

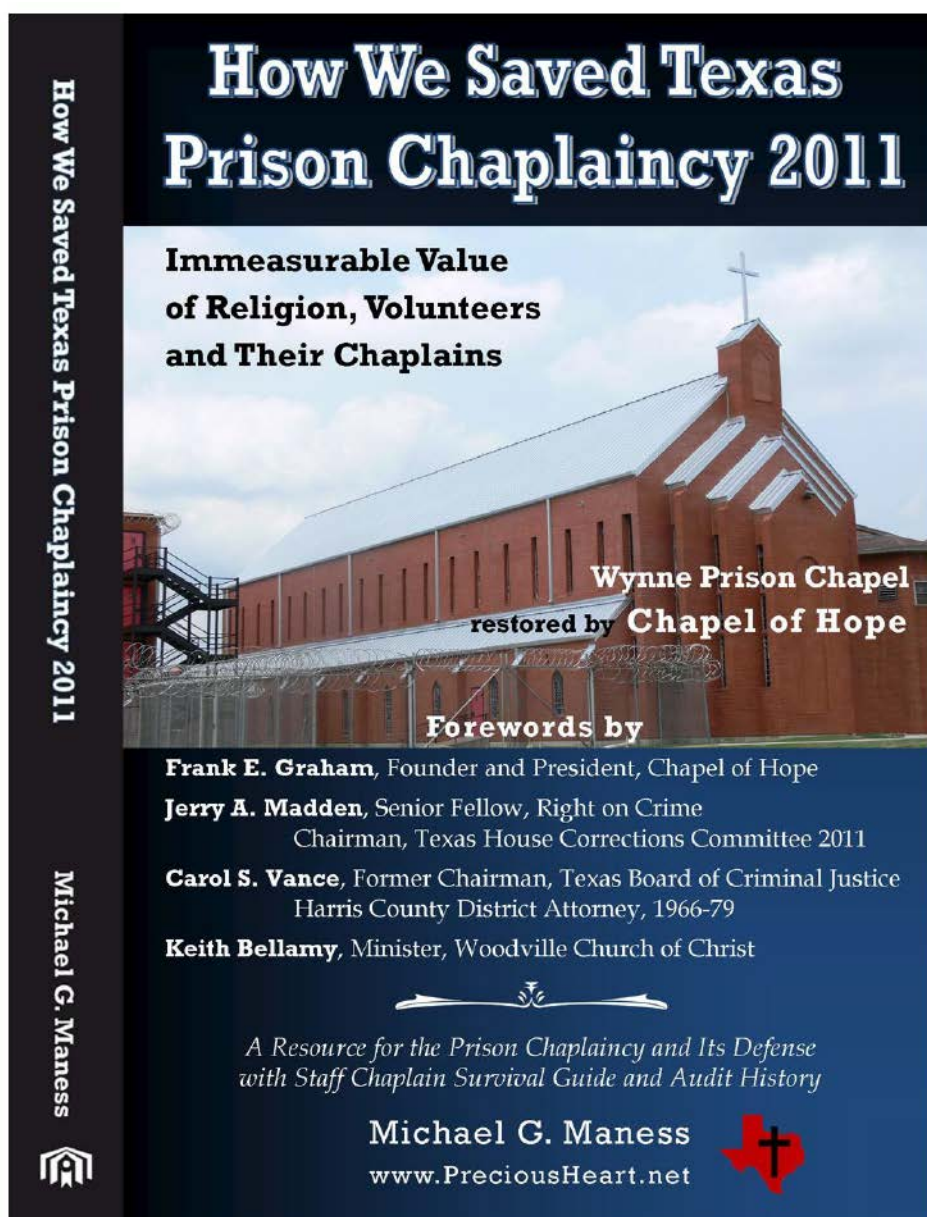
January 13, 2016

Dear TDCJ Chaplain . . .

Were you there in 2011 when TDCJ Chaplaincy was killed? Over and dead?

If so, you likely helped us save it. If not, here is the story of the ground troops that led the fight in Austin and across Texas, what we used, the key players and legislators. It was hard and scary, but we won a stupendous victory. Several who received the “[Updates](#)” I sent out during that fateful time from January through April encouraged me to write this.

In this new book is [*How We Saved Texas Prison Chaplaincy 2011*](#), not easy, but 200 pages of documented story and analysis followed by 200 pages of appendices with 100s of links, Solomon’s paper, the critical COMISS Report on Georgia (*20 years to recover*), budget analyses, *several* statistical tables on the Chaplains’ (*your*) superb but unrated work and a huge bibliography. It’s all here. What we did, who, why, where, how—how it *can happen* again—and ... how to protect Chaplaincy in the future.... Who will take the lead tomorrow?



As Maness so forcefully presents, religion is truly the greatest source for change in human history, and our staff chaplains facilitate that. Likewise, we came to see there would be little true cost savings, in that some staffer would have to take care religion in prison—it's a *right* after all—and manage the good volunteers.

Jerry Madden, Senior Fellow
Right on Crime - RightonCrime.org
House Committee on Corrections Chairman 2011-12

It seemed like all was lost. . . . **Dr. Keith Bellamy**
Senior Minister, Woodville Church of Christ
TDCJ Certified Volunteer Chaplain 15-plus years

Take a ride through Maness' book and learn firsthand about reducing crime, rehabilitating lives, making our streets safer, and bringing hope to the least, the last and the lost just like Jesus commanded.
The chaplain of the prison brings hope and light in what can be a dark and stressful place, all the more reason we need them.

Carol S. Vance
former Chairman, Texas Board of Criminal Justice
Harris County District Attorney 1966-79

Every TDCJ chaplain and every chaplaincy manager owe the existence of their jobs to the efforts of a few unique individuals who rallied many to seek help from Texas senators and representatives.

Chapel of Hope **Frank Graham, Founder**
Chapel of Hope.org

Politically, the TDCJ chaplaincy was doomed. God used the courage of one man to turn that situation around. Thank you, Chaplain Michael Maness, for preserving this magnificent piece of important religious history.

Dr. Paul W. Carlin, LBT, Ph.D.
TheMinistryChurch.org

authorHOUSE

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How We Saved Texas Prison Chaplaincy 2011

Michael G. Maness



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About the Book – Saving Texas Prison Chaplaincy, *the Fight*

Longer email than normal, merely 4 pages in pdf without cover, because this may be my last. I might be prevented from emailing you in the future. ‘Tis that serious. Some do not want Chaplains to communicate on their profession. True. Some want it killed. They cut 33% 2003. They DID kill 100% in 2011—Never forget!

I was a TDCJ Senior Chaplain for 20 years and led several initiatives from 1999 onward. Fact—Dr. Vance Drum and I were for many years the only Certified Correctional Chaplains in TDCJ by the American Correctional Chaplains Association. *Dear Chaplain*, I know very well what you face *and* the marvelous God-blessed mercy you give each day to the prisoners, the staff, the volunteers and the families of all three.

Saved. Here is my new book on *How We Saved Texas Prison Chaplaincy 2011* – yes, we saved your job. More importantly, we saved your blessed service, the profession of prison Chaplaincy that facilitates the Greatest Source for Change in Human History—*Religion!* That’s what we broadcasted in Austin and more in 2011: we hailed from the mountain tops that cutting Chaplains would *not* save money in that *some* staffer would have to manage religion and volunteers *anyway* and cutting Chaplaincy would actually *cost more* and *decrease* “care” of volunteers (and prisoners—in Austin, it’s harder to advocate for prisoners than volunteers!). We further showed in Austin how Staff Chaplains recover their operating costs several times over—**critical to those *truly* budget conscious!** Importantly, we gave [facts in a Save Chaplaincy Flyer](#) of which volunteer Chaplain and businessman Frank Graham published 4,000 and that we spread over all of Austin on February 16, after a gathering put together at First Baptist, Austin, by

Emmett Solomon and the BGCT's Suzii Paynter, well into our fight. We mailed *and* emailed the flyer to legislators and friends.

Austin, Texas, History. I led the successful fight for the first pay-group pay raise for Chaplains in TDCJ in 40+ years in 2000, and after 35 Chaplains were *deleted* in 2003 [I led the return of 25 Chaplains](#) to the budget in 2007. All that and more is outlined in the appendices of this new book, and the data from previous efforts that became the *only* hard data on the Chaplains' good work presented in Austin.

Time—We Had so Little Time. Chaplain, we *had* to fight hard in 2011, January to April, and we *did* fight hard for four months. We won a stupendous victory. *Dear Chaplain*, know this, the only reason given in Austin for killing TDCJ Chaplaincy was, "Volunteers can do it all." That's it. We fought that rational hard and several key volunteers fought that, the volunteers saying, "No, we cannot do it all." And they should not. And we provided hard data on the Chaplains' good work, [your precious work!](#)

Only Ones Giving Data. Let me repeat that we were the *only* ones giving to the legislators the hard data on the Chaplains' precious work—[your precious work!!!](#) In 2011, it was up to us, we had to defend ourselves: that is, there was *no data* on Chaplains (+ or –) given to any legislature by TDCJ; we were the *only* ones giving data on the staff Chaplains' work load in Austin, the *only ones* (Open Record requests confirmed that).

Chaplaincy Dead in January 2011. Were you in TDCJ in 2011? TDCJ had zero-budgeted Chaplaincy in House Bill 1, "#1" *for a reason*, worked up by the agencies and the LLB and presented to the legislature in January of each odd year. In HB 1, Chaplaincy was killed, over, ended, kaput, dead, and *all* TDCJ Chaplains would be *out* on August 31st. To change HB 1 required several acts of the Texas congress. Without *change*, Chaplaincy was dead, killed—the "volunteers can do it all" the only reason. It was that serious, that cold.

Fortunate! We were *so fortunate* to get news of that cut in the *first week* of January—Thank God—*prior* to the Speaker of the House's selection of committees. Thank Emmett Solomon, R.I.P. (see Appendix 1 on Solomon). That is, someone who knew what was in HB 1 *before* the committees were selected told Solomon! Immediately, a few of us began to fight, sent out news and email blasts in a fury all over Texas. Hear this—if we had waited or delayed, we might have lost. Worse, if we had *not* found out or delayed to March 2011, then TDCJ Chaplaincy would have been killed, over, dead on August 31, 2011, the end of the budget year. Dead! Gone! By April, it would have been *too late* to fight to restore Chaplaincy. Why? Because House Bill 1 is nearly **finished by the Ides of March** in *every* session! In other terrible words, we had so little time and had we *not* fought there would have been no Chaplaincy today! That was the course set by TDCJ in January 2011. It was that clear, that cold, that serious.

A few of us with experience in Austin went to work. Here is the story.

Here is [How We Saved Texas Prison Chaplaincy 2011](#), what we used, the documents and flyer and much, much more. Here is the defense of your precious ministry *in Austin* and beyond, not just your job, but documented cogently and passionately are **1)** your *critical* role to *every* mission-critical function of TDCJ and **2)** how Chaplaincy *saves* Texas its *entire* operating costs *several* times over. Our fight made the Houston Chronicle, Dallas Morning News, and more.

Herein, you will also see the documents and statistics on TDCJ Chaplaincy accumulated and published over the last 15 years from 100s of official Open Records requests, indeed, as national Chaplaincy researcher Dr. W. Thomas Beckner said in his own exquisite, *Correctional Chaplains—Keepers of the Cloak* (2012), "Chaplain Maness maintains the most complete data base of Chaplaincy activities I have encountered," himself finishing his book in 2011 as we were in Austin fighting for TDCJ Chaplaincy's survival. Many were looking to Texas in 2011. It was a stupendous victory for faith.

Forewords. See the four splendid forewords by the key players above: Graham, Madden, Vance and Bellamy. They helped a *lot*. To these and a few advocacy groups, like Emmett Solomon, the BGCT's Suzii Paynter, Texas Impact's Director Bee Moorhead, Jennifer Carr Allmon of the Texas Catholic Conference, a couple of Jewish Rabbis, Bill Glass, Frank Graham's son, Trey, who as pastor in Dallas used his weekly radio program to broadcast, and many more—**Chaplain, please hear this**—you owe your job's existence to their hard work in 2011. Without them, we would have lost all and TDCJ Chaplaincy would have been history—over, gone, dead, kaput.

Helped and more. Several TDCJ Chaplains helped. Those who communicated with me during that time are here—as I said in the book—there were *several* more TDCJ Chaplains and volunteers that helped all across Texas, including several large ministry groups. We were *running* hard for four months, and I could not track all, nor even thought of a book then. Even friends from outside of Texas helped. I wish I could chronicle *all* the stories. Including yours.

Vision. Already, this book is getting notice, much more than my previous books, and I am already overloaded. I do envision adding more testimonies from 2011 and would like to include *your work then too*. Seriously. I might even begin work on a sequel of the *other* stories across Texas. So many did so much. We had so little time. What a frightening time! The more you loved TDCJ Chaplaincy, the more the killing of it hurt. The 100-plus-year-old TDCJ Chaplaincy was dead, gone, with the stroke of a pen and with zero data consumption—so scary. We started a fire and fanned the flames across Texas, and so many rose up in so many places. Yes, I truly do want to tell the *whole* story, your story, too, of how we saved Texas Chaplaincy. Send this to your home email. Email me. If you were in TDCJ in 2011, share with me *your* stories. Ask your volunteers to share their stories.

Never forget—those who forget history tend to repeat it. *Never* forget January 2011.

Defense in the Future. May it *never* be needed again. Yet, if Chaplaincy is killed again, as it has been in several states—and was *killed* in 2011 in Texas—it will happen in the same way, by surprise, without any notice from TDCJ, without any data consumption, without considering the Chaplains' work, and worst of all without truly accessing all the stakeholders including the Chaplains, volunteers, the prisoners, and—sadly—much less the prisoners' dear families.

Blueprint. It's all here—how fought and won, what we used, the key legislators, the critical time lines, and much, much more. It's *all* here to be used again, if needed, to avoid reinventing the wheel, as it were—a blueprint for how to defend! Much is now timeless, as is the documented *fact* that staff Chaplains do recover their *entire* operating costs several times over and do facilitate the Greatest Source for Change in Human History—*Religion !!!*

As many began to see, TDCJ Chaplaincy, **there is NO BETTER bang for your buck!**

Check Every Odd Year in January. In closing and in too many respects to belabor here (see the book and horde of links therein), the future of Chaplaincy is in your hands. I pray you will network and talk with your fellow Chaplains. We need leaders among those in the field. As we found out in 2011—*SHOCK!*—never assume all is well or secure. Someone should ask their Representative *every* January (in the odd year) at the beginning of the Texas Legislature. There was no warning; Chaplaincy was just *cut*, dead in January, and had we *not* been informed (or someone checked), by the **Ides of March** it would have been *impossible* to save Chaplaincy.

Network—key to survival! Join the American Correctional Chaplains Association and more. Be kind to and pray for Dr. Vance Drum, the most credentialed Chief of Chaplains in the U.S. today, one of the most experienced, and who helped us in Austin while he was Senior Chaplain at Eastham. Yet, remember and *know*, in 2011, the then Chief of Chaplains did *not* notify anyone and he did *not* help at all in Austin—those are just the facts. TDCJ did *not* give anything to any legislator on the value of Chaplains either—just a cold hard fact. We *had* to defend ourselves. We *had* to, or there would have been *no* Chaplaincy today, none, zero.

Key. Remember, the key to Chaplaincy's survival is your networking with your precious volunteers and with each other, under God, with a vigilance. Talk to each other. Chaplains get together *after hours*. FELLOWSHIP and communication is good for the soul, we all know, and from 2011, communication is *critical* to chaplaincy's survival—if it is *ever* killed again, you will *never* be told in time, that is an absolute certainty!

Bonus: I included in the appendices a section called the Staff Chaplains Survival Guide, from my 20 years of experience as a senior Chaplain of a large prison, as a successful advocate in Austin, and as the only one who has accumulated a [decade of TDCJ Chaplaincy statistics on your precious and holy work](#).

Value. Here's to you, Chaplain, and to your precious service—may God bless you. Know this dear Chaplain, you do contribute to every mission-critical function of the agency, your department *is in fact the most* cost-effective in TDCJ and in Texas, and, yes, you do facilitate and protect the immeasurable value of precious volunteers and you do facilitate the Greatest Resource for Change in Human—*Religion*—and Christianity by a demonstrably huge margin. Herein is solid proof of all that and more.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



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Three Web Sites:

1. Book Itself: www.PreciousHeart.net/Saved
2. Special Page set up in 2011 with resources, flyer, data, talking points to fight for Chaplaincy in Austin [www.PreciousHeart.net/Save Chaplaincy.htm](http://www.PreciousHeart.net/Save_Chaplaincy.htm) w/ links to key legislators then
3. My site began circa 1998 for all things on prison Chaplaincy - one of largest in the world today www.PreciousHeart.net/Chaplaincy

TDCJ Chaplaincy Budget – you *cannot* see TDCJ Chaplaincy Budget Line in *ANY* public portions during the legislative session; it is so low, one has to wait until the LBB has posted it in its sophisticated online budget access. You can read all about it in “Appendix 5. Texas and TDCJ Budget Conundrums.”

www.PreciousHeart.net/Saved/Appendix-5-Budget-Conundrums.pdf

No joking matter. See <http://sbp.lbb.state.tx.us/PublicMain.aspx> for the online access, and you will see as of January 2016, it *still* is not there, only 2014-15 budget, and you have to **navigate** to TDCJ and Chaplaincy lines.

Chaplaincy 2012-13 [www.lbb.state.tx.us/Documents/GAA/General Appropriations Act 2012-13.pdf](http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Documents/GAA/General_Appropriations_Act_2012-13.pdf)

Art. V, TDCJ, p. V.12 or PDF p. 572, line C.2.4. Treatment Services (in which is Chaplaincy, just *not seen*).

Today, 1-12-16, the LBB *still has NOT posted* the budget enacted: www.lbb.state.tx.us/StateBudgetsGAA.aspx.

HB 1 for 2016-17 go to www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=84R&Bill=HB1, effective 9-1-15, to see the entire 955 pages: www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/84R/billtext/pdf/HB00001F.pdf, TDCJ pages 565-582, and **Chaplaincy is NOT THERE, but WITHIN Line Item C.2.3 Treatment Services**, but sex offenders are. To see Chaplaincy, *sorry*, you will have to wait later in 2016 until the LBB posts it. Appendix 5 for *rest of the sad story*.



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