

**Huntsville Institutional Ministry**

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# Bring My Soul Out of Prison

To make the inmate, regardless of his past, aware of the gospel

**Under the oversight of  
 Garland Street Church of Christ  
 700 Garland Street  
 Plainview, Texas**

**MINISTERING TO THE WHOLE MAN  
 Huntsville Institutional Ministry/HIM  
 Freddie Anderson-director**

"I thought I was as slick as snot," ex-offender Lewis said. That's how he described the life he used to live. This was the guy who spent more time in prison than out. Today he's out; has a job; an apartment; and a vehicle. None of which he had when I met him serving a "45-Agg."

"I ride one deep," Lewis said to show how he's managed to stay out of trouble. "I can retire in 6 years," he went on to say, "and I ain't messin' that up." Not to mention he had not gotten a day off in weeks. "I worked in prison for free. I ain't complaining." He was thankful.

"Don't let the streets testify against you. It won't be good," was the comment Lewis made about going back to the old lifestyle.

The presence of the Lord is the difference. Lewis has his struggles but being thankful and appreciative helps keep him "straight." His word...

This Huntsville prison ministry is not just our story. It would be vacuous of to think that the ministry is my story; Luke's story or Clyde Thompson's story. It's the story of so many others.

It's the story of the group of men who comes to conduct worship service and show love to the inmates on the Wynne unit. Due to COVID they've not done that in a while but before then, a van load of men from Dallas (Prestoncrest) to conduct Sunday worship. Good or bad weather, these men would leave early on a Sunday; drive nearly 200 miles (missing the Cowboy's noontime games); present a special message to inmates in English and Spanish; load back up; drive the nearly 200 miles back north; get home many hours later. A full day's work. It's their story.

Once a month Steve Russ would drive from Athens in east Texas to be the minister for the day and conduct worship services. It is his story for one day each month he'd leave his family; congregation; and life to use his resources to come to minister to the "captives" behind bars. Communion behind bars is always special and to them it is one bread and one cup.

The ministry is BILL, BLAKE and JIM'S story. At first it was the three then it was only Jim who came from Conroe. They would enter the prison early evenings and leave late evening. Jim took on a second group and this ministry is a story of his (was theirs) sacrifice. In addition, Jim's presence to help them have hope which intertwines his story with theirs.

Also, this ministry is the story of a group of singers who traveled hundreds of miles to bring song to the prison. Congregations that support the work; and individuals, some alive, some passed, small and large sacrifices; prison visits or correspondence courses. This ministry is the STORY of so many.