

# Jubilee

PRISON MINISTRY

## Volunteer News

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### Officials from Jamaica Attend Lychner Jubilee

The Jubilee team was pleased to host Rev. Ellen Thomas, Chaplain over all Jamaican prisons and Rev. Ainsley Davis, Chaplain for 2 units near Ocho Rios from Jamaica during the Lychner #4 Jubilee weekend. Chaplains Thomas and Davis are looking at options to bring the Jubilee program into the Jamaican prison system.

Chaplain Thomas said “the program is clearly very effective and would bring great value to our prisons.” She participated in handing out cookies and said that was the highlight of the weekend for her.

During their visit to Texas, Chaplains Thomas and Davis were also able to visit with the TDCJ Head of Chaplains Vance Drum and several other prison ministry officials and partner ministries.

We are looking forward to working with Chaplains Thomas and Davis to support them in their efforts to bring Jubilee to the incarcerated population in Jamaica. The visit was made possible by a special grant from a Jubilee donor who wishes to remain anonymous.



*Chaplain Ellen Thomas at Lychner #4 Jubilee Weekend*

### Sign Up For The Spring Weekends

Sign-ups are now ready on the web site for the following Spring 2017 Jubilee Weekends (we are seeking men and women to serve on the inside teams and on the support teams):

- Plane State #3, Dayton, TX, 2/9 to 2/12 (women's unit)
- Formby #2, Plainview, TX, 3/31 - 4/2 (men's unit)
- Holliday #1, Huntsville, TX, 2/24 - 2/26 (men's unit)
- Lychner #5, Spring, TX, 4/21-4/23 (men's unit).

The 2017 Jubilee program is expanding as God brings our ministry to new prisons and jails that are currently not served by other Fourth Day prison ministries. We are seeking volunteers and host church communities for the following new units:

Gib Lewis Unit in Woodville, Texas (~1 hour north of Beaumont)

If you know someone based in the Woodville area who would like to speak to one of our Jubilee volunteer staff about the program, drop us a note at [JubileePrisonMinistry@gmail.com](mailto:JubileePrisonMinistry@gmail.com) and we will be happy to contact them by phone to answer questions and discuss the ministry.

## Thankful For An Exciting 2016

All of us at Jubilee Prison Ministry are grateful for the incredible work God has done through the ministry this year. At Lychner, Plane State, Sanchez, and Formby state jails, the Jubilee program has brought the message of hope and redemption through Christ Jesus. Below are some photo highlights.





## **Devotional Meditation: “You’re Welcome”**

*Adapted from the Jubilee Program Volunteer Training*

This Jubilee weekend is, and always will be, God’s work, not ours. It is by His hand, and His hand alone, that grace and truth comes to some of those we encounter. It is through the prompting of the Holy Spirit that we find volunteers, donors, and supporters who become the hands and feet that get the weekend done. All of it, from the first prayer to final Amen, is a gift from God and it only works by His hand.

And yet we strive to get it right. We work to prepare for these weekends, we fuss over the details, we practice our talks, and we perspire over the stove. We may be tempted to ask why? If this is all in God’s hands, why should we do all of this?

The answer echoes through the story of the Bible from Abraham to Peter: we do this out of joyful obedience. Yes, God could find another person or another program to do this work. If He did, all of us who participate in the Jubilee program – from our donors to our prayer warriors to our volunteers – would be the poorer for it.

When we read Matthew 25 and we hear Our Lord say, “I was in prison and you visited me.” We might be tempted to feel proud of ourselves that we are being good, obedient Christian servants. We ought to feel something different.

At the beginning of each talk our volunteer says, “I am grateful to be here,” or something similar. It may sound strange to the participants, but it is completely appropriate. We ought to feel excited and privileged as we prepare for and participate in a Jubilee Weekend. Our Lord said, “I was in prison and you visited me.” Imagine that! We are going to visit Jesus!

That is why we sweat the details. That is why we fuss over each part of the program. That is why we write letters and prepare the best food we can: because we are doing it for Jesus. And that is why we are filled with excitement and joy as we prepare for these weekends.



Original Art from Jubilee Participants at the Pam Lychner State Jail