

Caring for Prisoners and Their Families

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I. Purpose

A. Opening Text

Psalms 102:19-20

19 “For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth; 20 To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death.”

B. Definition of caring

Webster’s dictionary defines caring in this way: 1) A troubled or burdened state of mind; 2) to feel concern or interest.

II. Care for Prisoners – Identify Specific Needs

A. Discipleship for new converts

1. Have good working relationship with the Chaplain.
2. Let him know of your concern by open communication with him.
3. If possible get names of those who have been saved and give them to the chaplain for follow-up.
4. Ask about the new converts with trustworthy fellow inmates who are loyal to the church services.
5. Send follow-up cards to inmates to let them know they have not been forgotten.

B. Establish a Bible Ministry

1. Find inexpensive Bibles for distribution.
2. Make the availability known to the Chaplain.
3. Work with him in the proper way to distribute the Bibles properly.

C. Help for the Indigent Inmate

1. Providing personal hygiene products.
 - a. Get list of items that are permitted from the Chaplain.
 - b. Let these needs be known in your Church.
 - c. Address these issues to youth groups and other ministries for help.
 - d. Some retail establishments may help provide these as donations from their stores.

- D. Help start tape ministries in the prison
 - 1. Inmates record children's book stories on tape and send them home for the child to hear the story in their own father's voice.
 - 2. Items needed to begin
 - a. Blank audio tapes
 - b. Audio tape players
- E. Seasonal card ministry
 - 1. Help provide cards for special occasions.
 - 2. Chaplain is aware of how to obtain cards.
- F. Provide inmates with list of half-way houses to parole out to.

III. Care for Inmates Families.

- A. Check with Chaplain about permission to aid an inmate's family
- B. Learn alternative methods of aiding families
 - 1. Have groups inside of church to actually render the aid.
 - 2. Call local churches in areas where they live and ascertain if help is available through their benevolence.