

“WALKING IN THE LIGHT”

Kings Crossing Prison Ministries

A NEWS REVIEW & EDUCATIONAL TOOL OF JAIL-PRISON MINISTRIES IN CHURCHES OF CHRIST
Buck Griffith, Editor

“Helping make the world better and safer by teaching Christ to those in prison”

April 2020

BAPTISTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

We have finished sending information on our **Baptistries Around the World** effort to every known congregation of churches of Christ in the United States. This is a huge task. “Why” do we go to this much trouble?



We do this because we are passionate about soul winning. Nothing compares to the excitement of witnessing a person being immersed for remission of sins! *It never gets boring!*

Since this effort began in 1991, we have placed baptistries in thirty-nine (39) foreign countries in addition to the units sent throughout the USA. Many are used in the United States to baptize persons at home who are seriously ill, at camps/retreats, etc. You may be thinking . . .

This is not a work of the prison ministry.

You are correct! *Baptistries Around the World* started with the goal of placing a baptismal tank inside every jail and prison in America and was known as “Baptistries Across America.” However, it quickly became evident that there is a worldwide need *beyond the prison population*. Of course, we remain committed to getting baptistries inside every jail and prison in America.

Many know the history of this ministry and how we never would have been able to baptize those in our local county jail without inventing these “portable” units. In the photo below you see Bob Wachtel baptizing Buck Griffith in the rear alley

behind the church to be sure it was large enough to fully immersed fat boys!

Then, we started receiving requests to supply them in various other locations so the process was streamlined to make them economically feasible. Before we knew it, we were asked to supply them to Mexico, Australia, Honduras, Peru, Guatemala, etc., so the name changed to . . . **Baptistries Around the World**.

It cost us \$400 to put all the pieces together for one portable baptismal tank. Since no one else wanted to supply this marvelous tool (at cost), Kings Crossing Church of Christ (*Kings Crossing Prison Ministries*) determined to do it. In a few cases, whoever requests a baptismal tank reimburses us the \$400 plus shipping (another \$100 or so). Some can send \$250 or less but many need us to supply it – **FREE** – *which we do!* There IS a saturation point and then, *we need outside help*. This is the reason we send out letters to every congregation in the USA annually. We hope to build a donor base of one-time, monthly, quarterly, and annual donors.

Don’t get us wrong – we are going to supply every baptismal tank needed! We cannot say “no” to a taught and believing soul that wants to put Christ on in baptism – regardless of funds available. But this requires *Kings Crossing Prison Ministries* to get out and raise the funds required to do it. With adequate funding, we can proactively approach jails and prisons needing baptismal tanks.

Mistakenly, a few have thought we “sell” baptismal tanks. We ask for reimbursement only but knowing 100% cannot do so, we seek help. If someone finds a way to meet this need for less, we will shut this program down immediately. We will gladly let them do it. **Baptistries Around the World** is a lot of work but we believe it is well worth the time, energy, and expense. We believe many of YOU agree so we will . . . **press on!**

Thank you for your prayers and continued support.



MAJOR “NETWORKING” TOOL

Since 1975, we have maintained the **National Directory of Churches of Christ & Individual Christians Involved in Jail/Prison Ministries**. It is primarily used for us to remain connected and receive referrals when offenders, ex-offenders and/or family members are in need and transitioning. It helps when seeking assistance for baptisms, personal visits, and general “follow-up” work.

The Directory also demonstrates the dramatic increase in jail and prison ministry activity. In 1975, for instance, it contained a total of 24 congregations and 110 individual workers but 20 years later, it had grown to 481 congregations and 698 individuals in 1995. At this time, 1027 congregations and 2347 persons are listed.

In order to maximize the benefit of the Directory, the information needs to be accurate. Thus, we have sought to receive 100% reports from those currently included. We are soliciting help from our newsletter recipients. Let us know of changes: corrections, deletions, additions, etc.

We want to list the jails/prisons worked in and the nature of the ministry (even if only doing Bible studies by mail). We are adding a new category this year of workers who have retired but willing to counsel and advise those less experienced. We need to tap into this wealth of experience, knowledge, and wisdom while we still have these spiritual heroes with us.

Email addresses are helpful but often change. While a few folks quit each year, new workers are added. Let us know what you know and do not assume “someone else” has already informed us.



47TH NATIONAL JAIL-PRISON WORKSHOP

This year’s workshop was planned for this June in Louisville, Kentucky before Covid-19 discovered America! Jerry Stephenson, the minister and one of the elders at Midwest Church of Christ, had put together a great team to plan an amazing schedule and calendar of events. When it became evident that the workshop could not happen, they began

looking at alternative dates. Due to numerous conflicts, it looked like October might be the earliest option but weather conditions might be a problem. The next possibility appeared to be the following March but that gets close to time for the 48th to be in Wichita Falls, Texas!



Stephen Paul Wolf will direct that event in Wichita Falls (Edgemere Church of Christ). After speedy consultation, Wichita Falls agreed to allow Louisville to “roll forward” the 2020 workshop to June 9-11, 2021 and Wichita Falls will do it in 2022. We are grateful these brethren worked together to find a solution.

Due to the pandemic, many ministries are hurting financially. This might mean a smaller number able to attend this year anyway. Hopefully, things will return to nearer “normal” by June 2021. This also gives all ministries an opportunity to be better prepared to participate and support this valuable effort. Keep praying for

Jerry and his team at Midwest Church of Christ in Louisville. They will soon be getting more updates out to everyone on future plans for a beneficial time together in 2021.

MEMORIAL & HONOR GIFTS

Memorial Gifts express comfort to those losing loved ones. *Honor Gifts* show gratitude for those held in high esteem. We acknowledge all gifts. This expression of generosity keeps on helping others in a lasting way.

Received from:

M/M Buck Griffith
M/M Frank Maxey
Mae Evins
M/M Buck Griffith
M/M Frank Maxey
M/M Tom Blackstone

In Loving Memory of:

Jimmy Lord
Jimmy Lord
Monte Shores
Laura Nichols
Laura Nichols
Mike Blackstone



Kings Crossing Prison Ministries is under the oversight of the shepherds, Kings Crossing Church of Christ, 5901 Yorktown Boulevard, Corpus Christi, Texas 78414 (Steve Brashear, Ron Cardwell, Robert Illgen, Rick Legvold, and Jack North).

Contact Information: The physical office for the prison ministry is located at 3833 South Staples, Suite S-101, Corpus Christi, Texas 78411 (361) 855-3372 or fax (361) 855-7469. Our email is: kcprisonministries@gmail.com. View our website: www.kingscrossingprisonministries.org.