

## Our Power of One

by Sam Dillbeck

The day warmed as I looked down the hill to the looming prison walls periodically capped by manned guard tower. For 17 years the stone, concrete, and glass separated Justin Taylor from the free world. But today, those doors would open and he would walk into the arms of freedom. Six of us gathered in matching purple shirts to welcome him to his new life. The joy, anticipation, and anxiety gripped our group as we prayed, paced, sat, and imagined what it would be like when he emerged. And I thought of all the things that happened to bring us to this moment.

At 25 Justin was unfocused, listless, and salty. He got in trouble and was arrested. Eventually he accepted a deal for twenty years with the possibility of parole after ten. While in the Johnson County Detention Center he received a Bible correspondence course and from the depths of his self loathing he reached out for something better than what he had become. So he studied the passages, answered the questions, and even asked a few of his own. In a few weeks he had received all the lessons and returned the last one with a note stating his desire for baptism.

In Frankston, Texas, Charlene Lowrance, a member of the LaPoynor Church of Christ in LaRue, Texas, opened the last lesson from Justin and delighted in his desire to be baptized. She found an address for the Granbury Street Church of Christ in Cleburne, Texas and asked if someone would go to the jail and baptize Justin. Tyler Young, the preacher, answered the call and met Justin. They studied and quickly became friends. Then Justin was baptized.

When Justin was transferred into prison, Tyler continued to write and visit him, and Justin grew spiritually. When Tyler moved to Mississippi, he told Ken Upchurch, one of the elders, about Justin. Ken began writing and visiting Justin.

Everywhere Tyler went he introduced people to Justin, his "prison" brother. He made new contacts

for Justin, like the Savages from Roanoke, Texas, the Krugs from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and the Provins from Weatherford, Texas. Christians everywhere began writing to encourage Justin. That is how I came into contact with Justin.

When his first parole was denied, many were saddened, but they kept encouraging. In an attempt to keep Justin's spirits high, Tyler lamented the parole denial, but thought it would be granted soon. He even began ending his letters with the words, "Soon, brother. Soon." For the next seven years the hope of parole came and went.

In February of this year, Justin Taylor's parole was approved. Ken Upchurch had been working on the release for years. Ken's sister, Sherry, and her husband agreed to allow Justin to parole to their home in Weatherford. Ken bought him a truck. Tyler raised some seed money to help him start his new life.

As our group gathered in purple shirts that said, "Soon is Now," I realized the small parts that so many played in getting us to this moment. That's the power of one. For Charlene Lowrance, it was the act of licking one stamp that led to Justin Taylor's salvation. She took the time to follow up with a prisoner nobody cared about. Now he is a soldier of Christ standing beside her stepping into eternity.

When they announced the release, we moved to the closest point of the family waiting area and watched 139 parolees walk away from the stony walls and toward the crowd of families and friends. Tears watered the trees in the midst of the reunions. Then Justin appeared, stepping from the crowd of former prisoners and into the waiting arms of his brothers and sisters. Now his body was as free as his spirit. Each of us has the opportunity to be a Charlene Lowrance for someone else. A single deed, a kind word, or an honest prayer can change someone's eternity. Let none of us deny our power—the power God gives us—but rather use it forever.

THE POWER OF  
ne

how can a single event  
change eternity?

October 11-14

Sunday through Wednesday beginning at 6 pm

with Clint Brown, Rick Brumback, BJ Clarke  
Steve Higginbotham, Wayne Jones,  
David Shannon, and Michael Whitworth

[westhillchurchofchrist.org](http://westhillchurchofchrist.org)

# Correspondence/Encouragement

## **Inmate Correspondence:**

### **Zachory Cabano #01886823**

Hutchins Unit  
1500 E. Langdon Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75241

### **Paul Jones #01934698**

Bradshaw Unit  
PO Box 9000  
Henderson, TX 75653

## **Missions Correspondence:**

### **Cherokee Home for Children**

Director: Delton McGuire  
PO Box 295  
Cherokee, TX 76832  
Email: chc@centex.net

### **New Zealand Harvest Missions**

James & Emily Cammock  
PO Box 412  
Waikato Mail Centre  
Hamilton 3240  
New Zealand  
Email: church-of-christ-cammock@hotmail.com

### **La Poynor Prison Ministry**

Steve & Carrie Handley  
11353 CR 4345  
La Rue, TX 75770  
Email: shandley56@gmail.com

### **WVBS Online School**

Director: Russell Haffner  
25 Lantana Ln.  
Maxwell, TX 78656  
Website: school.wvbs.org

## **Southwest School of Bible Studies:**

### **Kati Haffner (2<sup>nd</sup> Year Student)**

1215 W. Slaughter Ln. #1413  
Austin, TX 78748

### **Corey Tackett (1<sup>st</sup> Year Student)**

1215 W. Slaughter Ln. #914  
Austin, TX 78748

## **Encouragement:**

### **Yvonne Ainsworth**

107 Max Ave.  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Mary Beamon**

3002 W. 2nd Ave. #506  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **J.D. Beggs**

%Twilight Home  
3001 W. 4th Ave.  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Madeline Berry**

1504 Cumberland  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Don & Shirley Bowen**

1100 Woodcastle  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Melba & Eleanor Bower**

2011 Fairfax  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Donna Brooks**

325 FM 55  
Purdon, TX 76679

### **Julie Dilbeck**

1716 Bowie Circle  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Meagan Gould**

800 Medinah  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Faye Hand**

3002 W. 2nd Ave. #113  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Hank & Malvinee Jett**

901 Red Oak Ln.  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Heather Lamb**

405 Carol Ave.  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Paul Loosier**

3210 W. Hwy 22 #211  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Justin Mahoney**

805 Oxford  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Katherine Mahoney**

3002 W. 2nd Ave. #403  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Ovie Mahoney**

300 W. Hwy 6  
Waco, TX 76712

### **Ed Nevill**

%Beverly Heathcote  
1106 Dobbins Rd.  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Jewel Rutherford**

3004 W. 2nd Ave. #623  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Willie Winters**

%Heritage Oaks West  
3300 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
Corsicana, TX 75110

## Mission Works

### **Westhill Works**

Benevolence Program

### **Local Works**

Cherokee Children's Home - [www.chc4kids.org](http://www.chc4kids.org)  
House to House, Heart to Heart  
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies  
The Truth in Love - [www.ttil.tv](http://www.ttil.tv)  
WVBS Online School - [school.wvbs.org](http://school.wvbs.org)

### **Prison Works**

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

### **Foreign Works**

New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

## Leadership

### **Elders**

Percell Milton - 903.673.1819  
Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228  
Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464  
Darwin Thomas - 903.695.0176

### **Deacons**

James Ainsworth - 903.872.1390  
Scott Barham - 903.641.0133  
David Baumgartner - 903.654.4057  
Zach Drain - 903.521.6055  
Dan Gibson - 903.641.9587  
Joshua Haden - 903.602.9645  
Micah Haden - 903.673.1177  
James Horn - 903.599.9114

Michael Jones - 214.803.5984  
Roy McCullough - 903.872.2069  
Greg Olsen - 903.654.1406  
James Olsen - 903.874.8918  
Rusty Owens - 903.695.0095  
Billy Roughton - 903.654.4032  
Dickie Russell - 903.874.4457  
David Shastid - 903.257.6464  
Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052  
Justin Williams 903.875.8288

### **Ministers**

Sam Dilbeck - 903.229.8415 (Pulpit)  
Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)  
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

# Prayer List

**Yvonne Ainsworth** has been in the hospital, ICU. She is being treated with medication.

**J.D. Beggs** has not been doing well. Please, keep him and Randy in your prayers.

**Hank Jett** recently had surgery. He is home recovering and appreciates all the prayers of the congregation.

**Malvinee Jett** has been struggling with health issues. Please, keep her in your prayers.

**Willie Winters** has been in the hospital, room 202, to have fluid removed from his lungs.

**Ed Nevill**, Beverly Heathcote's father, is undergoing chemo and radiation treatments.

**Continue to Remember:** Don Bowen, Julie Dilbeck, Buster Hayes, Wanda Horner, Velma M'Dougald, Bud Moore, Henry & Eula Parrish, Jan Ross, Robby Thomas, Carl Garner, Meagan Gould, Faye Hand, Paul Hillier, Heather Lamb, Louise Tallent.

**College Students:** Savanna Bearden, Jason Dilbeck, Ty Gibson, Kate Haden, Kati Haffner, Wade Hall, Julie Hand, Jackie Howard, Kayla Howard, Jamie Humann, Corey M'Dougald, Emory M'Dougald, Kaylee Nicholson, Steely Southard, Billy Stephens, Emily Stovall, and Corey Tackett.

**Service Men:** Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, Morgan Weaver, and Payton Weaver

# Announcements

**Welcome, Donna Brooks!** We are excited that Donna is back with us. Her address is: 325 FM 55, Purdon, TX 76679.

**"Dear Christian Family,** Thank you so much for all your calls, cards, emails and prayers during Heather's hospital stay. And a special thank you to all the ladies who brought food for our family." Love, Myrna Haufe and the Lamb family.

**Open Door Thursday** for Jr. High & High school in the Youth Room, 3:30 to 6:30 PM.

**Fall Youth Retreat** at Peach Valley is coming up this weekend. We will leave from the building at 4:00 PM Friday. Please, arrive early to load the bus.

**Area Wide Youth Rally** at North Beaton, Saturday, October 24, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Please, let Cory know by this Wed., Oct. 14, so we can RSVP.

**Trunk or Treat** is up Sat. October 31 at 6:30 PM. Please, let Cory know if you plan to participate.

**Seniors (50+) Seminar:** Finish Strong with Jeff Jenkins, Monday, November 9 at 7:00 PM.

## Birthdays This Week

October 11 - Emily Stovall

October 12 - Julie Hand, Jeremiah Parrish, Teresa Thomas

October 14 - Paula Spillyards

October 15 - Bruce Shore

October 16 - Vera White

October 17 - Pamela Blaylock

## Next Week's Adult Class

Contention Between Disciples

John 3:22-36

## Records for October 4, 2015

Bible Class .....	186
AM Worship.....	257
PM Worship .....	162
Wednesday .....	179
Contribution .....	\$9,681.58

## Privileged to Serve

**Song Leader** David Baumgartner

**Opening Prayer** Billy Roughton

**Communion Leader** Greg Olsen

**Communion Servers**

Tyler Baumgartner Wade Braly

Millard Dowdle Joe Glass

Ken Green David Mahoney

Buck Murphy Brody Owens

Andy Parrish Kyle Slaughter

Gene Steinkraus Brent Stewart

Bronny Watson

**Closing Prayer** Tim Cooke

**Nursery** Tina Roughton & Addie Shastid

**PM Song Leader** Brody Owens

**PM Opening Prayer** Ken Green

**PM Closing Prayer** Bryan Bearden

**Wed. Song Leader** Lectureship - Various

**Wed. Devotional** Lectureship - Various

**Oct. Contact Elder** Percell Milton - 903.673.1819