

FAMILY UPREACH, INC.

NewLife

BEHAVIOR MINISTRIES

October 2023

Since 1984: *Reconciling persons to God, families and society*

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Dr. Dale Underwood, NLBM President

There are about two dozen NLBM Regional Directors around the United States in places like Indiana, Louisiana, West Virginia, Alabama, Florida, Michigan, Oklahoma, Missouri, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, New Mexico, and Texas. They are involved in their own areas. Yet, they make themselves available to help and train others interested in becoming knowledgeable of and/or teaching the NLB curriculum. We are so very blessed to work with men and women such as these! Recently, a Regional Director in Tennessee shared these insightful thoughts.

“Students, on occasion, provide very deep and understanding statements in their homework. When they do, we ask for permission to use the statement but will not reveal their name, location, or date. Here is an example from the *Attitudes & Behaviors* class with the student commenting on the lesson on Temperance . . .”

“Too much of anything can be bad. Sometimes what we want isn't what we need; sometimes what we need isn't what we want (like prison).”

“It is statements like this in writing (or verbal) that highlights the growth of the student and making it so apparent that reinforces to me that we are all made in God's image and why we are doing what we are doing behind and beyond the bars.”

We thank God for these NLBM Regional Directors who are constantly but quietly at work with men and women in prison to bring them to an understanding of Jesus and the life transformation that results from walking through life with a mindset fixed on following Him.



Too much of anything can be bad

50th National Jail & Prison Ministry Workshop



June 12-14, 2024

Corpus Christi, Texas

IN LOVING MEMORY ~ IN HONOR OF

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
Dr/M Dale Underwood
M/M Bob Wachtel
Linda Crofton
M/M Buck Griffith
M/M Frank Degollado

Received from:

M/M Buck Griffith
M/M Bob Wachtel
Dr./M Dale Underwood

In loving memory of:

Randy Myers
Randy Myers
Randy Myers
Randy Myers
Jeremy Maxey
Marion Pearson

In honor of:

Dr. Joyce Freeman
Dr. Joyce Freeman
Dr. Joyce Freeman

COPING WITH NEW CORRESPONDENCE RULES

We are fielding a growing number of calls from dedicated workers with mounting confusion and frustration as to how correspondence courses can continue to be used while adhering to new restrictions. We are in communication with authorities and will share answers as we learn them. Several possibilities are being considered at this time. All TDCJ offenders are receiving a tablet on which they will receive mail after being digitally scanned. Sadly, this is necessary due to a tremendous amount of contraband (especially narcotics) arriving through the mail. And some of it IS coming in from ministries, churches, and other supposedly “religious” programs. We are supportive of eliminating contraband, but some whose sole involvement is a *correspondence ministry* are seriously thinking of ending their ministry. We urge caution in reacting hastily. This will require time and tenacity, but we *will* discover ways to survive and thrive.

We request from all contacting us: Be certain that you are on this monthly newsletter mail list because this is where we will keep you informed of ways to proceed with successful correspondence ministries. You will learn what we know and recommend as of today below:

- All mail sent to a TDCJ unit after Monday, September 11, 2023, will be returned to the sender.
- If sending materials to a county jail, find out if prisoners have tablets. They do have them in Nueces County Jail, where we serve locally, and we must send their lessons for scanning in Maryland.
- Address correspondence to a TDCJ offender like this: **Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Full first name, last name, and number
P. O. Box 660400
Dallas, TX 75266-0400**
- Correspondence to the offender should be available on the tablet within *three business days* after arrival.
- “Religious tracts must be approved and distributed by the unit chaplain” (don’t mail tracts to students).
- Information may be sought 365 days a year, seven days a week, 24 hours per day by contacting Securus® Customer Service at 1 (800) 844-6591.

Lesson material sent must be **staple-free**, *without tape*, but may be two-sided and full-color but when scanned, all materials scanned and received will in black. **Do not send envelopes. This last sentence presents the biggest obstacle we are now seeking to resolve.** How do students return test answers for grading. Currently, they cannot print out tests. A few with paper and funds for an envelope and stamp are returning a sheet with their lesson name and test answers. When a course is successfully completed, we can send a diploma that will be scanned and viewed on the inmate’s tablet. Again, the student cannot print the certificate. Currently, we are saving all student certificates in alphabetical order in a file for availability when needed for parole review. Also, if requested by the student, we will send it to a designated family member or friend in the free-world to be preserved for the same purpose.

“Gideon Project” Keeps Inching Closer

Dr. Dale Underwood and Recardo Reyes recently took a research trip on behalf of further refining and developing our “Gideon Project.” We will keep this exciting training opportunity before you. Among visits to others, Dale and Recardo visited Brother Ronnie Crocker and the *Project Rescue* program in Decatur, Alabama. This effort has been a leader in the substance abuse recovery field for many years. This residential program typically accepts members of the Lord’s church for what may end up being a two-year stay. The participants are not necessarily individuals who have been incarcerated. Dale and Recardo were favorably impressed and interviewed a few prospective candidates for our *Gideon Project*.

The next step was one person filled out an application to the *Gideon Project*. After a thorough vetting process, there were multiple interviews both by phone and Zoom. *Project Rescue’s* Program Manager, Jason Cagle, brought Walker Hill to visit and have a first-hand look at the nature of this work and consider the *Gideon Project* seriously. The result of that was a mutual decision for Walker to be here after satisfactorily completing his *Project Rescue* in November of this year. Recardo is our primary supervisor and coordinator of the *Gideon Project*. He will reach out to many of you for help as we prepare for Walker’s arrival.

Jason Cagle,
Walker Hill,
Dale &
Recardo



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

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