

WHAT IS A “CURRICULUM-BASED” MINISTRY?

NewLife Behavior Ministry (NLBM) has been described as a “curriculum-based” ministry since its beginning in 1984. Dr. H. M. Motsinger founded the program that year in Dallas, Texas. Its central office has been in Corpus Christi, Texas since 2002. The NLB curriculum is constantly expanding, being updated and translated into more and more languages. It is utilized in 40+ states in this nation and in 35+ foreign countries.

New Life Behavior *International* (NLBI) started in 2008 as a separate 501 (c) (3) with its central office in Dallas, Texas. NLBI seeks to expand the NLB curriculum “outside” the United States while *NLBM* focuses on the *USA*. Mike Biggers is now serving as President of NLBI. HM is fully retired but remains busy promoting the use of the curriculum worldwide.

What is meant when we say that NLBM is a *curriculum-based* ministry?

First and foremost, we engage in the research and development of cognitive behavioral tools to be used by volunteer instructors in a variety of settings with youth and adults (churches, schools, jails, prisons, boot and work camps, substance abuse treatment programs and other community outreach efforts).

Secondly, we publish and distribute the curriculum widely. The best curriculum in the world accomplishes zero without use. Users receive a CD and an individually numbered *license* in exchange for a small donation entitling them to lifetime reproduction privileges and free updates.

Thirdly, we seek to train committed instructors in the use of the curriculum. All courses include an *Instructor’s Guide* and formal “proposal” for its use. Regional Directors are available for training in addition to special workshops and seminars. As a last-gap measure, this training can be done by correspondence. Other training material and tools are constantly being developed.

Fourthly, we are seeking to translate the curriculum into Spanish. The first ten courses plus the “Managing My Anger” and *Children’s Edition* have already been translated into Spanish.

Fifthly, NLBM is *not* a prison ministry. The NLB curriculum is a “tool” that can be utilized effectively by prison ministries. We think of it as *one* tool that can be used in a toolkit (not the “only” tool). It has numerous other applications. More and more congregations are using it in regular Bible School classes, ladies’ Bible classes, camp sessions, etc.

The NLB curriculum is most often used in the United States in prison ministries in the following ways:

Juvenile Detention Facilities	County Jails
State Prisons	Federal Prisons
Substance Abuse Programs	Parolee Programs
Aftercare Programs	Transitional Living Facilities
Youth/Family Ministries	Community Support Groups

NLB is a *curriculum-based* program and as such, is not in competition with prison ministries. We are delighted to see the NLB curriculum increasingly used by instructors in a wider variety of applications.