

MERCY HEART
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Restored Families
Restored Communities
www.mercyheart.org



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15th Anniversary

Volume 6, Issue 1

April 2010

MORNING BY MORNING

The Mercy Heart Volunteers' Journal (Quarterly)



FOR INFORMATION

Mercy Heart
817-514-0290
Mercy Heart Family Relief Outreach
817-222-3374
Mountain Movers Recovery Group
Legacy Day with Dad—Mom
817-514-0290
E-mail: info@mercyheart.org
www.mercyheart.org

MERCY HEART CHAPEL PROGRAMS

Burleson—Gary Rhudy, Director
Alsbury Church 817-295-0134
Fort Worth—Roger Hollar, Pastor/Director
South Haltom Community Church
817-514-0290
Weatherford—John Gordon, Director
Center of Hope 817-441-7477
Haslet—Mike Tice, Director
The Destiny Center 817-847-4100
Hurst—Stephen Drake, Pastor
Christ Memorial Community Church
817-285-1671

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE LOCATIONS.

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SO WHERE WOULD JESUS HAVE US SPEND THOSE DISCRETIONARY HOURS?



Roger Hollar
Executive Director/Pastor

One of the hallmarks of Jesus' ministry is the time He spent with those who suffer. That would be most of His time. Luke 5:21, 22 is essentially the measure of that ministry. So how might He measure what we do with the time He gives us (1 CO 3:13-15; 2 CO 5:10)?

It is clear to me that next to providing adequately for your family, spending time helping those who suffer is important to God. So these words which I write are first and foremost to encourage you in your work of ministry through Mercy Heart. You have shown your understanding of Jesus' mission in the world and your consequent imitation of Him.

I am thankful that you put it all on the line weekly at Mercy Heart. But it is not for my "Thanks" that you minister the compassion of Christ's love. It is the love of Christ that constrains you. It is the knowledge of His mercy and grace toward you that compels you to minister the same to those who suffer.

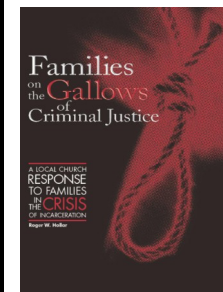
Not only do I write to encourage you in your service to Him, but to encourage you to engage others to join you in that service. It is always a fruitful endeavor to bring others along side of you to let them experience firsthand how God moves through the ministries of Mercy Heart. They too will find the joy of using discretionary time to minister the love of Christ, or to join you as a partner in prayer. Ask someone this month to serve at Mercy Heart. Thanks again for all you do as a volunteer at Mercy Heart.

NEW RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

Families on the Gallows of Criminal Justice

(A Local Church Response to Families in the Crisis of Incarceration)

Author: Roger W. Hollar



This is a complete manual for churches on doing ministry with at-risk families and children of inmates. It is the compilation of fifteen years experience. It includes Scriptural and social justification for such a ministry, step by step planning, organizational direction, enlistment advice, reporting and budgeting guidelines, supporting forms provided on CD, and a DVD testimonial presentation by volunteers and family members.

\$34.95 + \$4.00 S&H

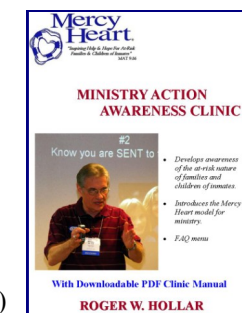
Mercy Heart Ministry Action Clinic

(An awareness and education presentation on DVD)

With Roger W. Hollar

This fifty minute DVD presentation provides an overview of the Mercy Heart Chapel Program.

(New Resources—Page 3)



Inside this issue:

So Where Would Jesus Have Us Spend Those Discretionary Hours?	1
New Resources for Churches	1
A Life That Is Touched and Changed	2
Mercy Heart Legacy Day With Mom Honored	2
Mercy Heart Stokley Volunteer Reception	3
Mercy Heart Family Relief Outreach	3
Welcome New Volunteers	3
New Resources	3
Resources	4

RESOURCE CONNECTION

MERCY HEART RESOURCE DIRECTORY

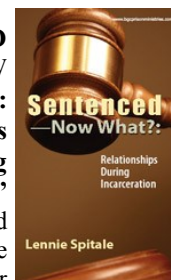
A guide to important organizations in Fort Worth/Tarrant County. From crisis to financial counseling. There are organizations willing to help.
\$15.00 TARRANT COUNTY
\$ 5.00 JOHNSON COUNTY
\$ 5.00 PALO PINTO/ PARKER COUNTY

overcome prison related social stigmas?
This is a true story of survival, courage, and hope. Ann Edenfield's world came crashing down on her with the arrest of her husband and his 15-year prison sentence, leaving her to face a nightmare that no one could prepare her for.
\$15.00

booklet serves as a guide to highlight the various emotional responses, legal proceedings and actions needed for thoughtful consideration as one embarks upon this painful journey. **\$ 2.00**

"SENTENCED — NOW WHAT? : Relationships During Incarceration"

This second booklet in the Institute for Prison Ministries Library is designed to help individuals and families with the second phase of the incarceration journey--sentencing and what follows. It acts as a roadmap to answer questions such as: Where will your loved one go after being sentenced? What should you expect after he or she is behind



bars? How do you communicate with your loved one who is now in jail? **\$ 2.00**

"HELP! My Child's Been Arrested!" A Parent's Guide to Navigating the Juvenile Justice System. This third booklet in the Institute for Prison Ministries Library is designed to be a type of "first-aid" kit for parents who have experienced the arrest of a child. It will help you navigate through this difficult journey. In it you'll learn: What happens after your child has been arrested? How to understand the juvenile justice system? What happens after your child returns home? Resources and testimonies of those who have been on this journey. **\$ 2.00**



FAMILY ARRESTED
What do you do when a loved one is arrested? How do you make bail?

What is a visit to prison like, and what do you need to do before you can visit? What financial challenges will be encountered, and how do you



"HELP! My Loved One Is In Jail. What Do I Do Now?" Written by a former inmate, this practical booklet is for those who

are experiencing the incarceration of a loved one. It walks individuals and families through the typical experience associated with this traumatic event. This

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- VERONICA WHITE**
WayPoint—Families in Transition
- BOBBY HUEY**
Food Service

A LIFE THAT IS TOUCHED AND CHANGED

As a member of Glenview Baptist Church my daughter and I were looking for a ministry to serve in. The Lord laid the making of Mercy Heart on our hearts. We visited a similar ministry in downtown Fort Worth. We were hooked.

After starting the ministry who would of known (only God), I would have a need to be ministered to for having a son in prison. I was already plugged into the support of others that had or were going through the same situation as me and dealing with the same feelings I was having. There was a lot of guilt that I failed as a parent.

I was helped with contacts, phone numbers and information on how to send money and clothes to my son. I was helped most of all by the prayers and letters for my son. There was a place for him and his family to attend when he was released after years of incarceration.

There is no family immune to having a member of the family that has made bad choices. The biggest need is for families not to be set apart from the body of the church. They need to be loved and have a special place to meet. Not to hide, but be able to share.

—Sandy Apple

My wife and daughter attended Mercy Heart for a year, before I started going to Mercy Heart. It gave us a place to go and talk to people that had people in prison and not to be ashamed of it. It helped my son and my grandchildren to have a place where people didn't put them down, but lifted them up and told them that God still loves them.

—Jerry Apple



MERCY HEART LEGACY DAY WITH MOM HONORED

GOVERNOR'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

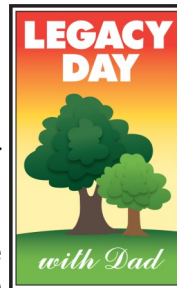
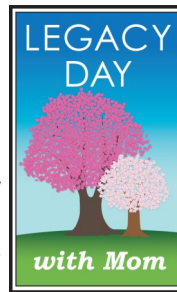
**Mercy Heart Legacy Day with Mom
Best Family Program 2010**

The Mercy Heart Legacy Day with Mom program is designed to foster a sense of personal identity and self-worth for each member of the family, as well as, the need for cooperation so that each member may know where they belong within the family unit.

Twice a year at the Halbert Unit in Burnet, Texas, Mercy Heart Legacy Day with Mom organizes a day for the incarcerated mother, her children, and the children's caretaker to spend together in activities that help build relationships and develop an understanding of how incarceration has affected their lives. The group provides volunteers, activities, a meal, and snacks for the day, and will assist with travel expenses for the family if necessary. One offender that participated in the program wrote: "The Legacy Day with Mom planted an awesome seed. I am eternally grateful for them and all they did for me and my son." For their commitment to the restoration of families, the Mercy Heart Legacy Day with Mom program has been awarded the Texas Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Award 2010.



Front Row, L-R: Dan Pierson; Mary Lee Pierson; Karen Kinnaird; and Van Kinnaird.
Back Row, L-R: TBCJ Chairman Oliver Bell; Stephen Wilson; Former TBCJ Chairman Carol S. Vance; Celeste Wilson; and TDCJ Executive Director Brad Livingston.



MERCY HEART STOKLEY VOLUNTEER RECEPTION



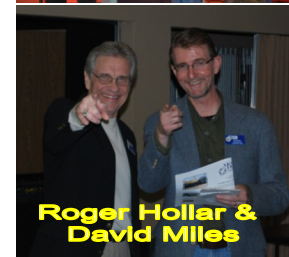
On February 21, 2010 about 120 volunteers joined together for a dessert reception in their honor. Pastor Dennis Baw shared an encouraging message.



10 year service awards to Rick Baggett, Gwen McDade, Patricia & Paul Cooper, and Bobby Propps.



Anne Gifford and daughter, Lizette Wilson sharing testimony.



Roger Hollar & David Miles



Praying over new ministry resources.



Volunteers visiting before the reception got under way.



Roger Hollar accepting 15 year gift from Board members & Staff.

MERCY HEART FAMILY RELIEF OUTREACH



Mel Karger
Program Director

In Galatians, Paul states "My call is from Jesus Christ." In Galatians 2:10 he says "The one thing they suggested was that we remember to help the poor, and I have certainly been eager to do that."

At Family Relief Outreach (FRO) we have those who are eager to give to the poor by giving of their time.

Each and every volunteer involved with FRO is giving of themselves. We have those who are serving once a week to several times a week. Some have been serving for a few months to those who have been involved for over 10 years. Every person no matter how often they are there are a strategic part of the ministry.

We have a group of men who travel to Tarrant Area Food Bank every Thursday and pick up food for our food pantry. "Thank you men, for all you do."

This is not our only source of food. We also have folks just like yourselves who donate food. It takes a lot of folks to help feed those in need.

This year "Panera Bread Co." is helping feed the poor by donating lots of bread. Every Thursday night we have ladies who go to Panera and pick up lots of bread and other "goodies." The ladies separate the bread, put it in freezer bags so those in need can be blessed with fresh, really good bread. A BIG THANKS TO PANERA BREAD COMPANY and all their employees. Stop in Panera and have a really great tasty bowl of soup and a wonderful sandwich. Located on Precinct Line Rd. next to the Wal-Mart.

God Bless

Mel Karger

P.S. You too can be a part of the team. Give us a call 817-222-3374 or 817-514-0290.

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

We are so excited that each of you have decided to join the Mercy Heart team. We welcome you with open arms and look forward to serving with you.

- Connor Bayless
- Shirley Bayless
- Mary Buth
- Hope Canales
- Shana Harjo
- Sue Hickman
- Margaret Lopez

- Dawne Parker
- Glenn Reid
- Elsie Rivera
- Bridget Vines
- Leah Wright
- Randall Wilson
- Matt Wilson

NEW RESOURCES (continued from page 1)

It will develop an awareness of the at-risk nature of families and children of inmates, introduce the Mercy Heart model for ministry, and answer questions about this ministry. It includes a menu of frequently asked questions, a downloadable clinic manual (PDF), and additional Mercy Heart video presentations. \$12.95 + \$4.00 S&H

Purchase the manual and DVD together for \$39.95 plus \$5.00 S&H