴ Except for two units of clinical pastoral education in 1997 in order to be promoted to Chaplain II.

⁵ Several documents indicate that at www.PreciousHeart.net/chaplaincy, but I did not post the 70-page letter with timeline that I personally gave to Gary Johnson, and from he ordered an internal affairs investigation.

⁶ But includes hundreds of other pages, some of which is online at www.PreciousHeart.net/chaplaincy. The story of boosting the head chaplain's position from Chaplain III to Manager I included the revelation that MHMR had 16 of its 26 chaplains were Chaplain IIIs, with several IIIs at several steps above the TDCJ Head Chaplain III.

Now then, if you are still reading, let me say it is **about time Vance was promoted**. For the first time perhaps since Emmett Solomon, though certainly in an ethically borderline manner, still, a super-highly qualified chaplain was chosen to supervise Unit Chaplains. Yippee.

c. Lewis Unit Senior Warden Will Not Hire Me WITHOUT My Purple Heart

So, when I heard that they extended the application deadline for the Lewis Unit, forgive me, but I have to believe you all did NOT share with the Lewis Unit Wardens about my Purple Heart and the harrowing adventure that led to my exposure of the Polunsky shenanigans. That you all did not share with the Lewis Unit wardens how much you valued my exposure, so then, I am compelled to tell all about the Polunsky Unit and the Lewis Unit, and finish the story. Perhaps then you all will help me recover honor in this. Or insure that I will never be rehired again.

I had to fight and even retire to insure I'd get credit for the exposure, that in itself was the only way to lock up my honor, for could not fight the bogus disciplinaries were coming. Plus, that was the only way to *force* the wardens to get those inmates *supervised*. I had to be utterly clear that it was to MY CREDIT for the exposures, if my honor was to be salvaged.

In retrospect, as painful as it was, the **Polunsky Unit saved my bacon**. What a blessing!

Yet, games are still going on at Polunsky. Gentlemen, it is a matter of official record that TDCJ's Information Technology (IT) experts were NOT called until AFTER you all received the 21-page letter the week I retired in late October. It was NOT until I wrote you all that, word trickled down (to use the covert term) and Rick Thaller said, "What the hell?" Only then did Warden Alford wake up and he fired the inmates; yes, Alford fired the inmates, as though the inmates were somehow solely responsible, when in truth the inmates were just "*being inmates*" in a super-lax policy violating environment. That I exposed, even as Warden Simmons was receiving "Administrator of the Year Award," because there were NO PROBLEMS until I stepped forward. There are a dozen ways to flip this pancake, but I documented as far back as July 2012 in a 5-page IOC, *tried to come and see you all*,⁷ and then in the October 21-page letter, even exposed how Warden Alford was getting his "Captain who was computer savvy to look at things," though that captain was not a real expert – further proof of Warden Alford's attempt to cover-up my exposure. As mentioned, too, I called Chaplaincy Regional Susan Matthis, and Chaplain Collier called her back to nullify my call, and then Collier became malleable for a day or two. Then, after retiring in late October 2012, I sent the essence to Regionals Vance Drum and Susan Matthis what I had sent you all.

For time immemorial, then, that was the *beginning* of inmate supervision in the Media Room after years of negligence.

Gentlemen, I need my Purple Heart and Letter of Commendation, and it communicated to clearly to Warden Hunter, if I am to have a fair hearing. More than that, I am still exposing to you other things, here, that further helps TDCJ.

Since the Lewis Unit Extension of Application Deadline is in place, let me go ahead and tell you all. More on Polunsky, and, why Warden Helm should be removed from the Lewis Unit, if not also given a major disciplinary for both insubordination and substandard duty for how he has repeatedly fought your standing orders to support chaplaincy goals and repeatedly fought the best interests of the agency mission in how Helm has treated volunteers THIS LAST YEAR!

Brad, Bryan, and Rick, in sum, what I was disciplined for was nothing, *nothing*, compared to what several Polunsky and Lewis prison wardens have done. TDCJ is fair, is it not?

⁷ Rick Thaller's secretary said she took notes, too, and I am so thankful for studious secretaries.

2. Polunsky Exposure (Pt. 3) – Chaplain Collier Note and Evaluations

a. Note from Chaplain Collier to Chaplain Maness – STOP COMPLIANCE!

See Chaplain Collier's handwritten note attached. Collier refused or, worse, could not see. You all read that 5-page IOC to Warden Muniz in July 2012. After I told Chaplain Collier about the computer virus on his state computer (that allowed remote access) and the possible audio surveillance by the inmates, Collier *ASKED the inmates* if they were secretly listening. God have mercy, now naïve can one be? Warden Simmons shook his head when I told him about that, and then I began to get really scared, because, as slick as Warden Simmons was, it appeared to me that Warden Simmons truly was not surprised at Collier's recalcitrance and even, possibly, his purposefully oblivious attitude to security. Or, worse, Collier was conscious of his insubordinate rebellion to TDCJ security and chaplaincy policies, which is *dangerous* in any prison, but all the more dangerous in the Texas Death Row!

According to Chaplain Collier – see the note – the inmates were trustworthy and I *must* just leave the inmates alone, and Collier has three consecutive years a super-good Annual Evaluations for THAT!⁸ Collier's Annual Evaluation by Warden Alford was in November 2012, just after I wrote you all. Is this a Duck Dynasty rerun?

Gentlemen, Chaplain Collier's note **says he himself stopped my efforts and demanded I stop, too** – yes, I was to stop bringing things into compliance. Why? Because some of his inmates were threatening to quit! Yet, sirs, but – gentlemen – Collier's note is *not* the worst part; please, do not hold that against Collier too much. The larger and more important meaning of Collier's crazy little note is critical: Chaplain Collier *truly* believed he had Warden Simmons' and Warden Muniz' support for all the violations he and his volunteers were enjoying. The violations were not serious to Chaplain Collier! That is scary! Wardens Simmons, Muniz, and Alford – and likely Reg. Dir. Upshaw – were in conscious complicity in multiple ongoing violations for years, including inmates being *given* a dark office to do what they pleased all day long seven days a week! THAT IS SCARY to the uttermost, and just gets scarier and scarier the more one thinks about it, the ramifications multiplying like the grains of rice on the checker table of exponential expansion, where one grain of rice is added to square one, doubled on each square, and doubled each time for 64 squares, until rice grains flow out the window. It gets evil when the wardens try to set up an employee to take the blame – me, who has also brought a few extra million dollars to TDCJ chaplaincy that was not previously allocated in 2000 and 2007, and then in defense to keep chaplaincy budgeted in 2011.

Purple Heart and Silver Star – I think. I am beginning to wonder, now, why would you all *hesitate* to give me a Purple Star? Is not reporting violations a good thing? Is not going above the head of a warden a good thing, when the warden does not help correct violations?

Gentlemen, after about a month of *blissful* inmate and volunteer catering, when I **STARTED to do MY JOB** at Polunsky, I was diplomatic. I was no idiot. The Polunsky volunteers loved me as I helped them with minor junk. I *tried* to tackle the highest security-risk violations *first*. Top Shelf First > inmates years alone in the dark *had* to come to an end. I fought Chaplain Collier, the lead CVCAs, and the inmates. Also, inventory, key control, and chemical control were a burden for them too. I have written enough on that already.

Do you need more than Chaplain Collier's note and my previous letters? Here is more ☺.

⁸ Oh yes, I have the previous three years of evaluations too.

b. Chaplain Collier's Annual Evaluation GOOD after Exposure – Are You Kidding?

Gentlemen, see Chaplain Collier's Annual Evaluation from Warden Alford on November 29, 2012, just after you received the 21-page letter from me in October 2012, and just after Warden Alford was *told* to get TDCJ's computer experts there, most likely by Rick Thaller. Yes, naïve Chaplain Collier, who I documented in July that he himself was convinced Warden Simmons was behind him, who did NOT want to turn the lights on in the inmates' office,⁹ and who COULD NOT be convinced that UNSUPERVISED inmates was any threat at all, much less a absurdly serious threat – fought me on it to the end! Chaplain Collier gets "exceeds standards" Annual Evaluation in November 2012 and for three years in a row! For what? Because Collier let inmates do as they pleased in his department, all over the department, for years!

Gentlemen, am I vindicated? Sirs, the wardens *supported* Chaplain Collier and are supporting Collier to this very day! What in the world did Collier do? If Collier's Annual Evaluation is not a Duck Dynasty, I don't know what else to call it, but a flat out pig-ugly insubordination to you and all of TDCJ, making a mockery out of all evaluations.

There are many ways to flip this and see other ramifications, and I must draw a few more ramifications out, because nobody else will. Here are four more *insane* ramifications, uno, dos, tres, and cuatro.

uno. No Help in Job – Good. After that 21-page letter that I sent to you all in October 2012, and retired to insure I got the credit for the exposure to preserve my honor in this, know this: the wardens did NOT help me do my job in supervising those inmates – **a warden would NOT help a chaplain get supervision for inmates** – even after he was informed in writing that *none* of us knew the inmates were doing in the dark? After the lid is BLOWN OFF, Warden Alford gives the remaining Chaplain Collier a super-good Annual Evaluation. Come now – what is that?

dos. Substandard Duty – Good. I am calling this to your attention, gentlemen, because my first disciplinary a year ago by Marvin Dunbar was for substandard duty performance, reminding you again that it written in such a substandard way that it was rejected by TDCJ's own disciplinary department. Herein, both Warden Simmons and Warden Alford allowed worse *substandard* duty, they even endorsed the substandard in writing, for three years in a row, in Annual Evaluations for chaplaincy department filled with violations they themselves could see in their own office from the million-dollar eyes in the sky.

tres. Years in the Dark – Good. Still relevant, has anyone yet talked to previous Polunsky staff Chaplains Mary Berry and Loren Edwards, who both had a hell of time with Chaplain David Collier and his lead CVCAs.¹⁰ Please, call those chaplains. Now *three* TDCJ staff chaplains, including me, the most senior of the bunch, have had trouble with Collier. And only I am partly defending Collier because of his naiveté and for another reason altogether, namely, that I believe the wardens were using him and, perhaps – scary, scary – just perhaps with Rer. Dir. Upshaw, Collier may have participated in a cover-up or some other kind of super-spy prison junk, the only *real* reason any *senior* warden would grant so much latitude and so many conscious violations for so many years. Really, gentlemen, that needs a more thorough investigation. In fact, why has any top administrator *not* called Chaplains Berry and Edwards? They'll back me up, as so many other ranking staff at Polunsky will. Ask

⁹ Is it just crazy, the idea of inmates having their own office, unsupervised, for years in the dark?

¹⁰ By the way, Chaplain Edwards is just recovering from some serious cancer surgery – keep him in prayer.

yourselves, after all I have exposed, after I *turned the lights on* after years of inmates in the dark, after I retired to get credit for the exposure to save my own honor in a hostile environment I endured with courage few have had to display, after all – really and truly – **how could such go on for so many years?** And, so very critical to whatever conspiracy was taking place, just who was the highest administrator that knew the inmates were unsupervised in the dark, and likewise critical, for how long? And, after a 100-plus pages of exposure, Chaplain Collier is *praised* for that, for the third time in a row!

cuatro. Allowing Security Violations – Good. Gentlemen, **Polunsky saved my bacon**, and, God be the witness, you should see this too. Warden Alford's official Annual Evaluation of Chaplain Collier seals the deal – Alford was consciously complicit with Warden Simmons in **ALLOWING** multiple violations of security policy. When I exposed them and began to *correct them*, Alford ignored them and bullied me – and praised Collier, see the evaluation. Excuse, not just Warden Alford, but the evaluation is signed by Bill Pierce, Marvin Dunbar, *and* lastly by Senior Warden Alford.

Gentlemen at the top of TDCJ – PLEASE ask this question, why is it that Senior Warden Stephen Alford could in good conscious *allow* Bill Pierce and Marvin Dunbar to give Chaplain Collier all top marks in Annual Evaluation just two weeks after I sent you Part Two of an already *overloaded* exposure? If they are not outright lying, then what kind of a game are they playing.

It is time to stop the games, shut of the Duck Dynasty, and close down the play slide.

Where is my Purple Heart and Silver Star?

Even you gentlemen HAVE TO ASK WHY? Goodness, that Annual Evaluation exposure is *another* quiver in my sack of credibility. Worse, the only chaplain in the system that knows Polunsky, Chaplain Collier, is allowed to transfer to the Walls Unit *before* his own department is fully cleaned up! Worse still, the Lewis Unit *novice* Chaplain Joe Vitella is scurried away, and **BACK HOME** to the Polunsky Unit to *begin* to learn all, who as a Polunsky volunteer, was a long-time *unknowing* party to the multitude of violations too. Who is thinking this through?

c. Serious Incident Report and Collier Evaluation Dates – and Cookies

If we are going to split hairs, which is a good practice from time to time, let me tell of another anomaly that is curious at least. According to the Serious Incident Review distributed on May 5, 2010, the Polunsky escape took place on January 29 and the on-site visit was on February 2. Chaplain Collier's Annual Evaluation was first written by Reg. Steve Ulmer on January 8, signed by Warden Lester on January 22, and signed by Bill Pierce on January 29. It is all "exceeds standards" and the comment was: "Chaplain Collier has negotiated his way through a year of turmoil with grace and resolve. His kind and willing attitude has ministered to inmates, staff, and administrators and families. I wish we had more like him."¹¹ And Collier signed it on February 3, 2010. That may not mean much at this moment, but it is clear the wardens supported Chaplain Collier, and as usual, and the evaluation was signed in the warden's office on February 3 – Warden Simmons' office, perhaps.

Collier aced his Annual Evaluation at one of the worst times in Polunsky's history, and had the *thankful* support of the wardens – YES, I was in HEAVEN when I arrived. Check Chaplain Collier's commissary account during that time, he was spending **\$100s a month** on cookies, cokes, and ice cream that the inmate SSIs freely shared, something most staffers would get hung for! Gentlemen, the cookies-to-inmates is hardly worth me *saying anything about*, as heaven in

¹¹ Handwriting appeared to be Warden Lester's.

chaplaincy was pleasant – cookies was the most minor thing. NEVER had such a chaplaincy been given so much freedom. It was hard to address so many oddities – but I would get those lights on, in that Media Room, and hopefully a camera to *begin* supervision. I would not give up on that!

Who is going to help Polunsky Chaplain Joe Vitella? Joe is a fine fellow, but is still in the dark with respect to many things. Things even the best and most experienced chaplain TDCJ has ever had, Dr. Vance Drum, will not be able to see and help. Why? Because the Polunsky Chaplaincy was doing so many things NO OTHER chaplaincy in TDCJ was doing. And, through Open Records requests, I got the survey – indeed, no other TDCJ prison had a Media Room. No surprise there. That is, no other unit in TDCJ and indeed in the history of the world had a room where high-security inmates were allowed to be in the dark by themselves for years with computers, printers, scanners and cameras!

And Chaplain Collier gets an “Exceeds Expectations” AFTER that is exposed.

Gentlemen, listen to this. The lead Polunsky CVCAs frequently Collier him “the silver-tongued devil” because, like a miracle, Collier could get anything he wanted. Please notice, even the CVCAs knew this kind of favor was one-of-a-kind, unique, and – in the light – unheard of in any TDCJ prison.

Ramifications throughout Polunsky? Are there any? Regarding Polunsky, then, if in Chaplaincy so many violations were allowed, do think other departments were allowed a like number of violations too? That was not my business then, except where I might see a clear security violation or hole in the fence, but it is a reasonable question now. And if Reg. Dir. Upshaw really knew with Warden Simmons, gosh, dare I go there? I had then and have now a responsibility to share security violations, any and every one.

3. Polunsky Exposure (Pt. 3) – Volunteers Praying for Warden Alford – *Neat, or Not Neat?*

Though I mentioned this before, as I pondered this again, these months later, there were other ramifications to this that you all ought to consider, even dare to take deeply into your heart. Remember, the Polunsky CVCA's and volunteers were praying and hoping and worrying and fretting and talking and praising and – again – hoping and praying that Warden Alford would return. Because of Alford's support before and fear of things to change if someone “not familiar” with all the good being done – *everyday* I heard a CVCA “hope” that Alford would come and not someone who would piss on their party.

How sad, Chaplain Maness was *forced* into that role of “bad guy” after I *supported* the wardens with a 5-page IOC to cover myself, if the wardens *really* wanted it that way. Still, on that important security risk, I had to retire to finally get CREDIT for the exposure of the lack of inmate supervision in that damn Media Room, just to salvage my honor! It's my Purple Heart.

Please, let me refresh this – *never before* had a transition between wardens been talked about by volunteers like it was being talked about at the Polunsky Unit. Gentlemen, here are a couple of the other ramifications and, indeed, security concerns that involve our precious God-fearing citizen volunteers. Seriously, **TODAY and during the last four months, no one is talking to the volunteers** about times past, not in an investigatory capacity, though they were significantly responsible for the “progress” in the volunteers' terms (or in the deterioration from policy in compliance terms). Worse, all this is slowly becoming another portion of history that is being swept under the rug, even hidden – including the exclusion of a Purple Heart for the chaplain singly responsible for the exposure. “**Never before,**” I say, because we have no

intercollegiate dialogue between us chaplains; such dialogue is practically prohibited, and at the last week-long “training” we were assigned seating positions like elementary school children. There is so much we could *learn* from one another, and help one another.

Volunteers Praying for Alford – Neat or Not Neat? Really, Brad, Bryan, and Rick – goodness, even the volunteers *knew* that the Polunsky “freedoms” were odd and different and far outside the main stream. Forget not, many of those same volunteers and most of the CVCAs were also *volunteering* at several prisons! This is critical too, so, please, write this down and highlight it in broad yellow strokes: the volunteers *knew how* other TDCJ prisons they visited operated, and therefore the volunteers *knew* BETTER than staff Chaplain Collier knew just how odd and different Polunsky was! Think about that, gentlemen, when even volunteers *knew* of how crazy lax and loosely the policies were being violated at Polunsky, and still the volunteers themselves did not question the violations of their own training, to say nothing of the vast difference between Polunsky and the other prisons they visited often like Eastham, Walls, Wynne, and others! The volunteers *knew* better than staff Chaplain Collier how utterly different Polunsky was from ALL the other prisons.

Do you want to know which Polunsky Unit CVCAs saw this and AGREED with me, Chaplain Maness, that it all was strange, especially the dark Media Room fiasco? Do you think Chaplain Joe ought to know which CVCAs were more above board? While Dr. Vance Drum will be an anchor, Rick, you especially, but we all know how “influential” the long-standing top four CVCAs will be in Joe’s transition.

It is a disservice to Chaplain Joe Vitella that all of these pages are kept from him. Or, is someone else taking notes and cryptically passing “hush-hush, heads up” notes to Joe?

4. Polunsky Exposure (Pt. 3) – Serious Incident Review and Electrical Code Violations *not previously documented*

Let me tell more, for in the unlikely event I am hired at the Lewis Unit, there will be no more of these letters, unless you actually hire me as a Research Chaplain. Gentlemen, I give you this to FURTHER ask and plead for my Purple Heart and Letter of Commendation for Honor in the face of danger and hostility, and YOUR further recommendation to Lewis Unit Hunter, and request to move Warden Helm, so I can continue the fine chaplaincy work at Lewis Unit.

Gentlemen, really, in retrospect, I can hardly believe the courage I displayed. Looking back, goodness, even at 56, I guess I still have something left in me. Yes, I stood up and did the right thing, and now I am still doing that, because ... well ... I believe. But, darn, I really was courageous and sure did exhibit a Titanic amount of stamina. What do you think?

a. SIR Information – Commissary Bags in Chapel – *from Maness, Three Years Later*

So very sad, when Bill Pierce “investigated” the escape attempt, the Serious Incident Review (SIR; 05-10-2010) stated that *nothing* was found in the chaplaincy. The SIR revealed small things like opaque lighting and a plan to fix the opaque lighting and other more critical things regarding supervision. But *nothing* in the chapel. That is good news I guess.

Remember, Chaplain Maness put a stop to and “ordered” that no more commissary bags would be allowed into the chapel. Just as I was leaving. Chaplain Collier and the CVCAs were against that, but it needed to be done anyway. Here is a question. Is new Polunsky Chaplain Joe Vitella continuing with that restriction? My information inclines me to say, no, inmates are still allowed to come with their commissary bags. You see, because it “convenient” for the inmates.

Look at the 2010 SIR review, indeed, the escaping convicts hid the burlap sacks as they went to chapel, knowing they would not be searched. I found it odd that one conclusion (p. 9) reported that “Offender participants also stated during interview that the A-Turnout Officer did conduct random pat searches during chapel ingress and egress.” They relied upon “offender” testimony too, which seemed a little strange, to the exclusion of staff. However, I never saw inmates being searched in the chapel. Rarely did the A-turnout officer come to the chapel, nor did the officer assigned to the chapel shake down offenders, not during my time there. Occasionally on the sidewalk I did see a few offenders randomly being shook down – whether on normal traffic from buildings or from chapel – who knows.

Really, on a priority list, *really*, as mentioned in the October 2012 letter as I was leaving, I was **against inmates bringing their commissary and craftshop junk bags to chapel**, even the SSIs leaving their extra pairs of shoes in the chapel. I also found a pair of free-world tennis shoes in the audio-cave cabinet!, and so much other foolery. I moved the free-world tennis shoes into the chaplain’s office, and Chaplain Collier just shrugged his shoulders when I told him: “oh, it’s not a bother, the inmates use those during the Kingdom Brawler contests.” Really – REALLY, free-world shoes being used by inmates? Another piece of personal property bought and brought into Polunsky for the inmates to use (like the personal property of computers, printers, paint, sound, dvds, supplies), even a clothing iron and – free-world tennis shoes locked up in the audio cave cabinet that inmates used to lock and unlock before I brought some key control into order (still working on that when I left¹²). I got no thanks for that either, but I did get a lot of grunts from Chaplain Collier and the CVCAs, because it was SO INCONVENIENT for chaplains to unlock and lock a DOZEN cabinets. So easy to let the trusted inmates use the keys to unlock everything, and at the end of the day let the inmates lock all the cabinets.

Silly, crazy, just flat nuts!

Oh yeah, did you see that? A free-world **clothing iron**, in the inmates’ audio-cave cabinet, that for years the inmates could use at their leisure. Chaplain Collier shrugged his shoulders, as he knew about, and did not really care. I moved the iron into the chaplain’s office, too, wondering at this catering to inmates like the Holiday Inn Express. Security – gosh, as mentioned in a previous letter, CVCA Tommy Dill said it honestly, reflecting on the dark Media Room with unsupervised inmates, “We trust them 100%.” Really, Chaplain Collier too.

I was in the process of getting rid of all the cabinets but two or three in the chaplain’s office, and would have gotten rid of all of them if I had stayed.

Paint Cabinet. Add to the SIR my last 14-page letter in January 2013, when I told you about the paint cabinet with gallons of **colored paint**. The escaping inmates in 2010 had colored the inner layer of clothes, but the SIR did NOT mention how they colored. I hope they did not use the unsupervised chapel paints, but, as has been for over a year now, the “art team” just paints and paints. Though I got an inventory, I had not obtained a weight machine, chemical log, and all needed to truly *begin to police* those paints as they should be. And I seriously doubt Chaplain Joe has been made aware of that danger too. Poor Joe, I guess.

But that is not the issue at hand. Now, **after the SIR report**, gentlemen, please listen, for *three years* the popular inmates have brought their pillow cases to and from chapel – and Chaplain Maness tried to put an end to it, the very thing that was KEY to the 2010 escape. Inmates knowing they could bring anything to and from chapel, and were bringing their

¹² Yes, still working on key control when I left, something Chaplain Collier and CVCAs did not like, and which the new Chaplain Joe Vitella will not find out without help, simply because so much is going on.

commissary and craftshop junk TO THE CHAPEL in bags NO ONE COULD SEE into – and no one but this Chaplain Maness *randomly* shaking them down. I put an end to that BEFORE I found out about that SIR report – and up hill – another Purple Heart *please*.

I'm thinking of a recent YouTube video going viral, "Ain't nobody got time for that!" Hilarious, if you've seen it, and don't bother if you have not.

b. Electrical Code Violations at Polunsky and Clear Fire Hazards

Remember, in the 14-page Part Two I sent last month, I mentioned how I had the Major's Utility Squad checked, because that squad had made so many electrical changes without maintenance's approval and without any work orders. The lead inmate was a character: Chaplain Collier and lead CVCAs praised him, for he had "done so much for the chaplaincy department over the years." What a deal! Why bother maintenance, when you have inmates working outside the tedious work order process. I called Major Hutto – finally, a *real* Major – who jacked up squad, and I never saw him again.

Truly, electrical revisions NEED to go through maintenance. Have I told you how often the electrical breakers blew? Inmates experimenting with equipment configurations. All the CVCAs knew which key and which breaker to *reset* in the 4-Gym Craftshop when the 3-Gym electrical breakers blew. Teamwork! I witnessed the breakers blowing five or six times in the six months I was there, one time escorting a savvy chapel inmate to the 4-Gym Craftshop myself to turn the breakers back on. How long? But that is not as important as what follows.

Now here is the new exposure. As I write to you, at this very moment, still, the 3-Gym and 7-Gym media projectors are powered by extension cords ran through the ceiling, far, far out of any U.S. electrical code. This is not up for debate. A fire is waiting to happen in the building, either the Media Room or in the attic, with no suitable exits for 300 men they regularly have, or even half that if a big fire breaks out. Furthermore, I hate to say this, but if everyone was fully above board, had all the cards on the table like a really professional organization, the fire marshal would be able to see everything and shut it all down until all was brought into code compliance.

Even the Duck Dynasty has more in code compliance.

But, as you read this, there is another and worse fire hazard. I had inmate Ramy Hoziafah draw up on his computer a bridge to place over the electrical extension cords and sound cords that come from the 3-Gym Media Room and – hear this – run *underneath* a rug by the FRONT DOOR. Yes, an extension cord and numerous sound cords are *underneath* a rug by the front door. Daily, four-wheel carts roll over and hundreds of men walk ON TOP of the rug on top of the electrical extension cords and numerous sound cords, and for years.

Grab a hold of this. I had a proposal made by the inmate, and presented to it Warden Muniz in writing, for Polunsky Unit Maintenance to fabricate a metal bridge. Warden Muniz DENIED the proposal, saying Chaplain Collier could buy one! But, months later and *today*, there still is no **bridge there**, and Chaplain Collier is at the Walls Unit.

You don't want to know how I know this, even three months after my departure, that RIGHT NOW, there is no correction of this. Maybe it was a duck call?

Let's do the math. It is not a matter of **IF**, but a matter of **WHEN** the wiring will fatigue and short out and cause a fire. Just a matter of time. Let's assume one travel per day of a 200 lb. four-wheeled cart; that makes eight impacts by the four wheels each day (coming and going) for 49 impacts per week, at least. Given that the chapel regularly had 300 inmates (capacity 275) on Saturday and Sunday, and many hundreds during the week, so, conservatively, 1,000x2 inmate foot impacts a week are placed upon the rug, causing fatigue upon the electrical wires. That is easily 100,000 impacts a year, or 300,000 impacts over the last three years.

But, goodness, we do NOT even know how long the electrical cords have been trampled!

How many impacts will it take before the wire fatigues? **WHEN the wire fatigues** and its insulation deteriorates, there will be a short that **WILL CAUSE A FIRE**, and likely in the Media Room, where two fire extinguishers are located. So if a fire happens in the Media Room, where two of the three fire extinguishers are, what then?¹³

That is just a start. Since only one door is available, because the second door is *always* locked, what is the safety code there? Oh – who really cares? And when the outside gate is locked, with 300 men and volunteers in the chapel, and a fire takes place by the front door – what then?

Yes, Chaplain Collier aced his Annual Evaluation, even the last one. What a guy! But even now, you all must know it is not all Collier's fault. He was the *least* helped chaplain in history!

And, I am still looking for my Purple Heart. Or free duck call.

Here is a real kicker too. The fire hose is locked with a padlock, and there is no key to that fire hose on the any of the 3-Gym Chapel keys. So what is the use of a fire hose that no one can get to, in the case of a fire? Especially if the outside gate is *locked* to the 3-Gym, as usual!

I can hear duck calls from far away, now, and liability lawyers lining up like sharks in a feeding frenzy. If something happens, like a fire, let it be known that *this Chaplain* did his part, and more, made one hell of a fuss about, wrote over 100 pages. That is how much I love TDCJ!

What happens to the liability issues if a fire happens in the ceiling, because the wardens did NOT pay attention to their staff chaplain about violations of electrical coding? I really and truly do not want TDCJ Chaplaincy to take a hit, so I am informing you all, now, that Warden Muniz would not let me get maintenance to make bridge to replace the rug over the electrical cords running on the floor. It would be preferred to get all within the electrical code.

Warden Hunter will NOT hire me, if he does NOT get the message clearly from Rick Thaller or you that I performed a courageous, needed, landmark, and even unprecedented EXPOSURE that was **VALUED** and too long overdue and **DIRELY** needed. Hunter will do what he can to support Warden Helm's negation of my service at the Lewis Unit.

Gentlemen – did they “extend” the Lewis Unit chaplain application deadline in order to hunt for another person they can TALK INTO TAKING the position? Yes, unethical to a degree, for the one making the decision in a state agency. Just like they did for Vance Drum. Except in this case, there is no chaplain in the country more qualified for the Lewis Unit than me, especially since what I did in the recent past has no appreciable impact upon my Lewis Unit performance and more so if the one influencing the process (Warden Helm) has some gravely unethical history himself directly bearing upon the Lewis Unit Chaplaincy. (More on this in a moment.)

Gentlemen, Warden Hunter hardly knows me. When he “fired” as he said, rather than the fact of “recommend dismissal” – Hunter was clear about his intentions. It is also clear that Warden Helm plays a part in this, and if you shared that last letter with Hunter, then Helm also does not want me back for merely accusing Helm of “baiting” CVCA Bell, which I will unfold.

c. Ex-Chaplain Rick Anderson – Wow, The Example of a Bad Chaplain

Brad, Bryan, and Rick, as you all know, I have nearly secured all I can from TDCJ through Open Records (OR) requests. On those OR requests, there are a few stories of indolence not

¹³ And I got tired of telling the inmates in the Media Room to LEAVE the one unmounted fire extinguisher on the table by the door. They kept putting it back below a desk, because it got in their way.

worthy of adding here. Among the OR requests, I asked for all the SIRs relating to chaplaincy at Polunsky, including the incident of staff Chaplain Rick Anderson, who was fooled by Death Row inmate Richard Tabler into taking a few letters off the unit and mailing them for Tabler.

I have not gotten the report yet, or whatever is available, but – GoooOoly, as Gomer Pyle used to say – I don't really need it. I got Rick Anderson's book, *God's Feet Are in My Sandbox*.¹⁴ Good God in heaven, gentlemen, every chaplain in TDCJ should read that book, volunteers too. It is a good example of a man with so many sorrows and interpersonal needs that ministering to the inmates became a source of meeting the chaplain's own needs. Anderson does not even know he is explaining his weakness, not his nobility, and a similar emotional dilemma was what Polunsky Chaplain David Collier got trapped into, and – slap me here – Anderson worked with Chaplain Collier.

Anderson goes into great length on the stresses and personal dilemmas he is facing.

Gentlemen, here is the example of the great need for and value of classical Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), of which, currently TDCJ requires chaplains to obtain two "units" (400 hours each) in order to obtain a Chaplain II status.¹⁵

Anderson was afraid to name names, and so everyone including the wardens' names (like Simmons) and even Tabler's name is disguised in the book. Polunsky employees and volunteers would recognize many from his descriptions, but such hiding distracted from his authenticity. Regardless, Anderson had to know the real names were on dozens of new media sites.

In his unnumbered chapter 18, titled "Barred from Death Row" (pp. 201-213), Anderson details his fall from grace with more insight than Anderson is aware. Inmate Tabler, aka Gabriel Slaughter in his book, manipulated Anderson like a puppet, almost as though Anderson felt like his job was to be the on-call waiter for his Death Row prisoners.

Anderson belabors his "single" violation upon which TDCJ fired him, but most of us in TDCJ would see many violations that he himself articulates. He had not read *Games that Criminals Play*.¹⁶ He was the perfect target.

The jewel in the book is Anderson's detailed description of his own being sinking down into the whirlpool vortex of Death Row inmate Richard Tabler's world, so completely. Anderson was oblivious even as he wrote that he had crossed over the line of bought into the age-old prison trap of "us vs. them," the classic and the most obvious symptom in prison of one's own interpersonal weakness. That "us vs. them" error is the simplest and most error and symptom, and the easiest to identify, so easy, it is always a part of employee and volunteer training.

Anderson describes his distrust of officers alongside his nearly compulsive compassion for inmate Tabler. Without realizing it, Anderson describes his pain over Tabler's suicide threat: Tabler "continued to rant and cry. I was surprised security hadn't done anything.... I also knew [Tabler] blamed [TDCJ] for his present circumstances.... I suspected that [Tabler] was correct in his assertion that the staff was against him.... What was I to do to throw this man a lifeline? ... My mind raced back to Judy as she lay in the hospital bed dying. How often had I wanted to do something.... Could I remain detached from [Tabler's] plight and allow him to kill himself? No!

¹⁴ Rick Anderson, *God's Feet Are in My Sandbox – Faith Chronicle of a Texas Death Row Chaplain* (Mustang, OK: Tate Publishing, 2011; 227p.).

¹⁵ See www.ACPE.edu for more the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education, the premier CPE provider, mainly provided through stringently certified chaplaincy departments in hospitals.

¹⁶ Bud Allen and Diana Bosta, *Games Criminals Play: How You Can Profit by Knowing Them* (Rae John Pub., 1981; 228p).

Every fiber of my being revolted at the thought....” Then, Anderson himself offers to Tabler, ““Write letters to your family and attorney, and I’ll mail them!’ blurted out of my mouth.” Now catch this, Tabler “paused in the middle of his tirade.... ‘What did you say?’ [Tabler] asked.... ‘Are you serious?’”¹⁷

Yes, Anderson was serious, portraying himself as brave. as he bought the whole hog farm so fast and so fully, it even caught veteran Death Row inmate Tabler by surprise. What a jewel of a training aid, grievous to the uttermost, but one of the best descriptions of a Chaplain-Pastor in prison who is so totally oblivious to his own emotions, absent a competent self-awareness of his own over-identification with Tabler’s dilemma. Perhaps the saddest of all was Anderson’s meshing of Tabler’s baby-tantrum with Anderson’s own wife’s terminal illness.

Anyway, gentlemen, that was not the only violation Anderson himself describes. Between the lines, he also betrayed how lonely and isolated he was as a chaplain on the Polunsky Unit, and he describes – without knowing it – how loose the chaplaincy was then too.

When staff Chaplain Anderson promises Tabler’s mother that he would go and chew out inmate Tabler for the mother, and return and call the mother back – goodness, Anderson became the telephone operator for Tabler’s mother too. No good chaplain would go and chew out a prisoner for a mother, much less return and call her back for that. The reality is that Anderson was not engaged in any real pastoral care with either Tabler or Tabler’s mother.

Anderson had failed to guide the mother in her communication and had failed to be *with* the inmate Tabler in a meaningful pastoral way, even guiding Tabler to accept more maturely his own affairs.

Next to *Games Criminals Play*, Anderson’s book can become a classic in the prison literature that describes very shallow pastoral care, absent of good empathy, and filled with over-identification. Great and detailed example of a prison employee who crossed over.

The seriousness of Anderson’s loss of self-awareness and inability to relate pastorally is magnified in that Tabler was already in super-high profile for his getting his mother so smuggle cell phones in, and Tabler’s threat of Senator Whitmire’s family on the smuggled cell phone. That Anderson could become so naïve with Tabler, of all inmates, also indicates Anderson’s failure to realize his own stress and psychological isolation, some of the very things a good CPE course is designed to uncover in the chaplain’s mind and heart.

Brad, Bryan, and Rick, the main reason for sharing Anderson’s story is to reiterate that even back in 2008 a staff Polunsky Chaplain was crossing over, and that such is not far removed from the looseness in the chapel in 2010 when the inmates escaped, and all of that is not too dissimilar to how Chaplain David Collier had been caught up into catering to the inmates as the inmates themselves practically ran every facet of the chaplaincy, not the least of which – please see this – was that stinking crazy Media Room with unsupervised inmates in the dark for years, even prior to the 2010 escape. And, gentleman, to this day, the pastoral dynamics are still ill, as the volunteers are *grieving* because Chaplain Maness destroyed God’s work, instead of the volunteers being instructed and even gently guided – their intelligent – into a frame of mind that see clearly what they themselves were a significant party to, as they were caught up into illegal catering to inmates *against* standard security protocols. Furthermore, Chaplain David Collier’s lack of self-awareness and naiveté regarding inmate supervision, even Collier’s and the CVCAs’

¹⁷ Op. cit., Anderson, *God’s Feet Are in My Sandbox*, 204-206.

ingrained “trust” of the inmates was an endemic part of the whole Polunsky Chaplaincy, that even the wardens saw and had trouble correcting.

What are you fine gentlemen going to do about that? Continue to hide my exposure?

I cannot fathom why Warden Alford continued to give Chaplain Collier a good Annual Evaluation in November 2012, knowing full well Collier's own defense of unsupervised inmates, to say nothing of the two dozen other violations. That is not helping the volunteers either.

This is scary, the more one looks at it. Someone is still hiding something.

All I know, is that I did what I could. And am doing what I can now.

5. Lewis Exposure (Pt. 1) Warden Helm Crushes Faith-Based Program

a. Primer on “Order” to Start Faith-Based Housing at Lewis Unit

Byran, you have to admit, *without* your order or “desire to see all units” start Faith-Based Housing, many of the wardens would not have allowed it. Again, Warden Ginsel was clear too – as Rick Thaller will doubtlessly confirm of many wardens – that the Lewis Unit was not going to have a Faith-Based Housing UNTIL ordered to do so. Of course, I did not have a problem with following our warden on waiting. I was *not* in a rush and did write that 50-page Faith-Based Letter informing of oddities no one was taking into consideration, including the subtly voiced concerned of the wardens and staff chaplains. The “order” came and Chaplain Maness obeyed, and got the ONLY volunteer willing and truly capable, CVCA Ms. Virginia Haynes, and you all ought to go to her web site and see the quality of person the Lewis Unit had.¹⁸

b. My Defense of Wardens for 20 Years

Warden Frank Helm was catered to like few. I thought highly of him for most of the 20 years we worked together as he rose from Lt. to Major. Reg. Dir. Upshaw allowed Helm to go to the Goodman Unit as a Major, so that Helm could be promoted a few months later to Asst. Warden back at the Lewis Unit. To Helm's credit, he did not want to move his family to promote – I applauded him on that. But most of that changed when Warden Hunter arrived; they must have served time together in the ancient past. Regardless, when Hunter arrived, Helm became a different person. Most of the Faith-Based hard-wrought plans for the housing wing that Warden Ginsel had approved were delayed by Helm, and then cancelled by Helm when Hunter arrived. There is nothing on the wing for the men of the Faith-Based Housing – nothing.

Interjection – Real Meat of Faith-Based Housing Is Programs, Not Housing

The real meat of the Faith-Based Housing is *not* the housing, certainly not in TDCJ at this time, given that no two operate alike enough to make a real study of effects. The real meat is in the programming that could happen without the problems of housing articulated in the 50-page Faith-Based Letter and now added to with the revelations here, in the vast differences between the Polunsky and Lewis Faith-Based Housing programs. Moreover, to date, no one in Texas is considering what will prove to be a landmark legal analysis and study by Alexander Volokh in his “**Do Faith-Based Prisons Work?**” in the Alabama Law Review, a 50-page work complementing mine exquisitely.¹⁹ Of course, in Texas, even a year after I presented my study

¹⁸ CVCA Virginia Haynes' web site www.LydiasPorch.com.

¹⁹ See an excellent legal complement to my 50-page Faith-Based Letter in See Alexander Volokh, “Do Faith-Based Prisons Work?” 63:1 Alabama Law Review (2011), 43-95, at www.PreciousHeart.net/Volokh-Article.pdf. Compare Volokh with my Faith-Based Letter www.PreciousHeart.net/Maness-Faith-Based-Housing.pdf.

to you all in December 2011, there has not been a single analysis of effectiveness or an attempt to assess cost, nothing worthy of the name, from anyone in the Rehabilitation Programs Division (RPD), though such analyses are required in the job descriptions of those at the top of the RPD.

Would that be *substandard duty*? Just asking, given how scrupulous they were of me.

c. Lewis Unit Faith-Based Housing Begins – CVCA Ms. Virginia Haynes Works HARD

Regardless, at the Lewis Unit, Warden Ginsel *obeyed* too. Ginsel was goodhearted, sincere, and because of his good heart, all were on board. I asked long-time CVCA Ms. Virginia Haynes if she would consider leading it. She was reluctant. She, another volunteer, and I visited the Hightower and Wynne Faith-Based Dorms. I mainframe emailed ALL the unit chaplains having Faith-Based Dorms, and I have the first real survey in a folder (for another time). CVCA Ms. Haynes and I worked hard together, she called many, went to see many, developed a long written plan and presented that plan to Warden Ginsel, who approved all. CVCA Ms. Haynes is a retired school teacher, with a masters degree, who also teaches accredited Seminary Extension Courses. She put together the BEST written plan in TDCJ! Who do I know? Because, again, I emailed *all* the chaplains and asked them for their plans.

Yes, when dear and precious CVCA Ms. Haynes was asked in about September of 2011 to lead the Faith-Based Housing – it is policy to *try* to secure a CVCA – and she was ready by January 2012. But *nothing* had been built, not even a book case on the wing.

Worse, because of the ACA audit – an excuse that lasted many months – Warden Helm held things up ... and held things up ... and held things up. When Warden Hunter arrived (in February or March) and two days later, Warden Helm fires CVCA Melvin Bell, which I will unfold into in item “6” below.

CVCA Ms. Haynes had worked on this for months, networking across the community, speaking in churches, tapping into her impressive network. She tapped into the current volunteer base too. But on the Lewis Unit, nothing was done. No comment. How about a cabinet for the TV? “Oh, we have an audit coming.” Captain McFarland began helping us, per orders by Senior Warden Ginsel, then – tragedy of tragedies – after Ginsel left, Captain McFarland was *dressed down* by Warden Helm for doing what Warden Ginsel had said he was to do. Confusing, yes, then; now, just cold-hearted. CVCA Ms. Haynes was put off and put off.

“Delays” because of ACA audit, though policy had been circumvented by moving the inmates to the K-Wing housing *before* any kind of chaplaincy orientation – go figure. So, inmates were chosen by classification and moved, but we could not have an orientation yet.

Ms. Haynes had to gingerly approach the wardens week after week, not trying to bug them – yet – the question she asked was, “Do they really want this or not?” Warden Helm would *not* allow her the consideration of a start date until mid-March, nearly six months after she was *asked* to help and after 100s of hours of work.

Finally, Ms. Haynes was allowed to have an Opening Ceremony in the chapel on March 22, 2012. No complaints from any of us. The Honorable Rep. James White gave an *outstanding* address to the inmates in the chapel, and we took his photo. Unfortunately, no one let us take a photo of Representative White with the inmates. That is so sad, because of me, of course, because I was involved in my own defense; I had committed the terrible crime of posting photos of inmates putting together Christmas packages on the internet, all from which I had secured TDCJ media releases. So what? I could have opted out of the photo myself. Gentlemen, it would have meant *so very much to the inmates* and been a source of encouragement and a source of “rehabilitative juicing” motivation if the inmates had been allowed that small honor of having their photo with the Honorable State Representative James White.

What harm? It was just the beginning. CVCA Ms. Haynes is third from left in the photo, next to the Honorable Rep. White in the center. I am at the far right. No inmates, sadly enough, though the program was about the inmates most of all.

Ms. Haynes is a top-notch person in Tyler County and around the country.²⁰ She and I both really wanted to get a picture of the inmates with Rep. White and inmates, had all the media releases, but, no, not this time.



Yet, on Monday, March 26th, on the **first day** of the Lewis' first Faith-Based Housing, Warden Helm would **NOT let the Volunteer Susan Woodall bring in her Experiencing God books**. Unbelievable? Sure. I was there early. Somehow the clearance had been lost. Warden Helm, his secretary told me, was in his office. I put together *another* clearance and went directly to his office. Warden Helm told me, "I don't have time for you," and walked out.²¹ His secretary shrugged, and I followed him out at a distance. Susan Woodall was at the gate, and Warden Helm passed by her without speaking a word to her. Mrs. Woodall could not bring in her books to start the first day of the Faith-Based Housing class!

I sat in the car with Ms. Haynes and Ms. Woodall. I apologized, and we had to cancel the first day of class. CVCA Haynes and I had to cancel the first day class! We sent the inmates home after count with a prayer, trying to be positive, but we were heart broken.

Call Ms. Virginia Haynes at 409-656-7589.

That is not all. Neither CVCA Haynes or I as the staff chaplain had ANY say at all in the selection of the inmates for the Faith-Based Housing. We could not give an orientation before selection! Talk about a backward program. When we had trouble with an inmate on that wing, we had to go through an act of congress, nearly, to get him removed. It is hard to conceive of how one could make the Faith-Based program any more burdensome. Well, let me tell you.

That is not all. CVCA Mrs. Haynes worked hard to get resources for the program. Networking in the community, she got \$100 here, \$50 there, to get \$600 to buy the books for the 42 inmates to go through the Financial Peace University (FBU) – hear this, *please* – just one of the dozen programs she organized, networked, scheduled, and worked out. She even drove the 83-year-old FBU teacher to the prison a dozen or more times! What dedication. When she purchased the FBU books, she sent a "Thank You" letter to all those who donated, including me, and a complimentary copy to Wardens Hunter and Helm.

She did *more* than her part all year. TDCJ has *yet* to do a token for her. *May I help?*

Guess what Warden Helm did? Just take a guess. Instead of complement – no sirs – no complement at all. Warden Helm wrote his own letter, attached her "Thank You" letter to his

²⁰ See CVCA Ms. Virginia Hayne's web site here www.LydiasPorch.com and her ministry: 409-656-7589.

²¹ Sure, there had been an incident at about 0530; someone had thrown an light stick over the perimeter fence. But there was no emergency at 0730 to speak of. And, God is my witness, Helm *knew precisely what he was doing*, when he essentially said he did not have a 1/3 of second to sign the clearance, one proof being that it took me a whole three minutes to draft another clearance and walk it to his office, where he was waiting for me to come, so he could SEE ME and say, "I don't have time for you." That speaks volumes, for those willing to hear.

letter and a TDCJ Donation Form, and Warden Helm “ordered” Mrs. Haynes to secure from all the donors a signed Donation Form and return those forms to Warden Helm.

I kid you not – that devastated her. Callous and heartless.

Brad, Bryan, and Rick, Virginia Haynes is a widow, her previous husband a local pastor, she is active in the local Ministerial Alliance, has taught in most of the churches in the area, led seminars for women for 20 years all across the country, and she has led the local National Day of Prayer for the last five years on the Tyler County courthouse square, our good friend Tyler County Judge Jacques Blanchette helping to MC; give him a call 409-283-8218.²²

Brad, need I remind you that you, sir, got a phone call from Tyler County Sheriff David Hennigan at the beginning of 2012 – yes, Brad, as he told you then, “there were *concerns* at the Lewis Unit.” Hennigan will endorse me to this day, and he knows the county like few!

Moreover, **CVCA Ms. Haynes is my good friend.** So I asked Mr. Dunbar at the week-long training in Huntsville, and, thankfully, Dunbar said she did not have to get a donation form filled out for such, and Dunbar immediately realized the ramification of such a burden to our volunteers and programs. I relayed that to Ms. Haynes, who said she had no time for that, shaking her head. Gentlemen, it took a load of time, gasoline, and kind and gentle phone calls to get a full year-long schedule together, and, by the way, had to monitor and make adjustment all year long as the normal exigencies of human life affect people. The Baptists, Churches of Christ, Methodists, Pentacostals, Catholics, and this knucklehead chaplain donated.

She got a couple of boxes of Bibles of *different translations* for the Faith-Based Housing, to put on a bookshelf on K-Wing, so the inmates could study different versions of the Bible on their own time. She really believes in Bible study. But, no bookcase yet, even a year later. *Nothing* a year later. She cannot even ask anymore, given the callousness she has repeatedly experienced.

Brad, Bryan, Rick – know this too – you all **MUST** handle this with tact. Because Haynes really did not want me defending her. She has met men like Warden Helm before, the Mob Boss, who if you wink a crossed eye, he will shoot you. It is still fresh how Helm whacked CVCA Bell, twice, and I will unfold that for you with utter clarity in a moment.

Gentlemen, be gentle. But hear this too. CVCA Ms. Virginia Haynes does **NOT** want me to defend her, really and truly does **NOT** want me informing on Warden Helm. She is truly afraid for her *precious* ministry. She is a scared, so I should **NOT** defend her. Look what has happened to me. Look at what has happened to CVCA Bell – that I am going to unload on you in the next section – and see how much trouble has already happened. She has had enough experience in life with abusive men and callous pastors. She just wants to minister.

See CVCA Ms. Haynes' note here. Is that the way you envision chaplaincy volunteerism in TDCJ or not? Fear of a loose cannon warden, so self-serving and callous, volunteers are afraid to – catch this fast ball – afraid ... afraid ... afraid to share “Thank You” notes they sent to donors with

From: Virginia Haynes [mailto:virginiachaynes@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Friday, January 04, 2013 9:55 AM

To: Michael - **Subject:** Re: Letter

Before I read it, I know you feel you must do something else. But, please don't mention me or try to defend me; I am having a hard enough time trying to carry on the ministry out there, but I am still there, and **"the ministry is worth it."**

Virginia Haynes

www.LydiasPorch.com

²² Tyler County Judge Jacques Blanchette: 409-283-8218.

the warden. Moreover, do you truly value old chaplains like me for telling you this? If so, think about that Purple Heart.

Gentleman, regardless of what you do, **if you cross up Ms. Haynes** with Warden Helm and cause her to resign, or worse, get her kicked out on a bogus baited shenanigan as Helm has done *twice* with CVCA Bell, well then, I already have demonstrated my big mouth, and I might be tempted to make 5,000 copies of all of this and hire a plane to dump them on the Capitol in Austin. Of course, that is facetious – there is too little appreciation these days for humor – and you know a little drama gets attention.²³ Gentlemen, you also know I'd think of it, of all people, and that is a not-so-humorous idea from a real-life example documented in my book, *Character Counts*, where a crazy Dr. James Holly, M.D., gave 5,000 copies of his nasty anti-Masonry diatribe to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in 1992, and the Christian SBC Scottish Rite Masons responded by mailing 5,000 copies of its superb February 1993 journal to 5,000 SBC leaders, containing articles by esteemed Masons like the president emeritus of Baylor University.²⁴ That relates here, oddly enough, given that former SBC president Dr. Paige Patterson hates Freemasonry, and the TDCJ has a binding contract with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, of which Patterson is president, and I dealt with the unethical politics of that affair in the 50-page Faith-Based Letter, too – what a small world.²⁵

Gentlemen, PROTECT Chaplain Haynes!

And guess what? Without talking to Ms. Haynes or even given her the smallest honor of consulting her on the program she but hundreds of hours working on, and countless hours monitoring and supervising throughout the year – oh, sirs, *please hear this*, in the light of the 50-page Faith-Based Letter that talked at length about “cost” and how NO ONE IS CONSIDERING THE COST of anything, not monetary, not labor, and certainly not how hard it is to find volunteers to lead such a work. Hear this – CVCA Ms. Virginia Haynes was simply, coldly, with no consideration and no “Thank You for 18 months work” thus far done, simply TOLD that in 2013 the Gib Lewis Faith-Based Housing program will have 84 men.

Warden Helm would not care if she quit, the next chaplain will handle it. **Cold!**

Just double the inmates, from 42 to 84, with NO COMPASSION or thought or consideration of how much work she did for those 42 men. No empathy at all and no concept at all of how much work it took to get programs for 42 men for an entire year. She did her part, but the Lewis Unit has not done its part, not yet, except callously treat people. And no book case yet, the smallest thing imaginable, hardly worth putting here, except that super-small thing betrays just how big the problem is and also betrays just how cold-hearted Warden Helm's actions have been. Need I say more?

There is not even seating on K-Wing for 42 men, and the inmates cannot get together. The reason for K-Wing was because its dayroom is six feet wider than the adjacent J- and L-Wings. We had worked with Captain McFarland about getting maintenance to place the extra seats freed up from the dorm expansion. But, when Hunter arrived, Helm cancelled that too.

Ms. Haynes was simply TOLD, like so much cattle, to just PROVIDE programing for 84.

Who is talking with her. She is my good friend. No one but this retired chaplain is talking with her. At least she had me to talk to.

²³ I remember a story about someone trying to a paraplegic how to ride a bicycle. Still not funny, I guess.

²⁴ In my book, *Character Counts – Freemasonry Is a National Treasure and a Source of Our Founders' Constitutional Original Intent* (1st 2006, revised second edition 2010; 420p.; www.preciousheart.net/fm), 41f.

²⁵ See www.PreciousHeart.net/Maness-Faith-Based-Housing.pdf, pages 44-47.

No sirs, no Duck Dynasty at the Lewis Unit, just a mafia cold-hearted attitude.

d. Difference Between Faith-Based Housing at the Lewis and Polunsky Prisons?

So, a question long overdue, how do the Faith-Based Housings compare? But, to date, verified with an affidavit to the Texas AG's office regarding Open Records request for all studies, analyses, and decision memorandums of the Faith-Based Housing in TDCJ, there has been no analysis to date worthy of the name, much less a consideration of costs. No one in TDCJ knows yet how to compare, except this old chaplain. Only a few would even know how to do a thorough study, because such a study would necessarily entail some minute knowledge of the literature.²⁶

Compare the Polunsky and Lewis prisons – goodness, you cannot believe the wide divergence, almost like two different planets entirely. Shoot fire, gentlemen, there is a wide divergent between the two Faith-Based dorms on the Polunsky Unit itself, each being run by two CVCAs in two completely different fashions, with respect to selection, programming, and most especially with respect to inmate supervision. The oldest Polunsky Faith-Based dorm is almost purely inmate-led! – which you certainly did not know. The second one just starting about seven months ago is led by CVCA Ed Reeves and his inmate “coordinator” who looked on the mainframe under Chaplain Collier's sign-on to check the screen for disciplinaries; that's right, inmate *and* CVCA looking over records of inmates, then submitting a list to Polunsky classification to move inmate into the faith-based housing – really. Do we really want to go there on how Collier's mainframe access was *regularly* used by CVCAs?

At the Lewis Unit, CVCA Haynes and I were told to sit tight, “they” would decide. All requests went to the Lewis Unit chief of classification who assigned and made moves, and then – only *after* all the inmates were moved, even months later. Chaplaincy was forced to give the “orientation” on what Faith-Based Program was about, if the inmates wanted to volunteer for it, and some modicum of assessment of the individual inmate's *willingness* to participate AFTER the inmates had been chosen. Go figure. Who cares? How many other prisons are doing the same thing? No one knows. The only reports are to your office, Bryan, on the progress of which units have added a Faith-Based Program. TDCJ can do much better than that.

Gentlemen, to the many problems articulated in my 50-page Faith-Based Letter, now add the **additional problem** that no two Faith-Based Programs work the same; plus, add that some chaplains, like on the Lewis Unit, have zero part in the screening. What a challenge to get reliable data from that convolution, but no one has even *started* to study yet (except me).

Gentlemen, **what is** the Faith-Based Housing on the Lewis Unit? Can anyone but CVCA Haynes describe it? And at Polunsky? “They have one,” the Lewis Unit wardens obediently reply, and “it is going fine.” And “Polunsky has two,” Warden Alford can reply, but does not

²⁶ Op cit., fn. 19, including at least my Faith-Based Letter www.PreciousHeart.net/Maness-Faith-Based-Housing.pdf (11-2011), Volokh's “Do Faith-Based Prisons Work?” (2011) www.PreciousHeart.net/Volokh-Article.pdf, Lynn and Gaddy's *First Freedom First: A Citizen's Guide to Protecting Religious Liberty and the Separation of Church and State*, and the some token of consultations with *real* religious freedom advocates, at least the Baptist Joint Committee in Washington, D.C., and Americans United for Church and State, also in Washington, D.C. Of course, it is assumed a *real* study would include a few colloquiums with the senior Chaplains on the front-lines, the real experts on religion in prison and especially those with master's degrees and above, and a real consultations with all the CVCA leaders too. And no study would be complete with a honest with the colloquiums with the TDCJ Senior Wardens, the real frontline experts on unit security, administration and – what is hardly encountered – the *dynamics of life* in a prison. To me, that is just the basics.

have a clue what either one actually does, or even to this point that the two are administrated differently, the oldest one nearly wholly inmate led; which, at Polunsky, ought to be scary.

Who is to know the difference?

As mentioned, there is no study yet, not even a mental exercise to address the multitude of issues in my 50-page Faith-Based Letter, nor even a comparison of strategies or procedures between chaplains. So each and every chaplain starting one has to re-invent wheel on his unit. Gentlemen, the worst part for us chaplains – there is NO available avenue for honest interchange for the problems. Just “obey and get one.” Because, all the wardens are obedient, and no chaplain or CVCA will risk a warden’s ire.

I might as well reveal this too, apropos as anything, that the job descriptions of the supervisors over chaplaincy, to the top of the RPD, *require* advanced analyses of programs, but there has not been any real compilation and public distribution of statistics or charts, to speak of, not in decades on chaplaincy, much less the Faith-Based Housing, and *nothing* that one would consider a *real* analysis or even close to a real longitudinal study at all. And exactly to the point – Mr. Marvin Dunbar laughed at the idea of calculating “costs” in my 50-page Faith-Based Letter! I don’t think that was funny, and was so offended at it, I wrote a letter to Bryan, for which I received an insubordination disciplinary. There is a better way to dialogue.

Anyway, that is not all. Sweet and experienced CVCA Haynes works hard to get supplies. Her own pastor donates a 42” color TV. Yes, Ginsel said a cabinet can be made by the unit carpenter in November of 2011. Capt. McFarland was charged to help. CVCA Haynes and I put plans together, even to improve the seating capacity on K-Wing so 42 men can sit down at once. Once Warden Hunter arrived in 2012, and since then, Warden Helm halted all plans. Not some, but ALL. Even a year later, the properly donated TV is STILL in its original cardboard box in the chaplain’s office and has to be taken out of the box and repackaged for every use.

Gentlemen, God have mercy! That expensive, nice, big, quality flat-screen TV was *NOT MADE* to be unpacked and packed up, moved and moved and moved. Eventually an inmate is going to drop it, and the work it took to get that TV would have to be started over. Why do I even bother you about that? That, too – please hear this – as small as that is, that speaks volumes to the callousness of Warden Helm and speaks of another volume of his own value of the program in contradiction to YOUR orders for professional conduct and standing orders to support the goals of chaplaincy – gentlemen, that is sly insubordination, to say nothing of cold-hearted callousness to the needs of sweet and kind and dedicated and hard-working widow CVCA Ms. Haynes who is connected in the entire county.

Brad, Bryan, and Rick – Warden Helm is just mean. Move him! That is not all.

Guess what. Yes, after 9 months and as Christmas approached, sweet and kind CVCA Haynes who had worked hard amidst other troubles, was simply told, “The Faith-Based Program will be cancelled for the rest of the year.” Yes, from the end of November through Christmas – really, how insensitive. No consult or meeting or condolence to CVCA Mrs. Haynes, or explanation – just, your group cannot meet again even through the Christmas season.

But, yes, “You can have a graduation in January, 2013.”

Brad, Bryan, and Rick, is that anyway to treat the *only* one in Tyler County who was willing to take up the Faith-Based Housing in October 2011 when we were ordered to start it? That is not all, either.

e. CVCA Ms. Haynes Forced into Duplicity

Other elements of the 50-page Faith-Based Letter have fallen upon deaf ears, like the numerous cover-ups and the absent of compassion for the ethics of those involved. Yes, CVCA

Haynes has to avoid conflict with Warden Helm who *told her to get donation forms*, which she does not have time to do get. She also has a life and ministry outside the prison, as the best volunteers have. She was told by an ex-chaplain that Dunbar said she did not have to get the donations forms. Yet, she cannot tell Helm that. All the while she hopes Helm does not follow-up and ask; and if he does ask, she must play the “I have not got around it” card, and hope Warden Helm forgets. If she tells Helm what Dunbar said to Chaplain Maness, she then confronts Helm, and that is not good either. What foolery.

6. Lewis Exposure (Pt. 2) Warden Helm Fires Respected CVCA – Ugly, Unethical, Nasty – Hurting All Lewis Unit Volunteers

Gentlemen, please, this reveals more about Warden Helm than anything else above. I have said this before, but now I am going to be utterly clear.

Warden Frank Helm fired CVCA Melvin Bell for NO reason, twice!

Let me say this again, Warden Helm *disobeyed* orders to allow CVCA Bell back, prolonged Bell's return, until Reg. Ulmer had to jump through more hoops than you can believe and spell out repeatedly. Gentlemen, Warden Helm told me specifically and clearly, “I am going to do all I can to get Bell out.” That was clear. And Helm hated me for simply telling the truth, even though I was clear to Helm, Hunter, Ulmer – and you all in writing – the wardens ought to have the authority *not* to allow someone on the unit they do not trust. Therein is the clincher, isn't? Still, we all know, if it left up to some wardens, there would be little chaplaincy left.

One thing I hesitate to ask, given my lowly position, but given my experience, I ask it still. What is most valuable to the Lewis Unit? A merciless Warden Helm who truly does not care about volunteers or their feelings, who disobeys orders on CVCA Bell a year ago, and who plots to bait and fire CVCA Bell again? Or a chaplain who obeys orders, loves the volunteers, recruits them, and even stands up while is reapplying for a position, risking rehire, to document unethical practices before an interview. Who after all, worked hard with courage and often alone at the Polunsky Unit to defend proper security protocols when even the wardens did not help him?

After all, I am not sure this is courageous or just plain stupid. I've gotten no kudos yet.

Let me tell you the rest of the story in utterly clear and honest terms.

Seven years ago, CVCA Melvin Bell was mentoring inmate Kris Napier, and began to think about letting Napier parole to his house. Of course, Bell knew that he could not continue to volunteer, and Bell consulted at length with Warden Michael Roesler especially. Bell always kept things above board, and he stopped volunteering. After Napier finished his supervision and left Bell's home, and such was confirmed, Warden Roesler let Bell volunteer again.

Gentlemen, CVCA Bell was an ex-cop, ex-railroad worker, and was not a hugging chaplain. He helped with the Faith-Based Dorm, visited GP solitary three times a week, and handled crisis calls for YEARS. Bell's wife was an accountant for a railroad company, and both of them volunteered in the community too, helping the Tyler County Heritage Village and Fred Lions Club. Bell has a shop with more tools in it than the Gib Lewis Maintenance Department AND the Windham Cabinet Shop.

CVCA Bell served the Gib Lewis as one of the lead chaplains, one of only three volunteer chaplains that kept regular hours three and four days week. CVCA's do NOT grow on trees, and finding good ones is HARD WORK. Again, CVCA Bell was the only one who made daily trip to the GP Solitary Confinement, and no one has been visiting the GP Solitary for over a year! Nothing was said during ALL the time that Cody Ginsel was senior warden. Then, without consulting me as chaplain, coldly, against policy, without a single drop of compassion for CVCA

Bell's hours of contribution, and without a care or concern to how hard it is for chaplains to get help, and without a concern or fear in the world about what YOU, Brad, Bryan, and Rick think about the chaplaincy mission (or what you have said you value) – hear this gentlemen at the TOP of TDCJ, in the golden offices at the top of the largest prison in the world, *please hear this*:

Two Days after Warden Hunter Arrives, Warden Helm FIRES Bell

Can you see that? Reason? Oh yes, there was a reason. Please catch Helm's two reason: one, because Helm DID NOT LIKE Warden Roesler's decision seven years ago, and two because Helm despised that CVCA Bell was helping an inmate to transition to free society! Yes sirs, the real reason is that Warden Helm DOES NOT LIKE TDCJ's Mission!

Yet, that is not all Helm's horrendous action reveals. Clearly to all, Helm had NO compassion on that meant to our chaplaincy department mission, or our care of inmates, or CVCA Bell's coordinatorship of our mentor program – yes, it is laborious to try and tell all.

Gentlemen, it was wrong, callous, cold-hearted, even wicked. It says so much about Helm's personality, vindictive to an unhealthy degree, even scary, like a seething caldron boiling that just could not wait to expel Bell at the first chance Helm got. Warden Helm held onto an unethical grudge for YEARS not just against Bell – hear this – but against now Senior Warden Michael Roesler! Helm disobeyed policy and refused professional deportment, and Helm negated his own job description's responsibility to work *with* the Chaplaincy Department. Dual supervision meant NOTHING to Helm and means nothing today. I was forced by Helm to write up the paper work on Bell, and because I did not lie, Helm hated me for that too!

This deeply nourished attitude of hostility toward Roesler's decision and toward CVCA Bell cannot be fixed with you all *ordering* compliance. No sir. You cannot change a leopard's spots without taking that leopard to the cleaners and bleaching the beast.

And – count on this – if Helm did that to Roesler and Bell, just think what kind of a seething caldron will be created in Helm's heart once he reads this, or is even questioned on this? There is no way Bell or I or even sweet CVCA Chaplain Haynes will have a chance at a normal professional service to the state and most of all to the inmates. One merely needs half a heart to see that.

I, myself, just might have to get a restraining order against Helm. He might go postal.

Of course, that presumes you all are serious. That you're serious about your support of the TDCJ mission and chaplaincy. I would not have bothered with all this, had I truly believed you all were unconcerned. I must believe in your honor.

GENTLEMEN, hear this, for God's sake hear this, or do NOT consider me suitable to be rehired if you do not believe me or will not verify it. Hear this: Helm did NOT care what this meant to the entire volunteer program! Let me explain, for the golden offices of Huntsville cannot hardly conceive of this – Helm's firing of Bell DEVASTED the CVCAs and other volunteers. All of us respected Bell, his family goes back 150 years in Tyler County. Bell was a key volunteer and communicated well with all of us.

Call CVCA Ms. Haynes (409-656-7589) and CVCA Bell (409-429-3289) and ask them.²⁷ If Bell could be FIRED on a whim, then anyone could be FIRED as easily. These volunteers are smart, experienced, cultured, and many of them are retired from jobs paying twice to four times what Warden Helm makes. CVCA Bell also was trusted with Minuteman Nuclear Missiles

²⁷ CVCA Ms. Virginia Haynes 409-656-7589 and CVCA Melvin Bell 409-429-3289.

inside a top secret silo ten years before Warden Helm was born! I am a witness to how Helm treated Bell like a child!

But that cold-hearted firing of Bell a year ago reverberated through all of the Lewis Unit volunteers, and then Warden Helm does it *again*. I tried to console. Prayed with many. No explanation can appease.

You see, gentlemen, CHARACTER COUNTS. Bell's character overrode Helm's character. I have researched that too, and include a snippet in this footnote for your pleasure.²⁸

Warden Helm told us all who he was in that callous act of protracted brutal cold-hearted grudge-carrying piece of unprofessional slapping of the face of our precious chaplaincy department principles, policies and feelings of the volunteers. Warden Hunter supported Helm.

I suspect you know how callous act affect others, because you have hearts too.

Then, at the time of Bell's firing, I have to walk a fine line and NOT say much, because of the other disciplinaries leveled to me for speaking my mind and defending TDCJ's mission against the likes of church-splitter David Valentine. I get a disciplinary for sub-standard duty for an email from my home to fellow Baptist Valentine that I, in good faith, sent to Bill Pierce, that was actually an excuse for Dunbar to humiliate me for that 50-page Faith-Based Letter. If I get fired, I cannot any longer help anyone at the Lewis Unit, precisely what Warden Helm wanted, and likely Warden Hunter too, because of some top secret affinity they share from working together in the ancient past – but, who knows? Who really cares where they came from? What matters is the future of the Lewis Unit itself.

And Warden Helm can slap an ENTIRE group of PRECIOUS volunteers by firing one of their leaders, CVCA Bell that had helped MOST of the volunteers with kindness, strength, and with a sterling reputation in the community for generosity – just plain HELPING.

²⁸ See Maness, *Character Counts – Freemasonry Is a National Treasure and a Source of Our Founders' Constitutional Original Intent* (1st 2006, revised second edition 2010; 420p.; www.preciousheart.net/fm), 2-3:

“What is character counting? Character is, as the saying goes, birds of a feather flock together. Every person has a *character* and a *personality*, and the most distinctive and unique element is their personality. Yet, the most important element is their character, for *how* a person interacts with others is more important, ethically, than their personality. We want *all* people to have courage, honor, and truth. Truly, character is important to every person everywhere of every time.

“It is a good person, simply, but *character* also profoundly touches every aspect of our lives. It is like a country creek, pleasant to hear and look at, but its source cannot be fully known. It is the jewel of a person's soul and spirit, *how* persons uses their virtues like trust, loyalty, faith, equality, respect, love, and more.

“Mysterious—but not a secret.

“In others words, I cannot cheapen your loved one's reputation in your eyes—no one can—and the reason is because character counts so much. I do not try, for in your eyes your loved one's or friend's character is innocent until *proven* guilty. Even *proof* of some bad will not stop love most of the time. In the USA, a man is innocent until proven guilty. It takes more than *claims* to affect perception, and that is character *counting*. Golden treasure.

“Truly, on the canvas of life, character is the seal of truth itself in our hearts. We *believe* in our loved one, and that is good enough.

... ..

“The golden treasure of character counting is the trust and sweet confidence that invigorates a relationship. Character counting makes social commerce so much easier and fluid. When we trust a friend, we do not need other baggage, just their *spoken word* and that is *the fact* that settles the case. Even a false case can be conned with the perception of good character. Character counting is the gold standard of human relationships. If you have some good character, like gold, it can be exchanged in any market in the world. The exchange rate is the same in all cultures for all time. A good character can purchase credibility anytime and anywhere on earth.”

Brad, Bryan, Rick – that was cold-hearted and wrong, and my NOT becoming Helm's dog, just I would NOT become Warden Alfred's dog, and side with Helm in his unethical cold-hearted firing. That made Helm hate me too. After 20 years of working together, I have NEVER seen such immature, cold, childish, behavior, but it is more than that. As mentioned, the firing of CVCA Bell devastated the entire volunteer core, even the Jehovah Witnesses, whom CVCA Baptist Bell helped, yes, even the JW's wondered what happened to Bell. Do you want the phone numbers of the JW's too?

That made no difference to Warden Helm. Are you men, in the golden offices of Huntsville, please, are you hearing this?

Then, Regional Chaplain Steve Ulmer, as only he can – Ulmer was a tough character too – Ulmer fought Helm and got CVCA Bell back. It was a fight. Hear that! Ulmer had to *fight*.

And Warden Helm REFUSED and disobeyed, and did NOT allow Bell back. No, Helm did not. Insubordination. Regional Chaplain Ulmer has to spend more and more time to overcome Helm's hatred for Warden Roesler's decision 7 years ago and fight Helm's hatred of Bell.

Finally, Bell is allowed back, but it is clear, Bell is on borrowed time.

NOW HEAR THIS. Bell does not make a mistake for a year. Then Helm baits Bell with an ad hoc order, as Helm increasingly micromanages chaplaincy, just to get Bell out. Helm spends far too much time on one CVCA Bell, just to get rid of Bell.

At this very time, the Polunsky Unit fiasco is coming to light, so ironic here and convenient for Warden Helm, because of former Lewis Unit Chaplain Maness, and Maness retires, well then, Lewis Unit novice Joe Vitella is stolen back to Polunsky.

Since Reg. Chaplain Ulmer retired, and I am at Polunsky, who is there to defend Bell but newly minted Regional Chaplain Dr. Vance Drum, who cannot see the whole story. The story is *not* written down anywhere, and, of course, other Lewis Unit volunteers are not consulted.

Lewis Unit, again without a chaplain – and, guess what – STILL holding onto to his childish hatred and determined callous cold-heartedness, FIRES CVCA Bell again. Only this time, Helm has read the volunteer manual, had a single piece of paperwork, a critical illness call – according to Bell the warden has previously okayed – voila, Helm himself, without a chaplain, sends the paperwork to Volunteer Services' new director, who can only follow Warden Helm's ruling.

Gentlemen, Helm's firing of Bell was an ugly, nasty move that NO warden should engage in, that hurt all the volunteers. Helm had not talked with Bell for months!

CVCA Ms. Haynes is rightly worried about ANY confrontation. Helm acts without consult or concern. Volunteers are children. CVCA Ms. Haynes is now to provide programing for 84 men, will have to divide those into two groups, with NO money, and will NOT even be able to send complementary copies of "Thank You" letters to the wardens, for fear of being confronted by Helm for not getting the donation forms, and other nonsense, because if she goes above Helm, Helm might fire her too. There are others.

Move Warden Helm to the Polunsky Unit, and see what he would do with chaplaincy there, even after I have done a lot of his work for him, still, Helm would have a coronary. Really, gentlemen, after all this, can you see the huge differences between too much latitude involving many dangerous policy violations for years at Polunsky on the one hand, and the cruel micromanagement and callous mafia-like cold-hearted unilateral dictating of volunteers as though the volunteers were helpless children at the Lewis Unit?

NO SIRS. I will not be rehired by Warden Hunter, or Helm, WITHOUT you all's clear and unambiguous message of my Purple Heart, Sliver Star, and Letter of Commendation for exposure of the longest-standing breach in TDCJ's security protocols and the bringing of many

items into compliance, and uphill. I was courageous then, in manner that even surprises me now. I am 56 and am getting too old for that kind of foolery.

Worse, if you share this Warden Helm, given that he held a dual grudge with Warden Roesler's decision and with Bell's compassion for his mentee for SEVEN years and fired CVCA Bell later, for no reason – please – know this, it is psychologically *impossible* for someone like Helm to be objective and truly respect your opinion of my value. It is simply impossible for Helm to respect and value volunteers with a mere order. One cannot “order” issues of the heart.

Helm needs Polunsky, where he cannot micromanage that load of volunteers, and – me a thinking here – Helm needs the likes of Warden Alford, for Alford will know how to handle Helm, I am supremely confident of that! Actually, despite all, I think Alford was a good man, caught up in that damn looseness to a nearly helpless degree, and – perhaps – was contacted by Reg. Dir. Upshaw who, Upshaw himself, initiated a fix by making me the scapegoat. Gentlemen, I do *not* know if that is the conspiracy or not, and I really do not care; it is YOUR job to find out who, how and where the highest level administrator first began to COVER-UP the multitude of violations, the worst of which was the inmates unsupervised in the dark for years.

As for me, I just did what was right, in attempting to end it as soon as I could, even trying to come to you, and writing all this mess.

Gentlemen, I want CVCA Melvin Bell back! All across the system, volunteers make mistakes, and, contrary to some orders years ago, if a volunteer accidentally left his cell phone in his pocket when he came to the check point, *usually*, he or she is just told to take it back to his car. No one – gentlemen – *NO ONE* writes up employees or volunteers for minor mistakes or accidents, unless there is an ulterior motive or the mistakes are grave repeated negligence. I really don't have to tell you that. Your own secretaries make mistakes, and you yourselves are not without sin or an “oops” from time to time. Though in Bell's case, sincerely, I do not think he even made an “oops,” but Helm just contrived to find something the newly minted Dir. of Volunteerism would accept, period, finis, done – Helm just shot Bell in the back! That's all.

But when one, like Warden Helm, is exposed, like the fiasco at Polunsky – please – Helm did NOT mistake. And the years-long protracted violations at Polunsky were no “oops” at all. No sirs, it is more basic and raw and wrong: WARDEN – yes, *Warden* Helm calculated long and hard to be insubordinate of orders, repeatedly; to be negligence of standard policy to support volunteers, repeatedly; and to this day has no consciousness of and no concern for his actions, a clear and protracted violation of both the letter and the spirit of the TDCJ's noble mission. Helm used his office, in violation of his job description, to forward his own interpersonal needs for revenge for something that was not even his business at the time, seven years ago, and carried that burden all this time – also meaning and begging the question, how many other times with other people, even with other staff has Helm so treated?

Both the Polunsky and Lewis wardens took my kindness for weakness, my keeping confident their discretions so long, because – I guess – they thought I was scared of them. Or, like – how many others? – they might have thought they were above the rules.

Gentlemen, I want CVCA Melvin Bell back.

Let me add this too. For the last five years or so, I have asked our Lions Club, as secretary, for \$200 to give to Warden Helm for his Boy Scout Troop to go to an Air Show in Jasper, Texas. Helm has not sent a single “Thank You” card to the Lions for that. Do you see the difference between Helm and CVCA Ms. Haynes who sends a “Thank You” for \$50.

7. Lewis Exposure (Pt. 3) – Lewis Unit Religious Services Cancelled

Gentlemen, years ago, for about seven years, while Frank Helm was unit major, our volunteer programs – Muslim, Catholic, Christian, Mentors, A/A – were subject to the whim of the Shift Lieutenant. Yes, every single week, no one – NO ONE – knew if we would be able to hold services. Wednesday night Muslims and Jehovah Witnesses would show, wait, and the Shift Lieutenant would say, “yes” or “no, we don’t have an officer.” Same thing for Thursday night Mentors and Bible Studies. Same thing for Friday night Catholics. Same thing for Saturday A/A Meetings. Weekly, I got one to two calls, “Do you think we’ll be able to meet?” I’d reply, “I hope so. Hang in there.” DEFENDING THE WARDENS and Unit Reputation.

Gentlemen, I can give you **thirty (20) phone numbers** of volunteers still coming to the Lewis Unit who will recall those days with dread – TWENTY phone numbers and more. And ask the volunteers this too: “How did Chaplain Maness respond?” All of them would say, “Chaplain Maness was professional and defended the security of the unit, encouraging us to be patient.” **For seven lean years.**

Every week for seven years. Major Frank Helm was cold then, too, who just said, “It is up to the Shift Lieutenant.” After approaching Major Helm for the second time, and his serious “it does not matter” shrug, I did not bother Major Helm again.

For SEVEN YEARS. When a new Asst. Warden would come, I would bring up the issue, to no avail. Chaplaincy HQ could not help. Just a shortage of officers. That was before Mr. Dunbar was promoted, too, who began to help us with that around the state.

Gentlemen, again, I must bring up Senior Warden Michael Roesler. When Roesler came from the HS side to GP side of Gib Lewis, I went to then Asst. Warden Roesler too. Told him I was not going to belabor the issue, but, here is the problem of the frequent cancellations. Gosh, my FIRST professional response. Warden Roesler said, “Put together some stats for 2-3 months and bring them to me.”

“Yes sir!” Three months later, it even surprised me. I brought to Warden Roesler this: the Wednesday night Muslims and JWs had been cancelled 50% of the time for that three months. Thursday evening Mentors and Bible Studies, cancelled 50% of the time. Friday Catholic services, cancelled 50% of the time. Saturday A/A meetings, cancelled 75% of the time.

I expressed my concern that if we had gotten a new program, and had cancelled it 50% of the time, that person would think we were crazy. Warden Roesler agreed. I also expressed what he knew very well – ask Rick Thaller – if Warden Roesler did not *handle with tact* then Chaplain Maness and the Chaplaincy Department volunteers would surely suffer more negative repercussions from the Shift Lieutenant, et al, for “ratting” on them. We must work with them.

IT WAS A MIRACLE. Warden Roesler exhibited the finest leadership qualities!²⁹ There was no hostility from anyone. Of course, the habit of cancelling on the whim did not end immediately, but gradually did end, except for real emergencies like special counts, fights, etc. One time, Warden Roesler told the shift to call him before they cancelled anything, haha. Another time, “Call the Captian, before you cancel anything.” Oh yeah. Another time, “If you don’t have a enough to do count, then count from the Chaplain’s office.”

²⁹ And I can document precisely, too, the very leadership skills that Warden Michael Roesler, especially as seen in these two ground-breaking works: James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner, *Credibility—How Leaders Gain and Lose It, Why People Demand It*. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1993, Rev. 2003; 384p.), which is a follow-up to their seminal, *The Leadership Challenge—How to Get Extraordinary Things Done in Organizations* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1987). Kouzes was president of Tom Peters Group Learning Systems.

It took about three month before the *do-you-think-we-are-going-to-be-able-to-meet?* calls ended. That was gracious.

8. Lewis Exposure (Pt. 4) – Chapel Project Cancelled

Gentlemen, the Lewis Unit had the first chapel building project in TDCJ. Did you all know that? Yes, local Tyler County Booster newspaper owner, John Morrison, started Chapel Life Ministries in about 1991, shortly after the Lewis Unit opened. He worked with the Texas Board of Criminal Justice and secured permission. Morrison paved the way for all the other chapel building projects, especially Frank Graham's Chapel of Hope, who in the late 1990s came to Woodville to learn.³⁰ Frank Graham would work with TDCJ and provide what became the standardized chapels for all the successive chapel projects. So sad this is not recorded anywhere on the TDCJ's web site or RPD's web site.

As Morrison did fund raisers, this is important for you all to know. Morrison led annual "Officer Appreciation Golf Tournaments" at the local Tyler County Country Club, every year for twenty years. Morrison always gave about 6 to 10 four-man teams to TDCJ officers, free of charge, every year, with a load of free prizes to various winners, including a free brand new Chevy pickup for a hole-in-one prize. And free lunch. Local leaders participated.

Not until Warden Greg Dawson came to the Lewis Unit did *any* warden or major even give a token appearance at the "Officer Appreciation Golf Tournament" – not even a visit to say, "Thanks, John, for supporting our officers." Not then Major or Asst. Warden Helm either. Back then, I did not think any of that absence too very strange.

Both Warden Dawson and Warden Ginsel played in those golf tourneys for years.

What was painful for me, as staff chaplain, was how the senior wardens prior to Dawson treated the Chapel Life Ministries (CLM) project. One warden wanted it up front, so CLM had to redo the architect drawings, Warden Warner I think. The next warden, Warden Larry Johns I think, wanted it elsewhere, so CLM had to redo the architect drawings *again*. Warden Robert Ott wanted it in a different place too, and so CLM had to redo the architect drawings yet *again*. All that costs enormous amounts of money better spent on the building itself.

Finally, Chapel of Hope's Frank Graham came and talked the CLM Board into letting him build the chapel, and so the CLM gave \$40,000 to Frank. Then Frank had a heart attack. Eventually, the CLM would fold, so I talked to Warden Dawson and TDCJ's architects, and we got TDCJ to tear down a wall between the chapel and a classroom. CLM paid for a first-class operable wall, costing about \$6,000, and had the wall installed, and TDCJ finished out the work, thus nearly doubling the Lewis Unit chapel space.

That may not mean much by itself, but it was a cherished part of the Lewis Unit chaplaincy department for 15 years. Most of the churches in the area had a part in CLM. Really, think about it, John Morrison was the owner and chief editor of the Tyler County Booster newspaper for 30 years, and for 10 years he was our Gib Lewis Chaplaincy Mentor Coordinator, allowing his office in the center of town to be clearinghouse for mentor applicants.

After the CLM folded, John Morrison started the Restorative Justice Family Network Ministries (RJFNM) in town, across from the Sheriff's office. And the "Officer Appreciation Golf Tournaments" continued. And his RJFNM has continued to help others through court allocated mediation.

³⁰ See www.ChapelOfHope.org.

Importantly, and the point for sharing this here, gentlemen, **for 20 years** both of John Morrison's CLM and RJFNM have given countless dozens of \$50 and \$75 checks to officers in trouble, just about anytime an officer needed gas money or some extra cash to make it to the end of the month. I was so honored to have this resource available. From time to time, I could network with a few churches, but Morrison always came through.

Gentleman, all the more important, don't you think the wardens and senior staff should have made at least an appearance at Morrison's annual "Officer Appreciation" golf tournaments?

And now, with respect to my application, my networking that helped numerous officers throughout the years ought to mean something too.

9. Purple Heart, *please* – Liar, Lunatic, or Truth – and Hogan's Heroes.

Purple Heart. Really, if you don't grant me that Purple Heart, and Letter of Commendation for exposing the longest-lived *series* of security breaches, I have no chance of surviving at the Lewis Unit either. Goodness, if you all don't know, at least Rick Thaller *knows* for certain that Lewis Unit Warden Hunter and Polunsky Unit Warden Alford have communicated at length.

Research Chaplain? I know this might sound odd, but not really in a forward-looking industry. Here's a suggestion. How about this? There is a seventh Chaplain III position vacant that Dunbar is holding for something. Chaplain Collier told me Mr. Dunbar was "going to give the death row chaplain the Chaplain III position, for services performed," and perhaps so. Don't know there. That would mean that Chaplain Collier would be up for a raise too, without anyone as yet really discerning his full role in the Polunsky affairs.

Just asking. How about refunding the ERS and recalling me to service as a Chaplain III, step 5, Research Chaplain III, allowing me to office at the Lewis Unit, and hiring another chaplain among the applicants and allow me to "research" chaplaincy for you all?

Brad, Bryan, and Rick, you all will make the decisions. I obeyed orders! Perhaps I am gaining credibility, now, or I am just becoming more tiresome. Gentlemen – I want my Purple Heart, for honorable wounds in the defense of TDCJ's mission and security protocols! You all have overridden Warden Alford's denial of my rehirability, as best as I understand the process – thank you, profoundly – but that is not enough. Even if Warden Alford had nothing to do with the rehirability, I truly deserve a Purple Heart and Letter of Commendation.

Thirty years ago, I received a "Letter of Commendation" from the North Dallas suburb police chief. At about 0430 in the morning, as I was delivering the Dallas Morning News in my vehicle, I came across some car stereo thieves. No cell phones then. I just approached them, took the keys out of the ignition of the get-away car, rather surprising the driver. Then I woke up one the neighbors and called the police. Noble actions should be rewarded.

The Polunsky and Lewis exposures are a part of OUR history. It was a load of work, hopefully evidence of my dedication to TDCJ's mission. Let me illustrate this.

Years ago, in the sup-discipline of apologetics, Josh McDowell wrote a book proving the validity of Jesus' claims using this rhetorical twist of logic. Because of the extraordinary claims of Jesus, there are only three conclusions: Jesus is a Liar, Lunatic, or Lord. McDowell in his dynamic way made the case for Jesus' Lordship in a convincing way.³¹

³¹ The "The Lord, Liar, Lunatic" first appeared in C.S. Lewis' book, *Mere Christianity* (1952, adapted from radio broadcasts 1942-44), popularized by apologetic expert Josh McDowell in *More Than a Carpenter* (1977). See www.Josh.org. McDowell has spoken to more college students about Jesus' credibility than any other human being.

Gentlemen, I am not Jesus, that is for certain, but just another struggling human being with plenty of faults. But what I went through, and then exposed, was EXTRAORDINARY. Sirs, I did not create that mess, but by God – literally, BY GOD's help – I sure enough was the one who brought it all to you.

Either I am a liar or a lunatic or Polunsky saved my bacon. Because of the extraordinary nature of both the Polunsky and Lewis prison exposures, there are no other options. If I am lying, then Simmons, Alfred, and Helm have grounds for libel. If I am a lunatic, well, watch me slobber on myself and do not worry about it. Gentlemen, I thought I was heaven, at first, and there were *no problems* as Warden Simmons and Chaplain Collier related to me, just "Glad to see you, Mike; so sad about your situation," and, yes, "We believed in you." Yet, never before had a chaplaincy department been given so much as Polunsky. *Nothing was amiss* – Warden Simmons was ready to retire at the TOP of his game, honored as "Administrator of the Year," with volunteers *loving him*, and I myself so glad to be under Simmons again. *WHAT A GUY!!!* Until I saw what was going on. As mentioned, after a broken heart, I am convinced, Warden Simmons *knew all along the MANY violations* and did nothing. And the majors, captains, Lts., and other staff were PREVENTED from correcting. Warden Muniz helping to subvert.

I am either a liar, a lunatic, or a HERO. Why should I have to defend that? The more I think about it, yes, Polunsky saved my bacon. Yippee, I guess. Please laugh. Goodness, at least someone came along and told you the truth, and in detail. And saved my bacon BIG time, because my exposure was not of an inmate making out with another inmate in the shower, no sir, but the already written and even *verifiable-by-100-staffers-and-100-volunteers* for years exposure. The staffers were in awe too, and 4-5 CVCAs in hog heaven. The exposure is, again, magnified because of two super-easy points of verifiability: 1. inmates years in the dark unsupervised, and 2. 100s of staff and volunteers seeing this for years.

That is Duck Dynasty with a play slide out front.

Hogan's Heroes. Let's laugh a *little* at some of this, please. Sometimes, for a new sergeant that wandered into the chapel, walking past inmates *in the dark* office to take a leak in the staff restroom, or standing watching a tug a war with a rope made of sheets – and I could see the new sergeant's consternation on his face. I felt like giving the sergeant a hug, poor fellow. I sometimes thought, he felt like Hogan's Heroes, when Sergeant Schultz would just say, "I know nothing" or "I hear nothing" or "I see nothing" or sometimes say all three. The TDCJ new Sergeant would have to deny everything he learned, but I was literally sick to my stomach when Warden Muniz and Major McMullen came by *after* I wrote that 5-page IOC and saw all and did nothing! That is nearly criminal, gentlemen, and I do so very much deserve a Purple Heart and Letter of Commendation.

10. TDCJ Chaplaincy WILL not take the blame

Regardless of ALL – know this – **TDCJ Chaplaincy WILL not take the blame** if a chapel DVD does surface, and an **inmate sues** TDCJ for the inmate-on-inmate extortion or sex traffic, **KNOW THIS, I am witness.** Nor will TDCJ Chaplaincy take the blame if there is a fire in the Polunsky chapel in 3-Gym or 7-Gym for years of allowing inmates to Gerry rig electrical cords outside of the standard OSHA and electrical code. Liability was for years and is now in the warden's hands, and that years-long failure to guide and supervise chaplains needs a thumping.

I am responsible for the exposure, even as several serious attempts were made to sully my honor. And gentlemen, you have to know, no one else would have informed you.

After all, it was NOT fully chaplaincy's fault, but a long-standing negligence by Polunsky Wardens Simmons and Alford who *allowed* a naïve Chaplain Collier more latitude and freedom than any pair of wardens ever gave any prison chaplain in both U.S. and TDCJ history. I exposed that. I want to make certain chaplaincy itself will NOT be blamed for any further failures, again, because these were so long-standing, and for some crazy reason staff Chaplain David Collier was *not properly* helped.

In sum, sirs, WHO first left that light off in that Media Room with unsupervised inmates?

I want my **Purple Heart** and Silver Star and **Letter of Commendation** for valor and courage and stamina in the exposure of Polunsky Unit's multitude of years-long security breaches and for the defense of TDCJ's security protocols and precious mission!

If not full reinstatement with a raise to Chaplain III, step 5, then just allow me to be rehired WITH a Letter of Recommendation and your words of my value to this agency to Warden Hunter, move Warden Helm to another unit, and allow good CVCA Melvin Bell to come back.

This service in these pages took over a 100 hours to work up, requiring decades research and experience. If you read it all, then you know. I could have knocked off a few pages, but the whole story would not have been told properly, at least to my satisfaction. Gentlemen, with the previous letters, my answers to the disciplinaries and the 50-page Faith-Based Letter – and work done in 2000 mostly on my web site – the whole story is complete now.

This is the last letter, thankfully, and wish it could have been positive. Lots of work to do. I am at your service to defend any phrase in this, and help TDCJ's mission.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Maness
804 N. Beech
Woodville, TX 75979
c.409.383.4671
email Maness3@att.net

P.S. Brad, would you write a Letter of Commendation for me? Someone should.

cc: Honorable Texas Representative James White

Appendix -

1. Chaplain Collier's Note to Maness, STOP!
2. Chaplain Collier's two Annual Evaluations, latest November 2011
3. CVCA Ms. Virginia Haynes "Thank You" to Donors

Attachment - not published - Bill Pierce's 2000 TDCJ Application for Head Chaplain, *handle with care*

5 of 5

1. 2012-07-12 – **Polunsky – Muniz IOC** – 4pgs – Sent to Warden Muniz, to cover myself, given all that was going on, with copy sent to personnel
2. 2012-10-29 – **Polunsky – Exposure 1** – Livingston-Collier-Thaller – 21pgs – with DVD of MS OneNote with many documents
3. 2013-01-17 – **Polunsky – Exposure 2** – Livingston-Collier-Thaller – 13pgs – did extortion, what is going on, and rehirability
4. 2013-02-18 – **Polunsky – Exposure 3** – Livingston-Collier-Thaller – 35pgs – with Lewis Prison exposures, and no commendation
5. 2013-06-18 – **Bryan Collier 30-Minute Plea** – recorded – 4pgs – No acknowledgement of wrong at Polunsky, cover up inequality



Michael G. Maness – 409.383.4671

Maness3@att.net ~ www.PreciousHeart.net

The 50-page Faith-Based Letter, not wholly relevant, is here

www.PreciousHeart.net/Maness-Faith-Based-Housing.pdf

Here at this site is the professional chaplaincy documents

www.PreciousHeart.net/chaplaincy/index.htm



30-Minute Plea for Commendation for Extraordinary Exposures
and Reinstatement with Raise

To Bryan Collier by Michael G. Maness

June 18, 2013

Faxed for 4 p.m.
conference call
present Jan Thornton
& William Stephens

Summary

Thank you for hearing me. This was timed at 16 minutes at a brisk pace. Public safety, safe incarceration, and rehabilitation are bedrock to TDCJ's mission, and every year I have actually read Brad Livingston's letter on equality. TDCJ is FAIR. The letters I sent – I sent because I *believe* that honor and justice will prevail, somehow. A gross injustice was done to me in the wardens' refusal to aid me in bringing things into compliance. Who was the highest ranking person who knew of the violations prior to my coming to Polunsky?

What Is the SINGLE WHOLE Truth? – Someone Knows!

Mr. Collier, the Moral Statement of Accounts does not balance. There is only ONE SINGLE WHOLE TRUTH to the matter, witnessed by *and* confusing to many staff, volunteers and inmates, among the facts I gave you in about 100 pages. One sum of all *could* go like this: Simmons, Alford, and Upshaw knew for years of the multitude of policy violations in the Polunsky Chapel, and conspired (perhaps with Thaller) to send Alford there to "correct" it at my expense while at the same time PROTECTING Chaplain David Collier, because Chaplain Collier covered for them during the escape. That may not be the WHOLE TRUTH. If not, then what is?

PART of the single Whole Truth is clear: Simmons, Alford, and Upshaw KNEW of the many violations and did *nothing* until I faxed the first exposure to you and Mr. Livingston on October 29, 2012, as I retired.

What is the WHOLE TRUTH? Mr. Collier, sir, I myself cannot find it out. And I do not need it, if most of the wrongs done to me are made right. Though I think *knowing* the whole would profit all. After many Open Records requests and a letter from Thaller that said he "would personally review" – still, no real investigation! No report. Just how long were those inmates unsupervised in the dark? Does it matter? Of course it does, Programs Division thought Collier a model, he was awarded the last Chaplain of the Year, had more programs and CVCAs than any other unit – the WHOLE TRUTH should be welcomed here.

The reality and sad Truth is that the Polunsky Chaplaincy Department turned out to be the most policy-violating in TDCJ history – only after a painful exposure by me, and that exposure still uninvestigated and covered up.

Prime Witnesses NOT Interviewed! – Appears No One Wants to Know the Whole Truth

Chaplain Collier's 2012 evaluation said he "worked well with staff," signed by Bill Pierce and Richard Alford on 11-29-2012, and Marvin Dunbar on 12-4-12 just one month after my first exposures – third *good* annual in a row! That was NOT the view of the Polunsky Compliance Sergeant or the Unit Supply officer *both* reflecting, "Chaplain Collier is less than truthful." **TWO previous staff chaplains** Mary Barry and Loren Edwards told me *again last Friday, June 21, 2013*, "No one" has talked to them, and neither could get along with Chaplain Collier, and *both* experienced his "untruthful" nature. Ms. Barry flatly said that he "lied about me," and Mr. Edwards lamented how the inmates ran wild. Upon your word of confidentiality, I will send you my conversations with them (the only ones I have ever recorded or plan to record like this). No volunteers at Polunsky or Gib Lewis have been interviewed to date. Do I need more backing?

Two Questions Worth a Million-Dollar Each

Question 1: Who ABOVE Simmons knew about all the violations and knew of Chaplain's Collier's total lack of concern for policy and did *nothing* prior to my exposures in July 2012?

Question 2: What in heaven and in God's name did Chaplain Collier do that got him such PROTECTION from Wardens Simmons and Alford, and Reg. Dir. Upshaw? What does Chaplain Collier have on Simmons, Alford, and Upshaw that would get him a good *annual evaluation 30 days after I faxed* you all the first exposures?

Fairness – Where Are the 2,500-plus Disciplinarys?

The three disciplinarys I endured were nothing compared to what Simmons, Alford, and Upshaw did in compelling dozens of staffers under them to ignore *many* dangerous violations daily for years!

Fair? – every single time (of every day) a supervisor saw those inmates in the dark unsupervised and did NOTHING is a disciplinary! Every single time a supervisor saw keys used by inmates to unlock work areas and did NOTHING is a disciplinary! Every single day the chemical officer dispensed chemicals that were not used by the end of the day and did nothing is a disciplinary! Every day that inmates left their unsupervised workstations without being shook down is a disciplinary! Every day inmates were allowed to make electrical/structural changes outside the maintenance work-order process is a disciplinary!

And the list goes on. Copyright infringement. Camera use. Inmates making DVDs for volunteers to take off the unit *without* staff reviewing them. Making rope out of sheets. Not following inmate religious property guidelines. Giving inmates personal items to play with (personal items not properly donated). Volunteers *physically* playing with inmates. Collier and volunteers getting *massages* from inmates. Allowing inmate commissary in the chapel. Allowing staff commissary to go to inmates. Denied volunteers ON the gate list. Volunteer chaplains *NOT* on the gate list. And, of course, fire and electrical code violations. EVERY SINGLE DAY. I stopped a lot of that foolishness and was written up for being LAX!

Sir – it is a disciplinary EVERY SINGLE TIME a violation is observed and not corrected. For at least seven years, that translates into 2,555 disciplinarys at a minimum, if we are generous and only use one violation a day. The reality and a PART of the WHOLE TRUTH is that Simmons, Alford, and Upshaw knew about the violations.

Doing the Right Thing

There is no exemption from “Do the Right Thing!” – painted on the Polunsky Unit walls and throughout TDCJ.

The Chaplaincy Department, of all departments, should be the cleanest, most honest, most compliant, and most trusted of ALL – as it represents God in all of the religions!

I exposed in July 2012 before Simmons retired – as you, sir, know right well. At that time, it was inconceivable to me that Simmons was culpable. Then, after writing an IOC and a personal talk with Simmons, he “sent” Warden Muniz to the chapel who DID NOTHING – NOTHING – about inmates in the dark unsupervised. Staff and volunteers are in danger and – what? – Nothing! I got scared.

After Alford arrived and tried to bully me – God have mercy – I got a Letter of Instruction for “being lax” and so forth, and STILL inmates were in the dark. Staff and volunteers had to ENTER THE DARK ROOM to use the restroom, the inmates hearing us flush the toilet! The inmates were unsupervised until I sent you, Brad, and Rick Thaller that fax on October 28, 2012. At the same time you received my fax exposing the dangerous violations at Polunsky, Warden Muniz was writing me a disciplinary for not calling in – inmates were still unsupervised!

Old History Recapitulation

In 1998-99, I led a statewide effort to get Chaplain I-IIIs lifted to I-VIIs, but only succeeded in getting a one-pay-group raise. In the process, I exposed how the Chief TDCJ Chaplain’s job description was ***changed to suit applicants*** (lowered CPE for Jerry Groom, then lowered experience for Don Kasper). And I created the largest collection of articles to date on correctional chaplaincy, including the *only* published data on TDCJ Chaplains.

In 2007, I sought 50 new chaplains and 50 of the most senior TDCJ chaplains lifted to Chaplain III, but only got 25 chaplains. About the time Chaplain David Collier received his Region 1 Chaplain of the Year Award.

In early 2011, I initiated a corrective called the Warden’s Parole Option with a bill in that legislative session, and I was a key leader in the Save Chaplaincy initiative that overturned the zero-budgeting.

In Dec. 2011, I wrote a 50-page letter on Faith-Based Housing and in **Feb. 2012** found myself with three disciplinarys and recommendation for dismissal. Simple retaliation for a history of advocacy.

1st Disciplinary – Substandard Duty for an email from my home to David Valentine, responding to his request for my opinion, which was my trouble with Mr. Valentine’s vicious splitting of First Baptist Church Huntsville (FBC), the real issue being the 50-page Faith-Based Letter, for no one really disciplines for the former.

2nd Disciplinary – Insubordination for a 5-page letter to Byran Collier about Marvin Dunbar’s disciplinary hearing in which he humiliated me for the 50-page letter on Faith-Based Housing. Mr. Collier, this was understandable then, but – after all this – does not my letter make more sense? And Dunbar and Pierce did both give high marks to David Collier, head chaplain over the most policy-violating department in TDCJ history.

3rd Disciplinary – a double-header tweaked down to a single, Inappropriate Relationship with Offender! (really?, by Senior Warden Lewis that was thrown out by Senior Warden Hunter – really?), and then Failure to Follow SOP in *not* asking for the warden’s permission to post photos of inmates on Facebook that I had written approval to take and TDCJ lawyer-created media releases, mostly of inmates putting together Christmas Card packages, some 20 years earlier: the *presumption* is that I *should* have asked the warden for every single use after taking the photos; it is unethical to expect anyone to have to *ask again and again* for every other use – the TDCJ Media Releases meant nothing! Then, Warden Hunter said I posted the photos of prisoners on my Facebook page “to help sell my books”! – good God in heaven, that is like putting mud on a new corvette, thinking that would help sell the car; if anything, such photos would *deter* book sales. Then, ironically, that very SOP was removed from Chaplaincy Manual a few months later! (\$10,000 dollar question is this: was the SOP *removed* in the manual *prior* to the disciplinary?)

Recommended for Dismissal by Warden Hunter, without ability to use vacation time, after which I made a stink, and Hunter’s denial was overturned allowing me to use vacation time to proceed to mediation. The scheduled dismissal hearing was postponed as I arrived. During this time, the Polunsky chaplain position was filled by Joe Vitella. Then at my rescheduled disciplinary hearing, Upshaw “offered” Polunsky, which I took. And Vitella was heart broken, but then encouraged to *apply* to the Lewis Unit – strange to say the least.

Gib Lewis Unit – Warden Helm

While my disciplinaries were underway, two days after Warden Hunter arrives at Gib Lewis (GL), Volunteer Chaplain (CVCA) Melvin Bell is *fired* by Warden Helm, because Bell worked with Warden Roesler SIX YEARS earlier on leaving GL to allow an inmate to parole to his house. Helm never liked that.

Mr. Collier, sir, what was my first disciplinary? – email from my home in *response* to Vol. David Valentine. Warden Helm disagreed with CVCA Bell’s actions six years prior – no email there – Helm FIRED Bell. My email did not impact anyone. Helm was not disciplined for a far WORSE disrespect that hurt many volunteers and by-passed the dual-supervision policy too. Helm is ordered to allow CVCA Bell back; but, soon, Helm fires CVCA Bell *again*, the *only* volunteer Helm has “fired” in 20 years – clear insubordination!

Lewis Unit Chaplain Vacancy

My defense of CVCA Bell and my exposure of that and more at GL prevented me being rehired at GL, something I foretold, if you did NOT receive a commendation for my valorous Polunsky exposures. Not right.

Warden Helm’s Indiscretion the Norm – See Polunsky Magical Time Machine

Sir, Helm’s views are more the norm than not. The wardens follow “orders” but the reality of spirit is different; wardens are human too, have to be tough and cannot deny their experience (a part of which was included in that 50-page Faith-Based Housing letter – *the wardens’ experiences matter too*). Like so many good wardens, Helm HATES with a passion inmates compromising staff and volunteers. With a magical time machine, if we could blank-out this history for a day, and – *in all seriousness* – send Warden Helm to Polunsky to “take a look at the Polunsky chapel” in June of 2012 with his 25-plus rugged years as a security supervisor, this is what your BEST WARDENS would have done, **what Helm would have done!** *Helm walked into that chapel, saw the inmates unsupervised in the dark, and froze for about 5 seconds as he looked around. Then he took up the inmates’ IDs and asked where the officer was. NO OFFICER! Helm put the inmates on the fence until an officer arrived to shake the inmates down and take them to lockup. Then Helm walked into the chaplain’s office and asked all the volunteers to take the rest of the day off. Chaplain Collier would have said, “Warden Simmons allowed this!” Helm would have then – I am serious – shut it down and escorted Chaplain Collier to Warden Simmons’ office.*

Your BEST wardens would have done that – in the magical world where Chaplain Collier was NOT protected.

Whole Truth and Chaplain's Collier's Presidential Protection

Mr. Collier, the Moral Statement of Accounts has not balanced in the last year. Because of that 50-page Faith-Based Housing letter and retaliation for that and the exposures at Polunsky – there is no question that multiple wrongs have been committed against me that forced me to retire in Oct. 2012. I defended policy, sir, and many are hiding their violations for years. I brought more things into compliance at Polunsky in two months than all the previous staff chaplains, wardens and majors – and uphill against Chaplain Collier and to the sadness of volunteers who believed *God himself had blessed the Polunsky Chapel*, when actually it was the devil who had deceived them – GOD DOES NOT BLESS VIOLATIONS OF SECURITY! Then, of all things, I get written up for being LAX, confirming to the entire world Alford's part in the protection of Chaplain Collier. I retire to look in my exposure of that dangerous situation, and 30 days later Chaplain Collier is given a good evaluation by Alford, and both Alford and Upshaw are promoted. Who knew above Simmons? Come now?

Worst of all is this: What did Chaplain Collier have on Simmons, Alford, and Upshaw that got Collier so much Presidential Protection? Let me rephrase this, as this came to me just last week. Mr. Collier, a chaplain (or *any* department head) does NOT use the warden's name in vain or lightly or frivolously, and certainly does NOT repeatedly *lie* and say, "The warden said this and that was okay," when the warden never said such. Mr. Collier, this is the worst of all. An addition to the second Million-Dollar Question is this: Warden Simmons *knew* that Chaplain Collier was using his name wholesale, even lying about him; Chaplain Collier lied about Simmons, and Simmons knew about it and did nothing. Simmons and Alford and Upshaw knew what Collier was doing in both lying and violating policy wholesale, and did nothing for YEARS! That, sir, is as scary as it gets.

What is the WHOLE TRUTH? We do NOT know Whole Truth yet.

Let me add one last thing that I pray to God is NOT a part of this. One of the two main privileged Media Room inmates, Ramy Hozaifeh #705004, and it was no secret that his father readily put up \$100,000 for a lawyer, and has secured a place and funds for Hozaifeh in Switzerland, and his father was worth several hundred million dollars! Mr. Collier, having been a chaplain for 20 years, I do NOT trust easily, but this kind of money can do all kinds of things. Inmate Hozaifeh is in for a mob murder, and he and his cellie are given the RUN of chaplaincy for years. Scary! Did any of Hozaifeh's father's money contribute to the inmates extraordinary privileges? Did any of his father's money contribute to the chapel disarray? Very scary.

Who Is the Rogue Chaplain? Yes, I fear for my life and physical well-being from Simmons, Alford and Upshaw until the Whole Truth is clear. I am called a "rogue chaplain" for *off-the-unit* exercise of my rights in the legislature as I defended the work of chaplains. The *real* rogue was David Collier *on the unit* flagrantly violating policy with Presidential Protection by the wardens for YEARS, and only God knows who else.

Commendation and Raise – A super ***Commendation for Valor*** outlining the extraordinary exposures of serious security violations is a minimal expectation. My honor hangs on this, and possibly my physical safety too!

How do you make it right? I am not even asking for disciplinaries for Alford and Upshaw, but if they got raises after all this for violations for years after my exposures – well then, I certainly deserve as much. TDCJ is FAIR.

Truly –if I had done nothing in July 2012, do you, sir, believe that I would still be there? I do not think you do, and I suspect that makes your blood boil. You would have *never* known the scope! I could NOT stay seated, sir – I HAD to stand against this. I did the Right Thing – alone – and would do it again! My dad would be proud!

A full reinstatement with a raise to Chaplain III, step 6 or 10 (from November 1, 2012, with full restitution of vacation-sick time), is so small, given that all the degree-bearing professions have 5-7 pay-group levels. Allowing me to be rewarded for this incredibly hard work, the valor in persistence in these exposures, and my love for TDCJ's mission – I can help – and then retire with honor in a few years like I should have.

If not reinstatement with raise, then the commendation and rehire at Gib Lewis – though a token.

What is the Whole Truth? Regardless if it can be found, I certainly can help develop chaplaincy professionally, and can help like no other in TDCJ. Though others will stand *with* me, only I stood up. I did the Right Thing!

Last Page

Background to Sourcebook on Longest Cover Up in TDCJ History



The Case of Sherlock Holmes and the Enchanting Chaplain

**High Security Prisoners Given Computers, Cameras, Scanners, Printers to
Use Unsupervised in the DARK for YEARS,
and Other Cover Ups, Infamies, Protection for Favored, and
Retaliation for Whistle Blowers**



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for many supporting documents see
www.PreciousHeart.net/chaplaincy

