

## [SAVE TEXAS PRISON CHAPLAINCY](#)

### Cumulative Up-Date #1 – January 30, 2011

See below [#9](#) - [#10](#) - [#11](#) - [#12](#) - [#13](#) - [#14](#)

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#### **#9 – Revised Save Chaplaincy Handout – List of Key Committees**

Friends – the KEY is *connecting* with *our* Texas Representatives and Senators ...

Note the [REVISED SAVE PRISON CHAPLAINCY](#) ...

- First, let me say thank you for all you have done. Obviously, the KEY is for as many Constituents to *connect* to their Texas Representatives and Senators as possible. Below are a few more resources, and – from one of my own posts – again the reason for *Constituents* to connect. The Senate has posted the Finance and Corrections committee members, and I have put together a list with links and by city of office in district, with links to the senator's page at the legislature's domain. It is posted also at the [REVISED SAVE PRISON CHAPLAINCY](#) web site. I have tweaked it further, to remove some fluff and remove some negative stuff. We have to positive. I would also like to point there the performance measures, a not readily known element, and how the stats on chaplaincy have never been taken into consideration regarding Texas own standards! A moot point now, but not so moot for serious considerations – and I will debate them with anyone – also moot ☺ at this point.
- BGCT Christian Life Commission (CLC) Director Suzii Paynter is hot after the trail too, is super experienced in Austin politics, and a great asset. Chaplain Bobby Smith is the Director of the Chaplaincy Department for the BGCT (under Paynter's CLC) and he is mobilizing some hospital chaplains to lobby for us in Austin in a couple of weeks – more on that later. Paynter is a personal friend of mine who has helped us in years past and she affirms the KEY of Constituents *Connecting* to the Texas Reps and Senators. And now we know the Senate committees.
- Eastham Senior Chaplain Dr. Vance Drum is on the go, as always and said this:

Thank you Mike. I returned today from the American Correctional Association winter conference in San Antonio where I sat at the head table today for the ACA Luncheon (leading the Invocation and Benediction), next to TDCJ Board member Terrell McCombs. I spoke with him, and also with TDCJ Deputy Executive Director Brian Collier (also at the table) about our concerns. They are not legislators, and could not make promises ...
- Vol. Chaplain Virginia Haynes sent a succinct e-mail to the Baptist Press, and I have initiated contact with the Baptist Standard.
- In addition to other entities, I have contacted the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) Executive Director Daniel Vestal who took an immediate interest (he was in Texas at the time too). We can look forward to help from the CBF with extensive ties in Texas.
- Thanks to Volunteer Jeremy Landrum for pulling together the major Newspapers in Texas, [See Texas Newspapers](#), and we really need some people to start contacting them.

This is news worthy. And I plan to follow-up on my contacts with Baylor, SMU, and others next week. Vance Drum will shortly make a trip to TCU too and try to draw them.

- I know some *personal* friends in a couple of Texas cities, particularly Lubbock, Dallas, Greenville, and San Angelo – districts of several Finance Committee members.
- Murray Batt has engaged John Harrington who is the current Chair of the United Methodist Texas Conference Restorative Justice team, and their network is going to work too.

We have to network ... and we ONLY have a few months.

Do see [REVISED SAVE PRISON CHAPLAINCY](#) and the [FACEBOOK page](#) – we can really make an impact if we can stir a crowd to connect to celebrities like

[Governor Perry's Facebook page](#)

we cannot overestimate that medium today. These are too easy to access and we need someone willing to try to FIND government-connected celebrities to connect to on Facebook – any takers there?

Also, attached is a copy of **Get a copy of [Texas Committees](#)** - That will be revised when I have the House committees and that you can send to others.

The KEY – is, well, trying to get our friends to speak their mind, before it is too late.

Here is the list to date ...

[> Find YOUR Legislator < click](#)

- Senate Committee on Finance, cities of Dist. Offices**
- [Chair Sen. Steve Ogden](#) - Dist. 5 - Bryan
  - [V-Chair Sen. Juan Hinojosa](#) - Dist. 20 - McAllen & Corpus Christi
  - [Sen. Bob Deuell](#) - Dist. 2 - Greenville & Mesquite
  - [Sen. Robert Duncan](#) - Dist. 28 - Lubbock, San Angelo, Childress
  - [Sen. Kevin Eltife](#) - Dist. 1 - Longview, Tyler, Texarkana
  - [Sen. Craig Estes](#) - Dist. 30 - Denton, Sherman, Wichita Falls
  - [Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr.](#) - Dist. 27 - Brownsville, Weslaco
  - [Sen. Jane Nelson](#) - Dist. 12 - Grapevine
  - [Sen. Dan Patrick](#) - Dist. 7 - Houston
  - [Sen. Kel Seliger](#) - Dist. 31 - Amarillo, Big Spring, Odessa, Midland
  - [Sen. Florence Shapiro](#) - Dist. 8 - Plano
  - [Sen. Royce West](#) - Dist. 23 - Dallas
  - [Sen. John Whitmire](#) - Dist. 15 - Houston
  - [Sen. Tommy Williams](#) - Dist. 4 - Beaumont & The Woodlands
  - [Sen. Judith Zaffirini](#) - Dist. 21 - Laredo & San

[> Find YOUR Legislator < click](#)

- Senate Com. Finance BY cities of District Offices**
- Amarillo, Big Spring, Odessa, Midland - [Sen. Kel Seliger](#) - 31
  - Austin - [Chair Sen. Steve Ogden](#) - 5 - no district office listed
  - Beaumont & The Woodlands - [Sen. Tommy Williams](#) - 4 -
  - Big Spring, Amarillo, Odessa, Midland - [Sen. Kel Seliger](#) - 31 -
  - Brownsville & Weslaco - [Sen. Eddie Lucio](#) - 27 -
  - Childress, Lubbock, San Angelo - [Sen. Robert Duncan](#) - 28 -
  - Corpus Christi & McAllen [V-Chair Sen. Juan Hinojosa](#) - 20 -
  - Dallas - [Sen. Royce West](#) - 23 -
  - Denton, Sherman, Wichita Falls - [Sen. Craig Estes](#) - 30 -
  - Grapevine - [Sen. Jane Nelson](#) - 12 -
  - Greenville & Mesquite - [Sen. Bob Deuell](#) - 2 -
  - Houston - [Sen. Dan Patrick](#) - 7 -
  - Houston - [Sen. John Whitmire](#) - 15 -
  - Laredo & San Anto - [Sen. Judith Zaffirini](#) 21
  - Longview, Tyler, Texarkana - [Sen. Kevin Eltife](#) - 1 -
  - Lubbock, San Angelo, Childress - [Sen. Robert Duncan](#) - 28 -
  - McAllen & Corpus Christi [V-Chair Sen. Juan Hinojosa](#) - 20 -
  - Mesquite & Greenville - [Sen. Bob Deuell](#) - 2
  - Midland, Amarillo, Big Spring, Odessa - [Sen. Kel Seliger](#) - 31 -
  - Odessa, Amarillo, Big Spring, Midland - [Sen. Kel Seliger](#) - 31 -
  - Plano - [Sen. Florence Shapiro](#) - 8 -
  - San Angelo, Lubbock, Childress - [Sen. Robert Duncan](#) - 28 -

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**Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, cities of District Offices**

[Chair Sen. John Whitmire](#) - Dist. 15 - Houston

[V-Chair Sen. Joan Huffman](#) - Dist 17 - Lake Jackson & Houston

[Sen. John Carona](#) - Dist 16 - Dallas

[Sen. Rodney Ellis](#) - Dist. 13 - Houston & Missouri City

[Sen. Glenn Hegar](#) - Dist. 18 - Katy

[Sen. Juan Hinojosa](#) - Dist. 20 - McAllen & Corpus Christi

[Sen. Dan Patrick](#) - Dist. 7 - Houston

San Antonio & Laredo - [Sen. Judith Zaffirini](#) - 21 – Sherman, Denton, Wichita Falls - [Sen. Craig Estes](#) - 30 - Texarkana, Longview, Tyler - [Sen. Kevin Eltife](#) - 1 - Tyler, Longview, Texarkana - [Sen. Kevin Eltife](#) - 1 - Weslaco & Brownsville - [Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr.](#) - 27 - Wichita Falls, Denton, Sherman - [Sen. Craig Estes](#) - 30 - Woodlands, The, Beaumont - [Sen. Tommy Williams](#) - 4 -

**Senate Com. Criminal Justice BY District Offices**

Corpus Christi & McAllen - [Juan Hinojosa](#) - 20

Dallas - [John Carona](#) - 16

Houston - [Chair John Whitmire](#) - 15

Houston - [Dan Patrick](#) - 7

Houston & Lake Jackson - [V-Chair Joan Huffman](#) - 17

Houston & Miss. City - [Rodney Ellis](#) - 13

Katy - [Glenn Hegar](#) - 18 -

Lake Jackson & Houston - [V-Chair Joan Huffman](#) - Dist 17 -

McAllen & Cor. Christi - [Juan Hinojosa](#) - 20

Missouri City & Houston - [Rodney Ellis](#) - 13

ALSO – when I posted to the Senate Finance Chair’s site – as usual and not unexpected – I got an auto response. Know this, they have computer recognition software too, someone told me, and somehow they know what is sent in. Regardless, notice how specific he (his office) was on CONSTITUENT concerns:

Thank you for contacting this office. I appreciate input from constituents regarding legislation important to them and will give your comments every consideration. However, due to the substantial increase in correspondence I receive immediately before and during the legislative session, I cannot provide personal responses during this time.

If you are a resident of Texas Senate District 5 and in need of my staff’s assistance with a specific matter involving a governmental entity, please contact my office by regular mail or phone at:

Senator Steve Ogden  
Texas State Senate  
P. O. Box 12068  
Austin, TX 78711  
Tel: 512/463-0105  
Toll-free: 888/694-2609

We can do this, and should do this. It is important that Religion not become a lazy issue in prison, which it certainly will if we lose the Chaplaincy Program.

Sincerely, Mike

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**#10 – Suzii Paynter’s CLC, Dr. Keith Bellamy, and Murray Batt**

Thanks Murray – good news.

**Friends** – I am passing this along as another up-date in itself. Suzii Paynter, director of the BGCT Christian Life Commission and head of the lobbying wing of Texas Baptists, also head legislative up-dates, and her chaplaincy department is heading something on the 18th – perhaps she will connect with these people too.

One of my volunteer chaplains, Dr. Keith Bellamy, received a nice letter from Senator Nichols too. Be nice to know for certain about the hearing, kind of quick I think, but worth the trip there to testify. Seems like the Corrections Committee would have something to say on the CJ budget first ... but that I simply do not know. And notice that the a couple are on BOTH the Senate Finance and Senate Corrections committees. Carol Vance also said he would be willing to testify ... former TBCJ chairman and former prosecutor for Harris County.

Cheers to all ... we need all these and more ... we need to save the entire Chaplaincy, as it has been bare bones for the longest anyway.

Sincerely and good night, [Michael G. Maness](#)



**From:** Murray Batt [\[mailto:murray@crjma.org\]](mailto:murray@crjma.org) - **Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 11:56 PM  
**To:** Michael G. Maness - **Subject:** Re: Save Chaplains - Up Date #9

Mike,  
Keep up the good work. Here is my update:

I was in Austin Tuesday for CASA Day at the Capitol along with some 400 other CASA volunteers and staff from across Texas to advocate for CASA's budget. I also had the opportunity to present the Chaplaincy Budget Issue at the offices of 3 House Representatives and 3 Senators and file the attached at the Senate Finance Co hearing. The following were very supportive: House Rep. John Otto, Doug Clements - Legislative Aide for Senator Whitmire, Mark Hey - Legislative Aide for House Rep Jerry Madden (Likely new chair of the House Corrections Committee).

Sen. Tommy Williams (a personal friend from my church who sits on the Senate Finance Committee) seemed to indicate his support. See attached picture of him (behind his chair) with CASA volunteers and myself. The other Senator office contact was for Sen. Robert Nichols and the other House contact was for Rob Eissler.

All of the contacts were very receptive to the fact that the Chaplaincy like CASA is highly leveraged with volunteers and needed the guidance of clinically trained and accountable paid staff. In that regard, the impression I got from several legislators is that the cuts were certainly not done deals. Feb. 21 may be a key day for prayer as that is when the Senate Finance Co. has a hearing on the Criminal Justice budget.

Since Tuesday, I have had an exchange of emails with The Rev. T. Randall (Randy) Smith, President of Texas Impact, a lobbying arm for the churches of Texas. He was offering his office to set up a lobbying day at the Capitol to save the Chaplaincy. I directed him to John Harrington as the contact person for the United Methodist in East Texas. FYI here is his email address [trsandsws@prodigy.net](mailto:trsandsws@prodigy.net) and that of his Executive Director, Bee Moorhead [bee@texasimpact.org](mailto:bee@texasimpact.org) See that organization's web site at <http://texasimpact.org/> ...

For Jesus, Murray

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### **#11 – Former Harris County Prosecutor Carol Vance and Frank Graham Leadership**

Friends – two influential people are working steadily.

First, as mentioned previously, former Harris County Prosecutor and former TBCJ Chair Carol Vance is finalizing a letter that – well, he is how he said it:

**Mike, I am still gathering information to put my letter together. I want to put this in some final form and send it to the world,...i.e. all of those who are decision makers and all of those we might help get in the hunt to influence the decision makers. So if you would, would you start keeping a master list. I will copy Emmet and ask him to do the same thing. With those addresses and email addresses we can start sending out all of the stuff that anyone fighting for our cause has to say. Thanks, Carol Vance**

Please keep him in prayer, as he has the wherefore to accomplish this ... and he, like a precious few others, has a pivotal point in the history of Criminal Justice and a credible influence in many quarters.

See below another old friend and – not kidding too much – a kind of bull-dog of a fellow, the inimitable Frank Graham. We have only a precious few networking like him, and NO one in the crucial area of Dallas and environs ... Keep Frank in your prayer. He has also made powerful points on marketing that I shall dutifully follow through with on adjusting the web site further to FOCUS MORE ASTUTELY on cost savings: Here is one well-made point ...

**Mike – Your “Save Texas’ Prison Chaplains” needs some modification. Please consider the fact that Pastoral care & Religious programming issues do not financially justify continuation of chaplaincy. Legislators will provide funds to keep children in school, build highways or provide Medicaid to the poor before providing pastoral care for a criminal.**

**\$ saving issues like the follow will get \$’s for TDCJ Chaplaincy:**

- 1. Reduced litigation costs,**
- 2. Management of hundreds of thousands of volunteers hours,**
- 3. Reduced violence against officers,**
- 4. Reduced recidivism, etc.**
- 5. *Other \$ saving issues I have not thought of – ANYONE send them to me TODAY > [Michael G. Maness](#)***

**so that I can process a first-rate brochure ... and, as Larry the Cable famously says, "Get'r Done" -**

**We need a simple, talking points brochure, which financially justifies TDCJ chaplains, that people can print on the internet. Right now, I am more concerned about what a brochure would say. We can get it graphically designed and printed once we know what we want to say. Pictures would help. The brochure talking points would match the discussion on Trey's radio program (see previous email). We could also make a video with the same focused facts and the brochure, audio & video would explain how to use the brochure to talk about budget saving ideas with their legislator.**

**TDCJ Chaplains save Texas money!**

Yes – Frank ... is right ... and I will be developing brochure today and fine-tuning the web site further ...



Frank Graham also wrote the following :

**Mike,**

**#1.** I met with the Prestonwood Church prison committee Last Thursday night and we voted to invite Rep Jerry Madden to come to Prestonwood Church to speak to our people, and any others interested in prison ministry, about what is happening relative to Chaplaincy in TDCJ; and, how can we most effectively lobby for Chaplaincy funding. We had 75-100 people from Madden's district at our last meeting with him. Hopefully it will take place on the week-end.

**#2.** My son, Pastor Trey Graham, 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Melissa, has both a weekday ministry radio broadcast at 10:00 AM and weekend politically orientated radio broadcast on Sundays at 4:00 PM on the Word, 100.7 FM. The WORD is probably the #1 rated Christian radio station in the metroplex. <http://www.thewordfm.com/> Check out his personal web site <http://www.treygraham.com/>

Trey has offered to focus his Sunday, 4:00 PM radio program, to be broadcast Feb 20, on the issue of supporting the funding of the Chaplaincy in TDCJ. He will need to interview people by phone on the prior Tuesday to Thursday, Feb 15-17. Once the radio show is completed, we can use it as a audio link for people to include in emails and/or mail out CD's to churches and other potential supporters.

***Help needed*** –I want Trey to interview 3-5 people. (1) Please give me your suggestions of who Trey should interview and how to get in touch with them to schedule the interview over the telephone. (2) Suggestions of 3-5 specific questions for the radio show. (3) We could possibly create an expanded audio of the program for emails that includes additional people and provide detailed explanation of what to do to support chaplaincy.

**#3** Ask everybody to keep Rep Ken Madden (R-Plano) in their prayers to be appointed Chairman of the Corrections Committee. Rep Madden has been the Chairman or Vice Chairman of Corrections Committee the last several sessions. Rep Madden is a



great friend of prison ministries. Speaker Joe Straus won't make committee assignments until next week, according to a reliable source. See attached.

<http://trailblazersblog.dallasnews.com/archives/2011/02/house-committee-assignments-ne.html>

Thanks for the great work you are doing.

In His service, Frank Graham [Chapel of Hope Ministries](#), Inc. Office (972) 980-1009, Cell (214) 557-9663



Friends – the KEY is *connecting* with *our* Texas Representatives and Senators ...

We can do this, and should do this. It is important that Religion not become a lazy issue in prison, which it certainly will if we lose the Chaplaincy Program.

Sincerely, Mike

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### **#12 – Article by David Rust and Chaplain Loren Edwards**

Friends,

**Tyler County Booster** – this week, regular editorialist **David Rust** and 16-year veteran Volunteer Chaplain at the Gib Lewis Unit wrote an excellent article in his weekly column ... how it speaks to the issues at hand ... will post it too on the web site soon ...

Just a couple hours ago, I met the **chaplain from Duncan or Diboll Unit, Loren Edwards** and his wife (I believe – not as good with names as I used to be). We chatted, and he has frequented our Baptist Association from time to time. He was a part of the reduction in force in 2003 that cut chaplaincy by 33% and then got BACK into TDCJ Chaplaincy about five years ago. He and his wife, in their 60s – as most chaplain enter the profession later in life – have given up internet access, yet he was passing the word out, had spoken to several pastors, and – he said – would be getting to speak at his church about this.

This is the grass roots ... and many like him ... across the state ... Keep Loren and others in your prayers ...

Sincerely, Mike

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### **#13 – Revised Save Chaplaincy Handout – List of Key Committees**

Friends,

Thanks for the prayers ... keep them coming.

See the attached [Save Texas Chaplaincy Document Summary](#), also uploaded to the reconfigured web site ... [SAVE TEXAS PRISON CHAPLAINCY](#) -- that sums the reason for Saving Texas Prison Chaplaincy ... I give credit to Mr. Frank Graham for helping me focus – THE ISSUE is cost savings, and the Summary outlines five (5) ways Texas Prison Chaplaincy Recovers its Entire Operating Cost, yes, that is Total Cost Recovery, several times over. Back up by several documents at the web site. Distribute it ...

Today, my senior warden passed to all of us an email from his regional supervisor; it was an email of an article from a reporter from the Austin American-Statesman, and it was a report from queries to TDCJ about cuts, and it was ominous ... some 2,500 jobs ... and not pleasant. I am supposing the undercurrent and reason for the wardens sharing it, was on a compassionate

side ... but like with a cancer or terminal illness ... you want to share and be with your grieving family ... SERIOUS ... the ax is coming.

I have not had time to accumulate the last series of up-dates, and have not heard from very many. But this is where we are at today, and forgive me if I left anyone out.

A new development was heard by a credible source, that the TBCJ has initiated contact with the 8 other state prisons that deleted their chaplaincy programs, apparently to see how they did and are going!!! We will have more info on that as soon as it is in ...

**GREAT news** – **Buck Griffith**, President of the [NewLife Behavior Ministries](#), that Dr. Keith Bellamy of the local Woodville Church of Christ has been teaching at the prison for 10 years, is tapping into the vast Church of Christ network in Texas.

**Frank Graham** of [Chapel of Hope](#) is getting folks together in Dallas; more on that to come. He is planning on going to Austin at dates mentioned below too ...

**Emmett Solomon** of [Restorative Justice Network](#) said the following:

**If a more rational budget approach to corrections is going to be taken, legislators and their staff must do the brain-work to figure out [what units to close](#): TDCJ is obviously digging in their heels and beyond the Central Unit (which the local Chamber of Commerce set wants closed for reasons unrelated to TDCJ institutional priorities), they've already said they'd [fire 7,300 employees](#) before closing more than one prison facility. If other more sensible strategies are to win the day, IMO they'll have to be imposed on the agency from without. The Lege won't get there simply following TDCJ's increasingly absurd recommendations.**

Plus, Emmett is organizing a get together prior to a pivotal luncheon

**Many of us have been greatly upset by the very real threat of eliminating the Staff Chaplains in our State Prisons. We are gathering with the Texas Baptist Chaplaincy Endorsing Council and the Christian Life Commission at First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity, Austin TX at 9:30am on Wednesday February 16, 2011. If you are upset about TDCJ threatening to eliminate chaplaincy, I invite you to meet with us at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church. We will discuss strategy to counter this threat.**

**If you would like to join the Legislator Luncheon at noon, contact Marilyn Davis by phone or email. It would also be good for you to contact your Representative and Senator with an invitation to the luncheon.**

**After the luncheon at 1:00pm we plan to visit the Capitol. Each of us will visit the office of our State Representative, State Senator and some key legislators.**

**Now is the time to speak up! Grace and Peace, Emmett Solomon**

And if you can make it ... I am going to try ... check out this meeting organized by **Suzii Paynter**, Director of the BGCT [Christian Life Commission](#) in Austin:

**Join the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission and legislators from your district for our Legislator Luncheon**

**February 16, 2011 - 12 pm – 1 pm—First Baptist Church, Austin, 901 Trinity, Austin, Texas - Legislative Briefing for Luncheon Constituents - 10:30 am | First Baptist Church-Austin | Fellowship Hall - RSVP [marilyn.davis@texasbaptists.org](mailto:marilyn.davis@texasbaptists.org) (214) 828.5194**

Yes, though centered on Christianity, these meetings are open to ANYONE of any faith, including my Muslim Chaplain *friends* ... we ARE in this

The KEY is a Constituent *Connecting* to a Texas Senator and Representative ...



KEY – those who *connect* with *their* Senator and Representative **HELP** a lot, and those who help others to *connect* help even more.

Again ... this [Save Chaplaincy Document Summary](#) will be duplicated and passed out in mass. It is good to be on the same page ... It cannot get to too many people ...

Let's --- yes --- Get'r Done! Pray ... as you have been ... and, dare I say, faith without works is ... well, you know ☺ --

We only have a month or two ... it WILL get harder as time progresses, that is for certain.

And, there will be a point of no return – after which .

Sincerely, Mike

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**#14 – the Gathering – Need in Rep. Otto – New Articles – Networking**

Friends,

Several have been busy. A small book has been written between Carol Vance, Frank Graham, Emmett Solomon, Vance Drum, and a few others. Many are networking ... and the meeting in Austin is looking good. My Honorable Representative James White will be my guest to the 1200 luncheon, and Graham will have Corrections Chair Madden (though a bit late do to prior engagement), and several other legislators will be there. This is usually a big event and not new, as BGCT Suzii Paynter has been doing this for YEARS, only this time, we are honored that Suzii and Emmett Solomon worked in another meeting at 0930 in the chapel exclusively for the Save Chaplaincy cause, and be assured it will roll over in some manner into the luncheon ... here is the data again ...

- **GATHERING - February 16, 2011, Wednesday, 0930 - Texas Baptist Chaplaincy Endorsing Council and Christian Life Commission at First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity, Austin TX, to discuss Save Prison Chaplaincy strategies ... ALSO - there is a Legislator Luncheon a noon - invite yours! Contact [Marilyn Davis](#) or 214-828-5194 to RSVP.**

Keep Suzii in your prayers ... gathering like the luncheon are hard to put together ... and Emmett, though he too is no stranger to gatherings, it is difficult to get people together for chaplaincy because of the shear diversity ... but I know of no one who can do it better.

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**Constituents Connecting - KEY**

**NEED** - We really need someone, several Constituents *connecting* with > [Rep. John Otto](#) - Dist. 18 – Dayton – Chair of sub-Committee on TDCJ funding – while we cannot overstress this enough – says Frank Graham – we NEED some constituents here. Pass the word to ALL of your networks ASAP ... while it might make a difference for anyone to call, it is not as important as a Constituent *Connecting* ... so if you NOT in his district, your time would be better spent getting someone you know to write a letter with the attached [Save Texas Chaplaincy Summary Handout](#).

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I have updated the file here [Key Texas Committees](#) and online ... as I needed to find Chairman Ogden's home city, Bryan, and updated it. As part of our strategy, even essential part,

though we lack an up-to-date cork board of tracking, even a dedicated Air Traffic Controller, to identify each and every legislator contacted, and so forth – we DO NOT have time to Track – still, we need to TRY to connect with a FEW of the key people ... and here are a FEW – we really need help here ... and some have connected with Whitmire and Frank has Madden as his guest. Gertha Rogers of [JOY Prison Ministry](#) will be touching bases with Turner, as she knows him.

If you can *connect* with any of these, and especially Rep. Otto ... waste no time ... cheers.

**Senate Finance Committee**  
**Chair** [Sen. Steve Ogden](#) - Dist. 5 > Bryan  
**V-Chair** [Sen. Juan Hinojosa](#) - Dist. 20 > McAllen & Corpus Christi  
**Senate Corrections Committee**  
**Chair** [Sen. John Whitmire](#) - Dist. 15 > Houston  
**V-Chair** [Sen. Joan Huffman](#) - Dist 17 > Lake Jackson & Houston

**House Appropriations Committee**  
**Chair** [Rep. Jim Pitts](#) - Dist. 10 > Waxahachie  
**V-Chair** [Rep. Sylvester Turner](#) - Dist. 139 > Houston  
> [Rep. John Otto](#) - Dist. 18 – Dayton – **Chair of sub-Committee** on TDCJ funding  
**House Corrections Committee**  
**Chair** [Rep. Jerry Madden](#) - Dist. 67 > Plano  
**V.Chair** [Rep. Alma Allen](#) - Dist. 131 > Houston

Constituents *connecting* is key ...> [Key Texas Committees](#) and of course anyone can find who represents them here > [Find YOUR Legislator](#)



Posted new article by Buck Griffith below Vance Drum’s excellent article [Professional Correctional Chaplaincy](#) on the web site, and added some old articles that are as relevant today as at any time. Also, if you read Griffith’s article, you will truly understand his meaning and challenge today, in “**Either YOU run your prison’s chaplaincy or someone else will run it for you – and you will not like it.**” Spoken in a kind and forceful Church of Christ preacher’s way ... from his experience of being called in as a consultant over competing “ministerial associations” who wanted to “run” a large county jail facility (some of might not be aware, some county jails are huge, Houston’s Harris County has 10k inmates!) – here is a link to the new articles:

[Value of Texas State Prison Chaplaincy](#), by David "Buck" Griffith, President, [NewLife Behavior Ministries](#), Corpus Christi, Texas

[Carol Vance on Chaplaincy](#), former TBCJ Chair

[Desert Storm & Prison Chaplaincy](#), retired senior TDCJ and military Chaplain Michael Mantooth

[Measuring Complex Nature of Prison Chaplaincy](#) ~ *Restorative Justice News* article, Sept.-Dec., 2001, by M.G. Maness

In addition to the signal argument of Cost Savings and Total Cost Recovery, many avoid the HIGHER values in networking, fair religious use, not the least of which is the diversity of pastoral care.

Another piece published in the Tyler County Booster (2-11-11) in his weekly column, 15-year veteran Volunteer Chaplain David Rust wrote encouraging *connecting* from his vast experience, [“Poor Texas”—Prison Chaplaincy](#) highlighting the best and what a waste it will be to loose chaplains – and as a scientist too; he not only flew Flying Tigers in WWII China, but after a stint as an engineer with Schlumberger Limited, he became the editor of their international technical journal ... a real champ of a fellow.



^ click to see full picture ^



Welcome to **Paul Carlin**, who has experience with TDCJ executive staff and the legislative process. His Prisoners Bible Institute and [Therapon Certification Program](#) has been widely accepted, and even praised by former President George Bush. In some communiqués with Frank Graham, Carol Vance, and others – something of what we all know – but Carlin drove this home – do NOT underestimate the power of TDCJ Executives and Brad Livingston. The legislature has always loathed to micro-manage the affairs of any agency. And we are looking at former executive directors to see Brad on that ...

Given what we can do with the TDCJ executive staff, and influencing the Texas Board too to influence Brad ... we STILL have the Senate and the House committees, and in Texas as in any democracy, they RUN Texas and still force in Chaplaincy. None of us believe we will have to force chaplaincy – no one WANTS to cut anything. And many have confidence that some portion of Chaplaincy will remain. But we need at least one chaplain on each unit to be retained ... and we still need to fight.



Got word that our Muslim Chaplains are networking – we only have five, fairly representing the percentage of numbers of Muslims in TDCJ

And I know our Jewish Chaplain is networking too – as is our contract Native American Chaplains ... more later on them



I did mail 133 letters, see attached, with our [Save Texas Chaplaincy Handout](#) to all of the TDCJ Chaplains yesterday, and they *should* receive them on Monday. Attached is a Chaplain Label List (Avery 8930 labels, 1"x2.63") and though it is late in our very hurried gaming, it is not too late for anyone, not by any means. These chaplains are scattered across the state and need all the encouragement anyone can give them. None of them have internet at work – certainly most all have internet access. In addition to the inmates and their families – who we are really fighting for, especially in crisis – the chaplains have the most to lose. Perhaps there is one more person who will try to connect to them and encourage them. I am convinced they do not know the seriousness of this ... this is about all I can do with them myself.



Did you see the news about EGYPT? Yes, because of facebook some are saying, though a closer analysis as already said only 20% of Egypt has been connected to the internet. Still, some do believe that it was facebook, and other social networking like Twitter and YouTube that helped start the firestorm. One thing is for sure, when they shut down the internet, it forced everyone into the streets ... and one of the quickest non-violent revolutions in our history took place in two weeks ...

Paul Carlin said, "It is not the *dog* in the fight, but the *fight* in the dog that matters." And though we have only a little time, it does look like several people have made several substantial contacts. I do not know of anyone who has substantially used facebook yet ... and I have not had the time pull some celebrity links ... and this is NOT about connecting to the facebook site I set up ... NOT REALLY ... but as we have seen, a FEW people have mentioned prayer requests and got immediate responses. Facebook is a reality of the world and it still has potential to help us with relatively little effort - again, not merely joining it and signing the facebook link I set up, not really, but by - as they said in WWII - flooding the airwaves with news at Texas people of influence ...



We can do this. As Paul Carlin said, "It is not the *dog* in the fight, but the *fight* in the dog that matters." And as Buck Griffith said in his fine article on the [Value of Texas State Prison Chaplaincy](#), "Either YOU run your prison's chaplaincy or *someone else will run it for you* - and you will not like it." And one signal point for Texas prison chaplaincy, #1 on the handout, is defense of the First Amendment rights. Religion is an entitlement. If it is not carefully guarded, then some volunteer group will dominate a prison here and there, and even worse, some inmate group will dominate - something ALL of us in prison ministry know very well!

Let's hold the line ... and network and network ... we ONLY have a couple of months ...

This update #14 will be the last part of the second Cumulative Update, seen now in succession for those just joining this small network:

1. [Cumulative Up-Date #1-8, 01-30-11 on Action Plan](#)
2. [Cumulative Up-Date #9-14, 01-12-11 on Action Plan](#) - to see what others have done and encourage others

For those who want to know ... we only have a couple of months ... maybe one month for the most substantial impact.



I think of Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ Harrison Sr. - who calls almost one time a month. A senior with severe health problems, who sometimes calls and talks to the Warden or Major, or even the warden's secretary. He *thanks* the Warden for taking care of his son, "his Rabbit" he affectionately calls him. I envision Mr. Harrison as about 5'7" and frail, while his son is about 6'5" - and the kindness Christian deacon you can imagine. His son reflects his father's kind demeanor. One cannot mistake him, either. Often he calls nearly wheezing - he has terrible problems with his lungs. Now he knows I cannot connect him every week, but about every two to three months (to be fair), I connect him with "his Rabbit." Yet each and every time he calls,

he ALSO calls for prayer, because I ALWAYS say a prayer for him and his son. My five volunteer Chaplains know him, as do the Wardens and Majors, but I GUARANTEE you, he will not be calling a volunteer coordinator. Nor the 100,000 other family members CURRENTLY in a crisis or life-death struggle, and we all know that though we have some fine Christian Wardens, there are precious few at the prison day in and day out READY to give a prayer ... and the continuity over the last several years for this single man is something ongoing in every prison chaplaincy ... every one of us have anywhere between 5 to 10 ongoing cases of death and dying, cycling through them, and this ENDS or is essentially degraded to a sloppy affair. If we fail, I can imagine the Warden getting a call from Mr. Harrison, being kind, and then *radioing* a shift lieutenant to “pull inmate Harrison out and give him a call” and the shift lieutenant setting the phone, cussing, ordering a Sgt. get “inmate Harrison” to the supervisor’s building, put on a speaker phone, allowing the call ... struggling to hold back a cynical grin as “inmate Harrison” hears his father say, “How’s my Rabbit, God, I thank the warden, he is such a good man, and I need you here. Hope you are doing OK.” And the lieutenant hurrying through that ... and we ALL know ... no prayer at all ...

We CANNOT let this happen. We NEED at LEAST one full-time chaplain at every prison. There is still some fight in this dog ☺

More to come.

Mike



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