

Restorative Justice Ministries

A Christian ministry to the inmates of the Brazos County Detention Center

Matthew 25: 36. 40 'I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 'The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

2015 Restorative Justice Ministry Annual Report

Executive Summary

January 2015

prepared by Doug Ralston

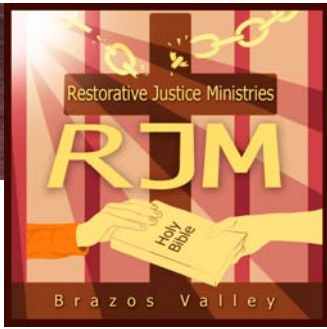
Mission Field : Brazos County Detention Center

Accomplishments

- **Chaplaincy.** RJM oversaw a change in Chaplains and the establishment of a stable interim chaplaincy with no breaks in service and with ***higher service levels.*** The interim Chaplain, with oversight from the Board, has increased contacts with the inmates, refined Chaplaincy procedures, and started a discipleship program leading to over 63 baptisms.
- **Website.** A new RJM website was developed that allows the ministry to be featured on the Internet and explains our mission and ministry, provides resources to volunteers and inmate families. This new site also accepts online donations. The site address is www.rjmbv.org.
- **Newsletter.** Implementation and distribution of new bi-monthly Volunteer Newsletter to over 70 volunteers, sustaining churches, and community organizations.
- **Bible Study and Worship Scheduling.** In cooperation with the SO, RJM developed an improved scheduling and assignment of over 20 + worship services and 30 + Bible Studies conducted monthly by 70 volunteers, within the walls of the Brazos County Detention Center.

Areas of Concern

- **Stable Funding.** RJM has a very modest budget of about \$23K annually. 65% of this budget is made up by a monthly stipend from Brazos County of \$1,250. The balance or 35% is made up of church and individual donations. These donations have been falling off in the last 12 months. RJM must to look to other sources of funding – grants, foundation money and collaborative efforts with other organizations and businesses. RJM seeks to increase the number of supporting churches. Due to funding limits, RJM will have great difficulty expanding this ministry to include inmate mentoring and reentry ministries, sought by the SO in 2016.
- **Volunteers.** RJM has continual recruitment shortfalls for certain Life Skills Positions. Those who do volunteer often hear it word of mouth. It is hoped that the combination of our website which has current openings and our active outreach to area churches will contribute to more Life Skills volunteers for needed positions.



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Future Directions for RJM

- **Increase RJM visibility within the region.** RJM seeks to raise awareness of our ministry within the Brazos Valley Region by visiting churches and related organizations.
 - **Initiate “event” ministry.** In cooperation with BCDC management, introduce one time praise and evangelism events inside the walls for inmates and outside the walls for inmate families. Seek support initially from sustaining churches.
 - **Develop new ministry programs to meet SO/inmate needs.** Work with BCDC management to develop new Sheriff’s Office/BCDC inmate programs. Adapt current Life Skills curriculum to those needs or *develop new programs*, such as 1:1 mentoring and inmate community reentry training programs sought by the SO.
 - **Collaboration with other organizations and businesses.** Enter into collaborative ministry efforts with churches, other not-for-profit groups and businesses inside and outside the walls to increase support for this ministry.
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RJM Volunteer effort and Chaplaincy Ministry numbers within BCDC for 2015

Our volunteers and Chaplain are the hands and feet of God in this place, bringing light to darkness.

Volunteer Services, Classes and Hours

2015 Totals

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ▪ Worship Services Led | 108 |
| ▪ Bible Study Sessions led | 131 |
| ▪ Life Skill Class Sessions taught | 24 (6 week sessions) |

Number of Sessions

TOTAL 2015 RJM VOLUNTEER HOURS

2668 HOURS (ALL CATEGORIES)

Chaplaincy Ministry

2015 Totals

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|------|
| • Baptisms | 63 |
| • Inmates in/completing discipleship program | 283 |
| • Bibles delivered | 2333 |
| • Inmate contacts | 3934 |
