



# THE MESSENGER

Restorative Justice Ministries

July 2016

A newsletter for RJM Volunteers, Sustaining Member Churches and Staff of the Brazos County Detention Center.

[www.rjmbv.org](http://www.rjmbv.org)

RJM Office: 361-4852

Chaplain Office: 361-4831

## The path God has for you

It has been a real blessing to have the opportunity to serve as a volunteer on the RJM. During that time, it has allowed me to serve in several capacities. In most of the positions I was called upon, I felt quite comfortable after a short introduction. However, other positions required time and effort, which led me to sometimes question my ability in performing well enough to be effective. I know in those moments I was being attacked by the enemy himself. However, in my studies I came across 2 Corinthians 4: 6-10.

*"For it is God who commanded light to shine out of the darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of knowledge of the glory to God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

*"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not us.*

*"We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed always carrying in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body."*

(NKJV)

This section of scripture sustains me in those moments when I am not sure of the path to follow, and I know it will help you.

RJM is always in need of fellow supporters, could you be an answer to this need? Search 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1-10 and your heart.

-RJM Board Member: Hal Sweet

## Vacation Plans?? Please tell Us !!

If you are planning a vacation or will be out of town during the summer, please let Shannon at RJM know, so we will not schedule you for ministry. **Remember we count on you to let us know your absences.** The RJM and BCDC Detention Staff appreciate your consideration in this matter.



## RJM Calendar

**July 11:** Life Skills Session 4 begins

**July 21:** Board Meeting at 5:30pm

**July 28:** Volunteer Orientation at 5:30pm

**August 19:** Life Skills Session 4 ends

## RJM Board Items and Actions—June Board Meeting

- Chaplain's Report:** The Chaplain reported the following activity in May and June: 206 Bible deliveries, 182 non-delivery contacts, 4 baptisms, 32 inmates in discipleship and 7 new inmates in discipleship. There was a total of 431 total contacts.
- Board Position:** A Vice Chair is currently needed for the RJMBV Board. The responsibilities for the position of Vice Chair was discussed.
- Member Retirement:** Two Board members announced their retirement from the Board. Kelly Nall is going to seminary and Hal Sweet is retiring after serving the Lord in RJM since 2007.
- Volunteer Appreciation:** Jennifer Nebalek volunteered to coordinate a volunteer appreciation social that will be held in August.
- Curriculum:** The Life Skill's Career and Job Goals curriculum is being rewritten.

# Inmate Evaluations of Life Skills Classes Session III

## Celebrate Recovery-Session 3 (Susan Williams)

God bless you. I got a lot out of this class. I could tell my true feelings and it helped to talk about it. I've learned to forgive and forget. I let out some of the feelings that I had bottled up inside of me. Thank you so much.

## Communication Skills/Anger Management-Session 3 (Gary Youngblood)

Mr. Youngblood was a great instructor. I have found the material very useful and have actually shared what I've learned with my wife and loved ones during visitation!! Thank you Mr. Youngblood and I pray that we may cross paths again in the free world. I have a plan to get into ministry and God willing, we can meet in a better place other than jail.

## Parenting-Session 3 (Eddie McCoy and Arlinda McCoy)

I like this class and the information provided. It helped me as a new parent to understand the proper way to connect, not with just my partner/wife, but to connect with my child and to build a strong bond with my child once he's born. Plus, it'll help me teach my wife what I've learned in this class, that way, we both will be good, understanding and responsible parents. We're both scared as new parents but with this information it'll help us a lot.

## Communication Skills/Anger Management-Session 3 (Gary Youngblood)

I want to thank Mr. Gary Youngblood for being a very helpful instructor. Thank God for allowing us to have the availability to attend these type of classes. They are very helpful to me. I have learned to be able to control my temper when things go wrong or not done as I would like things to go. I understand things will not always be that way. Patience is also another thing I have learned to have. Thanks again for your help. May God bless ya'll.

## Personal Finance-Session 3 (Mike Cochran and Glenn Dowling)

I want to thank both instructors for 6 weeks of encouraging us with God's word, as well as providing feasible information about personal finances.

## Communication Skills/ Anger Management- Session 3 (Linda Bow)

Great class. It helped me a lot, especially the 4-7-8 breathing technique and the teacher was great. I wish there was more studies on anger management.

## Healed Hearts-Session 3 (Patricia Arnold)

Ms. Patricia is so awesome! I've taken this class before a couple of years ago. It didn't mean much then, but this "go round" I was ready. I'm very thankful for this particular class!

## Personal Finance-Session 3 (Mike Cochran and Glenn Dowling)

The class was a great class and the instructors took their time to explain everything. They were very resourceful and informative.

## Thank you Volunteers!

Our volunteers and Chaplain are the hands and feet of God in BCDC, bringing light to darkness. We give thanks to God for each of you and praise to God for your service to the "least of these".

Thank you, Volunteers.

## Volunteers Needed:

Volunteers are currently needed for the women's job and career life skills class and for the men's celebrate recovery class. These openings are for Session 5, beginning in September. Please contact the RJM office at 361-4852 if you are interested.

### Chaplaincy Ministry

### May/June 2016

Baptisms	4
Inmates in/completing discipleship program	32
New inmates in discipleship program	7
Bibles delivered	206
Non delivery contacts	182

### Sustaining Member Churches — Thank you.

RJM wishes to thank the following area churches who faithfully support RJM each month. Without you, this ministry would not exist. May God bless you.

- First Baptist Church Bryan
- Westminster Presbyterian Church Bryan
- 1st United Methodist Church College Station
- A and M Church of Christ College Station
- Central Baptist Church Bryan

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13

### RJM Board Members and Staff

Doug Ralston, Chair	Carolyn Carroll, Secretary	Jim Jackson, Treasurer
Linda Bow, Board Member	Kelly Nall, Board Member	Hal Sweet, Board Member
Jennifer Nedbalek, Board Member	Chaplain Obed Matus, Ex-Officio	
Shannon Coyle, Administrative Coordinator, Ex-Officio		