



Sharing Hope Ministry

Sharing Hope N • E • W • S

FEBRUARY 2005

ISSUE NO. 30

—PHONE NUMBER—

Sharing Hope Ministry
358-7803

—ADDRESS—

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—WEBSITE—

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—STAFF—

April Riggs, Executive Director
april@sharinghopeministry.org

Leigh Link, Secretary
leigh@sharinghopeministry.org

—STATISTICS—

Total *Life Recovery Bibles* Distributed:
25,702

Total Bible Study Workbooks Distributed:
11,538

—VOLUNTEERS—

Pen Pal Volunteers: **100**

Office Volunteers: **33**

Prayer Group Volunteers: **3**

Stepping Stones Volunteers: **3**

Visitation Team Volunteers: **18**

Teaching Team Volunteers: **4**

—BOARD OF DIRECTORS—

Brenda Blakley, President

Chris Brady Jim Burgess

Dan Hetrick Connie Hodges

Stella Knickerbocker Rod Jones

Becky Logsdon George Snell

Sammye Stark JackWestbrook

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Touching Lives

"...the Christians are pulling together in His word. Each of us are growing stronger in His will in our life. We got a new sister in a couple of weeks ago. She didn't have a Bible. I could feel her somewhat on the fence, unsure if she would fall into the negative crowd or stand with the believers. One night after lights were about to be turned out, something told me to take her my Bible and put it on her table. A couple of times in the night I could see her with her lamp on reading. She would look up and smile. The next morning as soon as the lights came on she went to the center of the room crying, wanting to thank whoever gave her the Bible. It gives me great joy to see her growing stronger everyday in His word. I wish you could see the lives you've touched with the Life Recovery Bible."
— Mariann M



Keith and Darla Banks stock the Sharing Hope shelves with about 700 Bibles that will mail in February.

2004, we have received an average of 65 letters a day from women requesting the Life Recovery Bible, Bible study material, prayer, or pen pals. It is estimated that Sharing Hope ministered to over 18,700 women this year alone. We are blessed to be the ones God uses to reach these women and their families.

We don't always see the results of our efforts and prayers when we minister to women who are incarcerated. Sometimes we will receive letters of testimony from women like Mariann who tell us of the changes within women in jail because of new or renewed relationships with God. With over 25,700 Bibles and 11, 538 Bible studies that have been provided, I expect there are many women who have experienced God's love and forgiveness while incarcerated, who hopefully have returned home to pass on this new life to their family and friends. God instructs us to plant the seed for He brings the harvest, I Corinthians 3:6. Those who support Sharing Hope know about planting seeds. Each Bible sent out includes the plan of salvation, the opportunity to enroll in a Bible study program, and a request form for a Christian pen pal. In



Sharing Hope Welcomes **LEIGH LINK**

Leigh has permanently joined the staff of Sharing Hope Ministry, Inc. as of January 1, 2005. Leigh has been a secretary and receptionist with more than 15 years of experience. She had previously been with Texas Panhandle Mental Health Authority and the Amarillo State Center. Leigh and her husband Buddy have 3 children: Hayden, 17, and twins, Danielle and Gabrielle, 14. Please stop by and welcome Leigh if you have not already met her.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Sharing Hope Ministry has several different ministry opportunities available. This month we will highlight the ministry opportunities with the Prayer Team.

"I need prayer for my mother. She is sick and I miss her so much." – Earnestine

"My name is Barbara and I'm in jail waiting to go to court. Can you please keep me in prayer so that God may help me be a better person and to help with my addiction with drugs. I also have two kids, Joe and Jonathan- that the Lord will keep them safe. I miss them and it hurts to be apart from my family. I have another request that my mom will stop drinking. Could you please send me a Life Recovery Bible? I have seen some (Bibles) here and would like to have one. Thank you."

"Please offer a prayer for my 4 children that they will have a blessed Christmas and find comfort until I get home."- Merry S.

The Prayer Team receives hundreds of prayer requests like these each month. In 2004, the team offered up prayers for over 1,200 women. Sometimes our volunteers write short notes of encouragement to these women to let them know that their requests did not go unnoticed. Our volunteers normally meet once a week with each other in silent prayer or they will come in and pick up the requests to pray at home.

If you feel God's call to pray for these women please contact the Sharing Hope office to learn how you can be a part of this ministry.

*...pray for one another,
that ye may be healed.
The effectual fervent prayer of
a righteous man availeth much.
James 5:16b*



Annual Hope Fest Dinner and Silent Auction

Join us for the **Annual Hope Fest Dinner and Silent Auction** on **April 15**. This is a great time to enjoy a delicious meal and entertainment at the Civic Center Regency Room. The silent auction is the highlight of the evening with a variety of gift items and certificates from area businesses and individuals.

Hope Fest is our primary fundraiser. The proceeds will allow Sharing Hope to continue our mission in providing Bibles and study material for incarcerated women. This evening of entertainment, fellowship and fun is also an opportunity to introduce your friends to the Sharing Hope Ministry.

Tickets cost \$25 for individuals, or two tickets for \$45. A full table for eight may be purchased for \$160. Reservations must be made by April 1.

*Contact Sharing Hope Ministry
at 358-7803 for more information.*

Are You a Sharing Hope Partner?

You can partner with Sharing Hope Ministry and be an instrumental part of providing the Life Recovery Bible and Bible Study materials to incarcerated women. Your support can provide the resources to assist these women in making changes in their lives by establishing a relationship with God. You can experience an even greater blessing by personally mailing the Bible that your financial support provided, along with a brief note to the inmate.

What Will Your Monthly Tax-Deductible Contribution Provide?

\$30.00

(Life Recovery Bible and a workbook for 2 inmates each month)

\$45.00

(Life Recovery Bible and a workbook for 3 inmates each month)

\$60.00

(Life Recovery Bible and a workbook for 4 inmates each month)

\$75.00

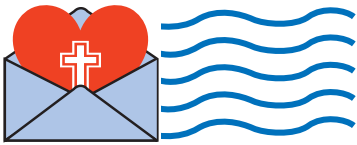
(Life Recovery Bible and a workbook for 5 inmates each month)

FIRST SATURDAY WORKDAY



From Left to Right Darla Banks, Glenda Hetrick, Liz Maddox and Dianna Tolk (standing)
Not shown, Tomi Nell Touasend

The Sharing Hope Office is now open the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for those who might not normally be able to volunteer during the week. Mailing Bibles, preparing Bible study materials, praying over requests, and doing light office work is an important part of the Sharing Hope Ministry. The first work group met January 8th and mailed 47 Bibles. The next work day will be Saturday, February 5th. This is an informal time to experience first hand the blessings received as we provide God's word to incarcerated women. Please contact the Sharing Hope office if you have any questions or if you would like to bring a group in for a work day.



Sharing Hope Ministry, Inc.

DONOR CARD

I would like to partner with Sharing Hope Ministry in providing Bibles and study materials to female inmates in Texas.

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MONTHLY PLEDGE:

I will make a contribution of \$ _____ each month.

Draft my bank account each month for this amount.

(Please complete the bank draft authorization below.)

ONE TIME GIFT:

Enclosed is my one-time contribution of \$ _____.

BANK DRAFT AUTHORIZATION

I authorize Sharing Hope Ministry to initiate debit entries to my checking account named below. *(You may attach a canceled check or deposit form in lieu of filling out the bank information requested below, but your signature is still required.)*

Depository Name _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Transit/ABA No. _____ Account No. _____

This authority remains in full force and effect until Sharing Hope Ministry receives written notification from me of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford Sharing Hope Ministry a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Name (print) _____ Social Security Number _____

Date _____ Signed _____ Signed _____



Sharing Hope Ministry Has Several Needs:

- ✓ Hope Fest Volunteers – Table Hostess, Auction Helpers, Ticket Sales, Greeters, Set-up and Clean-up crews.
- ✓ Hope Fest gift or filler items for the Silent Auction including: lotions, soaps, perfumes, candles. Do you know a business owner that may donate an item?
- ✓ Office volunteers to help mail Bibles and Bible studies.
- ✓ Visitation Team members to sub at Potter County Jail.
- ✓ Speaking Opportunities – Provide names of your church contacts and women’s groups for us to contact for a Sharing Hope presentation.
- ✓ A First Aid Kit.
- ✓ Brushes, Toothbrushes, and Razors for the Stepping Stones Hygiene bags.



P.O Box 19985
Amarillo, Texas 79114

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Summary of Inmate Evaluations Winter 2004

- 90% received their Life Recovery Bibles within 3 weeks of written request.
- 97% feel they can talk more freely about God’s love with others.
- 96% feel that they have a closer relationship with God.
- 96% feel that their outlook for their future is more positive.
- 75% spend 5 or more days a week reading their Bible.

— Inmate Comments —

“Thank you so much for the Twelve Step Devotional Bible. Myself and many women have been passing it around. These women greatly appreciate all the help they can get with their addictions. Our little group came about because of the Devotional Bible.”

THANK YOU

OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR SERVICE TO:

Chip Garrison
Board of Directors

Angela Lust
Board of Directors

David Thurman
Board of Directors

Carolyn Holmes
Sharing Hope Secretary

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Chris Brady
Dan Hetrick
Stella Knickerbocker
Becky Logsdon
Jack Westbrook