



# The Florida Prison Evangelist

Gary Wyder  
Prison Evangelist

March, 2008



Frank & Linda Pittro with Gary at the Second Annual SE Regional New Life Behavior Workshop held at the Beltline

congregation, Decatur, Alabama. 61 congregations from six States were represented. Gary rode up with the brethren from Westgate in Dothan. What a great group of people! We all learned a lot and had plenty of fun.

(352) 377-0058

LAKE BUTLER CHURCH OF CHRIST

[www.afn.org/~ccpm](http://www.afn.org/~ccpm) [garywyder@cox.net](mailto:garywyder@cox.net)

## Florida's Annual Jail/Prison Ministry Workshop April 18-19, Gulfcoast Church of Christ Fort Myers

### "Carrying Through On The Great Commission"

Matthew 28:18-20

- April 19 Saturday**
- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast provided
  - 8:30 a.m. Registration, check out displays
  - 9:00 a.m. Welcome
  - 9:05 a.m. Songs
  - 9:12 a.m. Opening Prayer
  - 9:15 a.m. Keynote: *Go, Baptize, Teach*  
Chaplain Charles Baggett
  - 10:00 a.m. Break, go to classes
  - 10:10 a.m. *How to Begin A Jail/Prison Ministry*  
Tom Dugan & Daryl Townsend  
*Growing a Women's Jail Ministry*  
Lynn Paden
  - 11:00 a.m. *Working With Chaplains*  
Charlie Baggett & Jerry Camp
  - 11:45 a.m. Lunch provided, check out displays
  - 1:00 p.m. Song
  - 1:05 p.m. 1) *Issues Facing Incarcerated Women*  
(women only) Oretha Walker  
2) *Materials & Methods For Making Disciples*  
Tom Dugan & Denny Freeman  
*Re-entry Issues & Facilities* Panel
  - 1:50 p.m. Break
  - 2:45 p.m. *Work With Prisoner's Families* Panel
  - 3:30 p.m. *Ex-Offender Panel*
  - 4:15 p.m. *Project Rescue* Ronnie Crocker
  - 4:45 p.m. Future workshops Gary Wyder
  - 5:00 p.m. Closing prayer Dinner provided
  - 7:00 p.m. 1) *Drugs and Our Children*  
Ronnie Crocker & Curtis Skinner
  - 7:00 p.m. 2) *Workshop for Re-entry Programs*

## April 20 Sunday

You are cordially invited to stay for worship on Sunday.  
9:30 a.m. Bible Study, *Redeemed Lives* Panel  
10:30 a.m. Worship service

### CONTACTS:

**Church** Steve Caldwell phone 239 936-4554  
[stevecald@juno.com](mailto:stevecald@juno.com) 9550 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy  
Fort Myers, FL 33966 [www.gulfcoastchurch.com](http://www.gulfcoastchurch.com)

**Saturday Night** John Burrows 239 896-2947  
[johnbjanine@aol.com](mailto:johnbjanine@aol.com)

### Program

Gary Wyder PO Box 776 Lake Butler FL 32054  
[garywyder@cox.net](mailto:garywyder@cox.net) 352 377-0058

**Housing** with Christian families will be provided on a first come, first serve basis. Please contact Sister Mary Knowles 239 947-0808, as soon as possible.

**Cots** will be provided at the building. Contact John Burrows at least four days ahead of time to reserve. Bring a blanket, pillow and sheets. They have excellent facilities for men and women and segregated showers.

### Motels

When calling for reservations at the following three properties, ask for the Gulf Coast Church of Christ Prison Ministry rate. The rates will be available until 4/4/08

- 1) \$99.00 @ Crowne Plaza Bell Tower, 13051 Bell Tower Drive, Fort Myers, 33907 (Daniels & I-75) Phone 239-482-2900
- 2) \$99.00 @ Spring Hill Suites by Marriot, 9501 Market Place Rd. Fort Myers 33912 (Daniels & I-75 exit 131) Phone 239-561-1803 Includes breakfast
- 3) \$109.00 @ Courtyard By Marriott 10050 Gulf Center Dr., Fort Myers, 33913 (Alico Rd & I-75 @ Gulf Coast Town Center) phone-239-332-4747

When calling for rate at the following property, it is under Prison Ministry \$89.99 @ Best Western Airport 8955 Daniels Pkwy,

Fort Myers, FL (I -75& Daniels) 239-561-700  
Other options of decent rates. No group name needed.  
1) \$81.00 weekend rate @ Candlewood Suites , 3626 Colonial Court (I-75 & Colonial, near church) This property opens in March. Phone- 239-541-4850  
2) \$69.00 @Super 8, 2717 Colonial Blvd. · Fort Myers

### Directions

From I-75, take exit 136. Go West on Colonial Blvd. (884) to first traffic light which is Ben C.Pratt/Six Mile Cypress Pkwy. Turn Left. Go .2 mile, the church is on the Right.

---

### How The Lord Can Use Our Mistakes In His Service

Mark Beans     [Mark@TheNorthEastChurchOfChrist.com](mailto:Mark@TheNorthEastChurchOfChrist.com)

Mike Cooner from the Trenton church of Christ did a good job of getting a Bible study started at the Lancaster Correctional Institute (LCI). Week after week he has been going out there by himself to conduct a Bible Study. Mike has done a good job of conducting this Bible study by himself and though he usually has two or three men on occasions he has had as many as ten participating. I wanted to support Mike in that effort and asked him if he would mind if I started working with him. Mike gladly agreed and when we discussed it almost a month ago he told me that the Bible study was not in the main prison but in the work camp just past the main entrance.

It took several weeks for the Chaplain to put me on the volunteer list. As the opportunity approached to meet with Mike in the Bible study for the first time, I had forgotten that the Bible study was scheduled in the work camp at the **second entrance**. I showed up a 1/2 hour early at the **main entrance** and waited.

At 6:00 Mike still had not arrived so I told the officer that I wanted to go on and meet with the men as there were probably a few that would be waiting. She gave me the key to the Chapel and checked me in through the gate. I went to the chapel, un-

locked the door and sat down to wait. And so I sat for a half an hour with not a soul coming to the Bible study that I wrongly believed had been scheduled there.

Finally... at 6:30 I heard the muffled call of men shouting commands in the distance. The sounds of men marching slowly got louder. The sound of boots on pavement grew louder and louder until it sounded like an army marching up to the front of the chapel. Then the lady officer began to usher the men into the chapel. Not two or three, not even 10 or 15 but 49 men... and the officer that brought them made 50. Fifty souls came to hear the gospel preached. And I can tell you that I preached my heart out! For a full hour I re-preached the sermon that the Lord's Apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost preached. And best of all, many of the men listened. Many participated. Many answered the questions that I posed about what Peter said and many asked good questions of their own.

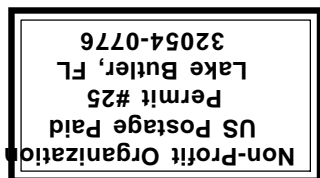
God used my human error to bless us with the opportunity to preach the gospel to fifty souls. And by the way... Mike had a good Bible study that night with several men in the work camp.

Please pray for the effort at Lancaster and also at Mayo Correctional Institute (MCI) where we are only allowed to study the Bible with the inmates two days a month and the Christians there are not able to worship on the first day of the week as we are commanded. We may have the opportunity to study with the inmates at both facilities more regularly.

The opportunities to preach the gospel to a lost and dying world abound. We just need to ask the Lord to open our eyes to the opportunities and help us in doing His will.

---

June 11-13, 2008: 35th National Jail/Prison Workshop, "**Unlock The Mind And The Soul Will Follow.**" Wyoming Avenue Church of Christ, Detroit Michigan, [www.prison-ministry-detroit.org](http://www.prison-ministry-detroit.org)



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Florida Prison Evangelist  
PO Box 776  
Lake Butler, FL 32054-0776

