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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Bill Glass Ministry**

Date: October 11th, 2017

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October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Abilene will play host to a Bill Glass “Behind The Walls 2017” event.

Bill Glass was a star football player in high school, an all-American at Baylor, and a defensive stalwart during eleven years in the NFL. Often asked to speak because of this, Glass realized he had an opportunity to go in front of eager ears. Glass has always been an utterly straightforward sort of person. So, when he stood to talk, he spoke about the things closest to his heart. He talked about sports, and he talked about Christ. And thus, a dynamic nationwide ministry was born.

His Dallas-based ministry is now called Bill Glass Behind The Walls. With a dedicated staff and volunteers numbering in the thousands, the ministry is known for its high-energy Day of Champions and Weekend of Champions events conducted inside prisons across the country. Glass says a board member kept badgering him to take his message into prison. “I kept resisting. I was frightened that I wouldn’t fit in with street kids and gangsters in prison.” After overcoming his fears, he saw dramatic results. “I was thrown into it kicking and screaming, but the response from the inmates was just unbelievable,” he said.

He has spent much of the last forty years ‘behind the walls.’ He has taken along other pro athletes, champion weight lifters, magicians, tight-rope walkers – as well as race cars, stunt planes, motorcycles, and just about anything or anyone else – to draw prisoners out for a message of hope and deliverance. He discovered that prison inmates are just like everyone else: They will listen to what an athlete has to say, and they will respond to a heartfelt Christian witness. All these years later, Bill Glass is still talking, and people are still listening.

“Nationally, the criminal recidivism rate hovers around 70%. Faith based programs like Bill Glass Behind the Walls have reduced the statewide recidivism to less than 25%, thus saving the taxpayers millions of dollars while healing thousands of families and making our communities safer,” as stated by Vance Drum, Head of Chaplaincy for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice said.

The ACVB estimates the total economic impact for Abilene will be \$19,500 with 150 total attendees and 100 room nights. BGM will be holding a dinner/training session on Friday, Oct. 13 that will be open to the public. If anyone is interested in assisting with this ministry they can attend this dinner at Broadview Baptist Church from 5pm to 9pm. In addition, special guest Dorothy Handkins, 98 years old, will accompany Bill Glass Ministry into the Wallace Unit, to make a special donation of \$5,000 to the event. Jack Meeks and Robyn Ryckman will also give their testimonies, showing off their Nascar Racecar.

For more information, visit <https://www.behindthewalls.com/>

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