



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

January 2019 Newsletter

Fellow Supporters of Less Than The Least (LTTL) Ministries,

Time just seems to fly when you are busy pursuing the Lord's calling on your life! And, all of our volunteers at LTTL do indeed sense a calling to reach the incarcerated for Christ.

LTTL Ministries was formed during 2001; that's 17+ years of ministry. I have been an LTTL volunteer for 8 years and Director for 7 years. As we reflect on our service through LTTL, we are humbled and grateful for God using us to build relationships over the years and build a name for genuine, selfless ministry. Many people in the Texas criminal justice system know LTTL by name because of our love and compassion for those who rarely see either in their lives. We do this because God has called us. (Heb 13:3, Mat 25: 35-40)

I am blessed to be the Director of a Christ-centered ministry that seeks to give hope to the incarcerated and support to ex-offenders. God does change people through the ministry of His Word; I have seen it over and over again. We are blessed to help facilitate the ministry of offenders still inside prison walls. And, we are greatly encouraged and blessed to have ex-offenders as faithful volunteers and supporters of LTTL.

A brief summary of 2018 ministry events follows for your review. May God continue to bless Less Than The Least Ministries during 2019 as we follow and give Him all the glory.

God Bless,

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2018 Ministry Strategy & Highlights

Less Than The Least (LTTL) Ministries' calling to reach prison inmates with Christ has remained unchanged since its beginning in 2001. However, our ministry strategy has been adapted through the years to meet needs and utilize available resources.

Ministry Strategy

Build a continually growing team of called and trained volunteers who bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the incarcerated through the following ministry segments:

- **Inside-the-Walls** – Worship services, classes (Bible studies, Bible-based classes), and one-on-one interactions including ADSEG (Administrative Segregation) cell-to-cell visitation.
- **Correspondence** – Follow-up to inmate prayer requests with Prayer and Letters (PALs).
- **Study Bibles** – Study Bibles are mailed free of charge to inmates upon request.

- **Radio** – “Sound of Freedom” program with Dr John Morgan, pastor of Sagemont Church, sponsored on two FM stations (Fairfield and Abilene, Texas) that reach into prisons units.
- **Prison Chapel Renovation / Upgrade** – Partnership with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Chaplaincy Department on prison chapel renovations which provide an enduring testimony of God’s love to inmates and a constant reminder that Christians outside-the-walls do care.
- **Support to Ex-Offenders** - Assist ex-offenders in their search for housing and employment. Facilitate the ministry of those who have a calling and desire to go back into prison as LTTL ministry volunteers.

Ministry Metrics

2018

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| Volunteers – Total | 73 |
| Volunteers – Ex-Offenders | 14 |
| Prison Units / Trusty Camps (with LTTL ministry) | 17 |
| Ministry Events / Visits per Month (Avg) | 24 |
| 3-Day Weekend Crusades | 2 |
| Prayers and Letters (PALs) per Month (Avg) | 460 |
| Study Bibles Mailed to Inmates | 659 |
| Radio Broadcasts per Week | 2 |
| Prison Chapels With Upgrades In Progress | 1 |
| Contributions | \$56,678 |
| Expenditures | \$54,806 |

Ministry Highlights

Women’s Ministry Team

LTTL has conducted regular worship services at the all-female Plane State Jail in Dayton for years. During 2018 a group of ladies took responsibility for this ministry which was profiled in a *Galveston Daily News* article during June. These LTTL volunteers count it a great privilege to remind the women in prison that at the lowest point in their lives God still sees them and loves them. The women’s ministry team will continue at Plane State during 2019 and expand to also cover the all-female Henley Unit in Dayton.

Increased PALs Volume & Volunteers

The Prayers and Letters (PALs) ministry responds with prayer and follow-up correspondence to prison inmates who request prayer. We have been blessed with faithful volunteers, many of which are unable to go into prisons. Thankfully, this ministry, which touches offenders in a personal way, has grown during 2018 in both volume of requests and in volunteers.

Increased ADSEG Visitation

Cell-to-cell visitation in ADSEG (Administrative Segregation) lies at the very roots of LTTL’s beginning in 2001. After a period of declining participation, new volunteers answered the call during 2018 and more are needed to provide this vital ministry to those who are locked up 23 hours a day.

Increasing Requests for Study Bibles

Placing Study Bibles in the hands of prison inmates makes for a great and lasting impact on their lives. Requests were up during 2018 and the need was met. We pray for funds (\$15/Bible including packaging and postage) to meet the further expansion expected during 2019.

Successful Weekend Crusades

Friday/Saturday/Sunday crusades were conducted at the Stringfellow and Terrell units during 2018. Many offenders were touched through the preaching and music each day and cell-to-cell visitation on Saturday.

Multiple Outdoor Worship Events at Kegans

Outdoor events were conducted at the Kegans Unit in Houston following invitations from the warden and chaplain. One of these was done in conjunction with the Bear Man, James Hayden Vansteehouse's ministry.

Push to Complete Stringfellow Chapel

The final push for funds to complete the Stringfellow Chapel renovation is still in progress. About \$4,000 is needed. This beautiful chapel at Stringfellow reminds offenders that people on the outside do care. Contributions for completion of the project are appreciated.

Nominated for TDCJ Volunteer of the Year Award

LTTL was nominated by a TDCJ warden and chaplain for the annual TDCJ volunteer award. Even though another deserving ministry was awarded this honor, LTTL volunteers and supporters should all share in this recognition of their faithfulness and the challenge for the future that it represents.

Successful Fund Raising Event

Ministry supporters responded to the October fish fry fund raising event in a great way. We budgeted for \$12,000 net income after expenses and this was exceeded by 17%. Also, liberal gifts of food and items for the silent auction helped to make it all possible. Funds from this annual fund raiser are necessary in order to make ends meet. We were blessed. Praise God!

Conclusion

Less Than The Least is able to carry out its mission because of faithful volunteers and financial supporters. We look to the future with expectation for God's continued blessings as we seek to follow and give glory to Him. Your prayers and continued support are needed and appreciated.