

...I was in prison and you came to me. Mat 25:36b

July 2016 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Less Than The Least (LTTL) Ministries,

I pray this finds you all doing well and I hasten to say thank you for your prayers and support. The Lord continues to bless our ministries beyond what I think possible. And, every time I see the new ministry van with the LTTL logo on the doors, I just have to smile and say, "Thank you Lord." As the inmates say in our worship services many times, "God is good, All the time."

As you may already know, the LTTL Study Bible ministry is impacting more inmates than ever before. During 2015 we mailed 756 Study Bibles free of charge to inmates and have already mailed 487 this year. I cannot think of a greater gift for an inmate searching for Christ or one who is a babe in the Word. But, we need your help as more and more requests for Study Bibles are being received.

Please consider making a contribution to LTTL designated for Study Bibles. And, if you are so moved, talk to your church, Bible study class, or friends about contributing. I know God will get glory from your giving (II Cor 9:13).

Also, please pray for the upcoming revivals at Stringfellow (July 8-10) and at Terrell in October.

God bless,

David Gunter Sr, Exec Director
Less Than The Least Ministries
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**Please
Reserve This Date
Oct 28, 2016
Annual LTTL Banquet
Sagemont Church**

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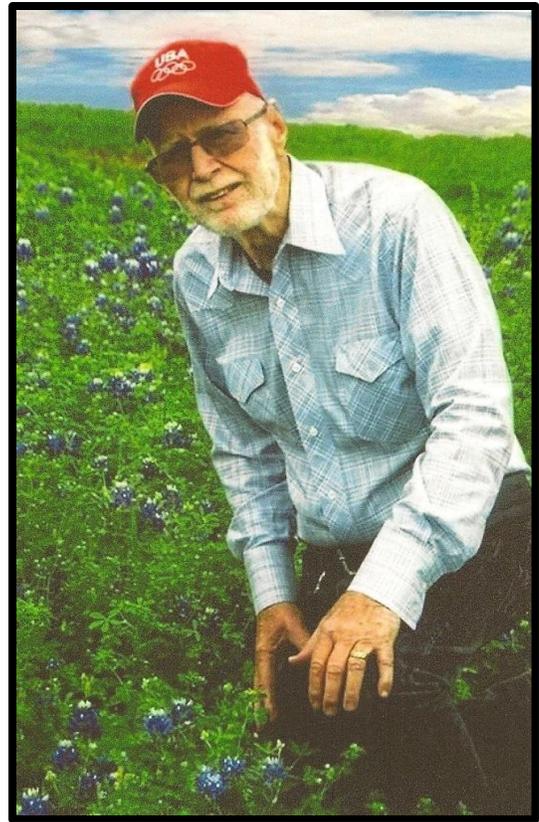
➤ **Ministry Schedule**

Jim Parks – LTTL Pioneer

**Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-ay
My, oh my, what a wonderful day
Plenty of sunshine headin' my way
Zip-a-dee-doo-dah, zip-a-dee-ay!**

These familiar lyrics along with the upbeat melody from one of Disney's epic motion pictures are universally acclaimed. Even so, this song is just a little bit unusual for the opening to a memorial service. But, Jim Parks was also unusual in many ways. The Lord took him home on April 22, 2016 at age 72 following a long battle with cancer. Jim is survived by his wife of 41 years, Glenda, and other family members. He was licensed as a minister by Sagemont Church.

Jim Parks was a pioneer in Less Than The Least (LTTL) Ministries along with Zeke Young (Founder), Grandma Alma, and the original Bar Hoppers. He has been involved in every phase of the ministry: Cell-to-cell visitation, preaching, PALs, newsletters, radio, photos, videos, office IT administration, and board of directors. Zeke remembers, "It was probably Grandma Alma who got Jim involved in Less Than The Least. But, Jim was truly called by God. He was a humble, called man of God with so many abilities. And, he was always available."



Jim planned his own memorial service which proved to be a source of great comfort to family and friends. Speakers expressed sentiments and memories of Jim that are shared by all who knew him:

- Fred Newton - "He was the most faithful, dedicated man I have run across. He loved sharing God's word." Remembering one cold, cold day at Coffield when he had reached the point of giving it up and going home, Fred said Jim responded, "Let's talk to one more, just one more."
- Bob Crites - "Jim was a giant of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He was bold with the living Word but quiet in his spirit. He would witness to anybody. Many people will be in heaven because of Jim Parks' witness. Pray that God will raise up others like Jim Parks. His eyes have become his faith; he sees Jesus and is in His presence."
- Buddy Griffin - "Jim knew how to care for and communicate with people. He was warm. He was a comfort to family and loved ones. The last time I talked to Jim on the phone he said, 'Buddy, I think I am going to heaven pretty soon.' Jesus is preparing a place; Jim has moved into his. And he would want me to tell you that Jesus is 'the way, and the truth, and the life.'

David Gunter summed it up well, "We have been blessed to know Jim Parks. It was tremendous to go into prison and minister with him. I could not have done my job as Director of LTTL without him."

Finally, this revealing tribute in a letter just received from a prison inmate at Ramsey says it all:

"Bro Jim Parks was a picture of God's love in action. He could have gone fishing or off playing golf or just chilling out at home. But NO! He took time out of his life to come to prison to visit a guy who is convicted of murder who doesn't deserve anything... I cannot even begin to express the impact that Bro Parks had on my life. The love of God that he shared with me, I must share it with others."

And after opening with "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah", what closing song do you think Jim chose for his memorial service? "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus."

Stringfellow Revival July 8-10

Flood waters from the Brazos River forced the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to evacuate the Stringfellow, Terrell, and Ramsey prison units near Rosharon during June. This action required the movement of more than 4,000 inmates. Nineteen LTTL ministry events over a three week period had to be cancelled. We have now resumed ministry at these units and are thankful for the success of this large operation. So far, all the Christian brothers that we serve and minister alongside and general population that we know about returned safely.

We are also thankful that our 3-day revival at the Stringfellow Unit can proceed as planned. Services are scheduled for July 8-10 at 6:30-8:30PM each night. Dr Brett Dutton, pastor of Magnolia Creek Baptist Church in League City and adjunct professor at Southwestern Baptist Seminary and Houston Baptist University, will do the preaching. David Gunter, Exec Director of LTTL, will lead in praise and worship accompanied by combined LTTL and Stringfellow bands. And, a relatively large group of LTTL volunteers and visitors will attend and provide testimonies and counseling.

Please pray for this effort. We know that “without Him we can do nothing.” So, pray that the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts of volunteers and visitors and those on the inside....for His glory alone. Pray that God’s Word delivered in preaching, singing, testimonies, and counseling will be used by the Holy Spirit to penetrate the hearts of those who do not know Him.

Get Involved With US

LTTL continues to be blessed with new volunteers who want to minister inside the walls. This includes speakers, worship leaders, ex-inmates, and people who want to counsel and visit one-on-one. For this we are encouraged and very thankful. But, we still have opportunities for service that really need to be filled. Please consider the following areas of service that minister to prison inmates but do not require going inside the walls. You may call David Gunter at 281-224-3131 or email him at info@lessthantheleast.org if interested.

Ministry Coordination & Administration

Indigent Care Coordinator – Female inmates need some extra items for personal care (shampoo, deodorant, tooth paste, soap) while in prison. And some have no resources or family to provide for these needs. Working with the TDCJ Chaplains, LTTL does as much as possible to meet this need. Several volunteers have worked to make this happen along with our Exec Director, David Gunter (See the Dec 2015 newsletter on our web site for more details). But, we do need someone to lead our efforts to help these ladies who have no resources and no family support.

Youth Ministry Coordinator – LTTL has provided special programs for youth assemblies at schools, churches, community centers, and detention centers for several years. These assemblies have involved ex-inmate testimonies, sermons, and music by LTTL volunteers. We now have an opportunity to provide this ministry in

Evacuation underway at TDCJ prison at Rosharon because of flooding.



Harris County at four different youth centers. But, we must have someone to coordinate this activity which would include scheduling of events and volunteers and participating as possible.

Office Administration – In addition to Bible study leadership inside the walls, Marc Gentine volunteers two mornings per week in the LTTL Friendswood office on FM 518 helping our Exec Director complete the necessary office work associated with the ministry. Please consider volunteering to help in the office on one or more of the other three days. This work is necessary and touches many of our ministries to prison inmates.

Prayers and Letters (PALs)

When we go into prisons for worship services and Bible studies, blank forms are passed out for inmates to complete with their prayer request, name, and TDCJ number. About 40% of males complete these forms on average and about 80% of females. We then pass these prayer requests on to volunteers who pray for the inmates and follow-up with a card or letter. All correspondence goes through the LTTL address and volunteers only use first names (See the Feb 2014 newsletter on our web site for more details). This is a wonderful ministry of prayer and encouragement and we need more volunteers. Please consider this opportunity.

Study Bibles

For years now LTTL has provided Study Bibles free of charge to inmates who write asking for one. During 2015 we mailed 756 Study Bibles to inmates. And, we are on pace to mail almost 1,000 during 2016 if we have sufficient funds. Placing God’s Word in the hands of a prison inmate who asks for it means that we have made an investment with eternal impact in the life of someone that God is already touching (See the May 2014 newsletter on our web site for more details). But, we can only respond to inmates as we have funds (approx \$15/Study Bible including postage). Please consider making a contribution designated for Study Bibles.

Ministry Metrics

	Jan - June 2016
Volunteers	85
Prison Units/Camps	20
Worship Services Conducted	79
Bible Studies/Classes Conducted	106
Inmate Attendance	9,457
Study Bibles Mailed to Inmates	487
Radio Broadcasts (on 2 Stations)	25
MEGA Youth Events	1

Financial Summary

	Jan – June 2016
Expenditures	\$37,245*
Contributions	\$37,635
Excess / (Shortfall)	\$390

* Does not include the ministry van purchase (\$23,578) with designated funds during February.

Contributions can be made on the LTTL Ministry web site (www.lessthantheleast.org) or mailed to Less Than The Least Ministries, 1414 South Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, TX 77546.

Regular Events

Weekly:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>		
Tues	6:00-8:30PM	Ramsey	AdSeg Visitation	Dave Miller		
Wed	7:00-9:00PM	Ramsey Trusty	Bible study	Sam Miller		
Thurs	9:00AM-1:00PM	Harris Co. Jail	Visit Cells/ Worship	Charlie Sammons Roy Gage	Fred Newton Dick Gordon	Charlie Wilson
Thurs	6:00-8:00PM	Stringfellow	Precepts Class	Mike Watson		

Bi-Weekly:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>		
1&3rd Mon	6:30-8:00PM	Ramsey	Faith Based Dorm	Sam Miller		
1&3rd Thu	7:00-9:00PM	Darrington	Visit Cells	Lanny Standley	Carrol Potts	Paulo Soares
2,4,5th Tue	7:00-9:00PM	Terrell Trusty	Bible Study	Ron Sanford	Lloyd Digby	

Monthly:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>		
1st Sun	2:30-4:30PM	Stringfellow	Bible study/Praise	David Gunter Robert Williams	Mac Archer David Ingersol	Jimmie Hatchett Estella Davis
2nd Sun	6:00-8:00PM	Ramsey	Bible study/Praise	David Gunter Robert Williams	Marc Gentine Lloyd Digby	David Ingersoll Lynette Christy
2nd Wed	11:00AM-2:00PM	Plane State	Visit AdSeg/ Materials	Joyce Hill Sue Foshee	Dee Warren + Others	Jana Pierson
2nd Fri	6:30-8:00PM	Ramsey	Faith Based Dorm	Dave Miller		
3rd Sat	8:30-10:30AM	Stringfellow Trusty	Bible study/Praise	Marc Gentine	David Ingersoll	Lloyd Digby
3rd Sat	6:00-8:00PM	Ramsey Trusty	Bible study/Praise	Dave Miller Sam Miller		
3rd Sun	8:45-10:45AM	Terrell Expansion	Worship	David Gunter	David Ingersoll	Jimmie Hatchett
4th Sun	6:00-8:00PM	Ramsey	Public Speaking	Mike Boessling	Judy Boessling	
4th Sun	5:00-7:00PM	Ellis	Worship	David Gunter Bill Riley	Jimmie Hatchett Estella Davis	David Ingersoll

Special Events

June:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>		
5	8:00-11:30AM	Hightower	Worship	Cancelled due to inmates moved from flood area.		
11	3:00-4:30PM	Plane State	Worship	David Gunter Jimmie Hatchett Frank Montalvo	Lynette Christy David Ingersoll Donna Montavo	Rhea & Wanda Daniel Tom Joeckel
18	11:00-12:30	The Bridge	Battered Women Service	David Gunter Raul Yzquierdo David Ingersoll	Robert Williams Jimmie Hatchett Brenda Ortiz	Frank&Donna Montalvo Lynette Christy Hellfighters
19	8:30-10:30AM	Young Medical	Worship	Brenda Ortiz		
25	6:00-8:00PM	Wayne Scott	Worship	Jimmie Hatchett David Gunter	David Ingersoll	Lanny Standley

July:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>		
2	12:00-3:00PM	Kegan State	Worship	Rhea Daniel	Wanda Daniel	Tommy Perez
8-10	6:30-8:30PM	Stringfellow	Revival	David Gunter	Min. Band + Others	Brett/Heather Dutton
17	8:00-10:00AM	Stephenson	Worship	David Gunter	Kenneth Humphries Tawala Humphries	
22	6:30-8:30	Estelle	Worship	TBD		
31	6:30-8:00PM	Henley	Worship	TBD		
31	8:00-11:30AM	Hightower	Worship	TBD		

Please notify us at info@lessthantheleast.org if you want to be removed from the Newsletter mailing list. Also, notifications of email address changes and additions are appreciated.