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.

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
To the glory of and because of the goodness of the Lord, Exodus is celebrating its 30th 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 34th Street and Quaker Avenue in Lubbock, Texas.

Please read and respond to the invitation enclosed with this newsletter.
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 34th 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 Chambless
Truman Cocalougher
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

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

In memory of
Glen Adkins
Billie Jolene Boren
Bob Capps
Audrey Corn
Wanda Hollis
Mildred Mason
Mary King
Lillie Bell Kramp
Pauline Milam Pearce
Dorothy Womack
Carolyn Woods

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