



April 2006  
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What a busy year this has been so far. I have been blessed to visit and work in almost a dozen prisons in 5 states. I was able to participate in the "Bill Glass Weekend of Champions" in Miami and Cleveland, MS. (actually these are weeks since you have to travel and prepare for the event) I had the great privilege to work with "Forgiven Ministry" in their powerful "One Day with God" events in North Carolina and Texas. (These actually are weeklong events with the preparation etc.) I had a first time opportunity to work with "Prison Fellowship" and "Operation Starting Line" in the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. I was invited to work in the in the "lockdown" units in advance of the Franklin Graham Event there. Patti and I went to Orlando to help friends train a mission team for prison ministry and sharing their faith with others.

Looking back I see that I have been out of town almost the entire first part of the year! Too many things to tell you about here; so I'll just tell you about the event I just returned from in the Beeville, TX. area near San Antonio.

I flew to San Antonio on a Tuesday with Jack and Scottie Barnes the founders of Forgiven Ministry. <http://ForgivenMinistry.org> for the first "One Day with God" event in the state to Texas. We had almost 60 children going in the McConnell Maximum Security Unit in Beeville, TX. to spend the day with their 40 Fathers.

We had 5 training sessions for the 150 volunteers. Friday started with a "Great Dads" all day seminar. What a blessing to see those Fathers preparing to see their children, some for the first time. The end of the day and the Invitation, God did a great work as those many Fathers asked for forgiveness and God to change their lives.

We had one little boy from Amarillo call Scottie Barnes and ask her how he could come and see his Father whom he had not seen since he was a baby. Now the little fellow is 10 years old. Many of you when you heard this, stepped up and we were able to raise pledges for enough money to fly he and him Grandmother to San Antonio from Amarillo and put them up for two nights. After spending the day with his Dad all day on Saturday, the little guy with tears on his face told Scottie Barnes, "it hurts so much to leave my Dad." But that day made that little boy and his father, along with many others, a memory they will never forget and a very happy fun filled day. Children just being children and Fathers just being Fathers.

We love you and with your help we were able to do this. We helped a little 8 year old girl in San Manuel, Honduras get in a Christian School, helped another young lady in the Dominican Republic start working on a scholarship to learn English and try and come to the US for school one day. It just takes a little money and a lot of love. You folks have provided both and also helped to make them life long memories with your generosity.

Please check the web site at: <http://HOPEeternal.com> for pictures and updated schedule information. We feel and enjoy all your prayers.

Joe & Patti McDonald     Matt 4:19