



## *A Convicted Church—Part 4: Frustration and Rehabilitation*

IN RURAL OKLAHOMA, CONGREGATION FINDS ITS CALLING IN PRISON MINISTRY.

Inmates are “thirsty for someone to come and teach them the truth — consistently,” Perry said.

But helping new Christians maintain their faith after baptism is difficult. The state forbids contact between inmates and volunteers for six months after the inmate’s release. Neither may church members contact the inmates’ families.

“It’s my greatest frustration,” Rouse said. “I think it stinks, but we’ll lose our privileges if we follow up.”

The 180-day rule is designed to keep personal relationships from interfering with the professional duties of the corrections officers who work with inmates after their release, said Jerry Massie, public information officer for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. The rule applies to volunteers and prison employees who work with inmates during incarceration.

Though church members can’t do follow-up themselves, “we do encourage the inmates to look up local congregations when they get out,” Rouse said. “But we just don’t know what happens.”

The church also sends Bible class invitations to inmates — including the one that led Seabolt to their doorstep in 2004.

After experiencing the reckless trust and love of the church, Seabolt was baptized and founded the Faith Based Therapeutic Community Corporation. Men in the alternative sentencing program do community service projects, attend church services and mentor each other as they reintegrate into society.

These days, Seabolt’s cell phone rings almost constantly, as government agencies line up to get help from the program.

“Anything that needs to be done, they do it,” said Lyle Tolbert, longtime member of the church. After completing the program, several graduates have moved to the area and are active church members.

“The people are very respectful,” said Tolbert’s wife, Joyce. “They join us in our singing. It’s very satisfying.”

- Erik Tryggestad and David Chenault —*The Christian Chronicle*, June 2013

## PRAYER LIST

- **Pauline Alvarez**
- **Lauren Babb** (health)
- **Family and friends of Neil Barfield** (Ross Hendershot’s cousin)
- **John Beiler** (health)
- **Claudean Boggs** (Rex Boggs’s sister-in-law)
- **Keith Brown** (Wayne Brown’s son—health)
- **Jim Carpenter** (Cody Chrismon’s great uncle—health)
- **Betty Cox** (Brent Barnick’s sister—homebound)
- **Dixie** (Debbie Faires’s mother—Alzheimer’s)
- **Jake Faires** (Air Force, deployed to Jordan)
- **Steven Faires, and Lexi**
- **Nelle Hahn** (health)
- **Debbie Jalufka**
- **Molly Lind** (Linds’ daughter-in-law)
- **Family and friends of Lois Massie** (Mary Mason’s aunt and Peggy Walls’s sister-in-law)
- **Clay Mason** (health)
- **Orvan Muelker** (Kathy Winegeart’s father—health)
- **Norman Pennock** (Debbie Fougerat’s step-father, health)
- **Ada Powell** (Sharron Mason’s sister—health)
- **T.J. Reid** (Nelle Hahn’s brother—health)
- **Julie Rodriguez** (Babbs’ friend—health)
- **Nancy Tuttle** (Peggy Walls’s sister—health)
- **Edwin Weaver** (broken leg)
- **Catherine Winegeart** (Perry’s mother—health)

If you have any announcements or prayer requests you wish to have included in the bulletin or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, please contact Victoria Johnson: 325-518-9205, [victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org](mailto:victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org).

## PRAYER UPDATES

Rex Boggs thanks you for all of your prayers for his friends and family. **James Bohannon** is recovering at home and doing very well. **Gordon Hoffman** has since moved on and, as far as Rex knows, doing well. **Jean Rice** is in a nursing home and is as stable as possible.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Fields of Faith

You’re invited to join Gonzales FCA at Fields of Faith on **Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. at Apache Stadium**. This year’s featured speaker is David Moss, Director of Ministry for HiS PRINT ministries, a sports-based ministry serving throughout the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

### Country Store Donation Drive

The Heights of Gonzales nursing home is in need of donations for their Country Store. **Suggested donations include toiletry items (soap, shampoo, lotion, etc.) for both men and women, gently used purses and jewelry, and word find books.** You may drop off donations in the box in the foyer through **October 8**.

### Southwest Church of Christ Ladies’ Day

You’re invited to Ladies’ Day at Southwest Church of Christ (8900 Manchaca Road, Austin) on Saturday, **Oct. 14, at 9 a.m.** This year’s theme is “T.L.C.—Tender loving care for the Lord’s church,” and features speaker Evelyn Bonner. For more information, please see the invitation on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

### Wednesday Evening Meal & Bible Study

Please join us at **5:15 p.m. this Wednesday** for dinner in the annex. Anyone who is able is asked to bring sides to share, but please do not let that prevent you from joining us. Classes for all ages follow at 6 p.m.

### Volunteers Needed: Wednesday Night Meals

Volunteers are needed to prepare the entrée for meals on Wednesday evenings. To help, please sign up in the foyer. **If you signed up to prepare a meal, please send Victoria your menu by Wednesday the week before.**

### Volunteers Needed: Communion Prep

Volunteers are needed to prepare communion in the coming months. This task takes very little time and is a great service to the congregation. Please sign up on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

### Sunday Night Small Group

There is a small group that meets in the annex each Sunday evening from 6-7 p.m. The Lord’s Supper is available.

### Tuesday Morning Men’s Prayer Breakfast

All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at **6:20 a.m.** for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

## YOUTH ZONE



**MONDAY, OCT. 2**  
JUNIOR HIGH VOLLEYBALL  
SHINER @ PRAIRIE LEA, 5 P.M.  
**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4**  
HIGH SCHOOL TEAM TENNIS  
GONZALES V. WIMBERLEY, 4 P.M.  
JUNIOR HIGH CROSS COUNTRY  
GONZALES @ BASTROP INVITATIONAL, 4 P.M.



**THURSDAY, OCT. 5**  
HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY  
GONZALES @ SEGUIN STARKE PARK PRACTICE MEET  
**SATURDAY, OCT. 7**  
JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY  
SHINER HOME MEET



Caden Chrismon—Shiner Jr High Cross Country  
Jacy Chrismon—Shiner HS Cross Country  
Megan Epley—Shiner Jr High Cross Country

Cole Hendershot—Gonzales HS Team Tennis  
Coach Kevin Johnson—Gonzales Cross Country