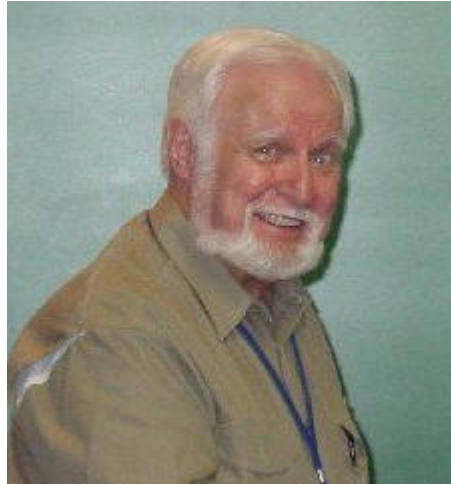


A Tribute To A Great Networker

Emmett Solomon, Ex. Director
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BERT THOMPSON



Bert Thompson was about the best networker that I ever was privileged to know. He breathed new life into the Community Partnership Councils around Texas. His great energy and skill led to the activation of the CPC in Harris County, Montgomery County and other places in Texas. He was the very picture of optimism.

His friend Carol Vance observed:

"On reflection, it seems pretty obvious that Bert knew he was on a short string since 2001 when he lost his voice. His neighbor told about these long coughing spells Bert had at that time when he would visit Bert at the house. Bert lost his voice for about 8 months at that time. When I think about what Dr. Toppell told me that Bert had a massive lung problem and that this existed for a long time, Bert must have known his health was in jeopardy. When he recovered from that was about the time when he started going day and night to do all he could for the guys getting out of prison. I never saw such energy and such an effort and such commitment and such results. Just like a man with limited time who was going to pack in all the time and energy he possibly could making things better for the lost and hurting. What a Guy! What an example. I have known some people whom I believe are truly sold out to the Lord. But I just never met anyone like Bert Thompson before. 'No eye has seen nor ear has heard....' except Bert is there."

Carol's tribute to Bert resonates with me. Bert served on the Board of Directors of the Restorative Justice Ministries Network for 5 years. He brought so very much energy and optimism to each meeting. He will be missed by all of us who served along with him but could only try to follow along watching his coat tails billow out behind him because of his great forward movement. Texas needed an example of a great networker. God provided that and now we who are left are inspired to take it up and continue to move forward with optimism.