

How We Saved Texas Prison Chaplaincy 2011



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*A Resource for the Chaplaincy Profession and Its Defense
with Staff Chaplain Survival Guide and Audit History*

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TDCJ Senior Clinical Chaplain 20 Years

www.PreciousHeart.net/Saved



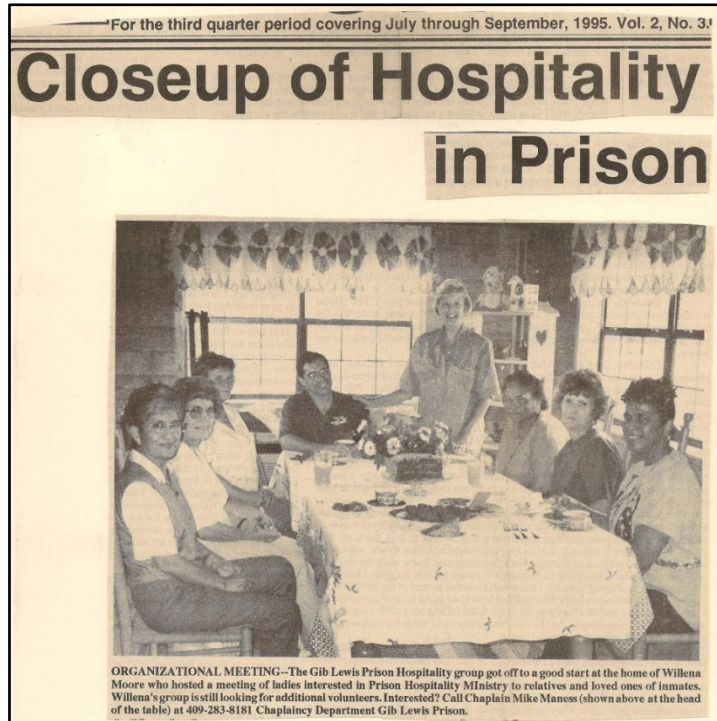
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Appendix 7 – Hospitality Program Cancelled

www.PreciousHeart.net/Saved/Appendix-7-Hospitality-Program-Cancelled.pdf



Gib Lewis Prison Hospitality Coordinator Willena Moore hosted a group of her ladies at her home. That's me sitting a *long* time ago and 75 lbs. lighter. She led and financed it for over two years, bought a TV and VCR, had a lockable cabinet made (that I still have in my garage). Every Saturday and Sunday at least one lady was present, often two ladies, or her herself, without a single absence, except perhaps one Christmas. In the visitation room, she had books, coloring books, crayons, snacks for kids and tissues for adults. She *loved* the mothers young and old, and cried with them many times, almost every weekend, she said. All the ladies were seniors and leaders in their own churches. I wrote this fine lady's story in my ongoing series of biographies of people in Tyler County for the *Tyler County Booster*, my byline "Message in the Bottle," and her article titled

“Homemade Country Hospitality” was fifth in the series, published on July 28, 2011 (p. 1B).²⁶⁵

www.PreciousHeart.net/message/2011-Moore.pdf

Without notice one Saturday morning, the ladies were turned around and sent home by the asst. warden, the program cancelled, no reason or apology—just *cancelled*. The following Monday ... that was just the way it was. I reported it to Chaplaincy HQ, but they could do nothing. Now then, I can hear several upstairs and over Chaplaincy *today* saying, “You just did not get a hold of the right person.” Or more likely saying, “That would not have happened if *I was regional or deputy this or director that.*” Well, they can *say* that, but the reality is that was TDCJ Chaplaincy then, and *they* were not there; and similar things have happened under “their” watch, too, in 2012-13, apparently beyond their control or their desire to justify (see the Preamble). I did all I *could* do then, in about 1998, and the regional Chaplain we had then was a very good man and did all he could do.

The facts are what they are, and Chaplaincy and the division could *not* do anything then. That was par for the course for many Chaplains.

It is also important to note that no record exists of the *great* service she and her team did then, except this old newspaper clipping. And, for the last 20 years, there is no record of similar *cancellations*, much less a record of the programs themselves, or any comparison between hospitality programs.

We can do better. Chaplaincy and their precious Volunteers are worth so much, and, if anything, this last news clipping and this book are proof of how much Chaplains care for their Volunteers—and cared much more for them than whoever wanted to cut Chaplaincy in 2011—to say little more on their cost savings, their facilitation, defense and *praise* of Volunteers, their contribution to *every* mission-critical function in TDCJ, and, of course, their facilitation of the greatest source for change in human history—*religion*.

Still, the heart of Chaplaincy is how staff Chaplains work together as co-laborers with loved and dear Volunteers in the Vital Issues of life in the sublime work of Care for the Soul.



²⁶⁵ See www.PreciousHeart.net/message, now up to 49 articles in July 2015.



In Fiscal Year 2011

**120 TDCJ Chaplains Facilitated, Cared for 99.8% of
20,000 Volunteers in their 418,000 visits with
500,000 hours with an astounding
4,000,000 prisoners in attendance—plus
19,602 Critical Illness/Death Notices & more**

from Item 5 above¹

the year they were cut and saved

Regarding this precious and immeasurably valuable record—a treasure—TDCJ staff Chaplains have been in the *center* of that miracle of human transformation for over a *century* as they help and facilitate and love Volunteers, helping all persons in the Vital Issues of life, laboring *with* the Volunteers to minister and care for *all* inside the prison, even of all faiths, with Christianity by a whopping margin, in that most exquisite of enterprises in Care for the Soul while facilitating the greatest resource for change in human history—*religion*.

Is Chaplain Professional Equity too much ask for these few humble servants?



Chapel of Hope



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¹ Item 5, p.72, www.PreciousHeart.net/chaplaincy/RPD-Dunbar-08-2012.pdf.
