



THE MESSENGER

Restorative Justice Ministries

March 2016

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

www.rjmbv.org

RJM Office 361-4852

Chaplain Office 361-4831

Reverend O. C. Hall honored



Left to Right - Lt. Walker, Rev. O.C. Hall, Rev. G.H. Jones, and Sgt. Preston.

The Reverend O. C. LeRoy Hall was honored by the Brazos County Sheriff's Office with a plaque for his 16 years of ministry service to inmates in the Brazos County Detention Center. The presentation was made January 21, 2016 at the RJM Board Meeting at BCDC.

Lt. Walker and Sgt. Preston presented the plaque of appreciation. Lt Walker cited Reverend Hall's love of the Lord, his leading Worship Services, Bible teaching and special music ministry that has been his hallmark. Rev. Hall has a Christmas tradition of playing Christmas music on his saxophone in his own inimitable style in the BCDC inmate dorms. When Rev. Hall plays, the inmates tap their toes and shout for more.

Rev. Jones was on hand to share in the special presentation. Rev. Jones is man who led Hall to the Lord.

Rev. Hall shared that he has joined Copeland ministries and will be traveling to Africa and South America in the coming year as part of an evangelizing team.

We thank Rev. Hall for his service to the Lord, to the inmates at BCDC and ask God's blessing on his continuing ministry to share the Good News. May God watch over you in your travels Rev. Hall.

—RJM

In This Issue

- Pastor Obed named chaplain
- RJM Accomplishments for 2015
- Veteran's Issues
- Life Skill student inmate comments.
- Master Volunteer List Update

Looking for some RJM Fellowship?

It has been suggested by several volunteers that RJM return to having an annual Volunteer lunch or appreciation dinner.

Suggestions have been made for an spring fellowship or one in the fall.

What do you say? If you like the idea, call the RJM office at 361-4852 and let Shannon your thoughts.



Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1st Thes 5:17

Master Volunteer list update.

RJM's master list of volunteers is being updated by volunteer Carrie Green.

Carrie is calling all volunteers to verify address, phone number, email and date of teaching or worship services.

With over 70 volunteers, it is vital that RJM have the most current information to ensure good communication.

When Carrie calls for your info, say hello and thank her for her support of RJM.

RJM

Chaplain Obed Named BCDC Chaplain.

Pastor Obed Matus was named permanent part time Chaplain for BCDC by the Board at the January Board Meeting. Pastor Matus had been in the position of Interim Chaplain since March 2015.

Chaplain Obed has done a wonderful job as Chaplain, increasing contacts with inmates, organizing and streamlining the Chaplaincy duties in BCDC. He has initiated a discipleship program for inmates seeking to make a commitment to the Lord, and been instrumental in bringing new technology to streamline many of the chaplaincy duties.

Under Chaplain Obed's guidance, Bible Studies and other Spiritual materials are being distributed to the inmates upon request.

Pastor Obed's telephone number at RJM is 361-4831. He is in BCDC, on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday.

Congratulations, Chaplain Obed. May God continue to bless your work in BCDC.

RJM

Inmate Evaluations of Life Skills Classes Session 1

-Inmate Life Skill Evaluation I liked this class (**Men's Parenting**) because it showed me how my parenting and my relationship with God are related.

It was helpful to put our budget down on paper, and see what we needed to get through the whole month, what was going where.

Learning how to reestablish credit and avoid the "Debt Snowball" were very helpful. (**Women's Personal Finance**)

Since being in this class (**Men's Comm/Anger Mgt**) my relationships with my loved ones has improved and I understand now that I can control what makes me angry.

This class (**Men's Personal Finance**) has helped me think about my future finances and putting God first. I will put God first and work to get myself out of debt and save some money so I can have a better life. Thank you for sending the two instructors to help me better my life. Thank you, Jesus.

Identifying core emotional issues and identifying pride were very helpful. Scripture reading were very helpful and I learned to go to the Lord for help. (**Healed Hearts Class**)

This class (**Women's Celebrate Recovery**) helped me to stop and rethink my life and turn it over to Jesus Christ. Thank you.

Thank you for being there and listening, not many people will do these classes (**Relationship Awareness**) to help people.

Instructors were great and gave good information.

This class (**Men's Celebrate Recovery**) has helped me in my faith and get into the Word more. It has helped me cope better with some of my problems.

RJM State of the Ministry Calendar Year 2015

An Annual Report to the BCSO and public on the activities, accomplishments and future directions of Restorative Justice Ministries, a 501c(3), a not for profit organization.



Accomplishments

Chaplaincy. RJM oversaw a change in Chaplains and the establishment of a stable interim chaplaincy with *higher service levels*. The interim Chaplain has increased inmate contacts, refined Chaplaincy procedures, initiated a discipleship program leading to over 63 baptisms.

Website. A new RJM website was developed that allows the ministry to be featured on the Internet and explains our ministry, provides resources to volunteers and inmate families. This new site also accepts online donations. The site address is www.rjmbv.org.

Newsletter. Implementation and distribution of new bi-monthly Volunteer Newsletter to over 70 volunteers, sustaining churches, and community organizations.

Bible Study and Worship Scheduling. In cooperation with the SO, RJM developed an improved scheduling and assignment worship services and conducted monthly by 70 volunteers, within BCDC.

Areas of Concern

Stable Funding. RJM has a very modest budget of about \$23K annually and depends on donations to offset expenses. These donations have been falling off. RJM seeks to increase the number of supporting churches and to increase stable funding through various sources.

Volunteers. RJM has periodic recruitment shortfalls for certain Life Skills Positions. Those who do volunteer often hear it word of mouth. It is hoped that the combination of our website and our active outreach to area churches more people will come to volunteer

Future Directions

Increase RJM visibility within the region. RJM seeks to raise awareness of our ministry within the Brazos Valley Region.

Initiate "event" ministry. In cooperation with BCDC management, introduce one time praise and evangelism events inside the walls.

Develop new ministry programs to meet SO/inmate needs. Adapt current Life Skills curriculum to those needs or *develop new programs*, such as 1:1 mentoring and inmate reentry training programs

Veteran Resources and Help

The BCSO is actively monitoring known veterans among the incarcerated inmates.

Working with the federal government, state and local government, BCSO is ensuring that incarcerated veterans are made aware of the resources and assistance to which they are entitled.

There is a veteran organization with local connections that can help our veterans. It is the Military Veteran Peer Network.

The Military Veteran Peer Network's mission is to establish camaraderie and trust among veterans, identify and vet community resources and collectively, contribute to the communities where we live.

If you know veteran outside the walls that needs help you can get more information by calling the number below and ask to speak to Patrick Baca.

MHMR Authority of Brazos Valley - Patrick Baca, (979) 417-8215.

" For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord. Plans to prosper you, not to harm, you but to give you a hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

RJM Volunteer Hours and Chaplaincy Ministry within BCDC for 2015

Our volunteers and Chaplain are the hands and feet of God in BCDC, bringing light to darkness. While we understand that it is not our works that lead to eternal life, the numbers below show the amount of effort that God is directing to this mission field. We give thanks to God for each of you and praise to God for your service to the “least of these”. *Thank you, Volunteers.*

Volunteer Services, Classes and Hours

Worship Services Led
Bible Study Sessions led
Life Skills Class Session Taught

2015 Totals

Number of Sessions

108
131
24 - 6 week sessions

Chaplaincy Ministry

Baptisms
Inmates in/completing discipleship program
Bibles delivered
Inmate Contacts

2015 Totals

63
283
2333
3934

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
- First United Methodist Church College Station
- A and M Church of Christ College Station
- Central Baptist Church Bryan

RJM Board Members

Doug Ralston, Chair	Carolyn Carroll, Secretary
Jim Jackson, Treasurer	Linda Bow, Board Member
Kelly Nall, Board Member	Hal Sweet, Board Member
Chaplain Obed Matus, ex officio	Shannon Coyle, Admin Coord. ex officio

Following God's lead in 2016 ...

Volunteers, Friends and Churches.

In this new year of 2016 we ask for God's grace and direction for this vital ministry.

God does have plans for us individually and as a ministry. Jeremiah 29:11-13.

We should strive each week to do those things which bring God praise, honor and glorify His name in this ministry and in our personal lives.

We also should be praying daily for the inmates, the volunteers, the Board, and for God's direction in and through us as we seek to be light in a dark place.

2015 was great year for the Lord in this ministry, let us be about His business in this new year. May He continue to direct this ministry — RJM

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. John 1:1-2