

## Some things to know about Prison Ministry

### The Do's of Prison Ministry

- Do remember that inmates are human beings just like everyone else. The only difference between inmates and us is that "we didn't get caught for our crimes."
- Do team up with a least one other person, preferably a group of volunteers, in approaching prison ministry. Christians are to be commended whenever they work together and thus pray with a common spirit and mind.
- Do show love and respect for all inmates, including those who want nothing to do with "religion" and those who may not give you a kind reception.
- Do invite and mentor other church members to share in your prison ministry blessings. Sometimes a personalized invitation to get involved is the only thing helping a church member to participate in prison ministry.
- Do expect to make a real difference in the lives of prison inmates even if you are not an experienced soul winner or veteran prayer warrior. God equips all Christians to carry on His essential work...

### A Scripture I live by and why I committed myself to serving God in Prison Ministry

*The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason, I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. (1 Timothy 1:14-16 NIV)*

*Our mission is to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ where we live, work, and through prison ministry.*

### How are we doing this?

By developing a community of committed disciples of Jesus Christ, which will have an impact for Christ locally and around the world.

Through personal evangelism, the sharing of our own testimony of how God has worked in our life and the impact it has had on our personal relationships with Christ.

By building a strong "Christian Fellowship" and a team of missionaries, who will be able to write to those who are seeking the Lord Jesus in their life through our Pen Pals for Jesus Ministry! Thus, His sheep that have fallen into the ways of the flesh, will know Christ by giving them the same hope and faith that Christ has given to us so freely.

By developing a working outreach-mentoring program, which will be able to assist and help reintegrate those who are seeking a new and better life after incarceration.

Building resources with local and state agencies, to better assist in getting a person the much-needed services they so desperately need, like clothing, food, medical services, and housing.

### Contact Us

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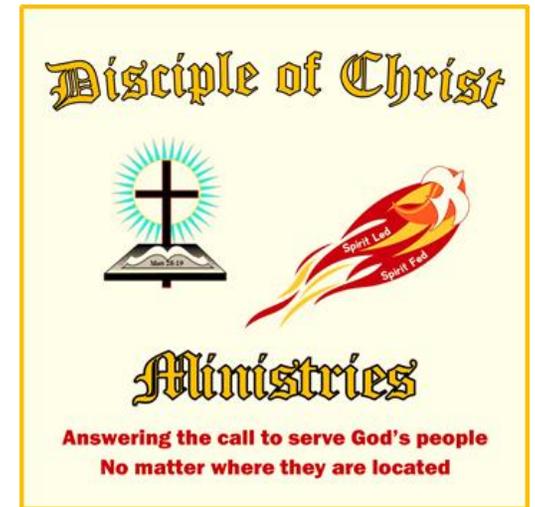
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We are a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization



## Pen Pals for Jesus

### Our Prison Correspondence Ministry

*"Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." (Hebrews 13:3)*

*Serve Jesus by visiting the prisoners through letters of Christian support*

What is this ministry all about!

*Serving God*

*Outside of the walls of the church.*

Reaching out to lost and forgotten Souls.

Spreading the Gospel.

Changing lives.

Giving a message of Hope.

Teaching the Word of God.



*Dennis Dockham*

*Founder/Ordained Christian Minister*

I would like to share with you my testimony of how my life went from asking God to take my life, as I no longer wanted to live, into a life of grace and peace, serving our Lord and Savior Jesus in ministry. Now walking by faith, believing His Death and Resurrection bought my salvation.

In April 2008 I started looking for God, and asking why He did not take my life that I prayed for so many nights for over the 2 years of my court proceedings. I had hit rock bottom, what I thought was the lowest type of person, a sentenced criminal, ending up in a place I never thought I would ever be, "in jail".

After the shock of being in jail, I fell to my knees and I cried out to God. Asking for answers of how this could be. Then for the very first time I felt a presence upon me. I heard "come to Me and give yourself over to me, and I will stand with you."

As I started to search my deepest thoughts, I picked up a Bible and joined a Bible Study group that a Christian brother who came into the jail ran as a volunteer. I started to understand more of what the feelings I had within me were and how it affected my earthly ways living in the flesh.

Now seeing the changes I needed to make in my life, how could I do this myself, me, self-centered and arrogant, thinking I was better than everyone else! Well God knew what he was doing placing me right where I needed to be at this point in my life. And that has forever changed my life as I came to know Jesus as my Lord and Savior, that He died on a cross for a sinner like me, undeserving of what He had done on the cross so I could live with Him in eternity.

I realized that without God in my life, I would always be the same. So once again, I fell to my knees, this time

to turn my life over to Christ asking for His forgiveness and seeking His wisdom. Becoming born-again on Oct 27, 2008, on this day, I really felt His presence within my soul and my eyes became open to the Light of Christ. This was the start of an ever-changing way that would become my daily walk with Christ and life changing ways of living.

Since my release November 2011, from the House of Correction, I have taken the wisdom of God's Word and put it into practice in my daily walk, being obedient in serving my Lord and Savior, humbly serving those who are out there lost and shackled in bondage, sharing my story of a broken, unwanted, despised individual who only thought the way out was death. Now I am living in full repentance, seeking truth and striving to walk in the Light of Christ, surrendering all my faults over to God daily, praying for those fleshly behaviors, never to return in my life.

Allowing the Holy Spirit to direct and guide me, I proclaimed my faith in the power of resurrection by a Full Immersion Baptism on March 25, 2012 confessing to my entire rebirth in Christ as written in scripture. I praise God every night for my salvation from my sins and for His daily guidance He provided to me through prayer and meditation time.

Remember I mention about pleading God to take my life? Well, I am happy that God had different plans for me. Yes, God took my life as I surrendered to his calling, not my own. I became a new creation in Christ Jesus, humbly living my life as a faithful servant, striving to glorify God in all I do, using my God given gifts, reaching out to the lost and forgotten through a ministry that was put on my heart by God in a vision while still incarcerated.

By having faith in Christ, the foundations of Disciple of Christ Ministries was formed in June 2012 and is currently serving over 260 inmates in 36 States as of October 2018, through our Pen Pals for Jesus Ministry.

I continue to serve fulltime here at Disciple of Christ Ministries, living on faith that God will always make things work to the good of His Kingdom. I am a sinner saved by grace and just a regular person in which Christ Jesus has given the strength and courage to lead a ministry, and considered me trustworthy, and appointed me to share what He has done in my life to reach the lost and forgotten.

## WAYS PRISON MINISTRY PROMOTES CHURCH GROWTH

Prison ministry offers unique, vital opportunities for personal spiritual growth because volunteers get personally involved, even immersed, in the gospel basics: witnessing, Bible teaching, counseling, worship, and encouragement.

Let's explore some core impacts prison ministry can have on the local church and its members:

**Prison ministry is America's largest spiritual harvest field.** There are more than a million inmates, many of whom are genuinely seeking change, stability, and love in their lives. Many inmates acknowledge that coming to prison was "the best thing that ever happened to me" because they encountered Christ.

**Prison ministry teaches deep spiritual lessons,** such as how to forgive, how to restore, and how to really pray (reminding that God does all the work in prison ministry). It also teaches very practical lessons about listening, patience, cross-cultural communication, and theological diversity among Christians.

**Prison ministry gets church members off the pews and outside church walls.** Christians of all backgrounds, education levels, and varieties of spiritual gifts participate in prison/jail ministry.

**Prison ministry promotes cooperation and goodwill among diverse Christians** from different denominations, socioeconomic backgrounds, and theological points of view. Paul's admonition to keep our eyes upon Christ was never more true than in prison ministry.

Above all else, prison ministry is a shower of blessings for all those involved. You can experience the wonder and joy of leading people to Christ and seeing them start their lives over in ways productive to society and pleasing to God. You see prayers answered in timely and miraculous ways, strengthening your personal prayer life. You experience complete dependence on God for ministry success after realizing that nothing lasting happens in prison through purely human effort and striving. You come to understand deep down inside the awful nature and consequences of sin and the unique role of Christ in creating new creatures. Prison ministry shows us why indeed we are all brothers and sisters united in Christ.