

[SAVE TEXAS PRISON CHAPLAINCY](#)

Cumulative Up-Date #1 – January 30, 2011

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#1 - 1-22-11 – Duncan Parish Initiative to Sen. Nichols, Reps. White and Gallego

From Rev. Duncan Parish shared the following:

Michael: I have written to Senator Nichols, and Reps White and Gallego (Dist 74, Alpine) the following:

I understand the legislature will be considering doing away with prison chaplaincy. Please don't. (1) Religious and chapel programs quite probably help reduce the recidivism rate for parolees and dischargees vs. the general population of inmates who do not participate in chapel programs. (2) The chaplain's work would have to be done by a staffer anyway, quite likely resulting in no real saving. (3) Inmates who regularly participate in chapel programs also participate in other programs which help rehabilitate them and prepare them for a more successful life in the free world.

In addition, Chaplain Michael Maness of the Gib Lewis Unit in Woodville has for years advocated a Warden's Parole Option, by which Senior Wardens and their staffs could directly parole from their units a percentage of inmates. According to Rev Dr Maness, this could result in a savings of \$100 million for the prison system. (I would imagine some of this money would have to be used for an increased need for parole officers).

You can find his proposal at www.preciousheart.net/Save_Chaplaincy.htm, and the Parole Option is at the top of the page. Perhaps you and your State Senator could co-sponsor legislation to help this idea into fruition.

Thank you for your consideration, and
May God continue to richly bless you and yours eternally,
Rev Duncan Parish
Prison Chaplain Volunteer
Gib Lewis Unit, Woodville

#2 - 1-22-11 – Additions to Local Network, “It Is Just Paper” – Web Page

Welcome to several more to ... Save Chaplaincy ...

I have taken the liberty to add Rev. Jack Lewellen, Rev. Melvin Bell, David Rust, and Deacon Jim Banks, who I know will be a part as time unfolds.

Yes, as one friend put, it *is* just paper, and it might not eventuate into anything. I hope so. I am vested, and as far as I can, will not take a pay cut of take-home pay if I retire. Yet, the squeegee has not cleaned the glass, I do not take chances with my rice bowl, and this is much larger than all of us. It is truly about the value of religion.

At the web site, I have created a table for supporters.

www.preciousheart.net/Save_Chaplaincy.htm

< POINTS OF FOCUS >

Web site - www.preciousheart.net/Save_Chaplaincy.htm

Cost Saving of Chaplaincy - www.preciousheart.net/chaplaincy/Chap_Cost_Savings.htm -

Facebook - www.FACEBOOK.com/pages/Save-Texas-Chaplaincy/177142625658379?v=info

Chaplaincy Contribution - www.preciousheart.net/Texas_Prison_Chaplains.pdf

Save TDCJ Millions - www.preciousheart.net/Warden_Parole.pdf

FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR - www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/ -

#3 - 1-25-11 – Web Site, Action Plan, Universities, Urgency, Possible Media Connection, Newspapers, Muslims too, Religion Greatest Source for Change

Friends, I have the web site ... [SAVE TEXAS PRISON CHAPLAINCY](#) and included a couple of photos.

Our network on this distribution is up to 75, and there are several others in progress. Big thanks to Emmett Solomon for writing the Action Plan which you will see below. I have sent notices to Governor Perry. Contacted by phone president's office at SWBTS, Baylor, and SMU, and sent them a pleading with a rendition of the following. At the urgency of a friend, I have initiated contact with both past President Bushes, and posted notes on their Facebook pages for help.

I ask you for prayer for a Mason friend who is a lead attorney in San Antonio, and since he is not overly religious and because I do not know how he might feel about his name being tossed up for prayer – I simply ask you to keep in prayer. He and his firm represented the largest media lawsuit in US history and won! I have initiated contact with him about getting on the radio statewide.

Also ... I have told the men at the prison what they can do, since it is fact. I have NOT, and will NOT, and you chaplains should NOT “Ask” or “Encourage” them to write home. That will come back to haunt you. But letting them know that ... the best thing they can do is their family writing the State Rep and Senator in their district.

Also, Volunteer Jeremy Landrum is getting the 25-50 lead Newspapers and their links ... coming soon.

FUNNNNY story. I have a Church of Christ minister as a Volunteer Chaplain, Dr. Keith Bellamy. Well, my Regional TDCJ Muslim Chaplain Akbar Shabazz called and gave me the referral to a led C of C minister in Huntsville, a good friend of his for 30 years. And he is on board too ... No, that is funny no matter who you are. And THAT is what we have to do. This is about the value of religion itself.

What we have to do, rhetorically speaking and kindly enacted, is start a firestorm comparable to the Tokyo Fire Bombing in WWII (have just finished a tape series on WWII).

Right now, we have just begun, and have a few camp fires, but some of the crackle is reverberating through the night!

RELIGION is the greatest source of change in human history ... period. Think about clicking the Facebook page, and spending some time passing that and the Save Chaplaincy page around the internet ... Here is the up-date of the top part... more to come. Mike

[Insert of Top of Web Page for Info Summary and Links – [click to see latest version below](#)]



#4 - 1-26-11 – Rep. James White Helping!

Friends, I had a great chat with my Representative James White, who assured me he was waiting to see who would be named chairman of the House Corrections Committee, who he would approach directly about Chaplaincy Funding. More to come.

STRATEGY QUESTION: As I prepare the next update in the next couple of days, I need someone willing to search out, pull together, a list of the 30-40 top Christian Universities in Texas, by Name, City, Web Site, and Internet Contact LINK to President's Office with Phone Number. Is there ANYONE willing to do that? I would like to post those and look to contacting them. I have *already* made contact with Baylor, SMU, and SWBTS – no results yet.

#5 - 1-27-11 – Links, Reluctant Rep, Old Friend Carol Vance, Clint Moore, Bellamy – KEY Is as Many Constituents Connecting as Possible

Friends, I have been apprised that the e-mails on the [SAVE TEXAS PRISON CHAPLAINCY](#) site do not work. Anyone willing to find the right ones, please forward. If not, I'll try and work on them tomorrow.

Heard through the grapevine from one chaplain in contact with Rep - who did not want name posted - Rep. said they needed to cut \$26k PER classroom in school without raising taxes and that anything not essential was looking to be cut. Be a hard sell ...

Carol Vance, our old friend and former prosecutor of Harris Count and ex-TBCJ chairman is drafting a letter and willing to go to Austin to testify. Keep that fine man in prayer.

Our own Clint Moore from Chaplaincy HQ did some lobbying work in Ohio, is offering his expertise, and is on board networking with churches in his area, and has a key volunteer itching to get going – more to come.

One of my Volunteer Chaplains Dr. Keith Bellamy is tapping into his vast New Life Behavior Network people, and Buck Griffith the author of that fine series – more to come.

The KEY is as many Constituents Connecting to as Many Reps. and Senators ... then hammering the four crucial committee members as soon as we know who they are: finance members in House and Senate, corrections members in House and Senate. As many times as is KINDLY possible ...

Thanks again to all.

#6 - 1-27-11 – Chaplain Casey Celum, Leonard Johnson and FACEBOOK Olstein Sister

Friends, TDCJ Chaplain Casey Celum shared that he shared on FB, then a lead volunteer of his shared with Faith Family Church which is pastored by Tamara Ostein, Joel Osteins sister! That volunteer got responses from all over the world! Including Congressmen and a man who plays golf with the Governor.

If you have not seen the series Facebook Obsession, I suggest EVERY one watch it. I mentioned early sharing on the site of Laura Bush and a couple of others. Permission granted by Celum to share – here's the e-mail and placing Johnson on network too ...

From: Leonard Johnson <leonardj1948@live.com> - **Date:** January 27, 2011 10:08:06 AM CST
To: "Chaplin Casey Celum" <drcaseycelum@yahoo.com> - **Subject:** Celebrate Recovery!



Went in Last Night (without Breif Case) had a great service, everyone wanted to know about Rick and Karen, I told them if God wanted him to be there that he would still be there, That God has

other plans for him and this is probably the only way he would stop coming in. They wanted to know why he wasn't allowed to come back, I told them that the circumstances may could have been overcome but the fact that he changed his story, he said one thing then wrote another was what could not be overlooked. They all seemed to accept that.

Chaplaincy! I posted the Prayer Request to all members on fb I have responses from all over the world. Some of them personal know the senators, Congressmen, One plays Golf with Rick Perry, They are making calls writing letters, some are talking about starting petitions. I was amazed at the amount and quality of the responses!

Have a Great Day!

Don't know why I have not thought of it before ... but the most connected people are on Facebook ... let's get people to comment there too ... I think, am sure Gov. Perry has a Facebook page too ... and if not now, I am sure the Speaker does or will have soon, too ... let's get'm! Over the weekend, expect to see links to their Facebooks on the web site.

#7 - 1-27-11 – FACEBOOK and Governor Perry

Friends, I promise not to give more than a two a day, maybe only one every few days. But after the note from Casey, and seeing the Facebook Obsession on tv last month (on again this week), you know? Facebook could really save Chaplaincy.

Here is Governor Perry page www.facebook.com/GovernorPerry which surprisingly has only 57,000+ members so far, must be new for someone so famous. Famous enough to NOT allow all Wall Posts to show, just his responses, and apparently HE himself is responding so far. Many as famous have other responding, like perhaps Laura Bush where each response she posts gets thousands of "likes" and so forth. You know, I might get called to see him if our friends shut his sight down, and that would be work time as I am his employee ... yippee ... just a joke there.

FACEBOOK ... I'll bet the more progressive Reps and Senators have one. My Rep does and responds ... cheers.

See the Save Texas Chaplaincy page too on Facebook ... just a wee little fellow now ...

#8 - 1-28-11 – Muslim Shabazz, If Funding Partial, We Lose SOME Chaplains

All Friends – Akbar Shabazz mentioned that he heard that funding for "treatment" was in SB 1, but no confirmation yet on Chaplaincy. Hope to know soon. Also, I tweaked the web site, added others, still others to add today. Some have asked again about "data" sheet on "what" chaplains do. Here is the link below, also on web site. Removed point under TEARS about psych or security supervising, seemed too negative, though we ALL know some security like to help there, and HAVE to help from time to time, only we have also heard and SEEN – all of us – how some security handle such calls. My heart pleads there ... you would not believe it if I told you ...

Akbar Shabazz is my regional Muslim Chaplain with 35 years experience and is networking too and clued in more than most – thanks, Akbar, for the chat and all you do. Always good to chat with you my friend.

I don't know how ... hope we can get full funding ... seems to me the KEY is as many Constituents *connecting* with as many Reps and Senators as often as possible over the next 3-4 months ... next, as many Constituents *connecting* with the four committees, the finance



committees in the House and Senate and the corrections committees in the House and Senate ... any ideas on how to network the mosques in Texas. Here is the link to the contribution sheet ...

[Texas Prison Chaplains.pdf](#)

Here is an email clipping of web site ... several are sharing and encouraging others to share ... any suggestions on it too ... don't know what else to do ...

Calling all Texans, Volunteers, Inmate Families –

Here is the web site and Action Plan - http://www.preciousheart.net/Save_Chaplaincy.htm - any help you can give in *connecting* to a Texas Representative and Senator, the better ... think about YOUR son in prison, and who he would have to come to in the time of death. Also think about religion, all religion, including yours. The Religion is the GREATEST source for change in Human History ... All of our faiths give evidence of that in a profound way ... *Connect* ... Thanks.

[Insert of Top of Web Page for Info Summary and Links – [click to see latest version below](#)]

Top of Web Page – Latest Version

SAVE TEXAS PRISON CHAPLAINCY

It is threatened: [LBB Recommendations 2012.pdf](#) for the Ominous News

Original site: www.TDCJ.state.tx.us/announcements/lbb_Recommendations.pdf



**Message to Texas Representatives, Texas Senators,
and The Honorable Governor Perry**

[Visit Governor Perry on his Facebook Page Too](#)

**“Don’t you let them cut out
Texas Prison Chaplaincy on YOUR watch”**

**As many as possible, As often as possible,
Until we are ASSURED Texas Prison Chaplaincy is retained
Religion is THE most powerful source of change in Human History**

FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR > www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us

**Calling ALL who have been helped - of ALL RELIGIONS.
Staff, Inmates, Volunteers, Ex-Offenders, Families of All.
Chaplains have been there in times of
Death, Dying, Near Death, Critical Illness, Accident, Rape, Fire
We Care for the Soul, the Precious Heart, irrespective of Religion or Race.
Regarding Prison - Religion is the Greatest Source of Change in
Human History - the Chaplaincy Department is the ONLY Expert there!**

ACTION PLAN

Courtesy of [Emmett Solomon and Restorative Justice Network](#) - *get on his list too!*

CONTACT - CONTACT by Personal Visit, Phone, Letter, Fax or Email your State Rep & State Senator - preferably once a week.

1. Address your **State Representative** - The Honorable (Name), Texas House, P O Box 2910, Austin TX 78768-2910
2. Address your **State Senator** - The Honorable (Name), Texas Senate, P O Box 12068, Austin TX 78711

Also please contact your Statewide Officials:

1. **The Honorable Rick Perry**, [Governor's Office](#), P O Box 12428, Austin TX 78711 - no email, [Website Contact](#)
[Visit Governor Perry on his Facebook Page Too!](#)
2. **The Honorable David Dewhurst**, [Lt. Governor's Office](#), P O Box 12068, Austin TX 78711 - 512.463.0001, fax 512.936.6700
campaign@teamdewhurst.com
3. **The Honorable Joe Straus**, [Speaker of the House](#), P O Box 2910, Austin TX 78768 - phone 512.463.1000, fax 512.463.1064
joe.straus@house.state.tx.us
4. **Esperanza "Hope" Andrade**, Secretary of State - secretary@sos.state.tx.us
5. **Susan Combs**, State Comptroller - comptroller.help@cpa.state.tx.us - phone

The Ugly Reality Facing Texas:

1. The primary budget cutters do not value what Chaplains do. They have cut the entire department. These trained professionals manage the religious programs at each Texas Prison.

It is threatened: [LBB Recommendations 2012.pdf](#) for the Ominous News

Original site: www.TDCJ.state.tx.us/announcements/lbb_Recommendations.pdf

2. If they are cut, the program will *have* to be managed by a correctional officer or a secretary. These new *managers* will be pulled from their other duties -- little savings, HUH! -- no savings at all -- will actually cost more.
3. Chaplains also provide "Pastoral Care" for everyone in the institution. It is difficult to find a community of 500 people in America which does not have pastoral care. Such care will be very hit-and-miss without the Chaplaincy Department if it occurs at all.
4. To recover his ENTIRE salary, all a Chaplain has to do to is influence one prisoner a year to give up his criminal activity. The state will pay more on the person's next incarceration than is paid to the chaplain in a year! See the statistical tables below.
5. The very effective Religious Programming which we now have in Texas prisons, does not happen automatically. Religious Volunteers must be recruited and managed. That is the task of our chaplains. Without them, the programming will become very uneven, if it is able to exist at all.

FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR > www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us - [Visit Governor Perry on his Facebook Page Too](#)

Time - We Don't Have Much Time - Months! - CRITICAL

HB 1 has Chaplaincy listed as “zero funded” ... which means if it is NOT “funded” in House Bill 1 (the Appropriation Bill), and if not “funded in Senate Bill 1(the Finance Bill), here's the FACT: in a couple of months after the House and Senate go through THEIR version, the Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee - each one - will appoint about 3-4 from each body. That body will form the Conference Committee which works out the differences between HB 1 and SB 1. **It could be TOO LATE** - if chaplaincy is NOT “funded” **before** the conference committee. The **KEY** is encouraging people (constituents) to get with their Rep and Senator and express how important it is to you and how it is good for Texas to continue the Chaplaincy Department with at least one chaplain at each prison. As often as possible, as kindly as possible, as persistently as possible --

Say to them: “Don’t Let Chaplaincy fail to get Funded on your watch” – “If we lose it here, we may NEVER get it back.”

Worst of all – Prisoners’ Family **STILL die**, get cancer - who are they going to see?

FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR > www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us - [Visit Governor Perry on his Facebook Page Too](#)



Emptied from the **TEARS** of inmates

^ CLICK TISSUE BOX to See Higher Resolution ^

It is **GOOD** that prisoners have a safe place to shed **TEARS** over the death of family.

Imagine - who will care for the death notifications?

In many ways Chaplains want **NO** program cut.

But for us, it is about the **TEARS** and how care is given in the most vulnerable times - for all.

People will continue to **DIE!**

FACT - Most Notifications are by **STAFF** Chaplains as only a **FEW** of the several hundred Vol. Chaplains can be there every day - death is respects no schedules

[Chaplain Michael Maness](#), "I empty a box of tissue **EVERY** month from the tears of prisoners, for 18 years now."