



Sharing Hope Ministry



# Sharing Hope N • E • W • S

**JULY 2004**

**ISSUE NO. 25**

— **PHONE NUMBER** —

Sharing Hope Ministry  
(806) 358-7803

— **ADDRESS** —

P.O. Box 19985  
Amarillo, Texas 79114

— **WEBSITE** —

[www.sharinghopeministry.org](http://www.sharinghopeministry.org)

— **STAFF** —

Mindy Briggs, Executive Director  
[mindy@sharinghopeministry.org](mailto:mindy@sharinghopeministry.org)

Carolyn Holmes, Secretary  
[carolyn@sharinghopeministry.org](mailto:carolyn@sharinghopeministry.org)

— **STATISTICS** —

Total *Life Recovery Bibles* Distributed:  
**21,375**

Total Bible Study Workbooks Distributed:  
**8,933**

— **VOLUNTEERS** —

Pen Pal Volunteers: **276**

Office Volunteers: **43**

Prayer Group Volunteers: **2**

Stepping Stones Volunteers: **9**

Visitation Team Volunteers: **17**

Teaching Team Volunteers: **4**

— **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** —

Brenda Blakley, President

Chip Garrison, Vice President

Angela Lust, Secretary

Jim Burgess            Gil Farren

Connie Hodges        Rod Jones

George Snell           Sammye Stark

David Thurman

Newsletter Design Courtesy of

*Graphic Designs by Kim* - 622-8399



# Sheriff's Association Awards State Recognition to Sharing Hope Ministry

Sharing Hope Ministry was the recipient of the "Hope in Our Hearts" Award at the 2004 Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Service Awards Ceremony in Dallas, Texas. Randall County Sheriff, Joel Richardson accompanied Sharing Hope Board President, Brenda Blakley and Executive Director, Mindy Briggs to Dallas to accept the award.

The Governor's Criminal Justice Volunteer Services Awards were created in 1995 by the Office of Governor George W. Bush and the Texas Board of Criminal Justice. The awards were created to honor volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to TDCJ's mission to provide public safety, promote positive change in behavior, and reintegrate offenders into society.

The Sheriff's Association of Texas joined TDCJ in their 9th Annual Awards Ceremony to recognize Sharing Hope Ministry with the "Hope in Our Hearts" Award. Nominated by Randall County Jail, the award was given in honor of the visitation and teaching programs offered by Sharing Hope Ministry. In addition to its volunteer service at Randall County Jail, Sharing Hope visits women at Potter County Jail each week. The Ministry now serves over half of the county jails in Texas, and all of the state and federal facilities for women.

Also recognized were Merrell and Doris Gilbert, who spend countless hours coordinating programs at Randall County Jail.

*Photo: L-R Mindy Briggs, Brenda Blakley, Doris and Merrell Gilbert and Sheriff Joel W. Richardson of Randall County*

# VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS



The mail is an ever-growing challenge! **Beata Crowell** adds more Bibles to the day's growing collection of ministry materials for inmates.



**Jo Walker** and **Connie Hodges** put their heads together as they answer requests for *Life Recovery Bibles*.



"Bible Babe" **JoAnn Shelton** meters some of the letters she has written to go along with the Bibles she has packaged up for inmates.



**Debbie Chandler** volunteers two afternoons a week. She serves as a receptionist, helps with mail-outs, and handles special clerical needs.



**Jane Meyer** is a "jack of all trades." She whizzes in one morning a week, checks to see what needs to be done and does it—from processing mail to restocking Bibles to working with the files.



The Randall County Jail Team: **Laura Sims**, who coordinates the teaching team; **Lt. Johnny Sluder**, who works with our "Jezebels for Jesus"; and **Juanita Taylor, Sharon Stradley, and Earline Stiles**, who visit with inmates one-on-one each week.

## BLESSINGS BOARD

The following wish list appears on the "Blessings Board" at the Sharing Hope Ministry office. We call it the "Blessings Board" because the individuals who take care of these needs are a big part of the ministry's blessings!

- ★ Yard work — rose bush pruning, trash removal
- ★ Hot and cold paper cups
- ★ Yellow card stock
- ★ Soft drinks for volunteers
- ★ Gift cards to Hobby Lobby or Michaels for Christmas in October needs
- ★ Black or red Uniball gel pens
- ★ One or two reams of legal paper
- ★ Trash can liners for office-sized trash cans



## STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

Sharing Hope Ministry has partnered with Stephen Ministry to train volunteers who are interested in ministering to women as they come out of prison. Qualified volunteers will participate in a 50-hour training program on Thursday evenings, August 19 through November 18, with a kick-off workshop on Saturday, August 14. Each volunteer is asked to make a two-year commitment to the program. If you would like additional information, please contact Mindy Briggs at 358-7803. Deadline for applications is early July.



# INMATES EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF THE LIFE RECOVERY BIBLE

Sharing Hope Ministry recently sent an evaluation form to a random sampling of inmates who have had their *Life Recovery Bible* for three months. One hundred and eight women returned the evaluation form, with very positive results. The following chart reflects the answers received on the evaluation form.

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>NO. OF RESPONSES</u>		
	<u>No Change</u>	<u>A Little Change</u>	<u>Much Change</u>
I believe I have a closer relationship with God	3 ( 2.8%)	20 (18.5%)	83 (76.9%)
My ability to control my temper has improved	4 ( 3.7%)	33 (30.6%)	68 (63.0%)
My ability to get along with others has improved	3 ( 2.8%)	36 (33.3%)	68 (63.0%)
I am less self-centered	11 (10.2%)	41 (38.0%)	55 (50.9%)
I am better about following rules	7 ( 6.5%)	34 (31.5%)	65 (60.2%)
I have a greater interest in helping others	6 ( 5.6%)	23 (21.3%)	77 (71.3%)
I have a positive outlook on my daily circumstances	3 ( 2.8%)	28 (25.9%)	74 (68.5%)
I feel more peaceful about my situation	6 ( 5.6%)	30 (27.8%)	71 (65.7%)
I have better self-esteem	9 ( 8.3%)	37 (34.3%)	60 (55.6%)
I think more about my goals for my future	3 ( 2.8%)	17 (15.7%)	86 (79.6%)
I feel better equipped to cope with my situation	1 ( 0.9%)	33 (30.6%)	70 (64.8%)
I can talk more freely about God's love with others	7 ( 6.5%)	21 (19.4%)	78 (72.2%)
I have a daily quiet time with God	6 ( 5.6%)	20 (18.5%)	81 (75.0%)
I have a daily prayer life	5 ( 4.6%)	19 (17.6%)	80 (74.1%)
My outlook for my future is more positive	1 ( 0.9%)	13 (12.0%)	92 (85.2%)

*A few of the comments that we received on the evaluation forms are included below:*

- ✓ I am the Chaplain's clerk here and hand out your address daily. I love to see women enjoy the Life Recovery Bible so much. I lend my Bible out all the time to help the women until they get their own. In fact, I have been without my Bible for a week now and it's tough! Thanks.
- ✓ My friend here in prison and I read my Bible together every morning at 4:30 a.m. Thank you.
- ✓ I just want to thank you for bringing me closer to Christ and for a better understanding of the Bible.
- ✓ Thank you so much for helping me get to know God better. I'm not sure that I would have been able to deal with my incarceration as well, had it not been for the Life Recovery Bible. Thank you again and God bless you!
- ✓ I think the Life Recovery Bible is wonderful! As do many others that I have shared it with. It is very helpful and made me more knowledgeable of God and His word. Thanks so much for being kind enough, caring and generous enough to share such a great book, provided free of charge to people that are the most lonely and in need of it the most—us prisoners.
- ✓ I've enjoyed my Life Recovery Bible. I'm trying very hard to walk out these doors a changed woman. I could never see the good things God has done for me. But now that I understand more, I see all He does for me. God is *good!*
- ✓ Thank you for taking time out to let us know people do care. We made a mistake but that doesn't mean we have to keep making it. With this Bible, I understand God's word. Thank You. God bless you too.
- ✓ I want to say that I am very grateful for my Life Recovery Bible. This Bible has helped me to understand the word of God so much easier than any other Bible I have used in the past. I feel I am growing in Christ and I am getting a better understanding of God's word. Thank ya'll for everything. Since I received my Bible and feel as if I am growing in Christ, on 4-25-04, I was baptized. I pray I continue to grow in the Word daily.

# PEN PAL UPDATE

- ✓ Please continue to encourage your pen pal to request a Bible study from Sharing Hope Ministry. We have a variety of excellent workbooks from which she can choose. Upon completion of the workbook, she will be asked to write a brief paragraph about what she learned, and then we will send her another workbook.
- ✓ We have great one-page Bible studies in the office that you may send as a gift to your pen pal. Stop by and look at them sometime, or email us at [info@sharinghopeministry.org](mailto:info@sharinghopeministry.org) and we'll send you a list of available studies. We can even email you the studies that you want to send to your pen pal to save you a trip to the office.
- ✓ Feeling guilty because you have stopped writing to your pen pal? You are not alone. It is sometimes discouraging when you do not receive responses to your letters. We want to utilize your time and energy by having you write to someone who will actively participate in the program. Please call us and we'll see about getting you a new name.



P.O. Box 19985  
Amarillo, Texas 79114

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**Paid**  
Amarillo, Texas  
Permit No. 237

Booth Registration  
Now Underway for

The Fourth Annual  
**Christmas In October**  
Gift and Craft Show

sponsored by  
 *Sharing Hope Ministry*

**Dates: October 2-3, 2004**  
**Times: Saturday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm**  
**Sunday, 1:00 to 5:00 pm**

**Amarillo Civic Center, South Exhibit Hall**  
**10'x10' Booth – \$75      10'x20' Booth – \$140**

**GLOBE NEWS ADVERTISEMENTS — RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS — BILLBOARDS**

*For Registration Forms or Information, Contact:*  
Sharing Hope Ministry, Inc. • P.O. Box 19985 • Amarillo, TX 79118 • (806) 358-7803

It's just around the corner! Our annual craft and gift fair is scheduled for two days: October 2 and 3. It will be held at the South Exhibit Hall of the Civic Center.

We will not be soliciting craft items for our booth this year. Instead, we are going to sell Christmas gift wrap, ornaments, and prints.

There will be many volunteer opportunities. We won't know you are interested unless you contact us, and we could sure use your help! Call Mindy at 358-7803 if you would like more information. We are looking for volunteers for the following:

- ☆ Help man the craft booth or bake sale
- ☆ Co-chair the bake sale
- ☆ Help mark off the booth spaces
- ☆ Participate in a crafty workday to make gift bags.
- ☆ Bake something for the bake sale
- ☆ Sell admissions
- ☆ Set up or tear down tables & chairs
- ☆ Transport items to Civic Center

## Welcome New Volunteers!

Cheri Boyd – Office Worker  
Beata Crowell – Office Worker  
Lorrie Gallimore – Office Worker  
Diana Tolk – Office Worker  
Connie Windows – Office Worker

Beth Chappel – Office Worker  
Robin Davis – Pen Pal  
Bonnie Snell – Office Worker  
Lorie Turner – Pen Pal