

Since 1984: Reconciling persons to God, families and society

Buck Griffith (Recovery Going Well)



Buck Griffith has been serving in jail and prison ministry for more than five decades. Many of you, more than just fellow workers and partners in this mission field, have been friends during these years. If you know Buck, you know that he would somehow make a joke out of his recent illness. Buck often says, *“life is too short not to enjoy it and your friends around you”* - or, something like that.

About three weeks back, Buck experienced a stroke. I went to his bedside and that turkey acted like he was unresponsive until I got close. Then, he startled me with a big,

“Hey!”

... Just about gave me a heart attack.

No paralysis. No speech slur. Already out of the rehabilitation hospital and back home. He was in assembly with the church this past Sunday under his own ability. God is not through with this wonderful servant. Of course, we may be a bit biased.

THE “SEEKER Bible Study Series”

Each month of this coming 2026 we will highlight a different **NewLife Behavior** study. We will provide a brief description along with a short breakdown of the study by its units. This may help your efforts when you are choosing what you want to teach. Often, a prison chaplain can use a short description of a course to see its value, rather than just trying to figure out what is in the course just by a title. We will also provide a *“teacher’s tip”*. We hope this helps.

Lindsey Garmon wrote this study around 1985. **Dr. H. M. Motsinger** and **Buck Griffith** saw the need for a study that clearly explained God and our need for Him to *“unchurched”* men and women. Of course, *“unchurched”* is just a fancy way of describing people who have grown up without Bible knowledge that the church can provide. When you read or teach the study, you will agree that Lindsay was the right man to tackle this project.

Here is the big picture **unit-by-unit**:

- Unit 1 – God, Culture & Authority
- Unit 2 – Jesus, Sin & the Divine Solution
- Unit 3 – Amazing Grace, Fellowship, Abundant Life
- Unit 4 – Submission, Endurance & Faithfulness

Teacher’s Tip: An outcome of this study is that men/women will understand the need for baptism. Inform students that if they want to be baptized, you can work with the chaplain to make that happen. States’ processes differ, but inmates where you teach probably know them. In Texas, TDCJ requires inmates submit a written “I-60”, a form requesting to participate in an event (in this case- baptism). Encourage their follow-through. Work on a date with your chaplain.

“A Day of Giving becomes a Year of Doing”

Our group of **Dr. Dale Underwood**, **Karlene Underwood**, **Recardo Reyes**, and **Liza Estrella** are pictured with the **Coastal Bend Community Foundation** board on the day checks were presented to non-profits (such as **Family Upreach/NewLife Behavior Ministries**). 2025 was our tenth year to participate. Collectively, this year you gave \$104,593! We are already doing because of your giving! As Recardo Reyes often says, *“Praise King Jesus!”*



NLBM Spanish Translation Work On-Going



Mayra Melendez continues to do a very important ministry work of translating **NewLife Behavior (NLBM)** and **Kings Crossing Prison Ministries (KCPM)** tracts, lessons, and courses.

If you are used to teaching from NLB workbooks, you know each lesson consists of six pages, front and back. Some ministries work exclusively in correspondence courses through the mail. As it is quite expensive to mail six pages (front and back), we truncated lessons for correspondence down to three pages, front and back. Obviously, when we do that we shorten a lesson down and use an “*economy of words*”.

Making sure to keep the impact of what must be communicated while trimming content down by several pages is a tall task. Then, to further take that trimmed content and translate it into Spanish is an even bigger task. ***We are thankful to have Mayra’s talents at work!***

For those who are using correspondence courses by mail in their ministries, Mayra’s work will be invaluable to you, both in content and financially. In 2026, this is one of the ministry efforts in which Mayra will be engaged. As these correspondence length (3-page front and back) Spanish translations become available; we will let you know in our monthly newsletters. When you contact us, tell us if you already have the NLB Spanish licenses in the courses that Mayra translates. We will get these new translated correspondence courses to you. If you do not have licenses for NLB course(s), contact us for help.



Disciples & Baptisms; Fruit that Lasts

Dr. Don Umphrey (author, *Meanest Man in Texas*) and I (**Dale**) were talking recently. Don mentioned that he knew of no other effort where such a level of fruitful work existed as is taking place in jail and prison ministries.



I tread lightly here because I do not want to offend. There are many good works taking place in our country and around the world. Great efforts to make disciples and baptize people are taking place. And, it is encouraging!

Yet, the scope of *this mission field* is impressive- the number of lives being touched- men and women baptized annually- disciples on their own journeys. Each one their own story. Each needing the church to disciple them. In our neck of the woods alone in 2025:

- San Diego, TX: Glossbrenner unit- 350+ men baptized.
- Corpus Christi, TX: Nueces Cty Jails- 1,100+ men/women baptized.
- Dilley, TX: Dolph Briscoe unit- 44 men baptized.
- Beeville, TX: Garza East unit- 44 men baptized.
- Corpus Christi, TX: CoreCivic House- 300+ men baptized.
- CASA group and Sober living houses- 25 men and women baptized.

Prayer requests in the tens of thousands. We would love to hear what God is doing in jail/prison ministry in your neck of the woods. Don and I agree. We are privileged to be part of a great work God is blessing! Let’s talk more in 2026.

In Memorial and Honor

Family Upreach expresses gratitude for remembering loved ones and honoring those cherished with gifts. These remembrances allow souls to be taught how to transform destructive behaviors into positive ones through Jesus.

Received from:

M/M Buck Griffith
Maggie Wachtel
M/M Charles Barber
M/M Buck Griffith
Dr/M Dale Underwood
M/M Charles Barber
Maggie Wachtel

In loving memory of:

Don Crofton
Walter Hicks
Don Crofton
Mary Williams
Kathryn Chambers
Bob Wachtel
Haldon Fry

Received from:

M/M Charles Barber
Dr/M Dale Underwood
M/M Buck Griffith

In loving honor of:

Buck/Janet Griffith
Buck/Janet Griffith
Dr. H. M. Motsinger

FAMILY UPREACH, INC.

3833 South Staples, Suite S-101, Corpus Christi, Texas 78411

(361) 855-3372 Email: nlbcasa@yahoo.com Website: www.nlbm.org

Dr. Dale Underwood, President Dr. H.M. Motsinger, Founder, President Emeritus

Board of Trustees: Charles Barber, Jim Burrus, D.C. Chambers, Linda Crofton, Lynda Drum, Buck Griffith, Eric Jackson, Dr. HM Motsinger, Dave Olson, Jerry Stephenson, Barbara Tubbs, Craig Tucker, Dr. Dale Underwood, Gary Wyder