

# **EXODUS PRISON MINISTRY** - *"Making A Difference Since 1983"*

## **MISSION**

With an all-volunteer staff and through an in-depth Bible correspondence program, our mission of serving the Lord Jesus is to:

**REACH**—Introduce prisoners and others to Christ.

**TEACH**—Educate believers in principles of Christian living.

**ENCOURAGE**—Encourage offenders and ex-offenders to be faithful according to Christian principles and to share their testimony with others.

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### **HOME OFFICE**

4243 34th St., Lubbock TX 79410

**PHONE** (806) 791-3673

[exodusprisonministry.org](http://exodusprisonministry.org)

### **BRANCH OFFICE**

Tulia, Texas, for the Tulia Unit



## **OUR METHODS**

1. Incorporated in 1983, Exodus is a tax-exempt, non-profit, all-volunteer Christian ministry that reaches prisoners with the Gospel through Christian literature.

2. The main outreach of Exodus is to provide a free 35-book Bible correspondence course to inmates across the nation.

3. We rely on prayer and financial support from caring Christians. No one receives a salary for ministry work. Funds are carefully and prayerfully used to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ to His followers.

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**OFFICE MANAGER** – Carol Jean Blakely

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Cliff Stogner – President; Joyce Hargis – Director

Patricia Beck, Vestal Blakely, Libby Gilmore,

Ione Heartsill, Dale Grusing, Weldon Hargis,

Don Jennings, Waylan Newman, Don Workman

*Invitation Enclosed  
Please Read & Respond*

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Lubbock, TX  
Permit #2286

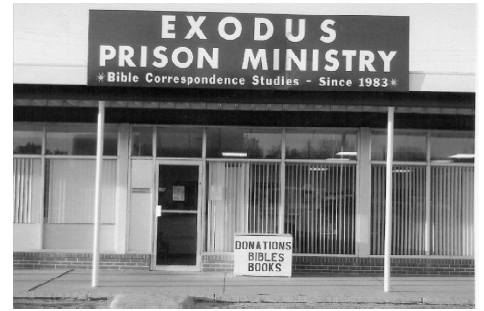
**Exodus Prison Ministry**  
Romans 12:2  
Bible Correspondence Studies  
P.O. Box 6363 • Lubbock, TX 79493

# *The* **EXODUS EPISTLE**

*Fall 2013 Newsletter*

*from Exodus Prison Ministry*

**“MAKING A DIFFERENCE SINCE 1983”**



An all-volunteer mission reaching prisoners across America with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Christian literature.  
4243 – 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Lubbock, TX 79410

**30<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration**

## **EXODUS PRISON MINISTRY**

Incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit, non-denominational Christian ministry  
in 1983 and still serving the Lord!

(Yes! You can join in this ministry through your prayers, gifts and help in office.)

To the glory of and because of the goodness of the Lord, Exodus is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year of sharing the Gospel with inmates in every state. It has been an honor and joy to bring God's Word to thousands of prisoners and, consequently, to those whose lives their students have touched.

The main arm of the ministry of Exodus has been a 35-book Bible correspondence course that is sent free to requesting inmates. Exodus currently prints and mails 1,500 to 1,800 of these in-depth study books each week. Not only have these studies led countless men and women to become Christians and to grow spiritually, but they have equipped many to earn degrees through Bible colleges that give credits for

the Exodus studies. Additionally, Exodus sends many other tracts and booklets along with the regular studies. Exodus provides Bibles and reference books to individual students. Exodus is also a collection point for used Christian books and Bibles which they forward to Chaplains for their prison libraries.

In celebration of what the Lord has done through many volunteer workers and many caring Christians who have supported this work through their contributions and prayers, Exodus is inviting you to a dinner and program at 6:00 p.m., November 19, 2013, next door to the Exodus Office on the corner of 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Quaker Avenue in Lubbock, Texas.

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*Please read and respond to the invitation enclosed with this newsletter.*

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## THE START AND OUTREACH OF EXODUS PRISON MINISTRY

While doing clergy visits in the early 80's, Weldon and Joyce saw the need for newly converted inmates to have written studies to help them learn God's Word and grow spiritually. Durward Robinson, who was also doing clergy visits, encouraged them to start a tax-exempt non-profit, non-denominational ministry so they could mail Bible studies to prisoners.

With the help of Back to the Bible Ministries, Joyce put together a curriculum of studies. Durward paid legal fees to incorporate. He and Rocky Ferguson bought a copier to start the ministry. Bobbie Stapp (now deceased) and Rosemary Hensler asked if they could help with the work. So, Joyce and Weldon set up an office in their home, and the ladies started the work as one-day-a-week volunteers. Weldon and Durward carried the financial load for quite some time.

The ministry began to grow, and in 1990 Highland Baptist Church provided Exodus with a rent-free office space in the shopping center on 34<sup>th</sup> and Quaker. Other volunteers and donors joined the effort, and the ministry has grown greatly in the 30 years since they incorporated in 1983.

### ... AND THE WORK GOES ON!

Now, with the help of nearly 50 volunteers, Exodus has a 35-book Bible correspondence course. Workers print and mail 1,500 to 1,800 study books each week. The books and Bibles are sent to thousands of inmates throughout all 50 states.. Exodus prints many other book-lets, tracts, and other writings they enclose with the studies. They also collect new and used books for prison libraries. Exodus is also connected with Child Evangelism and links children of inmates with Bible studies by mail.

Exodus operates on donations. There are no salaries. All donations are used to cover the cost of operating expenses.



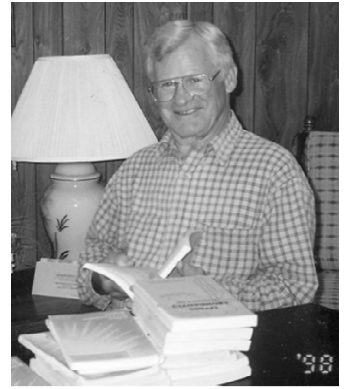
### WITH THANKFULNESS!

We are grateful to caring Christians who have donated through the years to reach many souls in prison with the Gospel! We pray that the Lord greatly bless each supporter of this work.

## Durward Robinson

This caring man was the driving force for the incorporation of Exodus Prison Ministry as a tax-exempt outreach to prisoners. Besides helping start Exodus,

Durward worked every day as a volunteer in the office after his retirement as a home building contractor. Durward went home to be with the Lord in 2011. Such a wonderful Christian brother! He was a man with a great heart for the Lord's work.



## Weldon & Joyce Hargis – In early days of Exodus

With Joyce named as Director, Weldon maintained employment with the Army Reserves until his retirement. Even while employed elsewhere, he greatly assisted with Exodus. Since his retirement in 1993, Weldon has worked 5 days a week along with Joyce in the ministry office.

Weldon and Joyce are active members of Highland Baptist Church where Weldon is a deacon and Director of an Adult Sunday School. Weldon has an exceptionally long record in military service as he served in the National Guard and then in the Army Reserves for 42 years and 10 months. He was employed by the Department of the Army for 38 years.

Weldon and Joyce have been married 57 years. They have 2 sons, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.

They believe in making life here count for their Savior. They are grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to serve in Exodus Prison Ministry.



... after 30 years

## Carol Jean and Vestal Blakely

During a critical need for volunteer helpers with the Christmas mail in 2009, Carol Jean and Vestal Blakely came to our rescue. This mission-minded couple had returned from 24 years of mission work in Africa. Seeing that Exodus needed more than just temporary help, Carol Jean started working 4 to 5 days a week since then. Soon the Director of Exodus asked Carol Jean to take the position of Office Manager. Exodus was greatly blessed by Carol Jean accepting that position. She has added much expertise to this mission work and done a great job organizing and streamlining the work to increase the ministry's outreach.

Carol Jean coordinates the work of volunteers, manages the office and program, and brings much creativity to the work and office. She has enhanced the ministry's curriculum and written and added other literature used by the ministry. When anyone needs help, she is quick to respond and provide what is needed. Her loving spirit and passion for missions are outstanding and inspiring.

Vestal is Senior Adult Minister for First Baptist Church in Idalou. He has a hospital ministry, conducts funerals and gives comfort and counsel to others in need. He graciously agreed to serve on the Exodus Board of Directors. He often fills the need for help with special projects in Exodus and assists where there is a shortage of volunteers.

The Blakelys greatly influence those coming out of prison by getting them in Idalou First Baptist Church where both Vestal and Carol Jean teach Sunday School classes. They also provide Sunday lunches and get-togethers for these ex-offenders.

This couple is outstanding in their zeal and commitment to carry out the Great Commission at every opportunity. Their love for Christ motivates them to assist others in every way they can. In short, this couple knows the Word of God and applies it in their everyday lives.

They have 3 adult children and 5 grandchildren.



## REMEMBERING DEPARTED VOLUNTEERS

With love and respect, we remember those volunteers who have gone to be with the Lord:



Carolyn Allen  
Alma Blethrode  
Gwen Brummett  
Shirley Burgeson  
Barbara Chambliss  
Truman Cocanougher  
Gladys Coons  
Orena Crosno  
Erwin Davis  
Ralph Dehls  
Gene Garcia  
Betty Grisham  
Merle Hailey  
Faye Hamilton  
Clark Harvey  
Daniel Holmes  
Doris Kennington  
Shirley Kent  
Mary King  
Lillie Belle Kramp

Mildred Mason  
Ed Oden  
Barbara Price  
Elaine Reddick  
Durward Robinson  
Irene Salser  
Bobbie Stapp  
Muriel Stark  
Dixie Stogner  
Mildred Strange  
Velma Thomas  
Cheryl Thrush  
Toby Thrush  
Wilma Van Slyke  
Wanda Vaughan  
Louise Whittier  
Margaret Wilkerson  
Dorothy Womack  
Malcolm Womack

### *Designated Gifts*



#### **In honor of**

Fernando Caba  
John Clark  
Dorothy Hilton  
Eva Keck  
Mary Ruth Lane  
Eric Overstreet  
Jim Schwartz  
R. J. Rebstock  
Thelma Reynolds  
Richard Robinson

#### **In memory of**

Glen Adkins  
Billie Jolene Boren  
Bob Capps

#### **By**

Ydelsy Caba  
Chasity Clark  
Terry & Doyce Lynch  
Jay & Jody Scherr  
Jay & Jody Scherr  
Vernice Overstreet  
Jeff Robinson  
Unchained Prison Min.  
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Mitchell  
Jeff Robinson

#### **By**

Nita Hardin  
Marita Reese  
Donna Capps  
Nita Hardin  
Frank & Rosalie Sims  
The Master's Class of  
Oakwood Bapt. Church  
Carla & Dorothy Hilton  
Beverly Mason  
Thelma Reynolds  
Frank & Rosalie Sims  
Larry Hay  
Thaddus King  
Dixie Sortor  
Nita Hardin  
Jean Landers  
Marita Reese

Audrey Corn

Wanda Hollis

Mildred Mason  
Mary King  
Lillie Bell Kramp  
Pauline Milam Pearce  
Dorothy Womack  
Carolyn Woods