

Since 1984: Reconciling persons to God, families and society

LOCAL NLB INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING

We hosted husband/wife teams in late 2020 (one from Tennessee and one from Oklahoma) plus, trained others at the National Jail-Prison Ministry Workshop in Louisville, Kentucky. We certified numerous others long distance via correspondence. We have found nothing surpasses the opportunity of observing in-person how all the moving parts fit together in a *live* setting. For this reason and needing to train others in this geographic area, we offered such a training opportunity on January 28-29. Though office space is limited to 4000 square feet, we can train 20-25 at a time if . . . *everyone is friendly*.

In addition to Corpus Christi, this recent event had participants from Robstown, Victoria, Fort Worth, N. Richland Hills, Colleyville, Burleson, and Arlington. We invite feedback from readers about the possibility of *repeating* this on at least an *annual* basis. This is NOT to detract from the “national” workshop’s annual training (such as this year’s gathering in Wichita Falls, Texas (June 8-10). The advantage of the *national* event is that it moves from one part of the country to another, providing opportunities for potential NLB instructors nearer their hometowns.

Our small group last weekend gave everyone time to visit each office in our complex, seeing and hearing from individual NLBM workers on *what goes on in his*



or her work area. By the end of this visual tour, one has observed the “sausage in the making” process. This experience presents a picture that we cannot carry with us out-of-town (but we *are* now at work on a “video” tour to do the *next best* thing). It will also appear on our website.

Though the group in attendance was small, it represented a wide variety of how NLB courses are used: in local congregations, substance abuse support groups (in and out of churches), homeless programs, aftercare facilities (including halfway houses), county jails, and prisons!

We thank you for your feedback and generous support as we continue to improve and expand in all we do.



IN LOVING MEMORY ~ IN HONOR OF

Family Upreach expresses gratitude to those that choose to remember loved ones and honor those they love and respect by donating to this good work.

Such remembrances make it possible for men and women to be taught and encouraged to transform destructive behaviors into positive behaviors. Thank you for your support,

Received from:



In loving memory of:

OUR “STUDY-BY-MAIL” PROGRAM

NewLife Behavior Ministries has a huge number (over 30,000) taking our courses through correspondence. A student may be studying “Managing My Anger” in a *live* prison class but desires to study a second course (such as “A Sense of Self”), But when the current one finishes, the unit Chaplain wants us to teach “Attitudes & Behaviors.” So, the student may enroll to study the “Sense of Self” by mail. Or an offender taking “Christian Marriage Skills” may ask us to send the *same* series to his wife, enabling them to improve their relationship simultaneously. An inmate studying the “Parenting Matters” course may also want us to send the *Children’s Edition* to both of his kids. You can easily see how the numbers escalate!



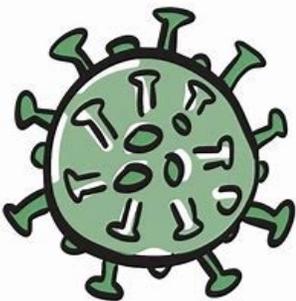
These constantly increasing numbers create three related consequences:

- (1) A strain on our graders who desperately work to have the lessons graded, recorded, and new lessons returned to the student in a timely manner.
- (2) There is a need for more paper to print lessons, assemble them, address, and stuff envelopes, etc.
- (3) Finally, the envelopes require postage. Our “postage” bill may reach \$6,000 per month. We keep searching for imaginative ways to reduce costs while God keeps supplying generous donors.

The top five states from which our *English* students came last year were: Texas, Tennessee, California, Oklahoma, and Kentucky. We have students from practically all 50 states. The top five states representing our Spanish students were: Texas, California, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Florida (in this order). We hope to have completed the Spanish translation work on all fifteen courses by the end of 2022!

INVENTIVE WAYS TO TEACH IN THE COVID ERA

Despite the challenges presented during this *Covid Age*, servants of the Lord continue to discover ways to get God’s Word behind walls. We would like to hear how you, or your ministry has successfully overcome these obstacles.



One powerful method is described above: through sending the written message with help from the U.S. Postal System. As long as we comply with the correspondence rules and regulations, studies can get to souls kept in destinations that are “off-limits” to average volunteers. This accounts for the surge in Bible correspondence students who are not in General Population and unable to attend in-person settings. These lessons can have a deep impact on a student with time to think, ponder and meditate in solitude, delaying a response until ready. Some individual volunteers and small ministries have asked us to supply courses by mail for them, sending a contribution to help with costs. They simply do not have the structure or manpower to do this themselves. The end result, however, is that more souls are able to receive God’s message!

Another tool in some prisons is to teach by Zoom. Multiple NLB instructors can participate without leaving the comfort of home (saving gas and travel time). In our area, prisons range from 40 to 130 miles (one-way) from us. A privately owned and operated facility has provided their 2,000 residents (males and females) tablets. This offers us an opportunity to teach 1,000 at one time. We can offer classes both in English and Spanish. Prior to Covid-19, we were restricted to limited numbers (12-15) that met in small classrooms. Of course, when prisons are fully open again, we will gladly resume in-person teaching but will likely continue the use of Zoom to reach more.



Still *another* door has opened where chaplains have requested that we ship our student workbooks (in bulk) to be distributed to all offenders. When students finish each test, chaplains or inmate clerks grade them, and return

them to the student. When all 13 lessons have been completed, our office is notified, and we mail "graduation" certificates to be presented by the unit chaplain. Many students request that other (separate) NLB courses be mailed directly to them. This also grows the Study-by-Mail effort.

We realize that these are only a few methods. We want to hear how YOU are dealing with these current hurdles. Please write or email us so we can share more ways to fulfill the awesome mission God has given to get His Word to *every creature under heaven* before the return of His Son.

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