

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR MINISTRY

1. *Who are we?* We are a Christian ministry that ministers to people whose lives have been affected by incarceration.
2. *What do we do?* We have our fingers in a lot of things. After Care, counseling, countywide networking, training people for correctional ministry inside and outside institutions.
3. *Why do we do what we do*
 - a) Because we know we have an answer to the problems that are behind what causes people to have to become incarcerated.
 - b) Because the majority of people will be released back into society and, if not changed, will re-victimize our communities.
4. *How long have we been doing this?* Since 1980.
5. *What changes have we seen over the last 27 years in correctional Ministry?* A lot more activity in the social services to help rehabilitate the inmates and ex-offenders mostly because state and national money that is made available.
6. *What are the most important issues while working with inmates/ex-offenders?*
 - a) A relationship with God develops.
 - b) Relationships with mature people and lots of patience. Hope that God will certainly help break the eyes of addictions and incarceration.
7. *Are people who are incarcerated worth investing in? Don't they deserve what they get?* Yes, if changed, they become contributors to society inside and outside the prison. We all deserve more punishment than we receive. God can use the tragedy that brought someone to prison as the vehicle to recovery, rehabilitation and restoration.
8. *What are the biggest needs for ministries like ours?* Volunteers and money to pay professional or full-time jail ministries.
9. *How important is "networking" in this type of ministry?* It is paramount because it is the only way that we can even begin to address all facets of ministry needed to help someone be restored from the problems that caused him or her to be incarcerated.
10. *What is the most important issue in the inmate's transitional period?* Between the time he gets released to the time he gets a stable home. 1-2 weeks. Others are:
 - a) At arrest;
 - b) Sentencing;
 - c) New facility; and
 - d) Release.

11. *How does your ministry work with secular agencies such as parole and probation?* We have countywide networking meetings that invite a cross-section of organizations which brings community services, faith-based organizations and correctional personal to share resources and ideas.
12. *What is the difference with working with male or female inmates/ex-offenders?* There is always a problem when working with opposite gender because of the depth of the issues and problems of the clientele. There are certainly different needs for different gender types.
 - a) Most women are incarcerated for prostitution-related issues.
 - b) The personal addictions issues are different between men and women.
 - c) The issue of children is more devastating for women.
 - d) Women are more vulnerable in many areas than men.
13. *Are all correctional facilities the same?* Though one would think there would be an institutional standard, this is not the case. Each has its own personality or thumbprint because of leadership. There are different types of institutions that deal with different problems:
 - a) Mental illness.
 - b) Jails vs. prisons.
 - c) Juveniles.
 - d) Incurrigibles vs. mainline inmates.
 - e) Federal Correctional Facilities
 - f) Probation Departments
 - g) State Facilities
 - h) Parole Departments
 - i) Local jails.
 - j) Juveniles/CYA.
14. *What skills, education, and gifts does one need to work in Correctional Ministry?*
 - a) Personal experience with addiction and crimes (streetwise).
 - b) Some college is good, one year of college credit in a related field.
 - c) Bible School (sound theological base).
 - d) Security training.
 - e) Read and write at a high school level.
 - f) Correctional ministry training.
 - g) Heart of compassion and respect for authority.
15. *Where can I find resources to help me with my family member or friend that is incarcerated?* My website: www.reentry.org. F.C.N. IPM.
16. *What kind of support can I find for myself while my loves one is incarcerated?* FCN. Local churches and ministries. National ministries ie, Salvation Army, Prison Fellowship, Rescue missions and Teen Challenges.