



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

## January 2020 Newsletter

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

I am truly blessed to be the Director of this CHRIST centered ministry.

- **C** is for the Lord Jesus **Christ** our savior whose birth we just celebrated. He is Lord over our lives and this ministry.
- **H** is for the **helpers** who are called and then unselfishly go into prisons to minister to those in white.
- **R** is for the **rehabilitation** of prisoners through the gospel that moves hearts in “power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.” (I Thes 1:5)
- **I** is for the biblical **instruction** and encouragement provided to offenders through Bible studies, worship services, PALs correspondence, ADSEG visitation, weekend crusades, Veterans Incarcerated sponsorship, and the Study Bible ministry.
- **S** is for faithful **supporters** like you who pray and financially support this ministry.
- **T** is for that precious commodity you give in service to the Lord – your **time**.

As many of you know, we were honored last April to receive the 2019 Governors Criminal Justice Volunteer Award for Religious Service. This resulted from the faithful service of our volunteers and the faithful giving of our financial supporters. I am so thankful for each one of you.

A brief summary of 2019 ministry highlights follows for your review. Last year was a great one for LTTL Ministries. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us in 2020 as we follow and give Him all the glory.

God Bless,

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### Mission Statement and Strategy

Less Than The Least (LTTL) Ministries' calling to reach prison inmates with Christ has remained unchanged since its beginning in 2001. However, our mission strategy has been adapted through the years as God opens and closes doors for ministry. We solicit your prayer and support for LTTL's 2020 ministry plan.

#### **Mission Statement**

Reach the incarcerated with the gospel of Jesus Christ, encourage their spiritual growth and ministry inside-the-walls, and facilitate their ministry on the outside as LTTL volunteers.

## Mission 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, founding 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.
- **Veterans Incarcerated** – Sponsor veterans of US military services at the Ramsey and Stringfellow Units.
- **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 Highlights

### Ministry Metrics

2019

Volunteers – Total	87
Volunteers – Ex-Offenders	16
Prison Units / Trusty Camps (with LTTL ministry)	19
Ministry Events / Visits per Month (Avg)	27
Outdoor Music Events	2
Prayers and Letters (PALs) per Month (Avg)	460
Study Bibles Mailed to Inmates	462
Radio Broadcasts per Week	2
Prison Chapels With Upgrades In Progress	1
Contributions	\$62,776
Expenditures	\$60,157

### Women’s Ministry Team

2019 was a very special year for the ministry at Plane State. From 80 to 125 offenders attended each bi-monthly worship service. The Lord saw fit to call daughters to Himself at every service! Between two and ten women surrendered their life to Jesus every time we went in. Our ministry team of women from five different churches in the Houston area numbered 8 to 10 for each service. It was a tremendous year!

### David Gunter Receives Religious Service Volunteer Award

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Governor’s Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Awards were presented in Austin on April 5th. David Gunter, Executive Director of Less Than The Least (LTTL) Ministries, was presented the Religious Service Volunteer Award. His award bio read in part, “*Mr. Gunter emphasizes the need to reach incarcerated individuals with the gospel of Jesus Christ and to encourage spiritual growth. His efforts and dedication led to him being selected as the recipient of this award.*” David has stressed to everyone that this award is for all who are associated with Less Than The Least Ministries. Indeed, this award should encourage all LTTL volunteers and supporters and challenge us to remain faithful.

### **Study Bible Ministry**

Placing Study Bibles in the hands of prison inmates makes for a great and lasting impact on their lives. This is just one example from Plane State Jail: *"I received the Bible on January 28, 2019, and I love it! I can't put it down. All of the information in it is stunning! The detail, the concordance, and the articles have already begun to enrich my study time. I'm now able to learn more about some of the history that has been a curiosity for a long time."* We pray for funds (\$16/Bible including packaging and postage) to respond to all requests for Study Bibles during 2020. Your mission dollars could not go to a more impactful cause.

### **ADSEG Visitation**

Cell-to-cell visitation in ADSEG (Administrative Segregation) lies at the very roots of LTTL's beginning in 2001. We saw God work during 2019 at Ramsey ADSEG as men who are locked up 23 hours a day made commitments to the Lord and offenders commented on the impact of our visits. Additional volunteers are needed in this ministry. One of our most faithful volunteers relocated to another state during December.

### **Outdoor Music / Worship Events at Ramsey and Kegans**

Outdoor events were conducted at the Ramsey Unit in Rosharon and the Kegans Unit in Houston following invitations from the wardens and chaplains of these units. These events are special to the offender populations as they are able to get outside on the yard, talk to others, and enjoy the music. And, special opportunities for volunteers to fellowship with the Christians there and get acquainted with non-Christians.

### **Veterans Incarcerated Expansion**

LTTL has sponsored the Veterans Incarcerated group at the Ramsey Unit for several years. Sponsorship of veterans at the Stringfellow Unit was added recently and funds were provided during 2019 to outfit the color guard there with required insignia and apparel. Veterans Incarcerated members number 170 at Ramsey and 120 at Stringfellow.

### **Stringfellow Chapel Renovation**

The final push for funds to complete the Stringfellow Chapel renovation was successful during 2019 with a special gift from Sagemont Church Missions. This beautiful chapel at Stringfellow reminds offenders that people on the outside do care. With funds now available, renovation should be completed during 2020.

### **Prayers and Letters (PALs)**

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. We have also been blessed with new volunteers but more are needed. If you are interested, please contact the ministry office in order to get a copy of the PALs Guidelines for your own review and consideration.

### **Successful Fund Raising Event**

Once again, ministry supporters responded to the October raising event in a great way. We budgeted for \$12,000 net income after expenses and realized \$11,813. 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. The Lord met our needs!

### **Expanding to Additional Units**

LTTL Ministries added the LeBlanc and Walls Units to our ministry schedule during 2019. And, the Jester IV and Carol Vance Units have been added for 2020. Please pray for God to call faithful volunteers for this work inside prison walls.

## **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.