



# Epiphany Ministries of Texas, Inc.

"Reflecting the love of Christ to youthful offenders."

## FROM THE CHAIR...

*This past Saturday I volunteered to do the devotional at reunion. Having served as Lay Director more than once I have always used Jeremiah 29:11 as the Scripture. So as I thought about a devotional for reunion of course Jeremiah came to mind. I suggest that as part of your study you start reading Jeremiah 29 from the beginning and read at least through 29:14. Two simple things stand out to me. God did not forsake those in exile from Jerusalem, and he warned them of false prophets while in exile. The correlation to the young men and women we work with in Epiphany is an easy step. They are in exile in many cases because they have listened to false profits. They have not been forsaken as God has sent Epiphany with Gods word. In Texas we are so fortunate that we are allowed to write the Stars and maintain contact when they get out. We have been able to assist and support so many as they leave their exile to return to their homeland. That type of ongoing support and assistance is not allowed in many other states. We all know Stars that have completely turned their lives around. Some have become members of Epiphany teams and continue to positively impact new Stars. One event I will never forget was a Fourth Day talk at the Gainesville unit. A young man who was formerly incarcerated there was introduced as the speaker. He stood up from the closing crowd dressed his Marine Corp dress blues. He walked to the podium with confidence and precision military corners. His talk was delivered with the same confidence and poise. I honestly do not remember a word he said, but I will never forget the looks on the Stars faces as he spoke. As you approach your prayer time be thankful for the opportunity we have to work with these Stars. Also be thankful that the State of Texas gives us so much support in working with the Stars, incarcerated and outside.*

Grace and Peace

Roy

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

### Inside this issue

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Chairman's Message.....	1
Loretta Ehler Obituary.....	2
Weekend Photos.....	3
Weekend Reports.....	4-5
Upcoming Weekends.....	5
More Photos.....	6

### Important Dates

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Facility	Weekend	Date
Brownwood	E 34	Sept. 2-4
Post	E 21	Oct. 13-15
Evins	E 5	July 21-23
Gainesville	E 35	July 21-23

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State Board Meeting Aug. 27

Please send your newsworthy events  
and photos to: [pjc903@gmail.com](mailto:pjc903@gmail.com)

## Remembering Loretta Ehler

September 19, 1961 - May 2, 2017



With a great sense of loss we report the passing of our dear friend and Epiphany Board Member, Loretta Ehler. "Loretta was the glue for Giddings Epiphany, she held everything together!". She will be missed by her many friends and co-workers on the Epiphany Board and the Giddings Epiphany community.

Loretta Jane (Gaeke) Ehler, 55, went to be with the Lord on May 2, 2017.

Loretta was born in Giddings, Texas on September 19, 1961 to William and Mary Lou Gaeke. She married David Ehler on October 9, 1982 and they had three children together.

Loretta was very active in her church, as well as the community. She loved volunteering with a prison ministry called Epiphany, and faithfully served with the ministry for over 15 years. Throughout her life, Loretta loved serving the Lord. She led youth groups, taught Sunday school, and was a mentor to many.

Loretta enjoyed more than anything, being with her eight grandchildren. She doted on them, and made every vacation and holiday special. She loved to be with her animals and spend time outside.

She is survived by her loving and devoted husband David Ehler; daughter Amy Roman and husband Alex, and their children Jace, Bella, and Brenlie, of Waco; son Dave Ehler and wife Sannu, and their children Noah, Emma, and Jonah, of LaGrange; son Jason Ehler and wife Julie, and their children Ellie and Austin, of Portland, Oregon; parents William and Mary Lou Gaeke of Giddings; sister Penny Kornegay and husband Charlie, of Bryan; sister-in-law Cathy Bailey and husband Jerry, of LaGrange; brother-in-law Randy Ehler and wife Randee, of Austin; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her father-in-law Elgean Ehler.



### Board Meeting Dates

- **February:** 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday
- **May:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday  
(to miss Memorial Day Weekend)
- **August:** 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday
- **November:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday  
(to miss Thanksgiving Weekend)

### Upcoming Leadership Training

Leadership Training is a very important part of Epiphany Ministry and is a required training before becoming a Weekend Lay Director. It helps attendees to know and understand more about the ministry and how it operates. Much of the instruction focuses on the "why" of Epiphany to give a better understanding of why we do some of the things we do and why there are some things we do not do.

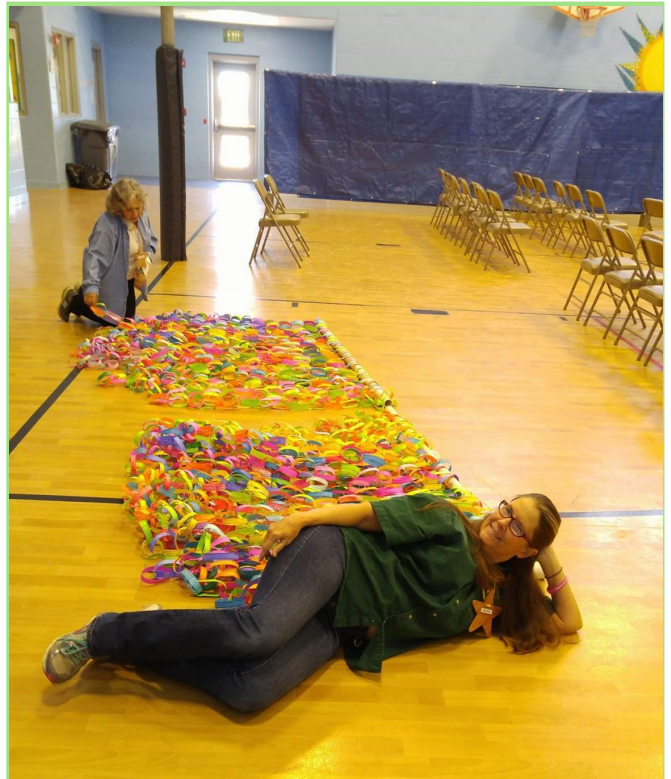
The next leadership training is scheduled to take place on July 15, 2017, at 9:00 A.M. We will meet in the Fireside Room at Hillside Church, 9915 Ray White Road, Keller, Texas.

# WEEKEND PHOTOS



## The Giddings Weekend Banner:

Pictured below is the banner that is displayed at each Epiphany weekend. Notice the addition of each walk number. Each unit has its own traditions, this is one that I wish we had adopted. A big thanks to Lisa Seaton, Board Rep for Giddings #29 for getting this picture for the newsletter.



**KRIER Beauties!** Weekend Board Rep. Kate Mellina, sent these pictures of Krier Epiphany Weekend #22. Pictured above is Kate with the prayer chain ready to enter the conference room. Bottom: Looks like these girls are getting ready to CELEBRATE! What fun!



# Board Representative Weekend Reports

## Brownwood - Anne Wilkinson

Brownwood E33      February 18-20, 2017  
Lay Director Becky Reynolds

First, I would like to say "God Bless Brownwood" for taking on girls!!!!

Brownwood had a rough start with 7 team members dropping off; 4 before the weekend, 2 on Day One, and another one on the morning of Day Three, which placed me at her table. All these vacancies were due to sickness. The Brownwood team loves each other so much they decided to share the flu with just about everybody on the team!

They had 27 team members on the inside and 6 on the outside. They began E33 with 19 girls and ended with 19 girls.

I saw something I hadn't seen before and that was that the prayer team was answering some of the prayer requests. They wrote back encouraging responses and scripture if it applied. I thought that to be very interesting. I asked the couple Jon and Becky about it and they said they wanted the girls to know that their requests were not falling on deaf ears and that God hears every prayer.

Brownwood also has many opportunities for their team members to become ordained and/or receive their Chaplaincy through [www.chaplain-ministries.com](http://www.chaplain-ministries.com), I strongly recommended that they pursue that issue.

They did have an observer Chris Cummings for the first two days. Chris has a grandson incarcerated at the Brownwood unit and is very interested in leading a boy's Epiphany. (we will discuss at Board meeting)

They did skip the open mic time at the closing, but other than that I could not find anything outside of the Team Manual boundaries to discuss with them. Brownwood is a very solid team with a strong bond of camaraderie. I talked to them about a few things they could possibly do differently, but as always, God came through and this program works!

Love always in Christ, Anne Wilkinson

## Gainesville - Bob Talcott

Board Representative Critique  
Epiphany #34 – Gainesville State School  
January 13-15, 2017

Gainesville Epiphany Weekend #34 took place at Gainesville State School, January 13-15 2017. This was a Friday through Sunday weekend. Past January weekends have been Saturday thru Monday. The school calendar required this adjustment.

Lay Director was Sheldon Ledbetter, Assistant LD was Jana Welch, Weekend Coordinator was Neal Welch. Spiritual Director was Buster Noah. Sheldon conducted three team meetings prior to the weekend. All meetings were well attended and conformed to the Epiphany manual from preview of talks to financial matters. Sheldon was organized and communicated effectively to the team. He was flexible and maintained a spirit of encouragement throughout the weekend in spite of a major logistical issue. The team was not allowed into the gym for set-up until 5:00 Thursday. This pushed the 4<sup>th</sup> team meeting later in the evening and prevented team members from eating dinner. Sheldon arranged that the final team meeting would be a working "pizza" party for the team.

Team size was smaller than usual; 34 inside, 5 outside. I would like to mention two factors: (1) Gainesville community is aging. Loss of community members can be attributed to family relocations and death. Recruiting younger volunteers is a high priority. Recruitment has been addressed at earlier Board meetings. Gainesville is finding the 3Day weekend requirement to be an issue with younger generations. Gainesville Epiphany would respectfully like to revisit this issue at a more appropriate time in the future; (2) Another explanation for the small team was due to the weekend date. Actively employed community has used vacation day for MLK Monday to work the weekend. That was not an option.

## Board Representative Weekend Reports continued from page 3:

The weekend was attended by Dorms 7 & 8, Chemical Dependency dorms. Team size necessitated the table configuration to be 3 adults and 6 youth. Sheldon communicated effectively with table leaders, weekend leadership and kitchen team to make adjustments. There were originally 36 youth at weekend opening; one youth was removed on day one by security, one youth chose not to return for day two, and day three lost additional youth for security reasons. Weekend finished with 31 youth who were excited, appreciative, and happy to experience an Epiphany weekend. Med calls for this group of youth were required frequently and created a delay in schedule on day one. Staff was structured with their requirement for end of day/return to dorm. Consequently, Examination of Conscious was not able to be presented. This was discussed at the evening team meeting. Weekend leadership was able to work it in on day two in a way that did not seem out of place or lacking of reverence and impact.

Day one represented a challenge with table placements between two tables. Weekend Leadership decided to put physical distance between two tables on day two by relocating one of the tables. This was accomplished prior to the arrival of the youth on day two and no further actions were required. The same spacing protocol was maintained during meals and chapel times.

Super Stars were well behaved and thoughtful in their service. Their help was a weekend positive!!

The Music Team was a major help in setting a positive tone, helping to ease anxiety and jitters among the youth, breaking down barriers, and most importantly, leading us into worship!! Great job Barry & music team.

Spiritual Directors helped maintain that the weekend belonged to God. When prayer opportunity was made available to the youth those responding did so with sincerity and a thirst for the Father. Spiritual Directors were kept busy with one-on-one time; the most I have experienced. The evening team meetings echoed the same sentiments.

The weekend concluded with a Fourth Day speaker who was anointed with power, relational testimony, and the ability to connect with the youth. He focused on "where I was without God", "where am I now with God". "how to be a man".

The Gainesville-Epiphany community thanks the State Board for all efforts and support you provide in the many different ways that make these weekends possible.

Regards,

Bob Talcott

Upcoming Epiphany Weekends							
Facility	W#	Date	LD	ALD	WC	SD	B. Rep
Brownwood	E 34	Sept. 2-4	Trudy Smith	Nathan Giddings			
Clemens	E 44		Latrina Koole				
Evins	E 5	July 21-23	Jeff Eaton	George Tamez	Olga Lozano	Graciano Castenda	Greg Bradley
Gainesville	E 35	July 21-23	Jana Welch	Neal Welch	Dave Casey	Katie Kline	
Giddings	E 30		Jack Flannery	Jenny Flannery			
Krier	E 23						
Mart	E 27		Randy Petcock	Kerri Kenney			
Post	E 21	Oct. 13-15	Kristi Howard	Sharon Wright			

E#  
26



MART



Team  
Formation

*Photos Courtesy of Kate Mellina*

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

“arise, shine, for your light has come, and  
the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”

ISAIAH 60:1

