

## **Cross-Cultural Servant Journal #2**

To even cross cultures further, I decided to go serve prisoners at the Hutchins State Prison here in Dallas. The service opportunity was offered by Bill Glass Behind the Walls Ministry (<https://www.behindthewalls.com>) and I heard about it through the Church I attend, Reunion Church. I love Reunion Church because its senior leadership is passionate about sharing the gospel and making disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. For example, the pastor, Richard Ellis, was present with us and we shared the gospel together in that prison. Reunion Church is arguably one of the most ethnically diverse churches in Dallas and intentionally encourages cross-cultural ministry in the community. I share this because it is one of the key reasons why I stayed with the church after visiting several churches when I first arrived in Dallas in 2016.

We started by registering through the Bill Glass website and submitting our information for background checks. Next, we attended a training session at the church during which we were briefed on the Ministry of Bill Glass and their strategy for sharing the gospel. The next step was to join with all the other volunteers for a large training event in Grand Prairie that took place at First Baptist Church-Grand Prairie on November 1, 2019. There were about 400 volunteers in attendance, training for what they call the DFW Day of Champions. What was supposed to happen the following day was clearly outlined. On Saturday, November 2, I left at about 6:30 am and arrived at the Prison facility at about 6:55 am. We went through security and there we were, right into the prison. We were encouraged to go right into their living areas and interact with them and invite them to the 11 am event. I did and that gave me the opportunity to meet some of the prisoners, one-on-one and invite them to the event! Just very normal people, except that they made some wrong choices. There is a totally different culture and way of life in prison. They are all dressed the same, eat at specific times, always move in straight lines, and are required to strictly obey orders at all time. They have very limited personal physical space, just their little tiny iron bed.

At 11 am, we had a good crowd of about 300 that came out to attend the event. Two “Platform Guests” performed and shared the testimony of how they came to Jesus. In the end, we were invited to share the gospel with the inmates using the ministry tract. It was a very successful activity as I got to present the gospel to three inmates. There was a one-hour break and in the

afternoon, the same thing happened and I was able to share the gospel with 4 different inmates. By the end of that day, I got to know 7 inmates and personally shared the gospel with them of whom 4 of them prayed to receive God's forgiveness of sin!

As I thought about my experience in prison, I was reminded by some of the things I have been learning in my Cultural Dynamics class. They may be in a physical prison with limited freedoms but there is a prison, much stronger than physical prison: to allow sin to imprison me and deprive me of my freedom in Christ. I remember mentioning this as I shared the gospel with the inmates. We were told not to be critical regarding what we see. This is very true of culture. When we criticize a people's culture to their hearing, we build a wall and block communication. By sitting and eating with the inmates, I was able to exhibit openness and welcome them into my presence and make them feel safe.

The image displays two screenshots of Facebook posts. The left screenshot shows a post from 'Bill Glass Behind The Walls' dated 4 November at 08:55. The post text describes the results of the Bill Glass Behind the Walls DFW Day of Champions, mentioning 378 teammates, 86 first-time volunteers, 3,731 people visited, 1,376 total decisions for Christ, and 500 first-time commitments. The post has 3 comments and 7 shares. Below the post, a comment from 'Genesis GT' is visible, stating 'Awesome service and cross-cultural opportunity'. The right screenshot shows a post from 'Genesis GT' dated 2 November at 16:39. The post text is a personal reflection on sharing the gospel with inmates at Hutchins Prison, mentioning a conversation with Pastor Richard Ellis. The post has 15 comments. Below the post, several comments are visible, including one from 'Charles Ngong' and others praising the experience.

**Bill Glass Behind The Walls**  
4 November at 08:55 · 🌐

Results from the Bill Glass Behind the Walls DFW Day of Champions: 378 Teammates, including 86 who served with us for the first time, visited 3,731 people at 12 correctional facilities and ministries. The volunteers recorded 1,376 total decisions for Christ, and 500 were first time commitments! Praise the LORD!!!

Charles Ulibarri and 46 others · 3 comments 7 shares

Like Comment Share

Most relevant ▾

Write a comment...

**Genesis GT** Awesome service and cross-cultural opportunity  
Like · Reply · 1m

**DonnDeb Ferguson** Yes, Praise God! Thank You Jesus! We know the are the True living Son of the True living God. It's all about Jesus!  
Like · Reply · 3d

**Susan Dubreuil** Thank you Jesus!  
Like · Reply · 3d

**Genesis GT** is with Marceline Tinshu and 2 others.  
2 November at 16:39 · 🌐

I am not a very emotional person, but, today, I could not hold back as God revealed to me how much I need Him, while I was sharing the gospel with inmates at Hutchins Prison. To be honest, there are many outside who should be inside and many inside who should be outside. "...I was in prison and you visited me." (Matt. 25:36). Thank you, Pastor Richard Ellis, thank you, Bill Glass Behind The Walls, for giving me this opportunity.

Marceline Tinshu, Brian Dodds and 78 others · 15 comments

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**Charles Ngong** I minister in prison here in Berlin and the Lord has showed me many things and i am very grateful for the opportunity to serve .  
Like · Reply · 4d

**Genesis GT** replied · 1 reply

**Zhimoh Loveline Alleluia**  
Like · Reply · 4d

**Alicia Gursel** PRAISE THE LORD. More grace  
Like · Reply · 4d

**Jeannette Bame** Great experience. We're wounded healers  
Like · Reply · 4d