



## *A Convicted Church—Part 5: You're Stuck With Me*

IN RURAL OKLAHOMA, CONGREGATION FINDS ITS CALLING IN PRISON MINISTRY.

On another Wednesday night, nearly nine years after Seabolt's first visit, church members mingle in the foyer with men from the program — many with tattoos on their necks, some holding hands with their wives and carrying infants in car seats.

Rouse leads them through the first chapter of Revelation, a letter written by another prisoner — John, in exile on the island of Patmos because of his faith.

The letter, despite its seemingly bizarre visions of beasts and angels, is a message of encouragement for Christians, Rouse explains. As they experience trials and tribulation, John tells his fellow believers, "I understand. I'm there too."

At the end of announcements, Seabolt shouts, "Wait! We have a graduation!"

Jordan Parks — who attempted two other sentencing programs before completing this one — walks to the front of the auditorium.

"Look at that smile!" one of the men shouts. Another hollers, "Speech!"

"It took me four years to get one of these," says Parks, 22, holding his diploma. "It's amazing how much — when you clear your eyes — how much you have to be thankful for."

Parks, who was baptized recently, tells the congregation that he has moved to Fort Gibson and will continue to work with the program and attend church.

"You're stuck with me," he says with a grin.

Though the Bible studies help, it's seeing Christians live out the faith they profess that transforms lives, Seabolt says.

"They loved us when we were unlovable, prayed for us when we couldn't pray, trusted us when we couldn't trust ourselves," he says. "I think I read that in some book somewhere. Pretty crazy!"

- Erik Tryggstad and David Chenault —*The Christian Chronicle*, June 2013

## PRAYER LIST

- Pauline Alvarez
- Lauren Babb (health)
- John Beiler (health)
- Claudean Boggs (Rex Boggs's sister-in-law)
- Keith Brown (Wayne Brown's son—health)
- Jim Carpenter (Cody Chrismon's great uncle—health)
- Betty Cox (Brent Barnick's sister—homebound)
- Dixie (Debbie Faires's mother—Alzheimer's)
- Jake Faires (Air Force, deployed to Jordan)
- Steven Faires, and Lexi
- Nelle Hahn (health)
- Debbie Jalufka
- Molly Lind (Linds' daughter-in-law)
- Clay Mason (health)
- Orvan Muelker (Kathy Winegeart's father—health)
- Norman Pennock (Debbie Fougerat's step-father, health)
- Ada Powell (Sharron Mason's sister—health)
- T.J. Reid (Nelle Hahn's brother—health)
- Julie Rodriguez (Babbs' friend—health)
- Kathy Schumacher (Cody Chrismon's mother—surgery)
- Nancy Tuttle (Peggy Walls's sister—health)
- Edwin Weaver (broken leg)
- Catherine Winegeart (Perry's mother—health)

If you have any announcements or prayer requests you wish to have included in the bulletin or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, please contact Victoria Johnson: 325-518-9205, [victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org](mailto:victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org).

## PRAYER UPDATES

Kathy Schumacher, Cody Chrismon's mother, will be having bypass surgery **this Friday, October 13.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Fields of Faith

You're invited to join Gonzales FCA at Fields of Faith **this Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. at Apache Stadium.** This year's featured speaker is David Moss, Director of Ministry for HiS PRINT ministries, a sports-based ministry serving throughout the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

### No Wednesday Evening Meal

There will be no meal this Wednesday. Classes for all ages will meet at their normal time, 6 p.m.

### Country Store Donation Drive

The Heights of Gonzales nursing home is in need of donations for their Country Store. **Suggested donations include toiletry items (soap, shampoo, lotion, etc.) for both men and women, gently used purses and jewelry, and word find books.** You may drop off donations in the box in the foyer **TODAY.**

### Fall Fellowship

Make plans to join us for our Fall Fellowship and Costume Party on **Saturday, Oct. 28, at 6 p.m.** at The Hendershots'. Please bring a side or dessert to share.

### Southwest Church of Christ Ladies' Day

You're invited to Ladies' Day at Southwest Church of Christ (8900 Manchaca Road, Austin) **this Saturday, Oct. 14, at 9 a.m.** This year's theme is "T.L.C.—Tender loving care for the Lord's church," and features speaker Evelyn Bonner. For more information, please see the invitation on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

### Volunteers Needed: Wednesday Night Meals

Volunteers are needed to prepare the entrée for meals on Wednesday evenings. To help, please sign up in the foyer. **If you signed up to prepare a meal, please send Victoria your menu by Wednesday the week before.**

### Volunteers Needed: Communion Prep

Volunteers are needed to prepare communion in the coming months. This task takes very little time and is a great service to the congregation. Please sign up on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

### Sunday Night Small Group

There is a small group that meets in the annex each Sunday evening from 6-7 p.m. The Lord's Supper is available.

### Tuesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast

All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at **6:20 a.m.** for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

## YOUTH ZONE



TUESDAY, OCT. 10  
JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY  
GONZALES @ DISTRICT MEET, 9 A.M./4 P.M.  
(STARKE PARK, SEGUIN)  
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11  
HIGH SCHOOL TEAM TENNIS  
GONZALES @ DISTRICT TOURNAMENT



THURSDAY, OCT. 12  
JUNIOR HIGH VOLLEYBALL  
SHINER V. WAELDER, 5 P.M.  
JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL  
SHINER V. KENEDY, 6:30 P.M.



Caden Chrismon—Shiner Jr High Football  
Megan Epley—Shiner Jr High Volleyball

Cole Hendershot—Gonzales HS Team Tennis  
Coach Kevin Johnson—Gonzales Cross Country