



...I was in prison and you came to me. Mat 25:36b

August 2014 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

As Director of Less Than The Least (LTTL) Ministries, I am so thankful for how God is using us. I am blessed with the best volunteers. When I say we are being asked to do more in the units, we really are. Just recently David Miller began one on one visitation in AdSeg at the Ramsey Unit every Tuesday night. We can now call him a Bar Hopper! Some other examples: We will conduct another three-day revival effort at the Terrell Unit on September 26-28; we have recently been asked to minister in two new units; we have had new people join our volunteer ranks and God is calling even more; prayer warriors are answering an increasing number of inmate prayer requests; study bible requests have increased and God has blessed us with special donations to help cover this cost; and, I am already being asked to schedule events for 2015 including a three-day revival effort. God's Spirit is moving in the hearts of men and women in white inside the walls. The fields are truly white unto harvest.

We will have our annual banquet at Sagemont Church on October 16 with Dr. Denny Autry as the key note speaker. Our theme for that night will be "White Unto Harvest". (See the announcement below for more details.) Please make plans to attend so you can enjoy the fellowship and also support LTTL in all that God is calling us to do. We could not do God's work without your support. I want to thank you who give every month. God loves a cheerful giver and He will bless as you give.

I had the privilege of going to Angola State Prison in Louisiana this past week along with Lloyd Digby. What a great blessing we received in seeing how God has used Warden Burl Cain and the New Orleans Baptist Seminary's work inside the walls to change hearts. Please keep The Heart of Texas Foundation and the Southwestern Baptist Seminary's work at the Darrington Unit in your prayers as they strive to do the same here in Texas. A big thank you goes to Grove Norwood at The Heart of Texas for inviting us to go.

God bless,

David Gunter Sr, Exec Director
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[Make plans to attend the 2014 LTTL Banquet on Oct 16 at Sagemont Church.](#)

Thursday evening, Oct 16 promises to be a great time of fellowship and encouragement for LTTL guests, volunteers, and supporters. The 2014 LTTL Banquet will be at Sagemont Church with doors opening at



6:30PM. Attendees will enjoy food from Ernie's and singing by The Men of Praise. The theme for the night is "White Unto Harvest". Guest speaker, Dr Denny Autry, Dean of Southwest Baptist Seminary's Havard School of Theology in Houston, will be introduced by Dr John Morgan, Senior Pastor of Sagemont Church. Individual seats are \$40 and tables are priced at \$400, \$600, \$800, and \$1,000 depending on supporters' desired level of support to LTTL Ministry. Please reserve this date and make your plans to attend. You can purchase seats or tables on the LTTL web site

(www.lessthantheleast.org) by using the "Donate" button and specifying the purpose of the donation. Or, you may call the ministry office.

[The Original Bar Hoppers: The Legacy Continues at Harris County Jail](#)

"I would like to have 100 more volunteers like them." This strong endorsement and plea for more help was expressed by Mike Barber, Head of Chaplaincy at Harris County Jail, to Dr John Morgan who then passed it along to the Sagemont Church congregation. Such is the impact of five men who minister weekly at the Harris County Jail. Their ministry and the unusual name, Bar Hoppers, go back twelve years to Huntsville and a special Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) chaplain.

It All Began at the Ferguson Unit

During the early days of 2002 when LTTL Ministries was just beginning, Fred Newton, Charlie Sammons, and Charlie Wilson began visiting cell-to-cell at the Ferguson Unit north of Huntsville. "Here comes the Bar Hoppers", Chaplain Gerald Saffold would announce. "A bunch of folks are going to hear about the Lord Jesus Christ today!" And that's what happened each week. That fact put these men high on Chaplain Saffold's list, as he was a man of God who oversaw a ministry with over 3,000 inmate baptisms before his recent retirement. The tag, Bar Hoppers, stuck as they were joined by Roy Gage and continued the ministry at Ferguson and other units near Huntsville. But, the weekly two-hour drive each way became a challenge for these men and a growing concern (to spouses in particular), especially after two near-miss incidents on I-45. This led to exploring the opportunities for ministry closer to home.



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Bar Hoppers Move to Harris County Jail

Taking the initiative to continue this ministry closer to home, as God seemed to be leading, Fred, Charlie, Charlie, and Roy contacted the Chaplain at the Harris County Jail during 2005 to talk about his ministry needs and their calling for ministry. Following individual interviews with the Chaplain, the Bar Hoppers began a weekly ministry there. Dick Gordon subsequently joined the group and Mike Barber Ministries came in to provide chaplaincy leadership for the jail. The weekly ministry of the five Bar Hoppers has now been used of God to bless the lives of inmates for nine years at the Harris County Jail which houses more than 10,000 inmates.

A Ministry Day for the Bar Hoppers

Its 7:45 on Thursday morning and the Bar Hoppers have gathered for coffee and fellowship at Whataburger. At about 8:30, after checking up on each other and enjoying the blessings of Christian fellowship, they head for Baker Street in Houston and begin their ministry activities at 9:15 on the 6th floor. For the next 90 minutes the Bar Hoppers visit among the inmates in their cell blocks, handing out printed materials, listening to their cares,



greeting new inmates, and sharing God's love and His word. "Some are really hurting; some are mad at the world. But, most are glad to see us", reports Fred Newton. And, Dick Gordon adds, "Sometimes they don't want to talk the first week. Then in the next two or three weeks they can't get through the inmates quick enough to shake our hands." On a typical Thursday the Bar Hoppers will make contact with over 100 inmates during this visitation time and talk directly with approximately 20. "One on one is best", says Fred, "for asking them if they have ever committed their life to Jesus Christ and sought after Him with their whole heart?"

A worship service consisting of singing, prayer, and a message by Charlie Wilson or Roy Gage is conducted from 10:45 to 11:30. Attendance is limited to a subset of the cell blocks each week. Those who are leaving for the outside are called forward and prayed for by all. Responses to the message during the alter call are common. And, the parting words from inmates in the cell blocks and following the worship service usually include, "You guys going to be here next week?"

Why Continue?

"Why do you do this?" is a question this interviewer asked and maybe others are thinking. Some answers from the Bar Hoppers:

- "When you start it really grabs you. You don't want to leave it."
- "The inmates say they look forward to seeing us each Thursday and really appreciate us coming."
- "A man came up to me at church (Sagemont) and reminded me that I had visited him at Harris County Jail. 'You talked to me about the Lord and I accepted Him as my personal savior. Now my wife and I and my kids are in church serving the Lord. I just wanted to thank you.'"

Although Charlie Sammons has been limited recently due to health and Fred Newton has been unable to take his turn delivering the message during the service, the Bar Hoppers have no plans to stop. It is clear that these men will continue as long as God gives them health and opportunity.

Conclusion

Perhaps you have read this account of God's calling and blessing on the Bar Hoppers' ministry and now you have an interest in learning more about ministry to the incarcerated. Just contact our ministry office. We'll answer your questions and help you check out ministries that are of interest to you. The fields are truly "white for harvest" (Jn 4:35).

Ministry By the Numbers

	Jan-July 2014 Summary
Prison Units	19
Worship Services Conducted	95
Bible Studies / Classes Conducted	118
Inmate Attendance	12,953
Study Bibles Mailed to Inmates	210
Cards/Letters Mailed to Inmates (approx)	3,850
Radio Broadcasts (on 2 Stations)	30
Evangelistic Crusades	2

Ministry Finances

	Jan-July 2014 Summary
Expenditures	\$36,111
Contributions	\$33,934
Excess / (Shortfall)	(\$2,177)

Contributions are needed and appreciated in order to sustain and grow LTTL ministries. **Contributions can be made on the LTTL Ministry web site or mailed to Less Than The Least Ministries, 1414 South Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, TX 77546.**

Ministry Schedule

Radio

LTTL Radio Ministry Presents *The Sound of Freedom* with Dr. John Morgan.

KKHT Houston, TX 100.7FM Sunday 11:00 AM
KIVY Crockett, TX 92.7FM Sunday 12:15 PM
KKHR Abilene, TX 106.3FM Sunday 10:00 PM (Sponsored by LTTL)
KNES Fairfield, TX 99.1FM Sunday 2:00 PM (Sponsored by LTTL)

Inside-The-Walls

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Regular Events							
Weekly:							
<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>			
Wed	7:00-9:00PM	Ramsey Trusty	Bible study	Sam Miller			
Thurs	9:00AM-1:00PM	Harris Co. Jail	Visit Cells/ Worship	Charlie Sammons Roy Gage	Fred Newton Dick Gordon	Charlie Wilson	
Thurs	6:00-8:00PM	Stringfellow	Precepts Class	Mike Watson			
Bi-Weekly:							
<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>			
1&3rd Mon	6:30-8:00PM	Ramsey	Faith Based Dorm	Sam Miller			
1&3rd Tue	7:00-9:00PM	Darrington	Visit Cells	Lanny Standley Tommie Perez	Carrol Potts	Paulo Soares	
2,4,5th Tue	7:00-9:00PM	Terrell Trusty	Bible Study	Ron Sanford	Lloyd Digby		
Monthly:							
<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>			
1st Sun	2:30-4:30PM	Stringfellow	Bible study/Praise	David Gunter Robert Williams	Mac Archer David Ingersol	Jimmie Hatchett Estella Davis	
2nd Sun	6:00-8:00PM	Ramsey	Bible study/Praise	David Gunter Robert Williams	Marc Gentine Lloyd Digby	David Ingersoll Lynette Christy	
2nd Wed	11:00AM-2:00PM	Plane State	Visit AdSeg/ Materials	Joyce Hill Sue Foshee	Dee Warren + Others	Jana Pierson	
2nd Fri	6:30-8:00PM	Ramsey	Faith Based Dorm	Dave Miller			
3rd Sat	8:30-10:30AM	Stringfellow Trusty	Bible study/Praise	Marc Gentine	David Ingersoll	Lloyd Digby	
3rd Sat	6:00-8:00PM	Ramsey Trusty	Bible study/Praise	Mike Boessling	Judy Boessling		
3rd Sun	8:45-10:45AM	Terrell	Worship	David Gunter	David Ingersoll	Jimmie Hatchett	
4th Sun	6:00-8:00PM	Ramsey	Public Speaking	Mike Boessling	Judy Boessling		
4th Sun	5:00-7:00PM	Ellis	Worship	David Gunter Bill Riley	Jimmie Hatchett Kirk & Lorie Taylor bi-monthly	David Ingersoll	
Special Events							
Aug:							
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>			
9	3:00-4:30PM	Plane State	Worship	David Gunter Bill Riley	Brenda Ortiz	Rhea&Wanda Daniel	
10	7:00-9:00AM	Hightower	Worship	David Gunter Tom Jockel	Jim Parks Fred Cantu	Bill Riley	
16	6:00-8:00PM	Wynne	Worship	David Gunter Bill Fry	David Strong Bill Riley	Jimmie Hatchett Mom V&Estella Davis	
17	8:30-10:30PM	Young Medical	Worship	Mike Boessling	Judy Boessling	Brenda Ortiz	
20-22	1.5 days in unit	Angola	Guest of Heart of Texas Foundation	David Gunter			
23	5:30-8:30PM	Ferguson	Worship	David Gunter Jim Parks	Estella Davis David Ingersoll	Bill Fry Bill Riley	
31	1:30-5:30PM	Eastham	Worship	David Gunter Carl Miller	Estella Davis Tom Jockel	Jimmie Hatchett David Strong/Bill Riley	
31	7:00-8:30PM	Henley	Worship	Robert Williams David Ingersoll	Lynette Christy Mary O'Conner	Rhea&Wanda Daniel Brenda Ortiz	
Sept:							
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>			
5	7:00-8:30PM	Ministry Office	Accountability	David Gunter	15 Ex-inmates invited		
13	6:00-8:00PM	Wayne Scott	Worship	David Gunter	+ Others		
26	7:00-9:00PM	Terrell	Revival	David Gunter	Trent Henderson + Others		
27	7:00-9:00PM	Terrell	Revival	David Gunter	Trent Henderson Hellfighters		
28	8:45-10:45PM	Terrell	Revival	David Gunter	Trent Henderson + Others		

Please notify us at info@lessthantheleast.org if you want to be removed from the Newsletter mailing list. Also, notifications of email address changes and additions are appreciated.