



Texas Epiphany Ministries

**Communicating God's Love and Grace
to Incarcerated Juveniles**

**Volume VI, Issue VII,
Summer, 2015**

www.texasepiphany.com

Chairman's Notes Summer 2015

Summer has come upon us and with it some much needed rain for many parts of the state. Just as the rain sustains the plants of the earth, so Epiphany sustains the Stars in their spiritual growth. Over the past several months four units, Giddings, Krier, Mart and Post, held retreats. At the May Board meeting board reps reported that the retreats went smoothly, were very successful and generally followed the guidelines in the manual; as per their role they identified areas that could be improved and have shared those things with the local leadership.

The Board accepted Chuck Talbot's resignation and honored his many years of service in many positions on the Board with a plaque and gift certificate. The Board also recognized Tom Kuhn's many years of service as treasurer and parliamentarian and honored his service with a plaque. Anne Wilkinson, Paula Swanson and Sarah Holden redesigned the Epiphany brochures; they presented the new brochures to the Board. 1000 copies were sent to each unit in June.

Anne Wilkinson revised the financial procedures and following Board procedures had previously submitted it for consideration; at the May meeting it was adopted and will be included in both the team manual and the Bylaws.

National Epiphany will be holding their 25th anniversary celebration and meeting in Monroe, Louisiana September 25-27th. Roy Bradshaw will attend as a Kansas delegate; Pat & Sarah Holden will attend as guests.

Prayers for David Reilly, head of TJJJ, who is dealing with cancer. Prayers for for the family of Randy Layh, Giddings Epiphany team. He passed away May 4, 2015. His wife Julie Layh said, "Epiphany was a great joy in his life".

May the peace of Christ be with you and yours during the coming months; may each Star feel the love of Christ as you interact with them.

Blessings,

Powerful/Patient Pat Holden

***You keep
your loving
promise
and lead
the people
You have
saved.***

***With Your
strength
You will
guide them.***

Exodus 15:13

Have you visited the Texas Epiphany Ministries website? It is very attractive and useful with tabs that easily explain their content. You will find *About Epiphany, Board of Directors, Calendar, Contact Epiphany, Newsletters, Resources, and Upcoming Events including* the date and location of the next Board of Directors Meeting which is August 22 at St. George's Episcopal Church in Austin.

Upcoming Weekends for which you can pray:

Brownwood #30, September 5 - 7

Evins #2, July 24 - 26

Gainesville #31, July 31 - August 2

Giddings #26, October 9 - 11

Krier #19, November 6 - 8

Post #17, October 9 - 11

Thank you to Paula Swanson for a great job with the Epiphany website.

Weekend Reports

Mart Epiphany #22, March 20-22, 2015

Served 36 youth with only one dropping out for health reasons. A first with eight clergy on the team. This was the second weekend held with youth from both sides of the facility, Mental Health and Long Term. All activities went well with the JCO's and staff being very helpful and participating in the forgiveness lists. God was present!

Krier Epiphany #18, April 10-12, 2015

The weekend began with approximately 25 to 30 inside team members, 27 stars, and 9 or 10 superstars. There were 8 new team members. The superstars demonstrated the knots game which went well.

A powerful moment and great example for the stars was when the facility supervisor shared her testimony.

The weekend closed with 16 stars and five superstars for various reasons but to no fault of the team. The good news was shared, forgiveness displayed, and love poured out not only to the stars but the Krier staff.

New TJJD Chaplains

Dennis Banks, Gainesville

Dennis is a native of Indiana but moved to Texas in 2012 to be closer to his three daughters and took a JCO position at the Gainesville State School. He has 30 years of experience in juvenile corrections. Dennis was the Director/Superintendent of Juvenile Detention of the Lancaster County Youth Services Center in Lincoln, Nebraska for 9 years, managing an 80-bed detention center and a 4.5 million dollar budget. He started his career at that agency in 1980 and also served as a correctional officer and an assistant director.

He left his juvenile corrections career to devote himself fulltime to the ministry. Dennis has 10 years of experience in the ministry and has been an associate pastor, a youth pastor, and a senior pastor in Lincoln, Nebraska. Now he can combine his calling to the ministry with his juvenile corrections experience in his new role as the Gainesville Chaplain.

Dennis has a Master's degree in Urban Ministries from Aspen Christian College and Seminary and he is an ordained minister. He is a Certified Life and Business Coach and has an undergraduate degree in elementary education. You can reach Chaplain Banks at 940-665-0701, ext. 146.

Roberto Cepeda, Giddings State School

Chaplain Cepeda comes to TJJD from TDCJ's Halbert Unit in Burnet where he served as a correctional facility chaplain. Previously, he was a Chaplain with several hospice and rehabilitation centers around central Texas and in Florida.

Chaplain Cepeda holds an ecclesiastical endorsement from the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He has a master's degree in divinity from Andrews University Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and an undergraduate degree in theology from Welmar College in California. Chaplain Cepeda can be reached at 979-542-4607.

Faith-based mentoring is the most successful type of mentoring

Each year, the TJJD Research Department runs a complete statistical analysis on the impact mentors make in the lives of our youth. The following research analysis confirms mentoring really does make a difference; the improvements are increased when mentoring matches are sustained for at least six months, and faith-based mentoring is the most successful type of mentoring. The likelihood of rearrest within one year is significantly decreased for youth who are mentored.

TJJD had 245 volunteer mentors enrolled in our programs at the end of FY 2014, and they spent 6,462 hours with our youth during FY 2014 and 7,909 hours in FY 2013. Mentors are expected to meet with their mentee 4-8 hours every month for at least 6 months (180 days) when possible. --con't p. 3



Randall "Randy" Layh
October 21, 1952 - May 4, 2015

Randall "Randy" Layh, 62, of Cuervo, passed away Monday, May 4, 2015. He was born October 21, 1952 in O'Neill, NE, to the late Clayton and Geraldene Layh. He married the love of his life, Julia Freye Layh, in Corpus Christi on February 25, 1972. He was a US Navy Veteran and was a graduate of Texas A & M Corpus Christi. He was also a Texas Prison Ministry volunteer. He always enjoyed time spent with family, time outdoors, and believed "people" are most important.

He is survived by his beloved wife, daughter, Christine Layh Robert of Corpus Christi, sister, Tina Layh Cody, (Gary), brothers, Rick Layh (Sylvia), and Mike Layh (Mary) and grandchildren Logan, Kurt, William, and Kalli of Corpus Christi.

A Celebration of Life was held at Calvary Baptist Church in Cuervo on Saturday, May 9, 2015 with Rev. Paul Beard presiding. Interment was held at Seaside Memorial Park and Funeral Home in Corpus Christi.
from Freund Funeral Home obituary

Faith-based mentoring most successful -- con't from p. 2

Of the 215 mentor matches that ended in FY 2014, 46.5% were sustained for at least 180 days (compared to 43% of matches that ended in FY 2013). The average duration of these 215 matches that ended was 7.0 months

. (See more at TJJD.com, Exec Dir Report, January 2015)

TJJD Executive Director Report, January 2015 (Excerpt)

Volunteers Making a Difference

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department believes that, through volunteers, the community has the ability to enhance lives of youth by providing meaningful activities and resources that promote pro-social, educational, emotional and spiritual growth, and healthy family relationships

• 1,326 community volunteers enrolled in the program at the end of FY 2014

- Gender: 51% Female; 49% Male
- Ethnicity: 67% caucasian; 17% hispanic; 14% African-American
- Marital Status: 69% Married
- Tenure: Average 3.9 years

• 66,499 hours of service contributed by volunteers during FY14 valued at \$1,472,280 based upon the value of the volunteer hour, as determined by the independent Sector. (This value is based upon the average hourly earnings of all productions and nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls as determined by the Bureau of labor Statistics, plus 12% to estimate for fringe benefits.)

Volunteer Service Hours

- 41,169 chaplaincy & religious service
- 40,585 internships
- 8,883 11,686 Mentoring
- 6,462 holiday and birthday activities
- 3,399 community resource council activities
- 3,365 Support, leisure, and skills group
- 1,496 tutoring and other educational services
- 425 Family involvement, parenting dev, surrogate activities
- 265 clerical assistance

119,235 TOTAL HOURS
(including misc. activities)