

Telford Prison Ministries, Inc.

Volume 13, Number 1

February, 2009

Restorative Justice **Newsletter** of Northeast Texas

Marriage Seminar Hosted by TPMI at Visitation Center

For the 4th year TPMI was pleased to assist with the marriage seminar lead by *Worldwide Voice in the Wilderness* ministries. Johnny Moffitt from Dallas is Founder and President of WVITW. The sessions were the weekend of February 20th-22nd. Orientation and some meals were at the TPMI Visitation Center.

Twenty-seven couples participated in the seminar with 22 team members serving as counselors. The counselors came from as close as Dallas and as far away as Florida to help with the seminar.

The seminar provides spiritual and practical input. Individual sessions with the husbands



Counselors Prepare for the Seminar



Wives assemble at the Visitation Center prior to the seminar

helped acquaint them with the challenges faced by wives supporting families as single parents. Wives were informed of the challenges faced by their husbands every day inside the prison.

Husbands and wives were able to have some meals together. One wife had not sat by her husband for breakfast for 23 years.

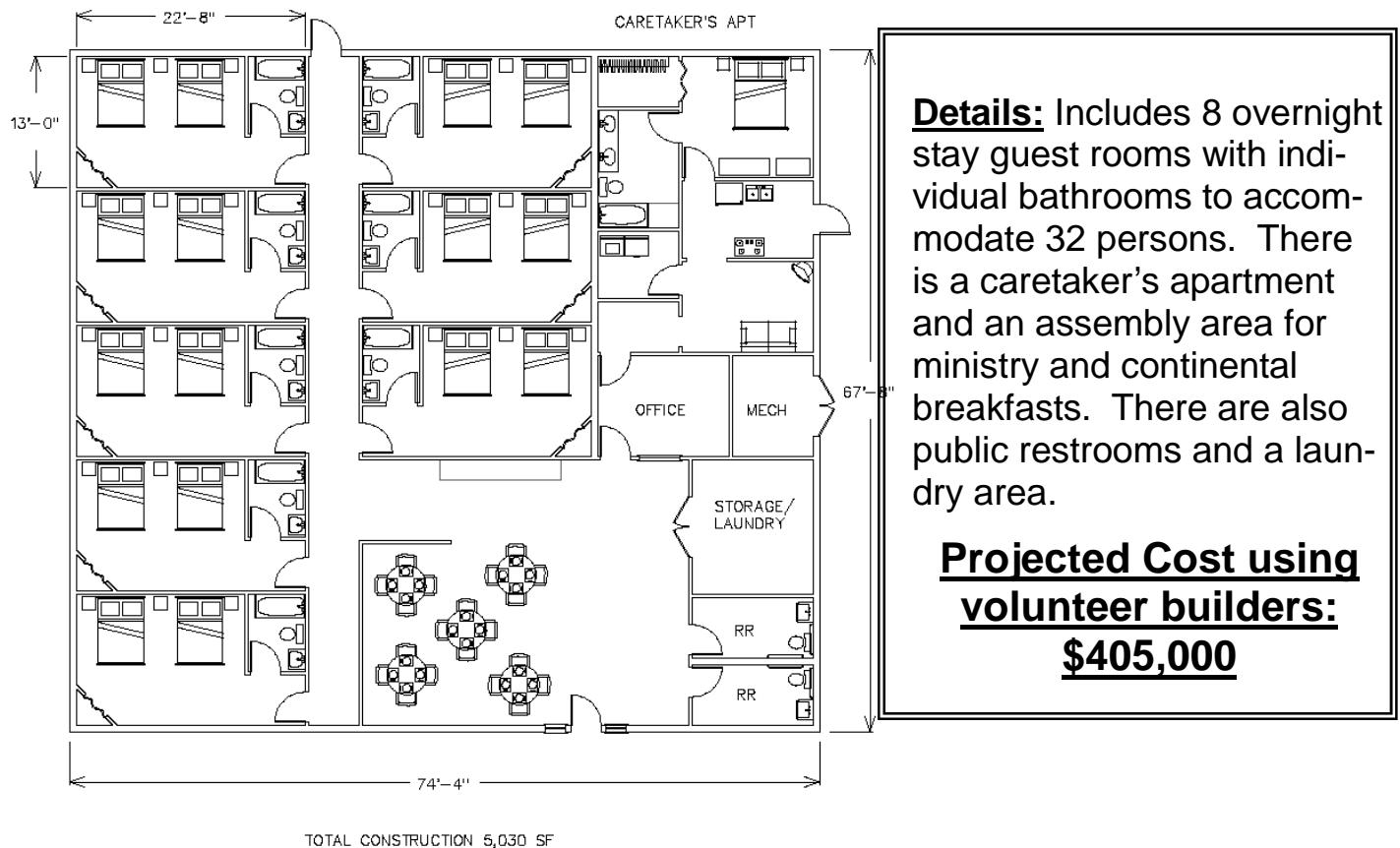
The goal of the seminar was to strengthen communications and the bond of marriage. A stronger marriage helps in every facet of family life for the children. And upon release, the inmate is able to return to a stronger family unit.

The worship services were a high point of the seminar. One profession of faith was made by a husband.

One wife was late for the seminar due to car troubles. A collection was taken for her by participants to enable her to purchase a new set of tires.

Tentative Plans — New Overnight Stay Facility

210 North Lindsey St., New Boston, Texas



Details: Includes 8 overnight stay guest rooms with individual bathrooms to accommodate 32 persons. There is a caretaker's apartment and an assembly area for ministry and continental breakfasts. There are also public restrooms and a laundry area.

Projected Cost using volunteer builders:
\$405,000

Update on New Overnight Facility

In the last newsletter we reported a \$5,000 matching grant was available to TPMI from the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Due to the generosity of churches and individuals, the grant was obtained.

A \$10,000 gift to the building fund was received in February from St. Martin's Episcopal Church in New Boston. St. Martin's will be disbanding and the members made contributions to several local benevolences. TPMI was fortunate to receive this generous contribution.

BDA Design, the architectural firm that designed and supervised construction of the

Visitation Center recently made a site visit to the proposed construction site of the new facility. BDA will be assisting in design of the new building.

Here's the latest on the building fund:

Balance, January 1, 2008	\$ 1,250.00
Donations:	
Individuals	6,900.00
Churches	12,370.00
BGCT	5,000.00
Bowie Baptist Assc	1,500.00
Balance, 2-28-09	\$27,020.00
 Donations Needed	 \$377,980.00

Glossary: "Samaritan House," the refurbished Federal housing units at 106 S. Davis, New Boston where 4 apartments serve as an overnight stay facility each weekend.

***New TDCJ Chaplain
at Telford Unit***

Chaplain Evan Spencer recently began serving at the Telford Unit. After spending the last 12 years in the Arlington, Texas area, Evan followed the Lord’s Leadership to Bowie County.

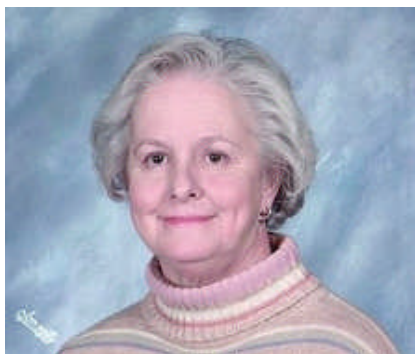
Evan’s home is Harford, Connecticut. His mother and several family members still live in the Hartford area. He has also served as a Chaplain in the Air Force.

Evan was in the Navy before graduating from Skidmore College and working in the Public Health Dept. in Connecticut. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Gordon Conwell Seminary, and is endorsed by the Conservative Baptist Association of America. His hobbies are philosophy, music (keyboard), and basketball. Evan lives in Texarkana and attends First Baptist Church.

Welcome Chaplain Spencer, you will be in our prayers.



TDCJ Chaplain Evan Spencer



***Enlightenment from
Edna***

Every weekend I hear the same thing, “We would not be able to come and visit our loved one if it

were not for the overnight stay facility at the Samaritan House”

I head this recently from a young woman who traveled from Illinois with four little girls under the age of six. As soon as I got them settled in their apartment, the tears began to flow from the eyes of this exhausted mom. “I just can’t thank you enough. Not only do you provide us with a place to stay but you make us feel special while we are here. It’s like God’s presence is evident in this place. There is peace”

Our newest volunteer serving at the Visitation Center is LaRance Ramey. LaRance has a genuine heart for hurting people and has a true servant’s heart.

LaRance has several health issues that would keep most people from serving, but she doesn’t let that get her down. She is quick to offer a cup of coffee or a brownie to a travel-weary adult or a hug and a smile to a young child dealing with the difficulties of visiting a prison.

Everyone feels loved and welcome when LaRance is on duty. She drives all the way from Texarkana to volunteer and comes almost every Saturday afternoon.

Pleasing Jesus is at the top of LaRance’s list of priorities. We are truly blessed to have her as a volunteer.

During January eight volunteers served 626 people through the ministries of TPMI.

Why not join us? 903-276-2193.

Glossary: “Visitation Center,” the building at the entrance to the Telford Unit manned by volunteers every weekend.

TELFORD PRISON MINISTRIES, INC.

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Non-profit Organization

US Postage Paid

New Boston, Texas

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Financial Statements & etc.

Financial statements as of December 31, 2008 are available upon request. .

If you would like to receive a copy of the unaudited financial statements, please contact Edna Walker, 903-628-0923; Ken Cox, 903-628-2531; Beverly Graham, 903-628-3607; or Rosalie Oliver, 903-628-2419.

Donations, Expenditures through 12-31-2008:

Operating Fund:

Beginning Balance	\$5,852.72
Donations	<u>43,546.57</u>
Funds Avail.	\$49,399.29
Budgeted	
Expenditures	<u>48,290.91</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 1,108.38

Ken's Komments

Halfway through 2008 our finances were looking dim. We transferred funds from our operating reserve to make ends meet.

And as always we communicated this need to you. What a wonderful response you provided. In the beginning months of recession with banks failing, you came through.

By the end of the year operating funds exceeded expenditures by \$1,108. Hallelujah!!

Thank you for your faithfulness. Please keep it up.

We are glad to welcome First Baptist Church, DeKalb to a list of supporting churches.

Ken Cox, President TPMI

TPMI Executive Committee

Members

Ken Cox, President
Jerry Davis, Treasurer
James Bracken, Secretary
Jeanne Finigan
James & Beverly Graham
Jeff Hastings
Martha Hoefner
Robert & Linda Sedgass
David Warren
Edna Walker, Hospitality Director

TPMI is a non profit corporation All donations are tax deductible and should be mailed to:

**Telford Prison Ministries, Inc.
106 S. Davis Street, Apt. #1C
New Boston, Texas 75570
903-628-0923**