

# Bridge Builders for the Cross

*A ministry committed to bridging the gap for Christ*

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2013

## BIBLE Ministry

### *What does a Bible mean to a prisoner?*

Sometimes it seems that the Bible is an outdated, ridiculed and ignored set of writings from an age, culture and place that has absolutely nothing to contribute to people in the twenty-first century. But when life is shattered by destructive and self-defeating choices the Bible can get very relevant, very fast. As the Chaplain at the Bill Johnson Correctional Center in Alva, OK, I see men who have ignored and ridiculed the Bible and the Savior of the Bible for multiple years, in multiple ways. But when they are broken by sin they are more open to reach out for wisdom and acceptance that is only found in the revelation of God's grace. The average offender at BJCC is functionally illiterate. He can read and retain at about a sixth grade level. The large print Easy Read Bibles that are sent to us by BBFTC are exactly what the offenders need to open up to the only message of hope that makes a true difference, that is, God's grace. I highly recommend the ministries of BBFTC as an avenue to express God's love to people who are hurting for the good news of hope and grace. - Chaplain Mike Culbreath



### Get Involved

Frequent & regular donations help maintain recurring needs in all ministry areas. If you would like to start contributing monthly go to our website at [www.bbftc.org](http://www.bbftc.org) to the 'How to Help' tab or contact us for specific requests.

## MEXICO

Mike Whitwell tells about his experience on our March trip to Mexico, "I am 66 years old and have never been on a mission trip, nor traveled outside of the USA! This trip to Mexico with BBFTC was more than eye opening. The people we helped could have been our sons and daughters or our grandkids. There is a song on Christian radio called 'boys become kings and the girls will be queens' and we're trying to help them experience a little of that. We helped by supplying food and other necessities for two soup kitchens and two orphanages. It has been said, 'If you give to the poor, you will be repaid.' I know I have been. I am looking forward to going again. You too can come along in person or spirit. Thanks for a great trip! My new Mexican name is Buffalo."



*Feeding Kids in Mexico*

"I don't like the word 'projects' because it sounds so sterile and there is nothing sterile about saving a child's life and then transforming the life you've saved. I'll call them dreams".  
Kimberly Smith

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### **'Muchas Gracias' from our partner Pastor Joe Torres**

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*"We would like to thank Bridge Builders for the Cross for their partnership with Casa de Fe, ABCD, Casa Bethesda and other ministries in Mexico. The need in Mexico is much, but with your help not as many go without. Only God knows what it would be like without the help of BBFTC. By doing your part it helps these ministries not only to keep operating, but to continue to expand God's kingdom. Many of our communities are benefitted and grateful. Your work is not in vain and you will not go without your reward. We are all one body called to serve. Again, thank you on behalf of my Mexican people. May the Almighty God bless you and yours."*

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### **CUBA**

**JANUARY...** We had another great trip to Cuba! Team member Susan Watson shares about her second visit to Cuba, "If possible I was even more enlightened during my second trip to Cuba than during the first. It is always inspiring to be in the company of such caring, hospitable people who truly love and trust God in spite of their circumstances. On this trip we were able to personally deliver donations to the students of the Cedros del Libano Seminary in Pinar del Rio - a new and rewarding experience. We had a very busy week including visiting churches, an orphanage, a hospital, and the children involved in the 'Ministry of Love' at the Jaruco Church, among many other stops throughout the week. Some of our travelers were also able to help in the rebuilding of a church in Puerto Esperanza, where the roof had caved in during a storm.



Puerta Esperanza

I am always amazed at the passion these beautiful people have for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. At the end of each trip I have found myself very sad to leave and praying when I return home I will be able to maintain the renewed sense of faith I always find there, **'loving others as they have loved me. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you...'** John 15:12."

### **CUBA**

**APRIL TRIP...** *"What a blessing it was to have the opportunity to minister to the needs of our Cuban brothers and sisters as they continue their work in service to the Lord. We worked and visited in two areas.*

*The first several days was at the Las Minas church with Pastor Yem Cruz and it is continuing to spread the gospel and increase their outreach. Their mission church under construction in Solider is entering its final stages and ground is ready to be broken for their new project in Pan de Azucar, once funds from The Father are collected.*



Pastor Yim & the April Team

*The second area was in Guanabo with Pastor Leandro Pozo and his family. We had the pleasure of visiting their mission church Lighthouse on the Hill and they are doing well.*

*We were very pleased in seeing the heart of the Cuban Convention being concerned with the funding for mission churches, construction of widows housing and marriage counseling. It was very uplifting also to see the work being done by our fellow brothers and sisters and the heart they have to serve the Lord in donating their time, labor and money.*

*Although much has been accomplished in the Cuban churches due to the work and funds provided by us all, there is much more to be done." - Chad McClure, Texas*

### **Thank You**

We failed to give thanks in our last issue to several contributors to our Christmas 'Backpack Ministry' in Mexico. A **'Muchas Gracias Grande'** goes to Paul and the Allen Public Schools, Murry Spur FWB Church in Spiro, OK, and the employees and the Ada, OK donor center of Oklahoma Blood Institute. And of course, space would not permit to list all of you that contribute monetarily. We appreciate our monthly donors so much!

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**"I thank God for the help you gave me while I told people the Good News. You helped from the first day you believed until now. <sup>6</sup>I am sure that the good work God began in you will continue until he completes it on the day when Jesus Christ comes again."**

**- Philippians 1:5-6**

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