

Beginning and Perpetuating Care Ministry to Prisoners

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I. DEFINING THE PURPOSE OF CARE MINISTRIES

- A. Why are we here?
- B. Understanding the calling

II. QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRISON MINISTERS

- A. Are you focused?
- B. Do you possess the capability of loving?
- C. Do you possess a sacrificial spirit?
- D. What are your motives?

III. PURPOSE OF CARE MINISTRIES

- A. It is scripturally correct (James 2:15, 16).
- B. The need cannot be ignored.

IV. FIVE STEPS TO ORGANIZE AND PROTECT YOUR CARE MINISTRY

- A. Contact the proper prison officials to identify needs.
- B. Become familiar with the prison rules concerning needs.
- C. Be faithful to your responsibilities.
- D. Reflect Christ.
- E. Pray for your ministry.

V. TYPES OF CARE MINISTRIES

- A. Bibles
 1. Proper choice of Bible type
 2. Be consistent with your giving.
 3. Know when to make exceptions.
 4. Recognize different needs of inmates according to education.
 5. Be good stewards over the ministry funds.
- B. Personal Hygiene Items for Indigent Inmates
 1. Learn the different products that are permitted.
 2. Always work with the chaplain in this area.

3. Become familiar with prison rules concerning this area.
 4. Be faithful.
- C. Counseling
1. Care enough to be there for the inmates.
 2. Give advice only when you are sure that it is proper.
 3. Be a good listener.
 4. Allow the inmates to talk about their problems; it helps to “get it off their chest.”
- D. Providing Study Materials
1. Give only material that is approved by the institution.
 2. Never promise what you can’t deliver.
 3. Select material that will enhance their walk with the Lord.
 4. Photocopy handouts in order to be cost effective for your ministry.
- E. Providing Pen Pals
1. Use wisdom.
 2. Provide man-to-man and woman-to-woman pen pals.
 3. Make institution rules available to the pen pal.
 4. Screen carefully the individuals who desire pen pals to see if their walk with the Lord is acceptable. This will inform you of their motives.
- F. After Care
1. Locate job opportunities in your local area where inmates can be hired regardless of their background.
 2. Talk with other churches and prison ministries.
 3. Pool your resources.
 4. Get proper information as to the future address of inmates and their job skills.
 5. Share phone numbers with inmates and assist them in getting in touch with prospective employers and halfway houses.