

FAMILY UPREACH, INC.

NewLife

BEHAVIOR MINISTRIES

January 2025

Since 1984: Reconciling persons to God, families and society

2025 "VISION" WORKSHOP

Sunset International Bible Institute (SIBI) hosted the "Vision Workshop" (January 29-31) in Lubbock, Texas. Our crew looks forward each year to having our display there, learning from attending sessions, sharing, and more recently—our bilingual prison minister, Recardo Reyes [a SIBI graduate], has been a class speaker the past two years. His first class was overflowing so, they moved him to a much larger room which was packed like sardines. A many expressed an interest in becoming trained and involved in reaching the incarcerated/addicted.

SIBI leaders will play a strategic role in our Panhandle Texas Initiative, encouraging volunteers to teach the NLB curriculum requested by the prisons of Region V. Nathan Keene, our preaching minister at Kings Crossing, was at the workshop along with his father (Jerry, preacher for the Arlington Heights congregation in Corpus Christi). Nathan is also a SIBI graduate, and his younger brother; Jared is a freshman there now. Dr. Dale Underwood laid the groundwork for the Panhandle Texas Initiative at last year's Spring Forum for TDCJ chaplains that opened the doors wider. We are grateful to already have some experienced workers in a few of the targeted prisons. Keep this ever-expanding mission field in your prayers.

Ashley Melendez begins contacting church-leaders in the area in February to encourage interest in being a partner with the Panhandle Texas Initiative. You will learn more about Ashley elsewhere in this issue.

INTRODUCING: NLBM'S NEWEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Family Upreach, Inc. is happy to introduce Kevin Lashley to you as our newest Regional Director! NLBM has been in need of another RD in Oklahoma for years. Kevin and his wife, Linda, have maintained a strong presence in the Jim E. Hamilton Correctional Center (Hodgen, OK) for a long time. Their positive attitude is contagious. They anticipate offering training opportunities through their home congregation (Poteau Church of Christ). Please communicate with Kevin:

Kevin Lashley, 20690 292nd Street, Poteau, Oklahoma 74953
Email: k.lashley.ok@gmail.com Cellphone: (479) 883-7759
Church: (918) 647-4873



IN LOVING MEMORY ~ IN HONOR OF

Family Upreach expresses gratitude to those remembering loved ones and honoring those cherished with gifts. These remembrances allow souls to be taught how to transform destructive behaviors into positive behaviors.

Table with 6 columns: Received from, In Memory of, Received from, In Memory of, Received from, In Memory of. Lists names of donors and those being remembered.

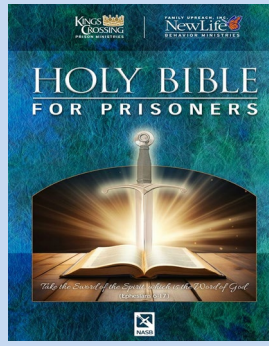
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<b>Received from:</b> Keith Bellamy Richard Patton Cynthia Hill Diana Whitesell Charles Gunter Tim Hall	<b>In Honor of:</b> Cec Gonzalez Buck Griffith Dr/M Dale Underwood Dr/M Dale Underwood Marshall Danby MM Marshall Danby	<b>Received from:</b> Linda Ogden Cynthia Hill Jon Finley Janis Barnhill Pam Zapalac Bob Wachtel	<b>In Honor of:</b> MM Buck Griffith Recardo Reyes Buck Griffith Joye Thackston Buck Griffith Buck Griffith	<b>Received from:</b> David Simonds Bonnie Dunbar MM Doelas Landes John McKinnis M. R. Zaun	<b>In Honor of:</b> Buck Griffith Buck Griffith Buck Griffith Marshall Danby Buck Griffith
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### **PRISON BIBLES ARRIVED!**

If you paid for these at the \$8 pre-publication offer prior to December 31, your order should be shipped by February 15. We will then notify you of the shipping cost.

Bibles are \$10 each today plus, UPS shipping. A case contains 12. We like orders by the case. One case weighs 30 pounds. Shipping is about \$30 per case. Or you can pick them up at our office. They will be held for up to 30 days. We thank donors who helped this happen, the Lockman Foundation (for granting copyright permission), Grunwald Printing Company (John Grunwald, owner) and Martell Speigner (Graphic Designer).



### **51<sup>ST</sup> NATIONAL JAIL-PRISON MINISTRY WORKSHOP**

**June 11-13, 2025**

**Midwest Church of Christ**

**2115 Garland Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky 40211**

**Theme: "Redemption Meets Recovery"**

**Best Western Premier Airport Expo Center**

**Speakers: Pooh Malone (256) 874-5457**

**Booths: Debora McGill-Registration (502) 930-2005**

## **ASHLEY MELENDEZ:** **TEXAS PANHANDLE INITIATIVE**

You are already aware of the exciting 2025 effort to some extent. The path has been prepared for the Region V units of Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Chaplains are waiting to warmly welcome religious volunteers to teach the NLB curriculum.

Our task now is to involve as many congregations as possible as partners in this venture, find individual workers and train them. A few are already veteran NLB instructors. This preparatory work must be accomplished over the next 5-6 months.

Assisting us, Ashley Melendez will play a major role. Many already know her parents, Luis & Mayra. Her father, Luis, works at Sunset International Bible Institute (SIBI) focusing on South/Central America. Ashley's mother, Mayra, works fulltime for NLBM translating courses. This helps us reach more Spanish-speaking students all over the world using our translated curriculum.



Ashley will connect with church leaders in the Panhandle, gathering data in advance of an Engagement Luncheon to be scheduled at SIBI in April. You may contact her at ashley4daniel@gmail.com. To better introduce Ashley, please view her recent photo and a brief biographical sketch. The Melendez family is no stranger to Corpus Christi.

Ashley Melendez is a Panhandle native, having been born in Amarillo and is now a 21-year-old Junior at Lubbock Christian University. She is pursuing her degree in Business Administration. She will graduate in May 2026. Ashley is passionate about reaching lost souls. This strong emphasis on missions comes naturally because she lived 7 years in Costa Rica with her family (including "little" brother—Daniel) planting a church in the city of Palmares. Like Queen Esther in the Old Testament — we believe that Ashley was born in Amarillo to Luis & Mayra, attends LCU, and lives in the Texas Panhandle today —coming to kingdom work for such a time as this.

### **FAMILY UPREACH, INC.**

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