

## Why invest money, time and volunteers in Prison ministry?

The best place to fish is **where the fish are biting**. You have a honey hole near you! You can be fishers of men and women in your local jails and prison with our help. Your time and help will make an **eternal difference** in the lives of many!



Heb. 13:3 "Remember the prisoners..."

Prison Ministry is *The Most Fruitful Mission Field in Our Country* - Lennie Spitale, author of the book, "Prison Ministry"

### Here are 10 compelling reasons:

1. **Most inmates are very discouraged.** They and their family need to hear the Good News and Hope that only comes from God's Word. Rom.10:15 (we also offer children's lessons through the Mailbox Club to help reach the whole family which is our goal).
2. In prison, they have **plenty of time to study God's Word.** Eph.5:16
3. Many are **looking for purpose and meaning to life** (Living for Christ gives an eternal purpose) Ephesians 3:9-13
4. Prison has **fewer worldly distractions** (No cell phones, no internet, etc.)
5. All inmates **need to be loved** (The Word of God tells the truth of the ultimate source of love) 1 John 4:8
6. Prison gives them **time to reflect** on the bad choices they have made and many are looking to change. Acts 26:17-18
7. All inmates **suffer from loneliness** (many have very few visitors, a visit from PMA, brings hope, correspondence instructor letters are like Christmas)
8. **Many have reached a point of humbleness, brokenness and a contrite heart-** rock bottom so to speak. They are ready to listen to God and His will for their life. Psalm 51:17
9. **Many have a hunger to study God's Word.** Psalm 63:1. 68-87% of inmates sign up for PMA Bible studies at prison transitional fairs!
10. Most have **realized they are sinners** and cannot save themselves (In contrast to many outside think they are good people and don't need God) Rom.3:23 Many inmates acknowledge that **coming to prison was "the best thing that ever happened to me" because they encountered Christ.**



## Reaching Out as a Healing Community to the least of these

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### What is the Biblical basis for prison ministry?

**PRINCIPLE 1: REDEMPTION** - All things are redeemable through Christ. He can bring spiritual healing and new life!

Crime is fundamentally a moral problem. It is a result of man's rebellion against God. It is secondarily a socioeconomic problem. The solution is in the person of Jesus Christ.

**Rom. 3:23-24; 6:23 Colossians 1:13-14 Ps. 107:1-2,8-16** God sets us free from the bondage and prison of sin!

**PRINCIPLE 2: SERVICE** - The Body of Christ is called to minister to those who are imprisoned or oppressed.

Unlike any other organization or ministry, the Church has been ordained to be God's instrument of grace and ministry in this world. The act of serving prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families in the name of Jesus is both a ministry and a means of worship and spiritual growth.

**2 Corinthians 5:20** - *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

**God needs an ambassador to your local jail and prison. Who will go? He has chosen us to be his ambassadors, to be his mouthpiece and given us the ministry of reconciliation.**

**Hebrews 13:3** - 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.

**Matthew 25:40-43**

**PRINCIPLE 3: TRANSFORMATION - By our faith, we bring glory to God on earth and communities are transformed.**

Prison ministry is a powerful testimony to the world of the transforming power of the love of Christ. The community as a whole experiences transformation as the Church reaches out to all those affected by crime and demonstrates the mercy and grace of Jesus.

**Ephesians 4:14-16; 22-24**

**God's ordained way of ministry is the local church. We are to plant seeds to grow more churches.** It is our goal to plant churches behind bars through our PMA Bible courses.

We want to thank God and give him all the glory and praise for what He is doing to transform lives behind bars. As we establish graduates of our program, it is **our goal to plant churches behind bars**, helping inmates reach inmates for Christ. They can be distributing and correcting lessons in each of their facilities. These churches would be like house churches and develop leadership and ministry skills to build the Body of Christ.

**PMA provides Free Life Changing Bible Correspondence courses**

We have 32,000 students in all 50 states and overseas. These studies can be used with any group, not only inmates. download them at [www.prisonmission.org](http://www.prisonmission.org) . When a student completes all 35 self-paced lessons, they may earn six credits when enrolling at Berean Bible Institute, Slinger, Wisc. [www.bereanbibleinstitute.org](http://www.bereanbibleinstitute.org)

**What Some Inmates tell us:**

*"I am at a loss for words by the **more in-depth these lessons become.** I'm loving it. It's great!"* K.S., Madison Correctional Institution, Ohio

*"I want to praise God and give all glory to His Name. **This Bible study has given me the full understanding of the Scriptures...**Each Day I grow in my walk with Christ...The Lord has begun to work in my life, and has humbled me. My heart isn't hardened anymore. I've learned to trust in the Lord and allow him to work his will into my life." J.M., Calipatria State Prison, California.*

**Thoughts from one of our volunteers:**

*"We all are eager to share the message of God's grace but more often than not no one is listening. Being a part of the Prison Mission gives me the opportunity to explain the grace message to those who have accepted Christ and are eager to hear. Sometimes they are still mixing religious ideas with grace or maybe they feel unworthy. **Seeing the great faith coming out of prisons touches me and blesses me.** Although I wasn't there when they accepted Christ I can imagine the defining moment when they faced God in agreement rather than as His enemy. **So many men and women express their deep gratitude to the Prison Mission.** I in turn get the opportunity to build them up, gently guide them when they don't understand and tell them that I am praying for them, that I care". – C. H. , Minnesota*

**Join our PMA team:**

1. **Pray** for the ministry, inmates and their families, and radio show
2. **Volunteer** to help correct lessons, visit prisons, transition fairs, promote on social media, data entry, etc.
3. **Donate** to help support this important fast-growing outreach

PMA would love to help your local church in its outreach to those in prison or jail nearby. We can help you setup a ministry that will **energize your congregation and reach the lost in your community!** We are happy to help visit your local prison with you. If you have folks that want to do prison ministry outreach, we can give you the tools. You may have some who want to correct lessons and / or visit prisons, we can help with that too. As we establish graduates of our program, it is **our goal to plant churches behind bars**, helping inmates reach inmates for Christ. They can be distributing and correcting lessons in each of their facilities. These churches would be like house churches and develop leadership and ministry skills to build the Body of Christ.

**For more info contact: Prison Mission Association, [www.prisonmission.org](http://www.prisonmission.org)  
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