



## **Prison Ministry**

### ***SCRIPTURAL BASIS***

Matthew 25:34-36

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in:

Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick and ye visited me: **I was in prison, and ye came unto me.**

### ***PRAYER***

- Pray for the leadership of the Holy Spirit
- Follow His leadership and move slowly
- Form prayer partners in addition to participants
- Pray for discernment in inmates responses (Matthew 10:16)
- Prayer must permeate all aspects of ministry (Planning, ministry, follow-up)
- Pray for support from local churches

### ***LEADER REQUIREMENTS***

- Willing to be trained and follow through with certification
- Be prepared before each ministry encounter
- Must be honest, genuine, and authentic
- Must be flexible
- Must be consistent (commitment is critical. count the cost)
- Humility is essential
- Sensitivity to privacy and confidentiality (in light of de-humanization they already feel)
- Must meet inmates where they are
- Treat each person like God treats you
- Do not take responsibility for the inmate
- Be prepared to embrace other faith/denominational belief systems
- An indispensable element is to use your own gifts. (Be yourself)
- Get out of the way, and let the Holy Spirit do His work

## ***ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS***

- Entire framework of the ministry is Biblically centered
- Develop rapport with Law Enforcement Administration
- Follow all policies, procedures, and protocols of prison (no short-cuts or exceptions)
- Must define the perimeters of ministry up front (not helping with early parole/\$ in account)
- Determine needs for Bible distribution and Discipleship material
- One- on- one ministry is essential
- No presumptuous assertions (Listen to the inmate's needs)
- Share the same Gospel you share in the church
- No manipulation in decisions made (Allow the Holy Spirit to convict/Do not coerce)
- Set up evaluation and accountability for ministry
- Develop strategy for prisoner release (re-entry)
- Be prepared to express gratitude for the blessing you are about to encounter