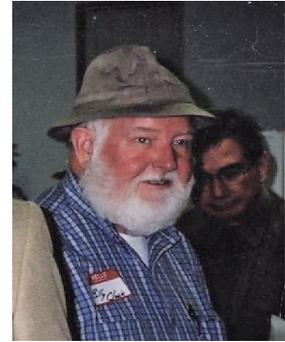


Billy Clark: A Volunteer for All Seasons

A talker and a doer, Billy sees a need and voluntarily takes care of it. His professional job was working in program management for Vought Aircraft Industries in Grand Prairie, Texas. He made “going about doing good for others” his avocation and ministry. His sweetie Jeanette, served as a secretary at the Turnpike Church of Christ in Grand Prairie. Her natural smile made everyone feel welcome and comfortable.



Billy's prison ministry interest brought us together. In the close of the 1980's, Wes Whitt convinced Billy to come to Huntsville on a bus trip to visit inmates at the Wynn Prison Unit. Visiting felons did not bother Billy. He stepped on the bus one Sunday each month and looked forward to listening, talking, counseling and teaching the same man each month.

He kept riding the monthly bus, but Billy also started teaching at the Beto Prison Unit in Tennessee Colony. There he worked with a team of chaplains, including Charles Kizer and Bill Brewer. Billy drove 130 miles and stayed three days to help his student inmates and assisting the chaplains. He stayed overnight at the “Hunting Lodge” of his friend, Bill Bledsoe who owned some acreage with oil wells. Bill was very generous.

Billy taught NLB courses but his favorite was “A Sense of Self.” He liked those lessons because they enabled students to see why they needed to change their behavior. In 2002, there was a reduction in prison funds and some chaplains were laid off. Again, Billy decided to help fill the gap. Weekly, he drove 109 miles to Longview from Labor Day until late December. He studied and prepared himself to be a volunteer chaplain.

In order to become a certified volunteer chaplain, Billy needed to carry out a number of tasks. This is where the chaplain-in-training writes down every word he speaks to the counselee and every word the counselee says to him. The latter part once involved a sixty-five year old inmate who had murdered his sixty year old wife. He thought she had been cheating on him. This was not easy for Billy.

In 2008, Billy took a sabbatical from prison ministry to train to become a Certified Master Gardener. Upon returning to the prison ministry in February 2009, Billy found himself confronted by the prison authorities as having supplied items to certain inmates, namely marijuana. Billy explained that he did not know what marijuana looked like nor what it smelled like. He also stated that he would not and did not provide any drug to inmates. A week later, when he returned to the Beto Prison Unit, one of his students explained that the “word” was out on the unit that since Billy is a Certified Mater Gardener, he could grow anything.

In 2009, Billy retired from traveling and teaching in the prison ministry. His wife's illness made it impossible from him to go far from home. But he was still going about doing good for others. Billy had developed a passion for working with community raised

gardens. As always, he put his heart and soul into this effort. He got involved in what is known as "Square Foot Gardening." This is a wonderful idea, especially for city dwellers and people with small plots of land on which to grow vegetables.

Lyndah Drum, Board chairperson for New Life Behavior International, contacted Billy about helping Barry Phiri, a NLBI trainer in Zambia, Africa. Over the past few years, Billy and Barry communicated by email on how Barry could help the people in Zambia grow vegetables in fields of all sizes. Once when Barry came to the Dallas area, he and Billy got together and talked and planned how to help a multitude of people in Zambia.

Once Billy gets involved, he naturally all out. Billy continued training Barry in farming. He also began helping Barry financially underwrite Barry's mission efforts. Barry, with Billy's help, was able to realize a harvest in souls and vegetables. The Zambian Minister of Agriculture took notice of Barry's contribution to farming. He asked Barry to share his expertise for the nation at large.

Billy, I am proud of your contribution in sharing the gospel of Christ as well as the gospel of farming. Thank you for being a part of NLB.

H. M. Motsinger