

# Texas Epiphany Ministries

Manifesting God to Incarcerated Juveniles

Volume II Issue V, Winter 2012

[www.texasepiphany.com](http://www.texasepiphany.com)

## Out of the Chair's Corner.....

Wow!!! Did this last year fly by fast!!! Hopefully everyone has re-grouped from the holidays.

I encourage everyone to look at our new website. If you have any comments or pictures that you want added to the website, please email them to me.

Our Growth and Development team continues to seek facilities in Texas that do not have Epiphany in their schedule. Please pray for the staff of these facilities to accept our program and for the 4th Day community to step up and step out in faith and minister to these incarcerated youth.

The Epiphany State Board meetings are every quarter in Austin. We welcome each Epiphany volunteer to come and join us. This year our meeting dates are: Feb. 25, May 19, Aug. 25, and Nov. 17. They are located at the St. George Episcopal Church in Austin off Highway 35. The link to the church is: <http://www.sgchurch.org>. The meeting starts at 9:00a.m. and lasts until 2:00p.m. Lunch is provided.

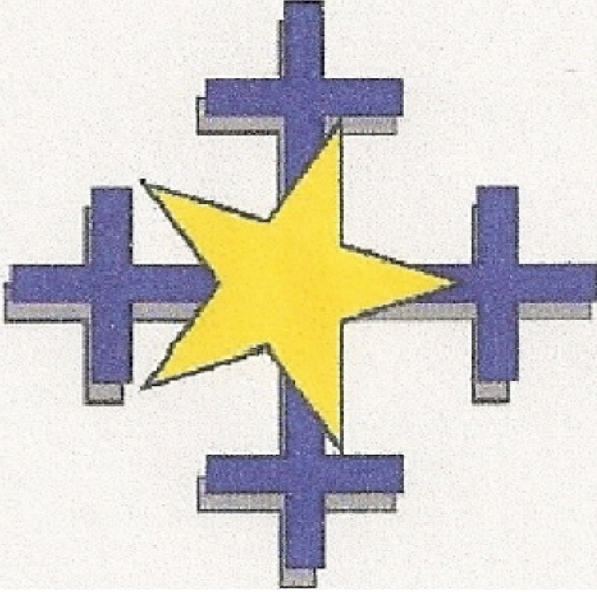
This has been and will be a trying year for TJJD, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, with all their changes to forms, regulations, staff, and volunteer procedures. It is our position always to remember that we are guests in their facilities and we will abide by their rules and guidelines. Prayers and patience will be needed on our part.

At the end of 2012, may we look back and be able to say, "Job well done"! May we have had the eyes to see the grace and faithfulness of our Heavenly Father. May we have had the ears to hear His calling and direction. When we look back.....may we only see ONE set of footprints.

May each one of you receive a blessing ...beyond the blessing you give. Thank you for all your hours of hard work to make this ministry what it is today!

*Sinda Berge*

Epiphany Ministries  
of Texas  
is looking forward  
to another exciting year  
...to see what our God  
has in store for us  
and for the "Stars"!  
May we continue to  
pray for our families,  
the facilities in  
which we minister,  
the Stars  
and Super Stars,  
and our team members.  
This ministry is  
grounded on prayers  
from the faithful.



## Juvenile Justice Restructuring

The 82nd Texas Legislature passed a bill that abolished the Texas Youth Commission and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and merged these agencies to form the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. The department is statutorily charged with prioritizing community-based programs for juveniles which are both less expensive and more effective than large remotely located state-run lockups.

Among the programs that the new department will support are those that involve training and mentoring for juveniles at the local level and expanded vocational offerings in the remaining state youth lockups.

Excerpt From "New Era for Texas Juvenile Justice" by Jeanette Moll, *Houston Chronicle*, Wednesday, November 30, 2011

## Seminary Program for Prison Inmates

A new four-year non-denominational seminary program is being taught in the maximum security Darrington Unit in Rosharon. The 39 inmates in the program are all inmates serving lengthy sentences in a state prison. The seminary program is sponsored by donations from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and the Heart of Texas Foundation.

Early Thursday morning, inmates clad in white jumpsuits paid rapt attention to Phillips as he reviewed the difference between deontological and teleological ethics. At the end of the three-hour class, the inmates stood with bowed heads and hands clasped as Phillips led a prayer. "We pray that you will be glorified in what we have been able to accomplish and that no one will be able to look at what has gone on in this class and this unit and say that it has done anything other than prove that God is awesome," he said. "In Jesus' name."

To qualify for the program, inmates must have high school diplomas or GED credentials, clean behavioral records for at least a year, a minimum of 10 years remaining until they are eligible for parole and a desire to serve other inmates. The graduates of the program will earn a bachelor of science degree in Biblical Studies and go on to minister to inmates at other prisons.

Excerpt from "Seminary program seeks to transform prison inmates" by Lindsay Wise, *Houston Chronicle*, December 10, 2011

## Once Life Matters: A New Beginning

*Once Life Matters: A New Beginning*, is a powerful life-changing auto-biography written by former music business entrepreneur, Marty Angelo. The book reveals how God totally transformed Angelo's life from the snarls of drugs, booze, rock/disco music and prison into a strong witness of God's saving grace and mercy. Over 60,000 books have been distributed free of charge to prisoners, substance abuse rehab clients, and troubled celebrities.

Once Life Matters is a second chance ministry founded by minister/author Marty Angelo that brings hope to those who are weary from the weight of the world with the love of Jesus Christ

[http://martyangelo.com/about\\_us.htm](http://martyangelo.com/about_us.htm)



## Colors of Lent

*Purple or blue takes center stage in church decor because these are royal colors used to signify the coming of the King.*

## Musicians at Giddings



The Giddings State School Epiphany Team band has given birth! Through the loving attention of Epiphany band members, eight students from GSS have become musicians and more are expected to emerge. We are delighted currently to have three student keyboardists, two drummers, and three guitarists. The band has played for several student activities and for worship services. They are good!

Because of the direct connection to Epiphany, the whole campus is being introduced to the wonderful music of Epiphany and its "Silly Songs." All this music reinforces the Good News in a most wonderful way, and students have been given a new activity to aim for. Thank you, Giddings' Team, for all your wonderful ministry on this campus. - February, 2012

Rev. Judith N Wooten, Ph.D., Chaplain II  
Giddings State School

# Texas Epiphany Ministries State Board Members

- State Chairman** Sinda Berge (Giddings)
- State Vice Chair** Pat Holden (San Antonio)
- State Secretary** Phil Bird (Clemens)
- State Treasurer** Tom Kuhn -Western Region
- Clergy** Frank Smith (Crockett--closed)
- Trailer Coordinator** Bob Bull  
(Northern Region)
- Growth and Development** Chuck Talbot  
(Southern Region Rep)
- Website Coordinator** Sinda Berge
- Epiphany Newsletter Coordinator**  
Marilyn Jackson msjack99@att.net
- Starter Kit Inv Coordinator** Earl Dague
- Agape Coordinator** -person needed  
Phil Bird (Clemens UAC Representative)  
Roy Bradshaw (Brownwood UAC Rep)  
Wendy Withers (Corsicana UAC Rep)  
Dean Jackson (Giddings UAC Rep)  
Mike Mellina (Mart UAC Representative)  
Dan Swanson (Garza County UAC Rep)  
Anne Wilkinson (Giddings UAC)  
David Ric ks (Gainesville UAC)  
Randy Upham (Western Region Rep)  
Ray Tirado (Southern Region Representative)

## Hope Prison Ministries

Hope Prison Ministries, Inc., is currently engaged in the evangelization and discipleship of men in prison in Texas and in their aftercare.

3515 Sycamore School Road  
Suite 125, PMB 172  
Fort Worth, TX 76133  
(817) 323-7686

<http://www.hopeprisonministries.org/home.php>

### 40 Days of Lent

*This represents the time Christ spent in the desert, enduring the temptation of Satan, Sundays in Lent are not counted because they represent mini-Easter celebrations to commemorate the Resurrection.*

## TJJD YOUTH CHARACTERISTICS

from the TYC Annual Treatment Effectiveness Review

Youth adjudicated to TYC have never been typical of the general adolescent population. Many of the characteristics of TYC youth reflect that their unique needs are highly correlated with the probability of future criminal behavior. Most of these characteristics are static factors and cannot be changed, although some can be addressed through treatment intervention. Examples of static risk factors are prior juvenile justice history, prior placements, IQ scores, and history of abuse and neglect.

As a result of reforms, including the emphasis on diversion, TYC youth today are far different from those committed three years ago. TYC has a smaller youth population now, but that population includes a higher percentage of violent offenders. All TYC youth have committed felony offenses. Nearly all have substantial academic deficiencies. Nearly 40% of new commitments report having experienced prior trauma, including sexual abuse. In FY 2010, 92% of new commitments were assessed as needing high or moderate intensity programming in at least one specialized treatment area (capital or serious violent offense, alcohol or other drugs, mental health related issue, or sexual offense), and the figure rose to 98% when low treatment needs were added. The vast majority of youth committed to TYC have had multiple previous encounters with the juvenile justice system. Often, the youth have experienced failure with the education system, their peers, and their communities. For many, TYC is the last opportunity at rehabilitation before entering the adult correctional system. TYC's challenge is to re-engage youth, inspire them, restore their hope, and teach them to believe in themselves – a monumental task for youth who have grown accustomed to failure.

### Profile of TYC Commitments FY 2010

Committed Felony Offense	100%
IQ Less Than 100	83%
Parent Unmarried, Divorced, or Separated	79%
On Probation at Commitment	74%
Prior Out of Home Placement	63%
Family History of Criminal Behavior	44%
Chemically Dependent	54%
Known Gang Member	44%
History of Abuse or Neglect	36%
Serious Mental Health Diagnosis	42%

Epiphany weekend summaries, star success stories, and other items of interest to the Epiphany volunteer community are being requested from you for this newsletter which is published biannually. Please send to

[msjack99@att.net](mailto:msjack99@att.net)



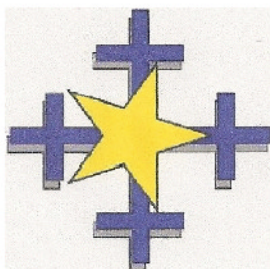
## You Are Not Alone

Giddings State School Epiphany Team and Superstars hang Prayer Chain--The prayer chain that is presented during the "You are Not Alone" talk has a tremendous effect on the stars early in an Epiphany weekend. The stars are amazed that so many people who don't even know them are praying for them. Just proves--God can use anyone for His Kingdom!

*"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when the heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit."—Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NRSV)*

## Texas Units Holding Epiphany Weekends

Clemens Unit- TDCJ -1995  
 Gainesville State School - 1999  
 Mart -McLennan County/State Juvenile Corr. -- 2001  
 Giddings State School - 2002  
 Brownwood - Ron Jackson Complex - 2003  
 Corsicana State School - 2003  
 San Antonio - Krier Unit, Bexar Co Juvenile Det - 2007  
 Post - Garza County Juvenile Justice Center - 2007



## THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,  
 God stuck U in the name of His Son..  
 And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,  
 You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.  
 You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,  
 For U, He was born; that's why He came.  
 And His great love for U is the reason He died.  
 It even takes U to spell crUcified..  
 Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand  
 He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?  
 The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,  
 And this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.  
 When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,  
 He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.  
 "Go into the world and tell them it's true  
 That I love them all - Just like I love U."  
 So many great people are spelled with a U,  
 Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?  
 It all depends now on what U will do,  
 He'd like them to know,  
 But it all starts with U.  
 --author unknown--



## Dan Dugan, author of *One Ex-Con for Christ*

Dan Dugan, 71, of Joshua left this earth on Monday, Nov. 14, 2011 with his loving family beside him. He stepped out of his earth suit and right into his Heavenly suit, proudly standing before Jesus. He loved his Lord Saviour and ministered to many people in various places. Ministry was the love of his life, then his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Ethel and Sid Dugan, Sr., sister Fay Berry and brothers R.L. and Sid (S.E.) Dugan, Jr.

from the *Weatherford Democrat*

## Epiphany Evaluation

At the request of Executive Management, an analysis was conducted to determine if there was an impact upon incidents or recidivism due to the 3-day Epiphany religious program. Anecdotal evidence was that the program substantially reduced the number of incidents immediately after the program.

The analysis examined both the individuals attending the program and the schools overall. It examined the results at four institutions over thirteen occasions of Epiphany programs (Gainesville-7; Hamilton-3; McLennan-2; Giddings-1), comparing the number of documented incidents within the 30 days prior to the program with the number within the 30 days after the program. Only youth at the specific institution from the date 30 days prior to the program through the date 30 days after the program were included. A control group was included of youth in the same institution who did not attend the Epiphany program, but were present for the entire time period of the analysis.

The first analysis examined the effect of Epiphany upon institutional incidents as documented on agency Incident Report Forms. The study compared 420 youth attending the Epiphany program with 2,691 who did not. The effect was examined in two ways, first, the average number of documented incidents 30 days before and after the program, and the percent of youth have any documented incident 30 days before or after the program.

The study also compared the one-year rearrest and the one-year reincarceration rates of each of these youth if they had been released to a non-secure program prior to July 1, 2002, in order to be tracked for one-year prior to July 1, 2003, the last time a year's data is available. Only 586 of the 3,111 youth in the incident comparison had been released prior to that time.

In summary, youth attending the Epiphany program did have an average of 10% less documented incidents within the 30 days after attending, at a time when the incidents of youth not attending increased by 4%. This difference was found to be statistically significant. No statistically significant difference in either one-year rearrest or one-year reincarceration was found for youth attending the Epiphany program.

*Note from this newsletter editor: this was early in the Epiphany program. It would be interesting to see if these statistics have changed. mi*

## Shalom fellow Epiphany warriors and kingdom builders for Christ,

We as God's creation live in a physical world. All the knowledge that we acquire of each other and our surroundings come through the senses. We need the physical to grasp the picture of God's existence who is spirit. One of the first revelations of God to humanity (His creation) can be seen through the symbolism of fire. Fire is one of the metaphors that God chose in aiding us to comprehend Himself. We first see this illustration in the book of Exodus 3:1-6 where God appears to Moses in the midst of a burning bush and instructs Moses as he drew closer to remove his shoes, for the place where he stood was holy ground.

One of God's attributes is holiness, and we as unworthy vessels are cleansed by God through the blood of the cross in order that we might draw close to Him. In 1 Peter 1:16 God calls those of us who are His elect to "Be holy, because I am holy."

Fire is used by God to show how he transforms His own (spiritually) just as physical fire purifies silver and removes impurities, so does God cleanse us so that we might stand before Him in holiness... "Our God is a consuming fire". God wants to consume your life! Open your heart like never before and just ask Him to come and reveal Himself to you in a greater way each day, and come to His service.

In the name of Christ,

God kingdom builder and faithful soldier,

*Wallace Artie, Jr (Port Arthur)*

## Chicken Tortilla Soup

Janet Holmes, Giddings Team

- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 6 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1-14.5 oz rotel
- 1-14.5 oz can black beans
- 1 can extra sweet corn, drain
- 3 chicken breasts, boneless and skinless
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- salt and black pepper to taste
- 1 cup chopped cilantro
- ½ to 1 tablespoon cumin
- 1 cup shredded monterrey cheese

Boil chicken til done. (you can save liquid for chicken broth) Shred chicken and set aside. Saute onion in butter, add all ingredients except chicken and cheese. Bring to boil. Add chicken and 5 cheese. Boil to serve with corn chips and tortillas.

## Mentoring program offers HPU students opportunity to serve

By Courtney Wilmoth, Howard Payne University



BROWNWOOD—A pair of [Howard Payne University](#) students who lead a mentoring program for girls at a juvenile correctional facility insist it's worth their time investment to let the young women know Christians care about them.

Howard Payne University students Monique Ching (left) and Ciera Culpepper discuss their ministry team at the school's Baptist Student Ministry center. The students lead a mentoring program for girls at a juvenile correctional facility.

Monique Ching and Ciera Culpepper head the Baptist Student Ministry's mentoring program through the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, working with girls at the Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex in Brownwood. The program pairs Howard Payne students with girls at the state school. Each mentor and juvenile offender meet at least one hour a week. The Texas Juvenile Justice Department offers an option for faith-based mentoring, in which a mentor can bring a Bible and discuss matters in a spiritual context.

"The goal is to share Christ with the TJJD students and really love on them in a way they probably have never experienced—with the love of Christ," said Culpepper, a family studies major from Zephyr. In addition to serious discussions about the Bible, mentors also play games and just visit with the juvenile offenders. "This is one of the most rewarding ministries ever," said Ching, a communication major from Hong Kong. "Just being able to hear the girls' stories and be there for them through this time of their life is amazing."

Many of the students at the state school come from troubled or unstable backgrounds, Culpepper added. "I think the impact of the program is to provide the TJJD students with safe and healthy relationships," she said. "One of my goals is to get every girl at the state school matched with an HPU mentor."

Allison Voss, chaplain at the Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex, values the commitment made by the Howard Payne mentors. "The time and effort spent by mentors at our facility is invaluable," Voss said. "Our students look forward to seeing their mentors each week and develop a strong bond with them. Having a volunteer come and listen and support them makes our students feel valued and loved in a way that many have never experienced before. Howard Payne students are especially an encouragement to our students as they bring with them a sense of youthfulness, energy and diversity."

Although it is a rewarding ministry, the mentoring program demands commitment, participants note. But Culpepper and Ching insist it is worth it. "At the very least, it is showing these girls that someone cares for them," Ching said.

*This article appeared in The Baptist Standard, February 22, 2012*

(PHOTO/Coby Kestner/HPU)



The Giddings Epiphany Team salutes Andy Weir, who for several years served as Volunteer Coordinator at Giddings State School, and says "Thank You, Andy, for all of your great support and help. You are missed!"

Poem written by Energetic Eric C. for his best friend Markell who woke up one morning, he noticed it was raining and Markell had received word that his brother had died.

When you look into the sky it's not rain it's the earth crying  
'cause somewhere in the world someone you love is dying  
    You get a call, haven't even woke up at all  
    On the other side of the phone, she sounds real nice  
She says on the other side of the city your brother lost his life  
    She hangs up the phone she doesn't say goodbye  
    Now you sit here alone wondering if that was lies  
    You get another call your scared as hell  
    But it's just your friend, he's calling from jail  
    You tell him your situation, what you just heard  
    He says peaceful things about God's word  
    He says keep it strong but there will be pain  
    Just don't be scared he died in God's name  
    We all die, there's no need to worry  
    God is waiting on us He's not in a hurry  
    God never wants to hurt us  
    When someone you love dies God has a purpose  
    Because He's here to serve us and us to serve Him  
What have any of us in this world done to deserve Him  
    Nothing  
    Nothing at all  
    He allowed us to walk He can make us crawl  
    But right now is your chance to stand brave and tall  
    With your chest pushed out and your head on straight  
    Hopefully sooner or later we will walk through that gate

Energetic Eric C.  
Giddings Epiphany # 14



## The Brain on Trial

**David Eagleman** (born April 1971 in Albuquerque, NM) is a neuroscientist at [Baylor College of Medicine](#), where he directs the Laboratory for Perception and Action and the Initiative on Neuroscience and Law. He is best known for his work on time perception, [synesthesia](#), and [neurolaw](#). He is a Guggenheim Fellow, a council member in the World Economic Forum, and a New York Times bestselling author published in 27 languages. His brain research centers on the following **scientific specializations**:

**Time perception--Brains do not passively track time--they actively construct it.** Eagleman's scientific work combines psychophysical, behavioral, and computational approaches to address the relationship between the [timing of perception](#) and the timing of neural signals. In one experiment, he dropped himself and other volunteers from a 150 foot tower to measure time perception as they fell. He writes that his long-range goal is "to understand how neural signals processed by different brain regions come together for a temporally unified picture of the world."

**Synesthesia--Sensory stimulation results in unusual sensory experiences. We are using neuroimaging, genetics, and 17,000 synesthetic volunteers to find out why.** [Synesthesia](#) is an unusual perceptual condition in which stimulation to one sense triggers an involuntary sensation in other senses. Eagleman is the developer of [The Synesthesia Battery](#), a free online test by which people can determine whether they are synesthetic. By this technique he has tested and analyzed thousands of synesthetes, and has written a book on synesthesia with Richard Cyotowic, entitled [Wednesday is Indigo Blue: Discovering the Brain of Synesthesia](#). Eagleman has proposed that [sensory processing disorder](#), a common characteristic of autism, may be a form of synesthesia.

**Neuroscience and the Law--How does modern neuroscience change the way we think about the law, criminals, and punishment?** [Neurolaw](#) is an emerging field that determines how modern brain science should affect the way we make laws, punish criminals, and invent new methods for rehabilitation. Eagleman is the founder and director of Baylor College of Medicine's [Initiative on Neuroscience and Law](#).

Eagleman's extensive article, "The Brain on Trial" which appeared in *the Atlantic*, July/August 2011, provides some extremely interesting reading on neuroscience and the law.

Quotes from this article: "Changes in the balance of brain chemistry, even small ones, can also cause large and unexpected changes in behavior."

"Who you even have the possibility to be starts at conception. If you think genes don't affect how people behave, consider this fact: If you are a carrier of a particular set of genes, the probability that you will commit a violent crime is four times as high as it would be if you lacked those genes. You're three times as likely to commit robbery, five times as likely to commit aggravated assault, eight times as likely to be arrested for murder, and 13 times as likely to be arrested for a sexual offense. The overwhelming majority of prisoners carry these genes; 98.1 percent of death-row inmates do."

Genes are part of the story, but they're not the whole story. We are likewise influenced by the environments in which we grow up.

Substance abuse by a mother during pregnancy, maternal stress, and low birth weight all can influence how a baby will turn out as an adult. As a child grows, neglect, physical abuse, and head injury can impede mental development, as can the physical environment. And every experience throughout our lives can modify genetic expression--activating certain genes or switching others off--which in turn can inaugurate new behaviors. In this way, genes and environments intertwine.

On one end of the spectrum we find people who have suffered brain damage at the hands of fate who did not choose their behavior and at the other end of the spectrum--the "blameworthy" side of the "fault" line--we find the common criminal, whose brain receives little study, and about whom our current technology might be able to say little anyway. The overwhelming majority of lawbreakers are on this side of the line, because they don't have any obvious, measurable biological problems. They are simply thought of as freely choosing actors. Acts cannot be understood separately from the biology of the actors--and this recognition has legal implications.

--Excerpts from "The Brain on Trial", *the Atlantic Magazine*, by David Eagleman

*This article and various other research and videos can be found at David Eagleman's website:*  
<http://eaglemanlab.net/>

*At Eagleman's website you will find opportunities to participate in a survey on How Jurors Make Decisions. Another survey is a Word Aversion Survey.*

*The long range goal of Eagleman's lab is to understand how the brain constructs perception, how different brains do so differently, and*