

# “WALKING IN THE LIGHT” Kings Crossing Prison Ministries

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

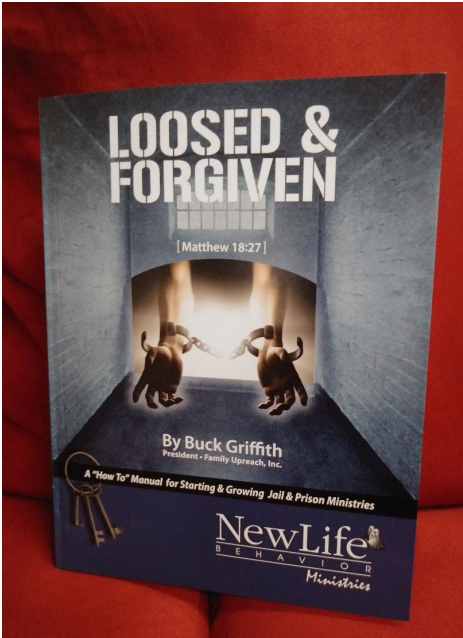
“Helping make the world better and safer teaching Christ to those in prison”

June 2020

## “LOOSED AND FORGIVEN” MANUAL

Buck Griffith

It has taken a long time to complete but this manual is finally in print and ready for use. This is an effort to spell out the “How To” of almost fifty years devoted to serving in this ministry. Hopefully, it will help avoid pitfalls, maximize souls won, and magnify the glory due our God and Savior.



The “title” is lifted from Matthew 18:27. “Loosed and forgiven” is what occurs as a result of being made whole. It involves the *new* birth and freedom from the past. It is little wonder that Jesus used a similar statement – “loose him and let him go” – after raising Lazarus from the grave in John 11:44. What God has done for others, He will do for all penitent and obedient believers.

So, how can this manual help? Many think it helps start a jail or prison ministry. It offers that but much more. Hence, the statement on the front speaks of . . .

### *starting and growing jail and prison ministries*

There is a big difference between starting a ministry to juveniles in detention and ministering to adults in county jails. There are unique challenges if working with males versus females. And *state* prisons are not like *federal* facilities. Plus, there are substance abuse treatment centers, pre-release/work-release units, and “halfway” houses.

Under the heading of *growing* ministries you will discover insights on recruiting-training of volunteers, curriculum, addiction recovery, working successfully with

the administration, sex-offenders, peer-support groups, family outreach, Bible studies by mail, and assisting with the re-entry process.

The section on “identifying” your ministry is essential. As a ministry grows, its identity evolves and leaders must keep pace. Is its direction consistent with long-term goals? All change is not good. An organized ministry is not a wild beast determining its own territory and habitat. We offer *structure* to those who are undisciplined and we lead best by *modeling*.

The *fund-raising* section is valuable. Winning souls is not about money but a cheap car cannot be driven without gas. Rome was not built overnight. Do well with what you hold in your hand and God will increase it. Accept this fact: you will never have enough to do *everything* so, do not try. Instead, do what you do well. Reinvestigate your “identity” from time to time and adjust. Unchecked, any ship drifts off course. But sometimes our course needs changing. If I recall my history correctly, it’s almost a miracle that Columbus found America!

The objective of this manual is not limited to helping ministries start and grow. I want to shift attitudes toward this ministry from negative to positive. It will help if we get a copy into the hands of church leaders (ministers, elders, deacons, Bible teachers, etc.). I consider this a success if it helps *one* ministry get off the ground, avoids *one* pitfall, and wins *one* soul for eternity! Pray to this end.

This manual is available for \$14.95 plus shipping from Family Upreach, Inc. (*NewLife Behavior Ministries*) and may be ordered through the website – [www.nlbm.org](http://www.nlbm.org). To give you a taste, note a few excerpts posted here ▶▶▶▶▶▶

“In February (1981), Chief Justice Warren Burger stated: ‘We must focus more attention on the condition of the incarcerated person. To put people behind walls and bars and do little or nothing to change them is to win a battle but lose a war. It is wrong. It is expensive. It is stupid.’”

“Who am I to stand in the way of ANY soul that desires to be washed in the blood of the Lamb and escape the Hell we ALL deserve?”

“Christians against prison ministry have likely never been adequately informed. They mistakenly take us as *bleeding hearts* and assume our agenda is to *turn criminals loose*. Our job is to educate them.”

“Satan wanted to sift Peter like wheat. If you are wheat, you end up feeling like you’ve been through the mill. I think I’ve been there, done that, and lost my T-shirt.”

“Prisons constitutionally and safely hold persons for the time society has prescribed. Volunteers do what the system is not designed to do. The church is God’s plan for true freedom and lasting reconciliation.”

## CHANGES IN CORRESPONDENCE STUDIES

Changes in “correspondence” requirements by Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) became effective on March 1, 2020. The new rule means all incoming mail must use black ink on white paper. We are not here to discuss the *pros* and *cons*. It is a *done deal*. Our task is not to argue but comply. We have confirmed the new restriction to zillions of callers. This is not the first time we have encountered this rule. Several other states have had this requirement in effect for years. We keep the full-color courses for those who accept them. However, we have now completed the task of reproducing all our curriculum using black ink on white paper.

Wow! What a job! There are 182 lessons in the NewLife Behavior curriculum. Each lesson consists of a dozen letter-size pages, so this means changing 2,198 pages, including certificates.

Next, we turned to the Unbound Word courses we utilize: There IS a Better Way, Prisoners of Hope, Pathway to a Better Life, Living the Better Way, Freedom Steps, Firmly Rooted, Study of Baptism, Beatitudes, and Freedom Within. This meant 89 *more* lessons to change, including certificates. Unbound Word is also making test changes to all courses. Each will eventually have ten multiple choice questions. This will simplify grading, speed up the turnaround time, encourage students, and maintain a higher level of student interest.

Finally, to comply with the new TDCJ guidelines, we also must use white envelopes with black ink, no stick-on labels and tracts must also be on white paper with black ink. Our graders use black ink only pens. On the brighter side, the changes made to satisfy TDCJ means we are in compliance with 100% of jails and prisons in this country.



## THE LOSS OF A GRAND CHRISTIAN LADY

George & Gladys McFarlin have been a tremendous encouragement to the prison ministry for many years. George taught in Refugio County Jail. He died some years ago and Gladys joined George in their heavenly mansion on May 14. This couple helped in many ways beyond being generous financial supporters. They constantly lifted us up in prayer. They seized every opportunity to brag on us, often embarrassing us in public praise.



This photo of Gladys was at a Golden Agers Camp in 2014. Alton Shaw, San Augustine minister, was by her side.

George & Gladys often cooked for the Golden Agers Camp and coordinated weekend retreats at HEB near Leakey. Like George, Gladys' first husband (Welton Nickel) used Sundays to preach for small congregations. Before his passing, Brother Nickel gave an 18-year-old named Buck Griffith books full of hand-written sermon notes. The church today desperately needs people like Gladys, Welton, and George to inspire young boys and girls to “take their place” on the front lines of standing up for Jesus! Gladys' worth was *far above rubies*. She made Welton and George look good. It's impossible to “take their place.” She stood boldly in her own place and now, we must stand in our places!

## 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. Generosity in this way continues to help others in a multitude of lasting ways.

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M/M Buck Griffith

### **In Loving Memory of:**

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Monte Shores  
Laura Nichols  
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Gladys McFarlin



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**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).

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