

SFTHMin in Nicaragua

To maintain a positive influence in a developing country takes a grave amount of persistence. It's easy to start a work, but then to spend years working the bugs out for the on-going function and operation of it; takes a lot patience and wisdom. It's so easy to create a work that can become dependent instead of a structure that sees itself on it's own eventually. Americans become impatient, which is based on our society, so we must gear down and dig our heels in and watch the students and teachers create their own pace. Learning a new language is a challenging feat that many of us don't care to take on. We watch our students month after month; and during our visits and we set in their classrooms and watch our teachers and students interact. Is it a challenge to meet the needs of maintaining a Learning Center; but watching the progress and eagerness of the students



Christmas 2025 with backpacks and pizza



keeps us motivated. Over half of our English teachers and music teachers are volunteers. We all have skin in the game.

I am not openly able to discuss the political condition of Nicaragua but the president has given the country to the ROC. They have banned any christian materials including bibles to be brought into the country. Regime change is difficult once an aggressor gets established, so we keep believing the Judeo-Christian influence will remain established and favored to the point that it can't be overturned.

Please put Nicaragua on your prayer list for the safety of the Christians.

Thank You for your continued prayer and financial support as we know the Godly influence of this work is going deep and building young men and ladies that will impact their communities.

The Digital Move

Thank you to the ones that have requested to receive this newsletter via our website. It is a change for us here at SFTHMin because for over 3 decades we have published thousands of newsletters. Be patient with us as we are adding changes to our website to accommodate a digital version of this newsletter. I want this letter to be news and a short view of bible thoughts, as it also goes into the cells of many prisons.

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART MIN. BOX 578 PARIS, TX 75461
office@sfthmin.com office www.sfthmin.com

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

MINISTRIES INC. INTL.

1st Triannual 2026

What does a Jail/Prison ministry look like

Over the last 33 years of being involved with the incarcerated system, things have really changed. You can read the details on our new website (www.sfthmin.com) how Mary and I started serving in the local jail.



Our local jail is unique in that it is large (192 beds) compared to the size of Paris (25,200 people). Mary and I were attending a house church as we were newly out of the Mennonite Church. The pastor of the house church, had joined a prison ministry that had monthly crusades. He invited me to join him, I did and became enlightened as to how my life and thought pattern could be beneficial to the prison and jail . Paris had a new jail in construction so three of us “ministers” contacted the

sheriff with our thoughts of how we could assist with the Spiritual well-being of the ladies and men. A member of our team owned a bible bookstore so we had access to books, magazines and bibles. The first Sunday we didn't know the security protocol, we just walked in and started going cell to cell. My knees were clapping hands, I was as green as a gourd in the springtime. As the jail administration established protocols for volunteers, we adjusted and we found our lane. Shortly thereafter Mary and several other ladies joined us and the rest is history.

SFTHMin has stayed a bit hidden for all these years to abide by security protocols. The SFTHMin team has served under a number of different Sheriffs and Pastors. Early in 2020 during a pandemic, TDCJ the (Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice) shut off all free-world visitations so our Sheriff followed suit. By early summer the jail population was maxed out and the Sheriff called for help. With our temperature taken, masks and gloves, SFTHMin team started from scratch.

Here is our praise report for 2025: 615) bibles, 488) certificates given for study guides completed, 313,213) copies of pages for Bible Studies, 59) baptisms, 87) picture Bible storybooks, 575) Christmas cards, 175) toothbrushes, 175) tubes of toothpaste. These numbers don't reflect 100s of textbooks, reading books, postcards, book markers, daily devotionals, etc.

The SFTHMin team now consists of Mary on the ladies side and I (Galen) along with 3 men joining me on the mens side. We all carry TDCJ training and certification, annual TB testing and are ordained or underwritten by a church or ministry organization. (continued on inside page)

Thank You donors and prayer warriors for standing with us during these three decades of meeting the spiritual needs of the incarceration population.

Do I really Understand?

In 2024 I touched on this same set of basics but I want to add to it this newsletter.

#1 Knowledge / Information: The Greek word I want to add is "Logos". Logos means the written or spoken word. Before a person can apply any truth He or She must first hear or read the information. I have men every Sunday informing me how they "Hear from God" but when I question them, they have no idea the nature of God referred to in the scriptures. I quiz them on their knowledge of the written Word and they have no foundation differing God's voice from some foreign idea they heard in a Hollywood movie. To be able to conform to God's nature in our lives we must base our actions on credible information. Nicodemus in John 3 was a teacher of the law, He had the written Word (Logos) but it was never enlightened Spiritually. He had the foundation and He recognized Jesus was from God because of the miracles He performed. Heb 4:1-3 states the Word (Logos) must be mixed with faith for us to benefit from the promises it contains. First a person must know the scriptures, not tradition, not religion, not men's idea, not the smooth words from a captivating preacher, nor the side notes in a smooth



leather bound study bible, but a deep revelation from the Holy Spirit.

#2 Understanding / Comprehension: The Greek word I want to add is "Rhema". Rhema refers to the "enlightened" Word, the "now" Word, the "applicable" Word. Not just a Word read or spoken; but a Spiritually perceived Word. In Matt 26:75 after Peter denied Jesus the third time and the cock crowed he remembered the Word (Rhema) of Jesus. When he spiritually understood that Word from Jesus was more than audible; it was enlightened. In Matt 4:4 Jesus told lucifer "Man shall not live by bread alone but every word (Rhema) that comes out of the mouth of God". We hear thousands of words everyday but only a few are understood (Rhema).

#3 Application / Appropriation. The word I want to add is "Wisdom". Wisdom is a word, that when enlightened, can be applied. You cannot appropriate or apply information that you don't understand. You cannot use what you don't know you already have. Why do people struggle with strongholds. addictions, habits, poor confessions, and the list goes on. From my experience it's not that they have never heard information, but it's that they have never really understood it. So people are at a loss on how to apply the Truth.

Prov. 8:1 The word wisdom is in the female gender. The Hebrew language is a gender specific language and anything that has the ability to give birth is referred to the feminine gender. As I read Prov. 8, I see when the Logos (written or spoken Word) is enlightened then it can be applied (Wisdom). Wisdom is enlightened information applied. What you apply gives birth.

Anything born prematurely or out of season is fragile and easily uprooted. Allow the Word to take root so there is no issue when it comes time to apply your information to any situation.



"Faith is the ability to not panic"

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Feb 1
Lamar Co Jail | Mar 15
Lamar Co Jail | April 26
Lamar Co Jail |
| Feb 8
Lamar Co Jail | Mar 22
Lamar Co Jail | May 3
Lamar Co Jail |
| Feb 15
Lamar Co Jail | Mar 29
Lamar Co Jail | May 10
Lamar Co Jail |
| Feb 22
Lamar Co Jail | April 5
Lamar Co Jail | May 17
Lamar Co Jail |
| Mar 1
Lamar Co Jail | April 12
Lamar Co Jail | May 24
Lamar Co Jail |
| Mar 8
Lamar Co Jail | April 19
Lamar Co Jail | May 31
Lamar Co Jail |



Touching a world with power, purpose and praise.

www.sfthmin.com office@sfthmin.com

What happens every week at Lamar Co Jail

(Continued from front page) I have one brother that joins me every week, the other two join me bi-weekly and monthly. I have established a worship service in the dormitory area or also known as general population at 2:00 PM every Sunday. Approximately 70 men have access to this service.

While the dorm service is in session, someone else will be with the trustees having a service / bible study. When the trustee service is over that person will start ministering cell to cell. This consists of teaching, praying, counseling and getting a list of bibles, bible studies, reading materials, baptisms, etc. Every Sunday every resident that wants to listen or talk has an opportunity to do so.

We have 5 different versions of Bibles in English and 3 different versions in Spanish. Every Bible, (Spanish or English) given out gets 16 lessons from the first of three levels from the first study guide. Every study guide thereafter gets a text book, then receives a certificate of each study guide completed. It usually take 6 to 12 months to finish all 11 study guides. Mary has designed a similar routine but she adds music and worship to her presentation.



A person told me he wanted to join me and all he wanted to do was lead men to salvation. I come across maybe 3 or 4 people per month that have never been born again. Many of the ladies as well as the men were raised by a Godly influence. I let the first 16 lessons prep them for salvation. That's the easy part, but to make disciples is where the real commitment starts. (Matt 28:19 NASB)

I am very aware that those cells can only take a person so far, then they need a friend to walk with them helping them to understand and get rooted in the Word of God. The power of an isolated cell is the absence of distractions. General population is a social environment with a TV etc. I have found it slows the residents down when doing their studies.

I also want to mention the Sheriff and jail staff. Free-world people roaming around in their facility makes them incredibly nervous unless they have confidence in us obeying protocol. When they are dealing with a discipline issue, the last thing they need is a distraction from a minister. We have an honorable Sheriff and jail staff that assist us in baptisms and ministry.

The reason I have gone into such detail; is many people have no idea of the environment of a prison or jail. We thank you for your support as God has favored the SFTHMin team for over 3 decades with safety and effectiveness; as YOU have supported us prayerfully and financially. SFTHMin receives no county or state funding but God works through the hearts of YOU our support base to touch the prison population with the Good News. None on our team receives a salary.

How can you help? #1 Every Sunday at 2:00PM, breathe a prayer for our team as we walk through those barred doors and spend the next 4 hours ministering. #2 We honor your financial giving. At www.sfthmin.com you can do a one-time donation or a recurring donation. Because we are a tax-exempt organization, we buy bibles directly from the publishers.

*You are so Valued,
We thank God for
you!*

*Thanks for your
prayers and support
it matters to us
Salon*