

MARK BEANS
2750 S.W. COUNTY ROAD 307A
TRENTON, FLORIDA 32693

December 14, 2008

Trenton church of Christ
502 N. E. 7th Street
Trenton, FL 32963

Re: November Report

Dear Brethren,

The brethren in the North East church are doing well though we have had a lot of folks with a variety of illnesses.

I was able to have extensive Bible Studies with the three inmates at Taylor Correctional Institute on 11/21 and was able to baptize one of the men named Gustavo.

Gustavo's baptism was very interesting. One of the chaplains tried to talk me out of it in a number of ways.

- 1) The senior chaplain neglected to tell him about it.
- 2) He wasn't prepared for it.
- 3) The baptistery would take too long to fill
- 4) It was an unusually cold day and the water was very cold
- 5) Another chaplain pours water for hygiene reasons rather than immersing

I suggested to the chaplain that we give the baptistery a try and offer Gustavo the opportunity to be baptized if he chose too despite the cold water. Several of the inmates took a clean garbage can somewhere and filled it with hot water which they dumped into the baptistery. That was a very big help.

One of the female guards came by to do a security check and realized that we were about to baptize Gustavo on a very cold day despite the fact that he did not have a change of clothes. Gustavo said that he would strip down to his boxer shorts and she left. We had two clean sheets and one small towel that was wet from soaking up spilled water. The other inmate that was there (Pierce) used one of the sheets as a curtain to protect Gustavo's dignity and then after he had stripped off everything including his boxers used the sheet to make a toga of sorts which Gustavo wore into the water. After the baptism Gustavo used the other sheet to dry off and was able to put on all his dry clothes including two pairs of socks and two or three shirts and a coat.

Despite all the projected problems the Lord blessed us with a wonderful baptism.

The senior chaplain did agree to schedule regular Bible studies at the main camp starting in January and depending on how those go to give us a regular Bible study at the TCI Work Camp. He also agreed to allow me to continue meeting with the two men from the TCI Annex. There are several men from the Spring Warrior congregation who have indicated a willingness and desire to assist with the Bible studies and we are moving forward with an attempt to get them trained as volunteers and carded for entry.

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Please pray for all these efforts and for these men and for opportunities to reach the hearts of others who would love and serve God.

Thank you for your continued support.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Beans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Mark Beans
Mark@TheNorthEastChurchOfChrist.com
www.TheNorthEastChurchOfChrist.com