



Missionary Evangelism To Corrections

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love with those in corrections since 1982

Dear Friends of MEC,

In addition to current Church, Bible Study, Spiritual Counseling, and Christian Recovery classes in 19 jails, we are thankful for the opportunity to begin a formal reentry program in Chisago County, Center City jail and RCC -VOA in Roseville. Recidivism - inmates returning to jail after release because of committing another crime - can be decreased by helping them plan for reentry to the community. Based on reputable reentry programs, the recidivism decreases by 70-80%.

Volunteers are being trained to meet with inmates to **answer reentry planning requests**. The volunteers will **provide resource information, help individuals set goals** and, whenever possible, connect or provide a **trained mentor**. Connecting inmates with resources such as housing, job services, treatment, support groups and churches; teaching values-based goal setting; and mentoring which provides accountability and support will facilitate successful return to the community.

We are asking for assistance in the following areas:

1. Calling to make sure resources are current and entering resource information into the computer
2. Meeting with inmates to provide resource information and helping them set goals
3. Meeting with a mentee before he or she is released and, if possible, weekly after release, for an agreed amount of time, to cover some material and discuss the progress with their goals.
4. Assistance with training Reentry planners and Mentors
5. Prayer & Financial support

Time and again, we read heartfelt and heart rending requests for prayer. We read requests from inmates who are desperate for freedom from addiction to drugs or alcohol begging for prayer that need Christ-centered treatment. Mothers and Fathers are asking for prayer for their families' safety and to bring them back together in healing. Teen-age boys about to be sent to prison for years needing encouragement and the hope that Christ will be with them in prison, too. Women who sell themselves, wanting to change, but believing they will have to turn a trick for money to make a phone call. Many are convicted and remorseful asking for prayer that their victim forgive them. People who are homeless need somewhere to go when are released. We hear over and over heartfelt desires to change and seeing - many for the first time - Christ's grace is available to them and provides the way to change.

MEC's reentry program will help individuals create a plan, provide resource information specific to their situation and support through mentoring. Besides programs we give them Bible believing home churches to consider and, whenever possible, a caring person they are accountable to. Our program is already working - one of the first inmates we worked with is now living successfully and applying to be a house mother in sober housing.

We need your help to develop our program. Please give us your prayerful support. Visit our website where you can apply to become a volunteer or support MEC financially.

In Christ, *Saul & Karen Selby*

"The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19

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