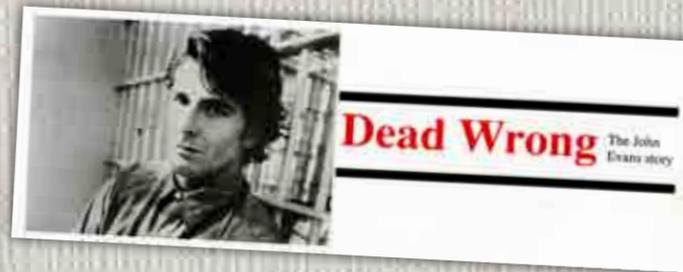


# A History of 1980-1989 We Care Program

NLF's influence was extended to Montgomery area prisons through an invitation Martin Weber received to conduct revival meetings at Staton Prison. Twenty-two men from ten different states participated. The following year, spring revivals were held in four Montgomery prisons including Tutwiler, the first meetings of its kind in Alabama's only women's state prison. Montgomery was permanently added as a second base of operations for the annual revival in 1990.



The first fund-raising auction was held in PA raising \$10,000. Within several years, a local organization (Support for Prison Ministries) was formed to provide oversight and exposure for the auction.



February 1980

Jan 3 1982

Elaine Hess, the first female volunteer to serve in the prison setting under NLF, went to Tutwiler.



1983

We Care Program produced its first film, "My World, My Choice," as part of the crime prevention program. In the next few years, two additional films were produced. Film-making was discontinued in 1987.

1984

After 19½ years as a state chaplain, Martin Weber resigned from that position in order to fully devote himself to leading the growing organization.

January 1984

The film, Dead Wrong, the John Evans Story, produced under the auspices of We Care, premiered on CBS TV. The film won both an Emmy award and a Golden Eagle award.

November 1984

1985

The first We Care Center opened in Mobile, AL, (pictured) in May, and the second opened in Montgomery, AL, in September. Each center's mission was to work at We Care's three-fold ministry: prevention, prison ministry, and re-entry. These centers were closed in 1987.



1981

Placing full-time assistant chaplains in Alabama prisons became the primary focus of the organization during the 1980's. Steve Longenecker, who served at Holman, was the first We Care volunteer to serve at a prison other than Fountain, Martin Weber's ministry beginning point. Since then, We Care chaplains have served throughout Alabama and beyond.



1982

We Care Program and New Life Foundation organizations combined into one. We Care Program was the surviving name.

Martin Weber formed the We Care Program, a crime prevention program to work at reaching young people before they begin a life of crime.



Dec 9 1983

Ground was broken for a We Care headquarters building a few miles north of Atmore, AL, near the intersection of I-65 and Hwy 21. It included a video production studio. By April, 1984, the building was nearing completion and already in use.



Jan 12-17 1986

July 1987

Phil Weber was appointed as Executive Director of We Care.



For the first time, over 100 volunteers from 54 different churches participated in prison revivals at Fountain and Holman.

Sept 29 1989

The first We Care Economy Shop opened in Atmore to generate funding for the ministry. Aaron and Vera Martin (on right) were the first managers. At one point in the day the line at the cash register stretched 30 feet.

