

Open Door Christian Chaplains, Inc. Re-Entry Prison and Jail Ministry

Open Door Christian Chaplains, Inc. (ODCCI) and Re-Entry Prison and Jail Ministry (RPJM) are 501(c) (3) California Nonprofit Corporations and are able to give tax-deductible receipts for any donations. Our Chaplains have been working in the jails and prisons in Southern California since 1975. All our Chaplains are volunteers, and our responsible for raising their own support. ODCCI is a Christian organization that recruits, trains and supports Chaplains to minister inside and outside of correctional institutions. Since the majority of persons incarcerated are released back into society, we also have a specialized focus through RPJM on helping inmates after they are released from incarceration. Your support will help provide quality Chaplains and Christian resources that are essential for true rehabilitation.

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Chaplaincy Program

The Chaplaincy program focuses on two programs:

Recruiting and Training Chaplains

Distributing and Raising Funds for Chaplains

Recruiting and Training Chaplains

Open Door Christian Chaplains, Inc. (ODCCI) in accordance with the Coordinator Chaplain of the San Diego Sheriff's Department and other associated prison and jail ministries has set up a program to train and supply chaplains for correctional institutions.

ODCCI is in partnership with Vision International University's Institute for Chaplaincy Studies. The following is a description and list of classes that are needed to be completed for a certificate or degree in Chaplaincy Studies:

Licensing & Ordination

Licensing - Open Door Christian Chaplains, Inc. will license you annually if you have met the following requirements:

1. You have a local pastor/eldership over you for at least one year and are in good standing in the community in which you are ministering.
2. You have a letter of recommendation from the senior chaplain at the facility you are ministering in inviting you to participate in correctional ministry under his/her supervision.
3. Your chaplain's application has been reviewed and approved by the ODCCI Executive Board.
4. You have been interviewed and accepted by the Ordination and Licensing Committee.
5. You have successfully completed a six-month experience internship under ODCCI.
6. You have completed or are in the process of completing ODCCI's Education Program required to be a correctional chaplain.

Ordination

1. You have completed the ODCCI licensing education requirements or equivalent.
2. You have been interviewed and accepted for candidacy by the Ordination and Licensing Committee.
3. You have 2 years experience of satisfactory ministry in a correctional institution.
4. You have completed three years or 90 credit units of related Bible education.

Details of Licensing & Ordination

Details of Licensing

Once your application is received along with your letters of recommendation, the ODCCI Board of Directors will review your application. After your information is verified the ODCCI Board of Directors will make a recommendation.

If the ODCCI Board of Directors accepts your application they will advance it to the L&O Committee, which is comprised of a committee of pastors and chaplains who have a heart and understanding for prison/jail ministry.

The L&O Committee will then make a decision of acceptance or non-acceptance after you have completed a six-month experience internship for licensing. You may start your licensing educational program anytime after you enter your internship.

Your license will be issued for ministry only under ODCCI for ministry in a correctional setting.

Your license will be reviewed and renewed annually.

Your license can be revoked at anytime due to misconduct or teaching heretical doctrine.

Your license is non-transferable to another ministry although they may choose to sustain your credential if it meets their own church or ministry standards.

Once you have completed all your requirements for licensing you may apply for ordination.

Details of Ordination

Ordinations are granted in accordance to completion of the ODCCI licensing education requirements or equivalent.

You have been interviewed and accepted for candidacy by the Ordination and Licensing Committee.

You have 2 years experience of satisfactory ministry in a correctional institution.

You have completed three years or 90 credit units of related Bible education.

Vision International University - Chaplaincy Training Institute

Program of courses leading to Certificate/Degree in Chaplaincy Studies

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

This course is foundational in discovering the basic concepts of Christian Counseling and to increase skills and competence in counseling situations.

CRISIS COUNSELING

Presents the basic knowledge and counseling skills needed for crisis intervention at both a theoretical and practical level. Includes emphasis on the grief process.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING

Understanding the physical and behavioral characteristics of alcohol and other substance abusers. Resources and methods of helping addicts including 12 step models.

FAMILY VIOLENCE: CHILD AND SPOUSAL ABUSE

An examination of the psychological and theological aspects of family violence in its many forms. Special attention is given to those areas of child, spousal, sex and other forms of abuse.

CHRISTIAN LIFE

One aspect of the Christian life is to learn to live in harmony with the world. In this foundational course the key ingredients to gracious living are covered.

BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION

Provides clear understanding of the unique ministry opportunity in facilities from the standpoint of the: teacher, audience, preparation, content of the message, power giver, Holy Spirit.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

An in-depth study designed to prepare the minister for the actual conditions faced when walking into a rehab, jail, or prison setting, including extensive discussion of spiritual warfare principles.

INTRODUCTION TO CORRECTIONAL MINISTRY

An overview of the types of facilities in which ministry takes place, types of ministry being carried out, and opportunities for ministry within a facility and post-facility setting.

LEADERSHIP FOR CORRECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Personal development of Bibliocentric spiritual leadership qualities, and the proper application of those characteristics as they relate to others with whom you deal in the correctional facility.

AFTERCARE: DISCIPLING THE EX-OFFENDER

Why do they go back? This course discusses the topics including the preparation of inmates through pre-release programs, the first 30 days and long-term aftercare programs.

JUVENILE MINISTRY IN CORRECTIONAL SETTINGS

Correctional ministry to juveniles including ministry opportunities, distinctives required for effective ministry to youth, description of the existing facilities, and organizing the volunteer base.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

An investigation of the pastor's call, philosophy of ministry, orientation, definition of role, ethics, and spiritual life in connection with ministry to prisoners and their families.

Educational and Experience Requirements

Protestant Religious Volunteer - Overview

<p>Religious Volunteer All Religious Volunteers must complete an application form and agree with statement of faith, policy and procedures manual.</p>	<p>Hours needed to complete RV Training Minimum 50 Hrs.</p>
<p>Education San Diego Sheriff's Dept. Security Training Chaplains Training Class</p>	<p>3-Hours 6-Hours</p>
<p>Experience Worship Team -1 year minimum experience. Chaplain's experience in other correctional institution - 1 year minimum experience.</p>	<p>24 Hours experience inside a correctional facility 12 Hours</p>
<p>Supervised Ministry With Chaplain Total hours needed to be unsupervised = This is the minimum hours required. Supervising Chaplains may require extended hours.</p>	<p>30 Hours 50 Hours</p>
<p>Duties that fall under Religious Volunteer Church Monitor Bible Study Leader Religious Literature Distributor</p>	

Protestant Chaplain In Training-Overview

<p>Chaplain In Training All CITs must complete an application form and agree with statement of faith, policy and procedures manual.</p>	<p>Hours needed to complete CIT Training Minimum 80 Hrs.</p>
<p>Education San Diego Sheriff's Dept. Security Training Chaplains Training Class Presently enrolled in or completed 30 units of theology or related studies.</p>	<p>3-Hours Annually 8-Hours Annually 30 College Credits</p>
<p>Experience Worship Team Leader -1 year minimum experience. Chaplain's experience in other correctional institution - 1 year minimum experience.</p>	<p>Weekly/ monthly experience working inside a correctional facility</p>
<p>Credential Ordained/Licensed Minister, or written referral from their church stating that they are part of official church leadership and the designated jail minister.</p>	
<p>Supervised Ministry With Chaplain Total hours needed to be unsupervised = This is the minimum hours required. Supervising Chaplains may require extended hours.</p>	<p>30 Hours 50 Hours</p>
<p>Duties that fall under Chaplain In Training Church Monitor Bible Study Leader</p>	

Religious Literature Distributor	
Pray With Inmates	
Assist Chaplain With Counseling Inmates	

Protestant Chaplain - Overview

<p>Chaplain</p>	<p>Hours needed to be a chaplain. 280 Hours</p>
<p>Education Graduation from an accredited college with course in Theology, or an equivalent combination in training and experience.</p>	<p>3-Hours Annually 8-Hours Annually 30 College Credits</p>
<p>Experience Completed the Chaplain In Training Program 1 year experience in working in detention facility.</p>	<p>50 Hours 200 Hours (4hrs.x 52 weeks)</p>
<p>Credential Ordained or Licensed Minister,; or written referral from their church stating that they are part of official church leadership and the designated jail minister.</p>	
<p>Duties that fall under Chaplain Escort Church Volunteer Groups Oversee Worship Services Bible Study Leader (If Needed) Religious Literature Distribution Pray With Inmates One On One Counseling Inmates Oversee Clergy Visits Liaison With Community Clergy Maintain awareness of personal and facility security standards. Train and oversee religious volunteers Train and oversee Chaplains In Training</p>	

Protestant Facility Chaplain - Overview

<p>Facility Chaplain</p>	<p>Hours Needed</p>
<p>Experience Must meet all chaplain's requirements and have 2 year experience in working in detention facility as a chaplain.</p>	<p>400 Hours (4hrs.x 2 years)</p>
<p>Duties that fall under Facility Chaplain Escort Church Volunteer Groups Oversee Worship Services Bible Study Leader (If Needed) Oversee Bible Study Leaders Religious Literature Distribution Pray With Inmates One On One Counseling Inmates Oversee Clergy Visits Liaison With Community Clergy Maintain awareness of personal and facility security standards. Keep accurate records on volunteers and monthly schedules. Train and oversee religious volunteers Train and oversee chaplains.</p>	

Distributing and Raising Funds for Chaplains

ODCCI solicits funds for chaplains that have been accepted by the Board of Directors of the Corporation as Missionary Chaplains. Missionary Chaplains must have completed the ODCCI application form and have agreed to comply with the standards and by-laws of ODCCI. All Missionary Chaplains must agree with the ODCCI statement of faith. All chaplains will be asked to donate 7% off the top of all funds raised for personal or corporate support to alleviated office expenses of ODCCI. All Missionary Chaplains will be considered self-employed and must take responsibility for their State and Federal taxes for any monies accepted from ODCCI. ODCCI will process and send out year-end statements to contributors and an IRS 1099 form to all chaplains sponsored by ODCCI.

Short-Term Goal.

Raise support to pay for administrative chaplain and operating costs of ODCCI
Pay for travel expenses incurred by ODCCI part time chaplains.

Long-Term Goal

Establish at least one full time chaplain in each San Diego County Jail Correctional Facility.
ODCCI chaplains are required to 8-30 hours weekly to qualify for financial support.

Re-Entry Program

It has been evident to us that in order for the work of rehabilitation to successfully take place in an individual that two events need to happen in their life. First, that Jesus Christ has changed the individual from the inside and he or she has been born again spiritually. Secondly, that his or her physical or practical needs have to be met.

Our directory is designed to meet the spiritual and practical needs of men and women who have been incarcerated. We believe that if this book is used along with another book, the Bible, the whole man or woman can be rehabilitated. Our goal is to offer a support system for those who have been incarcerated so that they will not return to any type of correctional institution again. We believe that our ministry is having a significant impact in the lives of people who are affected by incarceration.

Most of our requests for help are from chaplains, pastors, and family members that are looking for Christ based programs. However we are not opposed to listing non-Christian resources. Secular referrals must have high standards and be organizations that are centered on the basic moral teachings of the Bible.

Not all organizations and churches in our directory represent the beliefs of mainline Christianity but we strive to only list quality organizations.

This directory is designed to be a "Yellow Pages" for Chaplains, not a doctrinal statement.

San Diego Re-Entry Prison And Jail Ministry Directory

Organizations are listed under the following categories:

- Alcohol & Drug Residential Programs
- Alcohol & Drug Support Groups
- Bible Study Aids & Correspondence
- Biblical Counseling
- Correctional Institutions & Chaplains
- Detoxification Services
- Emergency Aid
- Employment
- Homosexuality & Sexual Addiction - Support Groups
- Inmate Location Services
- Jail & Prison Ministries
- Jail and Prison Ministry Training Programs
- Juvenile Services
- Legal Aid
- Magazines and Newsletters
- Miscellaneous
- Pregnancy Support Ministries
- Research Library
- Residential Programs (Misc.)
- Writing Ministries (Pen Pals)

Each year we distribute between 300 to 500 directories. We usually take January 1st, to March 15th to update and research out new organizations to be included in that years San Diego directory. Applications are then sent out to each organization and followed up with a phone call. After confirmation for listing the information is entered into a database. Publication is scheduled to be completed by 1st quarter of each year.

National Re-Entry Directory on the Internet

We currently have a web page that is integrated with Microsoft Access databases listing all the resources in the San Diego Directory and listing our national resources that we acquire. Currently we have around 3500 listings of prison and jail ministries or related agencies. We take help requests generated by those who sign our guest book or send email and research out answers for problems and offer re-entry information. Additionally we are able to offer new visiting organizations the opportunity to fill out a submission form while on-line for listing their organizations in our directory.

Re-Entry Pre-Release Packet

This packet is offered to all inmates ready to be released from incarceration Paroling into San Diego. The packet includes a four-page list of re-entry resources and a pre-release questioner. Inmates are encouraged to write the ministries/agencies listed and then contact Re-Entry Prison and Jail Ministry on their progress. RPJM then assists inmates paroling into San Diego, as we are able. Inmates paroling into other states and cities are sent information to share with their chaplain or counselor on how to use our website to help with their transitioning needs.

Mentoring Men & Women In Recovery Homes, Jails And Prisons

We receive between one to four inquiries a day for help with re-entry services. Inquires range from:

- a. Inmates correspondence asking for re-entry help
- b. Ex-offenders calling for help after released
- c. Chaplains calling for help for inmates soon to be released
- d. Pastors calling for help for parishioners
- e. Family members of ex-offenders calling for help for loved ones
- f. Other related agencies calling for referrals.

We conduct weekly Celebrate Recovery meetings where we talk over the necessary steps to recover from life dominating problems that result in drug or alcohol abuse, crime and eventually incarceration.

Jail/Prison Ministry

Chaplain Art Lyons has been a correctional chaplain for 25 years and offers pre and post release counseling.

Pre and Post Release Workshops

We have workshops at different recovery homes and agencies to showcase these organizations for chaplains, pastors and colleges to familiarize attendees with the hosting organization. The following is the table of contents from our workshop manual.

Class One ~ Pre-Release Resources

- How To Use The Re-Entry Web Site
- Inmate Location Services
- National Directory
- San Diego Resources
- Pre-Release Questionnaire

Class Two ~ Family Coping Strategies

- Family Coping Strategies Questionnaire
- Ten Family Coping Strategies
- Three Dynamics to Recovery
- I. Spirituality - The closer to truth the better
- Steps to Salvation
- Empowerment
- Forgiveness
- II. Education - We can't teach what we don't know
- Entering the Time Machine
- Co-dependency
- Abuse
- Anger Management
- Signals of Rage
- Communication, Respect and Candidness
- Communication Techniques
- Conflict Resolution Techniques
- Love & Discipline
- III. Community – No one can stand alone

Class Three ~ Mentoring Inmates & Ex-Offenders

- Mentoring Questionnaire
- Types of Correctional Institutions in San Diego
- Inside Jail & Prison Ministry Contact Points
- Inmate & Ex-Offender Profile ~ Statistics & Background
- The Inmate To Whom You Minister To
- What You Minister
- How You Minister
- Have Resource Information Available
- Your Commitment
- Guidelines For Mentor's Personal Conduct Inside a Facility
- Security And Personal Decorum Guidelines
- Inside Ministry Training Manuals
- Suggestions When Working with Ex-offenders or Addicts

Structure Brings Freedom
Re-Entry and Recovery Discipleship Course
Contracts/Covenants
Basic Rules and Regulations of a Recovery Home
Mentoring Programs
CASA Report

Class Four ~ Three Dynamics Of Recovery

Three Dynamics Diagram
Three Dynamics For Re-Entry
Community
Education
Spirituality
Three Dynamics Worksheet
Spiritual Worksheet
Accountability Steps/Expectations for mentee/client
Educational Worksheet
Accountability Steps/Expectations for mentee/client
Community Worksheet
Accountability Steps/Expectations for mentee/client

Networking with the San Diego Community

We receive many phone calls and request from various Christian recovery groups and prison and jail ministries for help with their clientele. Below are listed agencies that have also written letters of recommendations:

Brother's Keepers	New Life Outreach Faith Tabernacle
Calvary Ranch	New Life Treatment Center
Cherokee Oaks Ministry	Pastors To Prisoners
Christian Counseling Educational Foundation	Praise Chapel Recovery Home
Christianity In Action	Core Ministries
Community Connection	Green Oak Ranch
Community Connection - East County	Prison Fellowship
Day Spring Biblical Counseling Center	San Diego County Jail Ministries
Green Oak Ranch	San Diego Sheriffs Department
Hope And Help Prison Ministry	The Most Excellent Way - San Diego
I Am New Life Ministries Ranch	The Most Excellent Way - National Office
In His Steps Christian Recovery Home	Uplift
Karios Prison Ministry	U-Turn For Christ
Kingdom Harvest Ministries	Welcome Home Ministries
Living Praise Ministries	World Wide Prison Ministries
M2 Prisoner Outreach	YFC - Youth For Christ
New Life Outreach	(And many others)

Participation on Other Organizations Boards

San Diego County Jail Ministries

Purpose and Duties: Chaplain Lyons is on the board of SDCJM to help with re-entry information. We work with over 80 churches that conduct Protestant worship services in the county jails. We are currently working to get a re-entry packet into the release program when an inmate is released. Please see Appendix A. for the Re-Entry Pre-Release Packet description.

The Most Excellent Way

Purpose and Duties: Chaplain Lyons is on the board to help them establish a recovery home. We also take part in promoting weekly meetings through out San Diego. We have over 20 meetings during the week.

All Care Prison Network

Purpose and Duties: Steering Committee Chair. We conducted quarterly luncheons networking prison and jail ministries through out San Diego County. We average forty people representing as many faith based ministries and agencies that attend each luncheon.

Impact on Community

It is hard to estimate the actual number of inmates or ex-offenders that this ministry directly affects but on the average there are 6,000 people incarcerated in the San Diego county jails and the same amount approximately incarcerated in the state and federal prisons in San Diego totaling around 12,000 inmates. The San Diego Sheriff's Department estimates that 114,000 inmates revolve through their system annually. We believe it is safe to assume that for every person who contacts us, there are at least 3-5 individuals are directly benefited by our association with the initial contact.

Nationally there are over 2.1 million people incarcerated in the USA. Currently there are more people incarcerated in California than in any foreign country. Many studies have been done to determine the recidivism rate of ex-offenders. Normally those percentages are documented around 40%. Studies on how religious programs, especially Christian based programs, have been conducted and have proven that inmates who have been influenced by Christian programs, that these inmates have a greatly reduced recidivism rate. Any correctional institution will acknowledge the need for quality religious organizations in their institutions and have seen the results in reducing the tension in a facility as well as the affect on recidivism.

Many of the organization listed under "Networking" are approved by the court systems to accept in inmate into their program as an alternative to incarceration. The courts acknowledge that many recovery residential programs work in rehabilitation and also reduce the amount of beds needed in the already overcrowded correctional institutions. We believe that RPJM plays a significant role in aiding in inmate in re-entering society and reducing the chances of an ex-offender re-entering the criminal justice system.

Biography

Art Lyons felt called to the ministry, after his conversion at the age of 20, which saved him from a life of drug abuse, alcoholism and periodic jail time. Five years later, in 1980, he graduated from the Horizon School of Evangelism (HSE), majoring in counseling and he has been in some type of full-time ministry (volunteer and professional) ever since. He currently divides his time between ministry in his local church and jail ministry. In his 25 years in the ministry, Art has been ordained and licensed with the following churches: Calvary Chapel, Cornerstone Christian Community, and Christian & Missionary Alliance, all in Chula Vista, California.

Although Art will admit he did not start out with a desire to work for the Lord in the correctional ministry, God has always opened doors for him there. Art ministered in California State prisons from 1980 to 1983 and served as a Chaplain with the San Diego Sheriff's Department for 17 years. Art has assisted in developing policies and procedures that govern the ministry of Chaplains in many correctional institutions in San Diego.

From 1980 to 1999, Art was an active member of the *San Diego County Jail Ministries* (SDCJM) and served on the Board as Director of Services, from 1997 through 1999. Also during that time, Art held a position on the Executive Board of the *Most Excellent Way* (TMEW), to offer his input and leadership skills regarding starting a recovery home, and to be an advisor for re-entry resources.

Art is founder and director of the non-profit organization called *Re-Entry Prison and Jail Ministry* (RPJM). RPJM provides for after-care in the San Diego area. He annually produces a Re-Entry Directory and maintains a national level web site that offers re-entry information with thousands of listings and resources that grow monthly.

Art was also the Chairman of *All Care Prison Network* from February 2001 to January 2005, which was established to offer a multi-faceted network of resources for those re-entering society after incarceration. Art is also the Executive Director for *Open Door Christian Chaplains, Inc.* (ODCCI). ODCCI is a non-profit corporation that provides training and financial assistance for correctional chaplains.

Art has completed the Institute of Chaplaincy Studies at Vision International University (VIU), and has earned a Bachelor's degree in Theological Studies from VIU. Art is currently combining his many years in the ministry with the completion of his Master's Degree in Counseling, also at VIU.