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To cut cost, states relax prison policies

By Jennifer Steinhauer
New York Times
March 24, 2009

CARSON CITY, Nev. — For nearly three decades, most states have dealt with lawbreakers in two ways: lock more of them up for longer periods, and build more prisons to hold them. Now many governments, out of money and buried under mounting prison costs, are reversing those policies and practices.

Some states, like Colorado and Kansas, are closing prisons. Others, like New Jersey, have replaced jail time with community programs or other sanctions for people who violate parole. Kentucky lawmakers passed a bill this month that enhances the credits some inmates can earn toward release.

Michigan is doing a little of all of this, in addition to freeing some offenders who have yet to serve their maximum sentence. And last Wednesday, Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico, a Democrat, signed legislation to repeal the state’s death penalty, which aside from ethical concerns was seen as costly.

Being tough on crime and sentencing has long been the *Continue on page 17*

Restoring victims and communities

By Lisa Rea and Theo Gavrielides

What do the following news stories have in common? The Bernard Madoff Ponzi scheme responsible for the biggest corporate securities fraud in history, the Austrian rape and murder case of Josef Fritzl whose daughter was enslaved for 24 years, and the Irish Republican Army shooting two British soldiers and injuring four others in March 2009, breaking the peace outside Belfast?

The answer is that we will probably never know what steps have been taken to provide a form of reparation to the victims or their families, in ways that allow them to live their lives in peace.

Victims-driven restorative justice is happening all around the globe. It is challenging the traditional criminal justice system by providing a new vision for systemic justice reform. The crime victims and those who recognize their unmet needs are the ones who are increasingly leading the effort to make this transition. However, despite thorough evidence and numerous restorative justice evaluations, the victims’ appeals for restoration are rarely heard.

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Toastmasters Celebration, Central Unit, Sugarland, TX

By Jim Arnold



On October 3, 2008, the two Toastmasters gavel clubs celebrated their eighth year of weekly meetings with a program entitled, "GIVING BACK". A special tribute was given to Avril Thompson, widow of Bert Thompson. Known throughout the state of Texas for his efforts on behalf of inmates, and nationally for his work regarding deaf inmates, Bert and Avril spent many a Sunday night at the Central unit's Toastmasters gavel club meetings. The inmates provided a demonstration meeting, showing their gratitude and expressing what the program, provided by Skills For Life, had done for them. One young man expressed thanks for, "giving me my dignity back". Prior to the meeting, the inmates and guests dined on barbeque. The highlight of the evening was the keynote speaker. Zig Ziglar's International Director and protégé, Krish Dhanam, provided a very humorous, yet serious talk entitled, "How To Build A Winning Momentum".

He explained the 5 levels of communication: Frivolity, Facts, Feeling, Friendship, and Freedom. In citing examples of the last one, he quoted Dr. Martin Luther King and Billy Graham.

Skills For Life has taught servant leadership and communication skills in five prisons in the Houston area. Over 1,000 inmates have participated. This is one of the programs that can help inmates in two ways: Prepare them for reentry and as a tool to help them change the prison culture. The breadth and depth of how this is building positive community can be expressed in two stories. Some time ago, Jason gave his tenth speech. His objective was to inspire his audience. The club members knew Jason's background. In the 1990's he was a paratrooper. Jason and the other paratroopers were standing on the tarmac at Ft. Pope, North Carolina. Knowing they were within five minutes of taking off, Jason decided he had time to run to the bathroom. He took off running. When he was about a hundred feet from the others, an F16 crashed into the tarmac, killing 24 soldiers and injuring 100 others. Jason was the last man off the tarmac with burns over much of body. He lost his left leg above the knee, requiring a prosthesis. Jason told his club members, "When I left the military, the only thing I missed was the camaraderie. It was the most incredible thing I ever experienced and I was sick to death I would never again have that experience. You men need to know I found it here in our club meetings." The next story is about Michael. When Michael came to prison, he could not read or write. He learned how to do that while in prison. Five years ago, when he joined the club, he told me he prayed for a year to get in the club (yes, the waiting list was that long). He wanted to join because at the age of forty-five, he was incapable of having a conversation with his own mother. Michael recently gave his thirtieth speech.

Skills For Life, at the executive director's request, started a club (membership is limited to approximately twenty members to allow for weekly participation and one speech per month), at the Carol Vance unit in Richmond, Texas. Inmates are here on a voluntary basis, to participate in the Christian program provided. The club was started in July 2005. Based on the changes noticed in the participants, in May 2006, the program became part of the curriculum. Six months of the program was made mandatory for every inmate going through the unit. Many chose to join the voluntary club while still participating in the mandatory meetings. Currently, the popularity of the voluntary program is such that two meetings are held concurrently, with the possibility of adding a third meeting.

On their website, <http://www.skillsforlifepm.com>, there are inmate letters and videos. The eight videos are speeches given by inmates regarding inmate, spiritual, and societal issues. If you would like to know more about the Skills for Life program, please contact them through their website.

Note: see relating article, Inmate Testimonial on page 21

Ministry Resources: Restorative Justice Ministries Network

1229 Avenue J, Huntsville TX 77340

Recommended for ministry people:

Restorative Justice Ministry for Pastors & Church Leaders - **Emmett Solomon** \$12.00 _____
 Guidance for leaders interested in beginning RJM in the local congregation

Challenging the Impossible: Discovering Beautiful Trophies for Jesus- **Joe Fauss** \$12.00 _____
 The inspirational story of Joe and Charlotte Fauss, who have spent the past 31 years reaching out to prisoners.

The Real World of Restorative Justice Ministry- **Pastor Dave Umfreville** \$12.00 _____
 Timeless principles in a restorative justice ministry arena. Dedicated to those who labor in this field.

Recommended for ministry & offenders:

Serving Time, Serving Others - **Tom & Laura Lagana** \$17.00 _____
 Acts of kindness by inmates, prison staff, victims, and volunteers

Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul -**Canfield,Hensen,Oberst,Boal,Lagana** \$17.00 _____
 Stories to celebrate the spirit of courage, caring and community

Chicken Soup for the Prisoner's Soul -**Canfield,Hensen,Lagana** \$17.00 _____
 Stories to celebrate the spirit of courage, caring and community

Karla Faye Tucker **SET FREE-Linda Strom** \$12.00 _____
 Her Death-Row transformation captured the world's attention. Uplifting, good read
Spanish version also available \$12.00 _____

Recommended for offender's families and friends:

Reflections of Life: Through the Eyes of a Convict - **Blake Holmes** \$15.00 _____
 Written with the intent to educate, inspire and motivate the reader to lead a positive and productive life.

What Is Jail, Mommy? - **Jackie A. Stanglin** \$12.00 _____
 It is the author's firm belief that it is incumbent on each of us to provide age-appropriate facts to young inquiring minds.
 To do otherwise will be evident in future generations.
Spanish version also available \$12.00 _____

Family Arrested: How to Survive the Incarceration of a Loved One - **Ann Edenfield** \$15.00 _____
 Ann Edenfield is Executive Director of Wings Ministry, a ministry to families of inmates.
Audio tape book also available \$22.00 _____

An Inmate's Daughter - **Jan Walker**
 Jan Walker taught parenting and family relationships to adult felons for eighteen years.
 She used her background and success with incarcerated dads to create this "true fiction" novel. \$10.00 _____

Recommended for offenders:

Behind The Walls A Guide For Families and Friends of Texas Prison Inmates \$15.00 _____
J. A. Renaud - A practical guide for inmates' families, and new inmates, to understand the system.

A Map Through the Maze - **Rollo, Adams** \$12.00 _____
 Overview of the correctional experience of offenders and their families

Man, I Need a Job- **Ned Rollo** \$10.00 _____
 Provides offenders the insights and skills they need to find and keep a job following release

99 Days and a Get Up - **Ned Rollo** \$12.00 _____
 A guide to success following release for inmates and their loved ones.

Life Without A Crutch - **Ingraham, Bell, Rollo** \$10.00 _____
 An introduction to recovery form addiction

Total \$ _____

All prices include shipping and handling. We can mail books to prisoners on your behalf.

SEND BOOK(S) TO:
 INSTITUTION: _____ INMATE #: _____
 NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 PURCHASER: _____ PHONE: _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS: _____



Note from the Editor:

If you enjoy Richard Blake's *California News* section in each issue of the Restorative Justice News, you will also enjoy reading his insightful analysis on book reviews which can be found on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Reader Views, and Midwest Book Review.

Just Google his name: Richard R. Blake and it will bring up several sites where his book reviews are posted. If you put "prison ministry" after his name it will bring up extra websites where his articles are posted.

Richard is a gifted writer. We appreciate his faithful support for the R. J. News.

Sacramento

California is faced with a budget crisis, ballot measures addressing victim's rights, pressure from the union, federal intervention, and a rising crime rate. California's prison population continues to grow while the state is trying to resolve federal demands to upgrade prison facilities and provide better inmate medical care. A panel made up of three federal judges is studying the dangerous overcrowding and the low level of health care standards. The panel is drafting an order that would require the state to cap prison population. To meet this proposed standard it is estimated that up to 58,000 California inmates would be released. These demands further highlight the desperate need for reform in California's parole and prison systems. In a state where facilities are maxed out to twice their designed capacity, a vicious cycle of overcrowding, parolee releases, and recidivism, the state is being criticized for giving far too little attention to rehabilitating prisoners.

San Quentin State Prison gets another reprieve as even as the state looks for solutions in a time of budget crisis. The 157 year old prison has become a prime target for real estate developers looking for land with water front property. If sold the proceeds of the sale could be used to build a new death row facility on a lower priced parcel of land with reduced operating expenses. Law makers are reticent because of the standing policy to hold any bills that would contribute to overcrowding other California prison facilities.

Los Angeles

In Sylmar, Los Angeles County is studying the possibility of constructing a seventy bed hospital to house youth who need treatment for serious mental health conditions. The study has been in process for a decade however funding sources have created a stalemate. The reality of the growing numbers of mentally ill youths is bringing the issue to the forefront. Justice department demands call for improvement in mental health staffing, screening, and treatment at juvenile facilities.

Oakland

In a city already plagued with violence four police officers were gunned down by parolee Lovell Mixon. These shootings have further escalated the tensions between the community and the police. Every year thousands of parolees are returned to the streets of Oakland, repeat their crimes and are returned to prison. Laney College is considering the impact on the community and ways to work with this influx of former inmates.

Hayward

In an effort to create a closer rapport with the community the City of Hayward has opened two new substations. It is the hope that by bringing officers closer to the neighborhoods the residents will feel freer to communicate with the police on community issues. The presence of the substation in the downtown business district has been a crime deterrent and created a new surge in business. Graffiti, vagrancy, and petty crime have been reduced. Community connection is the goal and anticipated reward of the program. Aggressive Anti-graffiti efforts continue as Hayward seeks to discourage gang activities

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New house for women at risk

By Billy and Jacqueline Thornton
Directors, Grace House

Thanks to the Texas Baptist Retiree Builders, Texas Baptist Cabinet Builders, local volunteers and several local contractors, the new Grace House, located on the campus of Baptist Child and Family Services, has been completed. Thanks are also extended to several local churches, hundreds of individual contributors, the Baptist Health Foundation, and the Greeley Family Foundation for their financial contributions. The women moved in the day after Thanksgiving. The 8,000 square foot home will house twelve women plus three staff. The new house includes a large classroom equipped with new computers and an exercise room.

A local church in San Antonio made it possible for six of the Grace House women to attend college. One outstanding graduate is enrolled in the under graduate program at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft Worth. She has completed the fall semester and is now enrolled for the spring semester. She hopes to go on a summer mission trip to Central America, and has dedicated her life to full time Christian service.

The program at Grace House concentrates on Bible study and evangelism. They emphasize that each woman needs to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Classes in parenting, cooking, job training, nutrition and health are also included. Their mission is to help women at risk to overcome their lifestyle of drug and alcohol addiction, incarceration and poverty, in order that they may grow in their faith and become the women that God designed them to be.

If anyone knows of a woman who is at risk, you are invited to contact the Grace House.

If your church would like to hear more about how God is changing the women at Grace House, they will be glad to give a presentation to your church or organization. The women's testimonies are beautiful and inspiring, telling how God has delivered them from darkness and into His light. Please contact Billy or Jacqueline Thornton by phone at 830-537-4333 or 210-573-5419 for further information..

California News

Continued from page 4
within the city.

Castro Valley

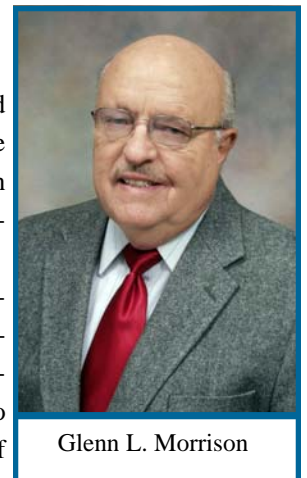
The First Baptist Church of Castro Valley hosted the Spring Leadership Retreat sponsored by the Follow Up Ministries International. President and founder Glenn L. Morrison challenged the group of God Squad Members, Prison Seminar leaders and staff members to focus on developing an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, evangelism, and multiplying disciples.



Gus Enderlin

God Squad members Gus Enderlin, and Tim Wagoner led workshops on the theme of leadership and training the next generation of leaders. Enderlin emphasized the necessity of leadership, identifying the vacuum of leadership, and the five practices of leadership. Wagoner spoke to the issues of Biblical leadership, identifying God's purpose, the Word of God, and prayer.

Follow Up Ministries, Inc. is a faith based mission agency, serving the spiritual needs of prisoners since 1956. God Squad volunteers, trained by veteran Prison Chaplain Glenn L. Morrison, serve as spiritual mentors to prisoners in jails, juvenile detention centers, and in state and federal prisons.



Glenn L. Morrison

Restoring victims and communities

Continued from page 1

There is mounting pressure on governments worldwide to respond to crime by doing more than just incarcerating offenders for long periods of time. This is partly due to the ever increasing cost of retributive approaches to crime, but in recent years crime victims have also been adding their voices to advocate new ways of responding to crime that directly involve them and their families. According to a number of international studies, victims are saying that they are unsatisfied with the traditional criminal justice system and they are asking for restorative justice.

Victims-driven restorative justice is built on the premise that an offender needs to see the direct impact that his crime had on his victim and on the community, and should be given the opportunity to make amends and seek to provide a form of reparation to those he injured. Through the voluntary participation of both the victim and the offender engaged in an honest and constructive dialogue (i.e. mediation, family group conferencing, circles, etc.) facilitated by trained professionals, the participants benefit from the information exchange. Advocates of restorative justice argue that it isn't enough to just "process" offenders in ways that emphasize only the fact that their crime is a crime against the state. Instead, victims are seeking ways to heal while arguing that direct offender accountability will increase the chance that offenders will change their conduct after being released from prison or jail. With the participation of victims in such projects, the victims' satisfaction with the criminal justice system increases.

Some of these justice projects deserving a close examination include the following: 1) the Sycamore Tree Project, a project of Prison Fellowship International (PFI), an intensive in-prison victim-offender program using surrogates tested in 23 countries since its first pilot program in Texas in 1998; 2) London Against Gun and Knife Crime, a community-based project of Race on the Agenda (ROTA), a program to reduce violent juvenile crime by addressing issues related to crime and the injuring of victims; 3) Bridges to Life (BTL) based in Texas, an in-prison victim-offender restorative justice project replicated throughout the state of Texas created by a victim of violent crime, an outgrowth of the Sycamore Tree Project, and 4) the Gacaca court in Rwanda, an indigenous community-based justice effort in response to the 1994 genocide involving huge numbers of victims and their families urging offender accountability to fulfill their need for healing and sometimes for reconciliation too. These examples are just a few of the cutting edge projects in operation worldwide using restorative justice as the basis for justice reform and underscoring the need to involve crime victims. Along with a number of other projects, they have been the centre of government, academic and other independent evaluation and research, and have generated some of the richest and most thorough data ever produced within the criminal justice field. However, restorative justice still has to be mainstreamed.

For instance, following the Ninth United Nations Congress, the formation of the "Working Party on Restorative Justice" brought together a panel of international experts under the auspices of the Alliance of Non-governmental Organizations on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. This Alliance collected the evidence that gave a high profile to restorative justice, earning it a place on the agenda of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders held in 2000. Their findings, along with submissions from several governments, have led to the drafting of Resolution 1999/26 outlining the basic principles on the use of restorative justice and asking member states to introduce them into their criminal justice systems. This is now formally known as Resolution E/CN.15/2002/L.2 "Basic Principles on the use of Restorative Justice program in criminal matters".

The United Nation Resolution is only one of many international documents that call for the use of restorative justice; yet many national governments are refusing to mainstream its practices. As evidence continues to be collected, additional work must be carried out at the legislative and public policy level, while increasing awareness of victims-driven restorative justice among the public, decision makers and donors. But it is clear that a powerful new constituency of support is emerging globally: victims of crime.

Lisa Rea has been a public policy consultant specializing in restorative justice since 1992; Founder, The Justice & Reconciliation Project (JRP) based in California, U.S. Dr. Theo Gavrielides is the Chief Executive Officer, Race on the Agenda (ROTA) and is the Founder and Director of the Independent Academic Research Studies (IARS) based in London, UK.

The 2nd Annual Prisoner's Family Conference—2010

The 2nd Annual Prisoner's Family Conference is scheduled for February 25 and 26, 2010 in Orlando, Florida.

Isolated and alone, children and families of prisoners have subsisted as marginalized and disenfranchised members of society for all too long. The goal of The 2nd Annual Prisoner's Family Conference is to increase awareness of the devastating and persistent trauma incarceration of a loved one creates for families and to develop solutions that lead to integrating and embracing The Prisoner's Family as valuable and valued members of mainstream communities across our country.

For those wishing to actively participate in The Prisoner's Family Conference, go to <http://www.solutionsforelpaso.org> to download the Call for Presentation application form, as well as the conference brochure.

This year's conference will include: a pre-conference networking gathering on Wednesday, February 24; 4 keynote presentations; 18 breakout workshops; a Thursday evening networking event; an exhibit area; and a special hands-on opportunity to attend a "Wings Party" inside an Orlando area prison provided by Wings Ministry, for those who wish to stay over through Saturday, February 27.

For those interested in learning and doing more to improve the circumstances of The Prisoner's Family, make plans now to attend the full conference February 25 and 26, 2010 in Orlando, Florida.

For more information, go to <http://www.solutionsforelpaso.org> and click on The Prisoner's Family Conference.

Smart on Crime in Fort Bend County—Texas

By Vickie Schleimer

Wouldn't it be safer for our community and cheaper for taxpayers to be smart on crime rather than just tough on crime? Tough on crime is the status quo, where over 60% of persons released from prison are rearrested within 3 years. Smart on crime means rehabilitating criminals so after their release they do not commit crimes and/or waste our tax dollars returning them to prison.



How can we be smart on crime? At a recent conference hosted by Christ United Methodist Church, over 130 people gathered to hear experts discuss that topic. The keynote speaker was Fort Bend County Judge Sandy Bielstein. Since 2006, he has presided over a specialized DWI Court in an effort to be smart on crime.

Individuals arrested for DWI that meet the court's criteria are invited to participate in a rehabilitation program instead of serving jail time. The program includes therapy, peer pressure, weekly meetings with the judge, random drug testing, and attending 12-step meetings. His program has a 96% success rate.

This program and a comparable Fort Bend Drug Court are smart on crime. They use tax dollars wisely. Fighting crime is expensive, and many crimes today are related to substance abuse. Fewer addicts mean safer communities.

In addition to hearing from Judge Bielstein, conference attendees attended workshops on Mentoring Inmates and Ex-Offenders, Ministering to Victims of Crime, In-Prison Programs, Faith Based Dorms, and Transitional Ministries. The message was consistent – the inmates of today will be our neighbors tomorrow. It's better, cheaper and safer for the community to partner with a criminal justice system that promotes creative alternatives to prison time such as DWI and Drug Courts. Being tax-wise and smart on crime means investing in community-based programming, like substance abuse treatment and probation programs and not just building more prisons. You can become part of the Smart on Crime solution. Learn more about Drug Court at <http://www.co.fort-bend.tx.us/getSitePage.asp?sitePage=7318> . Find out how to get involved in true rehabilitation and transformation of criminal offenders at http://www.cumcsl.org/min/restorative_justice.aspx

Use this Ministry ID Key to locate Ministry Emphasis:

*1=Prison *2=Non-residential Aftercare *3=Victim *4=Professionals *5=Juvenile Offenders *6=Family
*7=Resources for other RJMs *8=Residential Aftercare *9=Jails *10=By Mail

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Rev Larry Dewolf
Box 55
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403-823-4736
403-823-5995 **Fax**

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1-250-548-9271 **Fax**
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COLORADO

4 Desert Waters
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866-968-8368
youvent@desertwaters.com
www.desertwaters.com

5 Youth Transformation Center
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719-440-1983
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**1,7,9,10 Justice Ministries/
Prison Evangelism Outreach**
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843-558-2350
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1,2,3,10 Prison Lighthouse
Rev Reagan Beauchamp
45794 266th St
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sdpchaplains@juno.com

**6 Family Connection/Children's
Connection**
Dawn Brenda
303 N Minnesota Ave
Sioux Falls 57104-6012
605-357-0777
605-357-0780 **Fax**
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**1,2 Prison Congregation of America
Inc**
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**6 Eunice Chambless Hospitality
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1,2	TAX - Abilene Corrine Hansen 2657 Rountree Dr Abilene 79601-2034 325-676-5741 jtaxloop@taylortel.net	1,2,3,6, 7,9,10	Diocese of Beaumont Criminal Justice Ministry Deacon Harry Davis PO Box 3948 Beaumont 77704-3948 409-838-0451 409-838-4511 Fax hdavis@dioceseofbeaumont.org www.dioceseofbmt.org	1	Holy Ground Prison Ministry Johnny T Horan 207 N Saeger Brenham 77833 979-836-6328 daphne@gcfchurch.us
1,6,7, 9,10	Light for New Life Min Inc Rev Don Domeracki PO Box 170501 Arlington 76003-0501 817-516-0406 skyking273@sbcglobal.net www.lightfornewlifeministries.org	1,3,4	International Institute of Faith Based Counseling Debbie Marcantel PO Box 20723 Beaumont 77720 409-832-9060 409-832-7224 FAX info@iifbc.com	1,2, 7,9	Operation Rebound John W Harrington 409-735-3800 Young Adults Healed John W Harrington 801 Delaware Dr Bridge City 77511 409-738-7355 jwhfaye@yahoo.com
2, 8	Network for Life of Austin Inc Cheryl R Selby PO Box 180925 Austin 78719 512-419-0770 512-707-7116 FAX office@networkforlife.org cheryl@networkforlife.org www.networkforlife.org	6	Shepherd's Inn Gaspard Center Mary Green PO Box 20618 Beaumont 77703-4921 409-898-8797 409-892-9534 Fax shepherdsinn@gtba.org www.gtba.org	1,2, 8 (F),9	New Beginnings / TAX Bryan & College Station Pat Howard PO Box 3785 Bryan 77805 979-219-0671 979-361-4291 Fax phoward@co.brazos.tx.us
1,2,4, 6,8,10	Restorative Christian Outreach Ministries Mack Bailey 7506 Ed Bluestein Blvd Austin 78723 512-926-2431 midway3060@yahoo.com		More than Conquerors Kelley Purselley PO Box 210936 Bedford TX 76095 817-343-0492 www.conquerorsthroughchrist.com rrpandktp@sbcglobal.net		St John Baptist Church Rev R Michael Stromille 1508 S Broadway Dr Carrollton 75006
3	Victim Services Division-TDCJ Raven Kazen, Director PO Box 13401 Austin 78711-3401 800-848-4284 512-406-5417 Fax	1,2,6, 7,9	Regional CJM Center of S Texas Gene Woodard PO Box 4056 Beeville 78104 361-358-9699 gwoodard@cableone.net	1,9,10	Redeemed Ministries Betty G Oates PO Box 891 Chico 76431-0891 940-644-5237 940-644-2982 Fax redeemedministry@hotmail.com
1,3,5,8,9	Wheless Lane Christian Brothers Restorative Ministry Robert Mitchell/Robert Sephus 2702 Wheless Ln Austin 78723 512-926-2988 O-Mitchell@webtv.net www.whelessococ.org	3,4,5,6, 7,9,10	J.A.I.L. Ministry Inc Steve Cannon PO Box 634 Belton 76513-0634 254-933-8506 254-933-7569 Fax jailmin@vvm.com	2	New Awakenings Bryan Boyd/Barbara Abbe 203 W 2nd Ave Ste B Corsicana 75110 903-654-0003
2,3	Compassion Christian Counseling Vande Derrick 1297B Calder Beaumont 77701 409-832-5772 409832-7224 Fax	2	Manasseh Ministries Chaplain Muriel Roger PO Box 202 Ben Wheeler 75754 903-852-4402 manassehministries7@juno.com	1,2,3,4,5, 6,7,9,10	Newlife Behavior Ministries Buck Griffith 3833 S Staples Ste S-101 Corpus Christi 78472-2188 361-855-3372 361-855-7469 Fax nlbcasa@yahoo.com www.nlbm.org
				1,9	Prayer-life Seminars Inc Hugh White 630 Meadowbrook Dr Corpus Christi 78412-3019

	361-993-7651 361-985-8615 Fax hughlwhite@aol.com www.prayer-lifeseminars.org	5	Kingdom Visions Dr. Dana Brockway PO Box 740681 Dallas 75734 469-633-0221 religious@kingdomsvision.org www.kingdomsvision.org	1001 W Eules Blvd Ste 212 Eules 76040-5032 817-684-7870 817-684-7876 Fax office@copeministries.org www.copeministries.org
1,2,3,9,10	"Be Free" Jail & Prison Ministry Chaplain Inga Davis 3236 Golfing Green Place Dallas 75234 972-247-1769 972-247-8487 Fax Befree@comcast.net		1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10	2,6,7,9
1,5	Chapel of Hope Ministries Inc Frank E Graham Jr 6030 W White Rose Trl Dallas 75248-4934 972-980-1009 972-503-5392 Fax Frank@chapelofhope.org www.chapel-of-hope.org		1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10	Mercy Heart Roger Hollar 4805 NE Loop 820 Fort Worth 76137 817-838-7534 817-281-7413 Fax roger@mercyheart.org
1	Christian Fellowship Enrichment Jim Lang PO Box 700023 Dallas TX 75370 972-283-7871 jimlang41@aol.com	5	Juvenile Justice Ministries Network of TX Weldon Fox PO Box 765156 Dallas 75376-5156 214-696-7834 info@jjmnt.org www.jjmnt.org	1,6,7
1,2,4,5,7,9,10	First Baptist Dallas Prison Min. Jerry Bedison 1707 San Jacinto St Dallas 75201 214-969-2421 214-969-7847 Fax jpence@firstdallas.org www.firstdallas.org	1,2,3,9	R O D Ministries Dale Truitt PO Box 710385 Dallas 75371-0385 214-827-8555 214-824-5355 Fax ddtruitt@hotmail.com www.rodministries.org	7
1,7,9,10	Freedom Outreach Ministries Mel Gipson PO Box 180941 Dallas 75218 214-325-9583 214-824-3499 Fax pastormel@affinity4.net	1,3,6,7,9,10	Texas Baptist Men Don Gibson 5351 Catron Dr Dallas 75227-9927 214-828-5353 214-381-7600 dgibson@bgct.org www.baptistmen.org	10
3	Hope for Healing Ministries, Inc and The Victim Memorial Center Susan Edwards, Director PO Box 140132 Dallas TX 75214 214-477-2610 sedwards@hopeforhealingministries.org	1,7,8,9,10	The Salvation Army James Guerra 6500 Harry Hines Blvd Dallas 75235 214-956-6276 214-956-6059 Fax james_guerra@uss.salvationarmy.org www.salvationarmytexas.org	1,2,4,6,7,8(F),9,10
1,7	Inmate Discipler Fellowship Mark Hollis 5351 Catron Drive Dallas 75227 214-828-5353 817-980-6562 Fax Mark.hollis@charter.net	1,2,3,5,9,10	Walking Through the Light Prison Ministry, Inc. Eleuterio Z Adame PO Box 4761 Dallas 75208-0761	1
		7	C O P E (Coalition of Prison Evangelists) Fauhn Schierer	1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10
				Parents and Children Together (PACT) Rev Suzanne Boeglin 2836 Hemphill St Fort Worth 76110-3214 817-924-7776 pact1924@sbcglobal.net
				World Bible Translation Center Glenn Peden 4028 Daley Ave Fort Worth 76180-8600 817-595-1664 817-589-7013 Fax glenn@wbtc.com www.wbtc.org
				Write-way Prison Ministries Inc Ralph Nichols PO Box 461582 Garland 75046-1582 972-840-9798 972-864-9692 Fax writewaypm@juno.com
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				Cross Prison Ministries Inc Carole Ross PO Box 412 Gatesville 76528-0412 254-865-5163 crossprisonministry@htcomp.net
				1
				Discipleship Unlimited Dallas / Linda Strom PO Box 145 Gatesville 76528 discipleship@earthlink.net www.liferow.org
				1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10
				Morning Star Jail/Prison Ministry Rev Robert L Buchanan 2251 El Paso Grand Prairie 75051 setatliberty1@aol.com www.morningstar-baptist.org

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1,2,3,5,6,7,9,10	C O O L Ministries Inc Boyd Harrell 5005 West 34th Street, St 130C Houston 77092 713-592-0134 1-866-992-COOL we.cool@cfaith.com www.coolministries.net	1,2,3,5,7,9,10	Restored to Christ Harold Travis 14147 Ivy Bluff Ct Houston 77062 281-488-5110 281-488-8218 Fax harold@clearlakemethodist.org	6	Hospitality House Freddy Walters 912 10th St Huntsville 77320-3937 936-291-6196 freddy.walters@thehospitalityhouse.org www.thehospitalityhouse.org
1,9	Crossover USA Gary R Nichols 911 Westmont Houston 77015 713-545-7991 713-455-7060 Fax gnichols@crossoverusa.com	1,3,4,6,9,10	Servants of Christ Prison Ministry Sibble Knight PO Box 111275 Houston 77293-0275 281-449-2703	7	Restorative Justice Ministries Network Emmett Solomon, Exec Director 1229 Avenue J, Suite 360 Huntsville 77340-4698 936-291-2156 936-291-6260 Fax esolomon@sbcglobal.net www.rjmn.net
1,3,4,5,8,9,10	Epiphany Ministries of Texas Chuck Talbot PO Box 590578 Houston 77259 chucktal@msn.com www.texasepiphany.com	1	Skills for Life Inc James Lynn Arnold PO Box 38553 Houston 77238 281-733-1223 281-447-1784 Fax arnojl@msn.com		Anita Parrish, Ministry Assistant arparrish@sbcglobal.net Bill Kleiber kleiber@sbcglobal.net
5,7,10	Initiatives for America's Youth Boone Vastine 15153 Kimberley Ct Houston 77079-5130 281-493-4556 layjjm@aol.com	1	TDCJ Chaplaincy Operations Bill Pierce, Director 1060 State Hwy 190 E Huntsville 77340 936-437-4975 936-437-4988 Fax	3	TDCJ Victim Services Jim Brazzil PO Box 949 Huntsville 77432 936-437-4941 jim.brazzil@tdcj.state.tx.us
9	Jail Chaplaincy Ministry Freddie Wier PO Box 30262 Houston 77249-0262 713-569-2929		Director of Chaplaincy Support Richard Lopez 936-437-4973	1,7	The Old Time Religion Hour Inc Rev George Lupo PO Box 1225 Huntsville 73342 936-293-8000
6	Newgate Connection Wesley Stevens PO Box 96333 Houston 77213-9633 281-452-2352 wfstevens@pdq.net	1	Elkins Lake Baptist Church Rev Ken Huggins 206 State Highway 19 Huntsville 77340-7152 936-295-7694 936-295-3388 Fax elbc@lcc.net www.elbc.org	1,5	University Heights Baptist Church Bro Richard Rogers 2400 Sycamore Ave Huntsville 77340-6120 936-295-2996
1,2,5,7,8	Newgate UMC/Onesimus Journey Rev. Marvin Hood 3827 Broadway @I-45S Houston 77017 832-567-0758 marvelous272003@yahoo.com	1,2,3	Episcopal Diocese of TX RJM Edwin Davis 2003 Avenue P Huntsville 77340-5029 936-291-3153 edsalpc@yahoo.com	2,5	Winner's Circle Juvenile Program Kent Lucas 550 Elkins Lake Huntsville 77340 936-436-9467 winnerscircletexas@sbcglobal.net
1,7,9	Oil of Joy for Mourning Rev Rhonda Arias PO Box 720768 Houston 77272-0768 713-419-1214 281-879-8433 oilofjoy@sbcglobal.net www.ojfm.org	1,2,3,4,6	First Baptist Church 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340-4698 936-291-3441 www.fbchuntsville.org	1,6,10	Texas HOPE Literacy Inc Lucy Smith PO Box 905 Hurst 76053-0905 817-282-9489 lucysmith@hopelit.com www.hopelit.com
		1,2	First Baptist Church "Welcome Back" Ministry 1229 Avenue J Huntsville 77340-4698		

<p>1 The Brotherhood of St Andrew Oliver Osborn PO Box 537 Lake Jackson 77566-0537 979-297-6217 eosborn@brazosport.cc.tx.us</p>	<p>1,2,4,6,7,9,10 Preaching the Cross Ministries Bobby Griffith PO Box 633741 Nacogdoches 75963-3741 936-326-4556 936-326-4229 Fax ptcmgriffith@wmconnect.com</p>	<p>2 One Man's Treasure Mary Carter 519 E I-30 #211 Rockwall 75087 888-433-9826 dca7704051@aol.com</p>
<p>1,2,3,7,8(B),9,10 Calvary Commission Joe Fauss PO Box 100 Lindale 75771-0100 903-882-5501 903-882-7282 Fax joefauss@calvarycommission.org www.calvarycommission.org</p>	<p>1,2,5,8,9,10 Freedom House Discipleship James Butts 3542 Mercury Ave Odessa 79764 432-381-5453 432-377-1922 Fax freedomhouse@clearwire.net www.odessadreamcenter.com</p>	<p>1,2,7 Christian Restorative Justice Mentors Assoc Murray Batt PO Box 131412 Spring 77393-1412 281-292-0442 murray@crjma.org www.crjma.org</p>
<p>10 Exodus Prison Ministry Joyce Hargis PO Box 6363 Lubbock 79493 806-791-3673 joycehargis@yahoo.com</p>	<p>1,2,4,6,9,10 Loops (Loved Ones of Prisoners) Leland / Linda Maples PO Box 14953 Odessa 79768-4953 432-580-5667 432-580-8299 Fax leland@loopsministries.com www.loopsministries.com</p>	<p>1,10 Joy Prison Ministry Ura White PO Box 7324 Spring 77387-7324 281-253-8342</p>
<p>1,2,7, 10 Freedom in Jesus Ministries Don Castleberry PO Box 6525 Lubbock 79493-6525 806-778-3923 806-791-5853 Fax fijm@nts-online.net</p>	<p>1,2,3,5,7 God's Friend Ministries Inc Jack McClelland PO Box 5421 Beaumont 77726 409-988-3865 godsfriend@gt.rr.com</p>	<p>1,2 Trinity RJM Galynn Ferris 3919 Snag Ln Spring 77388 281-352-3913 galynn@trinityrjm.com www.trinityrjm.com</p>
<p>1 Encouraging Word Ministries Margaret Hackler 2401 N McColl Rd McAllen 78501 956-686-7728 rmont55@aol.com</p>	<p>1,2,3,4,8(B),9 Mike Hooker Ministries Mike / Charlotte R Hooker PO Box 143 Queen City 75572-0143 903-796-5297 214-796-6592 Fax</p>	<p>7 UMC TX Conference Criminal Justice & Mercy Ministries Jack Walker Spring 77393-1412 713-569-1076 jweswalker@aol.com www.newgateinitiative.org</p>
<p>2,6 Encompassing Reentry Ministries & Outreach John Cook PO Box 851587 Mesquite 75185-1587 http://prisonministry.net/ermo jcook@encompassingreentry.org</p>	<p>1,5,7,9,1 From Pain to Joy Prison Ministries Henry M Sorelle 14 Canyon Creek Vlg #44 Richardson 75080-1602 972-231-9606 972-392-0446</p>	<p>1 Accepting Grace Ministries Inc Joe L / Betty Waggoner PO Box 983 Stamford 79553-0983 325-773-2248 bettyj@camalott.com</p>
<p>5,7 Lifechange Mentoring Shirley Orr Smith Midland 79707 sos@lifechangementoring.org www.lifechangementoring.org</p>	<p>1,2,3,6,7,10 Operation Oasis Michael Lee 302 Centennial Blvd Richardson 75081-5057 972-437-3801 972-437-3139 Fax mlee@operation-oasis.org</p>	<p>1,4,6 Houston Trinity Prison Ministry Romeo Pena PO Box 1411 Sugar Land 77487-1411 713-906-3407</p>
<p>10 OpenArms Ministry Diana B Moore PO Box 1808 Mission 78573-0031 956-445-2333 956-585-3113 FAX mrst24dbt@aol.com</p>	<p>1,2,4,7 Worldwide Voice in the Wilderness Johnny Moffitt 1221 Abrams Rd Ste 250 Richardson 75081-5580 972-234-6009 972-234-6050 Fax johnnymoffitt@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>1,9 Fruitful Harvest Prison Ministry Charles Sickles P.O. Box 1130 Sulphur Springs 75483 903-885-1424 903-348-6415 fruitfulharvest@verizon.net</p>

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<p>3,10 The Faith Based Counselor Training Institute Dr. Michael Haynes PO Box 5253 Temple 76502 254-231-4334 254-231-4336 Fax FBCTI@aol.com www.FaithBasedCounseling.com</p>	<p>1,7,9, 10 Woodville Church of Christ Prison Ministry PO Box 276 Woodville 75979-0276 409-283-5977 woodvillecoc@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>WASHINGTON 1,4 His Sufficient Grace Ministries 2424 130th Pl Se Everett 98208-6708 425-357-8596 ldgroom@comcast.net</p>
<p>2,3,6 Bridging The Gap Ministries 7,10 Deb Chachere PO Box 131747 Tyler 75713-1747 903-539-6797 bridgingthegap@flash.net www.bridgingthegap.freesevers.com</p>	<p>1,7,9, 10 Cornerstone Prison Ministry Chaplain Al Gibbons PO Box 1672 Wylie 75098-1672 972-475-5789 972-412-7748 Fax cspmin@clearsail.net</p>	<p>1 Prisoners for Christ Outreach Ministry Greg Von Tobel PO Box 1530 Woodinville WA 98072 425-483-4151 gvt@pfcom.org www.pfcom.org</p>
<p>8 House Where Jesus Shines Pastor Nilsa Latimer 18320 Gholson Rd Waco 76705 254-829-2100 254-829-0250 Fax THWJS@msn.com www.opendoorwaco.org</p>	<p>VIRGINIA 1,5,9, 10 Good News Jail & Prison Ministry Dr Tom Beckner PO Box 9760 Richmond 23228-0760 804-553-4090 804-553-4144 Fax info@goodnewsjail.org www.goodnewsjail.org</p>	

*To list your ministry contact
Anita Parrish,
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Juvenile Justice Institutional Ministry—August 3-7,2009

Registration is now open for **Juvenile Justice Institutional Ministry (August 3-7, 2009)**. This course thoroughly addresses the unique opportunities and challenges of ministering within the juvenile justice system. Juvenile facilities are complex environments, filled with a variety of cultural influences and competing interests. Understanding these critical issues is key to effective ministry. Participants in this course learn to be systems sensitive in dealing with the divergence of mental health issues, staff concerns of safety and security, and an environment that is often skeptical of the influence of religion on young lives.

This course will be held at Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, MA. Housing is available on campus. For registration or information about course credits and rates, visit [http:// www.straightahead.org](http://www.straightahead.org) .

New release: Mentoring Formerly Incarcerated Adults

This report explores mentoring as a tool for supporting the successful reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals within the context of a larger reentry strategy—in this case, the Ready4Work model. Ready4Work was a three-year national demonstration designed to address the needs of the growing ex-prisoner population and to test the capacity of community- and faith-based organizations to meet those needs. This report describes Ready4Work's mentoring component; it examines the extent to which mentoring was attractive to participants, the types of adults who volunteered to serve as mentors and how receipt of mentoring was related to participants' outcomes, including program retention, job placement, and recidivism.

Published January 2009 39 pages by Shawn Bauldry, Danijela Korom Djakovic, Wendy S. McClanahan, Jennifer McMaken and Laurie Kotloss. Free download http://www.ppv.org/ppv/publications/assets/265_publication.pdf

Controlling Corrections Cost

By Marc A Levin

As state agencies are asked to prune 2.5 percent of their budgets, lawmakers must take a hard look at Texas' corrections budget during this legislative session. Our state's prison population has grown from 50,000 in 1990 to more than 157,000 today, while our incarceration rate is the nation's second highest.

Fortunately, this means there are plenty of opportunities for savings.

First, Texas incarcerates 20,000 offenders for drug possession. Sixty percent of them have not been convicted of another felony. These nonviolent offenders who simply have a substance abuse problem could be redirected into treatment at a significant savings to taxpayers.

Legislation to divert from prison those whose only offense is possessing less than four grams of a controlled substance is estimated by the Legislative Budget Board to save \$500 million over five years. Offenders would be required to pay for their own treatment, although this estimate assumes the state would wind up paying half of the treatment costs. Judges could refer offenders for residential or outpatient treatment at any licensed provider, including faith-based providers.

Under this legislation, judges could also still order to prison any offenders who they determine would pose a threat to public safety or not benefit from treatment. Even without any finding, judges could sentence offenders to confinement at intermediate sanctions facilities and community corrections facilities. Each of these lockups provides shorter-term confinement, usually about 90 days, resulting in savings to taxpayers.

In 2007, lawmakers increased funding for these alternatives to prison. The expansion of these facilities and other changes were successful in avoiding the projected need for 17,000 new prison beds, which would have cost \$1 billion to build and operate over five years. Now, however, the state needs to scale back on existing prisons to ensure a balanced budget.

Arizona implemented a similar initiative to divert low-level drug offenders from prison more than a decade ago. It has not only produced savings but also curtailed addiction. A study by that state's Supreme Court found that 77 percent of participating offenders successfully kicked their drug habit as a result of the treatment regimen.

Another area where Texas can save on correctional costs is technical revocations to prison. In 2008, there were 12,788 probationers revoked to prison for technical violations. These probationers did not commit new offenses; they merely violated a term of probation. Of these technical revocations, 22 percent were for absconding.

Rather than revoke probationers who do not show up but have not committed another crime, the state could provide funding for probation departments to use electronic monitoring to track these offenders to ensure they comply with the terms of their probation. For offenders who cannot pay for the monitor themselves, it costs \$8 to \$10 a day, less than one-fifth the price tag of prison.

A study of more than 75,000 Florida offenders found that electronic monitoring was highly successful in preventing absconding. Moreover, monitored offenders were 89 percent less likely to be revoked for a new offense. Electronic monitoring not only makes sure offenders show up for appointments, but also verifies that they attend work and any court-required treatment program.

Finally, Texas taxpayers can save by privatizing existing prison facilities. Private prisons cost \$36.10 per day, compared to \$47.50 for state prisons. Neither figure includes an additional \$7.65 per day in health care costs. Private prisons in Texas are contractually required to provide the same conditions of confinement and programming as state-run prisons so the cost savings come without any penalty.

Taken together, there are significant opportunities to reduce corrections costs to the state without compromising public safety.

Marc A. Levin, Esq. is Director of the Center for Effective Justice at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a non-profit, free-market research institute based in Austin.



An open letter to President Obama and Congress

By Ben Trachtenberg

At midyear 2007, U.S. prisons and jails held 2,299,116 inmates, meaning more than 1 percent of American adults were incarcerated. We top the world in per capita imprisonment, increasing our lead every year. Since 2000, while the total U.S. population increased by 7 percent, our prison population has grown by 19 percent. Our massive imprisonment costs needless billions and, perversely, hinders effective crime control. We need to reduce our prison population.

Few dispute the value of imprisonment in fighting crime. Especially with repeat violent offenders, prison may be the only way to prevent a dangerous criminal from hurting more innocent victims. But many instances of incarceration transparently fail to serve any serious preventive purpose, especially given the costs.

Consider nonviolent convicts sentenced for drug possession. Or septuagenarians who, sent away for decades under a “three strikes” law, now receive geriatric care from prison infirmaries. Unthinking overreliance on imprisonment simply drains public treasuries without providing any future benefit. California recently predicted that, by 2012, its prisons would cost more annually than its state university system. A starker illustration of our misplaced priorities is difficult to imagine. Already, the state’s yearly prison budget exceeds \$10 billion. California, not alone in its catastrophic embrace of imprisonment, exemplifies national trends of rising prison populations and uncontrollable prison costs.

SMART IS BETTER THAN TOUGH

These outrageous expenses might be tolerable as a necessary evil if we had no better options. Yet often, non-incarceration alternatives, such as drug treatment for addicts and community service for small-time thieves, cost less and reduce misery across the board.

A rational criminal justice system would—while shortening sentences of certain offenders—keep others out of prison altogether. With alternative treatments and punishments, a state shrinks its prison budget, allows convicts to keep their jobs and support their families, and makes recidivism less likely.

But alternative programs work only when properly funded. A state spending every dollar on prisons may think it cannot afford drug treatment programs and fully staffed probation offices, especially when the economy demands budget cuts. The opposite is true: States cannot afford to neglect these programs or they will pay down the road tenfold—in prison costs, welfare budgets and elsewhere. Beyond monetary costs, citizens will suffer needless increased crime when offenders who never belonged behind bars eventually return to the community more dangerous than before. Although the federal government holds only 9 percent of American inmates, federal policy contributes to massive over-imprisonment by the states. For example, Congress passed laws restricting federal crime-control dollars to states implementing so-called truth-in-sentencing programs, which aim to ensure that convicts actually serve the time announced at sentencing.

The justification was that parole boards, prison officials and judges collaborated to announce harsh punishments—thereby satisfying victims and the general public—while imposing far less serious sentences. The result, however, has been sentences not only more “truthful” but also much longer. By abolishing parole and good-behavior credits, states have created nightmares for prison wardens, who no longer have carrots to offer prisoners in exchange for civilized conduct. In addition, prisoners who do behave well and cease to threaten the community cannot rejoin society, meaning taxpayers fund needless incarceration. By adopting “smart on crime” programs instead of knee-jerk toughness, states can reduce crime while spending less. Reworked federal incentives would encourage smart state policymaking. While no one supports freeing rapists and murderers, warehousing every offender wastes money, destroys lives and contributes to our shameful status as the world’s leading incarcerator. We need Washington to reward good policy, not costly grandstanding that bankrupts our state governments and confines more than one of every 100 American adults.

Editor’s note: This essay was selected by the *ABA Journal* Board of Editors as the winner of the 2009 Ross Essay Contest. This year’s topic was: “Write an open letter to the new president and Congress describing the most important priority for improving the U.S. justice system.” The contest, which carries a \$5,000 prize, is supported by a trust established in the 1930s by the late Judge Erskine M. Ross of Los Angeles. [Ben Trachtenberg](#) is a visiting assistant professor of law at Brooklyn Law School.

To cut cost, states relax prison policies

Continued from page 1

clear path toward job retention for state lawmakers — Republicans and Democrats alike. But the economic crisis is forcing them to take a more pragmatic approach as prisoners are increasingly seen less as indistinct wrongdoers and more as expenses that must be reined in.

“When state budgets are flush,” said Barry Krisberg, president of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, “prisons are something that governors and legislators all support, and they don’t want to touch sentencing reform. But when dollars are as tight as they are now, you have to make really tough choices. And so now things are in play.”

Recessions tend to prompt changes to corrections policies. After the recession at the start of this decade, numerous states enacted laws eliminating some long mandatory minimum sentences; several began to offer early release and treatment options to some drug offenders. Those changes, though, were far less reaching than what is happening now and did little to curb exploding corrections budgets.

In the past 20 years, correction department budgets have quadrupled and are outpacing every major spending area outside health care, according to a recent report by the Pew Center on the States. With 7.3 million Americans in prison, on parole or under probation, states spent \$47 billion in 2008, the study said.

Faced with such costs, even states known for being particularly tough on crime are revisiting their policies and laws.

“In Kentucky, our prison budget is approaching half a billion dollars,” said J. Michael Brown, secretary of the State Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. “And as dollars get scarce, it forces a tremendous amount of scrutiny.”

The annual cost to keep someone in prison varies by state, and the type of institution, but the typical cost cited by states is about \$35,000, said Peggy Burke of the Center for Effective Public Policy, a nonprofit group that works with local governments on criminal justice matters.

The most pervasive cost-saving trend among corrections departments has been to look closely at parole systems, in which it is no longer cost-effective to monitor released inmates, largely because too many violate their terms, often on technicalities, and end up back in prison. In California, among the few states to mandate parole for all convicts, parole violators — not new offenders — account for the largest percentage of inmates entering the system.

New Jersey recently began a program for some offenders on parole with technical violations, like failing to report to a parole officer or changing their address without the officer’s approval. Rather than being returned to jail, those former inmates are sent to a center for a clinical assessment of their risks and needs. With that change, the state is on track to save \$16.2 million this fiscal year.

Other states are shortening paroles, or even sentences, to save money.

In Kentucky, Gov. Steven L. Beshear, a Democrat, is about to sign a bill that makes permanent a pilot program that offers qualifying inmates credit for time served on parole against sentence dates, in part to avoid a pattern of inmates’ choosing to stay in prison rather than risking later parole violations. The trial program saved the state \$12 million last year. The state has also adopted a program that gives treatment rather than jail time to select drug offenders.

In California, where Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican, has called for \$400 million to be cut from the state’s corrections budget, officials are seeking to remove low-level drug offenders from the parole supervision system and to provide them treatment options instead.

Like other states making such changes, California is led by a governor who long opposed such shifts in prison policies. But Mr. Schwarzenegger, as well as other leaders and lawmakers who are far more conservative, has come around to a view held by advocates of sentencing and prison reform that longer sentences do little to reduce recidivism among certain nonviolent criminals.

“In California we are out of room and we’re out of money,” said the state’s corrections secretary, Matthew Cate. “It may be time to take some of these steps that we should have taken long ago.”

Several states are also looking at sentencing itself. In New York, for example, Governor David A. Paterson, a Democrat, has proposed an overhaul of the so-called Rockefeller drug laws that impose lengthy mandatory sentences on

Continued on page 18

Prison Boom

Criminal correction spending is outpacing budget growth in education, transportation and public assistance, based on state and federal data. Only Medicaid spending grew faster than state corrections spending, which quadrupled in the past two decades, according to the report Monday by the Pew Center on the States, the first breakdown of spending in confinement and supervision in the past seven years.

The increases in the number of people in some form of correctional control occurred as crime rates declined by about 25 percent in the past two decades.

Sue Urahn, managing director of the Pew Center on the States says “Corrections is one area they can cut and still have good or better outcomes than what they are doing now.”

Over all, two-thirds of offenders, or about 5.1 million people in 2008, were on probation or parole. The study found that states were not increasing their spending for community supervision in proportion to their growing caseloads. About \$9 out of \$10 spent on corrections goes to prison financing (that includes money spent to house 780,000 people in local jails).

Mr. Peter Greenwood, the executive director of the Association for the Advancement of Evidence Based Practice, said prisons and jails, along with their powerful prison guard unions, service contracts, and high-profile sheriffs and police chiefs, were in a much better position to protect their interests than were parole and probation officers.

“Traditionally, probation and parole is at the bottom of the totem pole,” he said. “They’re just happy every time they don’t lose a third of their budget.”

“Now, crime is down,” Mr. Greenwood said, “but we’re living with that legacy: the bricks and mortar and the politicians who feel like they have to talk tough every time they talk about crime.”

To cut cost, states relax prison policies

Continued from page 17

many nonviolent drug offenders.

Some states are simply consolidating operations and closing prisons, which is controversial among lawmakers and often riles a community. Colorado, Kansas, Michigan and New Jersey have all shut down or announced the closing of at least one prison. Others are proposing to do so.

Here in Carson City, home to one of the oldest state prisons in the country, the state estimates it would save \$18 million a year by closing the prison. But the idea has rattled employees, some of whom have followed their parents’ career paths, and the community, which considers the prison a provider of jobs and an important piece of Nevada history.

“We are the oldest prison west of the Mississippi,” the warden, Greg Smith, said during a tour last week. “And the staff here takes a lot of pride in that.”

The 220-year-old prison is older than the state of Nevada, and the buildings, according to officials, sit on land filled with saber-toothed tiger prints. It first housed men who gave “firewater” to Indians and is where the state’s license plates are made. But the prison’s aging facilities have raised questions about its efficiency compared with modern counterparts. The lament is similar in Michigan, where three prisons are set to be closed and more are being studied.

“As the economy has worsened, prisons are the modern-day factory in our rural areas,” said Russ Marlan, a spokesman for the Michigan Corrections Department. “We built these prisons in the 1980s, and people were adamantly opposed to having them in their communities. Now we go and try to take them out, and they don’t want them gone.”

Meanwhile, some states that revised parole and sentencing in boom times are fighting a different battle: to hold on to the financing that made those changes possible.

In Kansas, for instance, where drug treatment has replaced incarceration for some offenders and mentally ill offenders have received housing assistance, the prison population fell in recent years, largely because recidivism also declined, said Roger Werholtz, secretary of the Kansas Corrections Department. Now many of those programs have fallen victim to budget cuts.

Shrinking the Prison Population

New York Times editorial
May 10, 2009

Congress took an important step last year when it passed the Second Chance Act to help former inmates return to their communities. If properly financed and carried out, the act could cut recidivism, and ruinous prison costs for the states, by helping them develop programs to provide job placement, drug treatment, mental health care and other services that former prisoners need to build viable, crime-free lives.

Congress does not have to look far for proven programs. New prison sentencing and re-entry policies are already taking hold in several states, thanks in part to work by the Council of State Governments' prison policy arm, the Justice Center, with the support of the Pew Charitable Trust's Center on the States.

Their results have been especially impressive in Texas and Kansas, law-and-order states that were facing huge increases in their prison populations before they turned to the Justice Center for analyses and policy suggestions. Last month, representatives from both states testified about their experience before a House appropriations subcommittee.

State officials said that after studying the problem they found their prison populations were being driven up, not by crime, but mainly by breakdowns in their parole and probation systems. Simply put, they were sending too many people back to jail. Many were drug-addicted or mentally ill offenders who could be safely dealt with in community programs.

Legislatures in both states decided to expand community-based drug treatment and mental health services, and encouraged localities to provide closer supervision for released inmates. The changes, put in place two years ago, have yielded especially strong results in Texas. State officials said that the new system had already reduced parole revocations by an astonishing 25 percent and helped the state avoid a projected increase in the prison population that would have cost the Texas treasury hundreds of millions of dollars.

With the economy in recession, and prison costs rising, states that used to lock up as many inmates as possible are looking for sensible alternatives. President Obama has asked Congress to commit more than \$100 million to prisoner re-entry programs, with three-quarters going to the Second Chance Act. That would be a good down payment, but only a down payment, on what is needed.

Related comments from Grits for Breakfast Blog:

In Arizona, the Republican Legislature teamed up with Democratic Governor Janet Napolitano, a former prosecutor who was tapped for President Barack Obama's Cabinet, to approve a program that rewards counties whose recidivism rate is significantly reduced. Kansas approved a similar program two years ago. Arizona's program includes incentives for people on probation; they can reduce their sentences by 20 days for each month they comply with court-ordered conditions of their probation, such as making child-support payments and undergoing therapy.

Barbara Broderick, chief probation officer in Maricopa County, Ariz., said earned time credits for probationers provide a carrot-and-stick approach that previously focused only on sending delinquent offenders to jail or prison.

"What I didn't have," she told *Stateline.org*, "is the option to say, 'Work with me. Lead a law-abiding life. Do the things the court has ordered.'"

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Court orders California to cut prison population

By Solomon Moore
New York Times
February 9, 2009

The California prison system must reduce overcrowding by as many as 55,000 inmates within three years to provide a constitutional level of medical and mental health care, a federal three-judge panel tentatively ruled Monday.

Relying on expert testimony, the court ruled that the California prison system, the nation's largest with more than 150,000 inmates, could reduce its population by shortening sentences, diverting nonviolent felons to county programs, giving inmates good behavior credits toward early release, and reforming parole, which they said would have no adverse impact on public safety. The panel said that without such a plan, conditions would continue to deteriorate and inmates might regularly die of suicide or lack of proper care.

"The evidence is compelling that there is no relief other than a prisoner-release order that will remedy the unconstitutional prison conditions," the panel said in its tentative ruling.

The California attorney general, Jerry Brown vowed to appeal the ruling.

"This order, the latest intrusion by the federal judiciary into California's prison system, is a blunt instrument that does not recognize the imperatives of public safety, nor the challenges of incarcerating criminals, many of whom are deeply disturbed," Mr. Brown said in a statement.

"The court's tentative ruling is not constitutionally justified," he said. "Therefore, the state will appeal directly to the U. S. Supreme Court when the final order is issued."

The court supported its argument by citing Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's own support for prison reforms, which he has said would reduce the population by about 40,000 inmates.

"We cannot believe that such support would exist if the adoption of such measures would adversely affect public safety," the court ruled.

The panel, which is composed of a federal appeals judge for the Ninth Circuit and two federal district judges, estimated the state could save \$803 million to \$906 million annually if it were to reduce its prison population. It also said it could use that money to shore up local agencies that would serve parolees or probationers diverted from prison.

The ruling left the door open for still more negotiations between the thousands of imprisoned plaintiffs and the state in the court proceedings, part of a series of class-action lawsuits accusing the state of failing to provide adequate health care to prisoners. Federal judges have already ruled that the state's failure to provide medical and mental health care is killing at least one inmate every month and has subjected inmates to cruel and unusual punishment, which is prohibited by the Constitution.

In their ruling on Monday, the judges ruled that reducing overcrowding was the only way to reform the prison health care system and encouraged plaintiffs' and state lawyers to negotiate a way to cut the prison population. The judges also indicated that they would mandate a prison population cap of about 120 percent to 145 percent of the state's designed capacity.

The judges have been reluctant to order specific reforms, however, and several times during final arguments they asked lawyers for the state what their plans were to reduce the prison population and whether the court had the authority to impose specific remedies.

The plaintiffs' lawyer, Don Specter, said the judges, all of whom are known for their liberal rulings, may be reluctant to give specific reforms to the state, preferring the state arrive at its own reduction plan, because the judges' decision might otherwise be overturned by the United States Supreme Court, which would hear any appeal.

One judge on the panel, Thelton E. Henderson, already appointed a federal receiver to take over the prison health care system. The receivership, which has demanded billions of dollars for new medical facilities, has repeatedly clashed with the strapped state, which recently demanded the dissolution of the court-appointed office.

The California prison system has doubled its design capacity, and some facilities are even more packed than that. Prison gymnasiums and classrooms are packed with three-tier prisoners' bunks, and lines for prison health clinics often snake 50 men deep. Rehabilitation programs, recreational facilities and health care facilities are all compromised by the crowds of felons.

Lawyers for the prisoners said that despite California's exceptionally poor conditions, the ruling could have a national impact on prison reform if other inmate lawsuits seek population caps on other overcrowded facilities.

The ruling is also an important success for inmates since the passage of the Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which made it harder for prisoners to bring lawsuits and limited court remedies for allegations of prison abuse.

Texas loses number one spot to Georgia

Posted by Grits for breakfast , Monday, March 02, 2009

The Pew Center on the States recently came out with a new report analyzing national incarceration and community supervision statistics, along with an accompanying Texas state fact sheet.

Bottom line: One in 31 American adults nationally are in prison, jail, on probation or on parole. In Texas, though, the ratio is much higher - one out of 22 adults there are under control of the criminal justice system, Pew calculated.

Texas no longer boasts the nation's top incarceration rate. That dubious honor belongs to Georgia. One in 13 Georgians - an astonishing 7.92%, compared to 4.56% in Texas - are in prison, jail, on probation or on parole, says Pew.

Texas' percentage of its population under control of the corrections system ranks 4th nationally behind the Peach State, Idaho, and the District of Columbia, according to Pew.

Comments from Emmett Solomon, Executive Director, RJMN: "Texas' opposition to Building New Prisons and support of shorter probation sentences has assisted in dropping the Texas Incarceration rate to fourth in the Nation. Texas was in the number one spot too long!"

The American criminal justice system is broken

From the Justice Project Organization

Since the reinstatement of the death penalty in the 1970s, 130 people have been exonerated from death row in 26 states - roughly one for every nine executed. In fact, the most comprehensive study (<http://www2.law.columbia.edu/instructionalservices/liebman/>) of capital trials ever conducted found that nearly 7 of every 10 death sentences handed down by state courts from 1973 to 1995 were overturned due to serious, reversible error, including egregiously incompetent defense counsel, suppression of exculpatory evidence, eyewitness misidentification, false confessions, snitch and accomplice testimony, and unreliable forensic science.

Research into exonerations of innocent people has yielded much information on the primary causes of wrongful convictions and has identified a number of common, preventable errors. To promote solutions to the problem of wrongful convictions, The Justice Project has constructed a national program of initiatives (<http://www.thejusticeproject.org/national/solution/>) designed to increase the fairness and accuracy of the criminal justice system.

Inmate Testimonial—Skills for Life

On March 13, 2009, four inmates, members of the Toastmasters gavel clubs at the Central prison unit in Sugar Land, Texas, serving as peer educators, presented a Safe Prisons program (also known as SAP, Sexual Awareness Program) that was evaluated by Marty Ley, Region 3 Director of the Safe Prisons program. The two hour seminar consists of educating offenders on their rights in the area of prison rape, extortion, manipulation, solicitation, and other subjects that not only impact offenders, but their families, officers, and the communities to which they will return. This is a federally funded program that is both difficult and controversial to teach due to the material content. It is taught to the officers on duty at correctional facilities during shift briefing. The goal of the program is to attempt to change a 100 year-old culture that exists in the prison systems.

The material was presented to 25 offenders, most of which were new to the system (less than 2 weeks). After their presentation, they were told by Mr. Ley that it was the best presentation of Safe Prisons that he had seen out of evaluating 19 other units. The inmates collectively attributed their success to the Toastmasters program. They said the principles of servant leadership and the developed skills obtained through their years in Toastmasters were responsible for their success. Mr. Ley said he had never heard of Toastmasters. He complimented them on their team work, coordination of passing control as well as the other elements of conducting a presentation. Mr. Ley said he would endorse them in their pursuit of obtaining the opportunity to host the 2009 Peer Education Conference this coming October.

2009 C.O.P.E. International Conference and 25th Anniversary Celebration—Dallas, TX, September 22-25, 2009

The conference theme for this year is God's Faithfulness in Changing Times. Plenary speakers include Johnny Moffitt, former President COPE Board of Directors; John Thompson, Kairos International Prison Ministries; Scottie Barnes, Forgiven Ministry; Joseph William, Christian Association of Prison Aftercare and Byron Johnson, Baylor University and the Institute for Studies of Religion.

A Prison Evangelistic Outreach Event is planned for Saturday, September 26 after the conference. You **must** pre-register to participate in this event.

Online registration (<http://copecoconnections.org/html/registration.php>) is now available or call 817-684-7870 for more information. Register by August 15 for early registration rate.

8th Annual Prisoner Reentry Conference Baltimore, MD—October 15—18, 2009

Connect with hundreds of reentry stakeholders! Receive professional training on over 35 reentry issues! Meet people of like passion who faithfully serve the reentry population! Attend a special "Fundors' Forum". Fellowship, laugh and network with your colleagues from the country. Don't miss this chance to learn, laugh and relax!

Anyone interested in SUBMITTING A WORKSHOP PROPOSAL, please send an email to info@capaassociation.org to request paperwork. Visit <http://www.capaassociation.org> for updated information regarding this event.

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Comments, questions and news articles may be sent to Emmett Solomon, Executive Director at esolomon@rjmn.net. Articles are subject to space available.

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