

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 27 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 served as a Chaplain with the San Diego Sheriff's Department for 17 years and 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 San Diego Re-Entry Resource Directory and maintains a San Diego specific web-site that offers re-entry information, and correctional ministry educational materials.

From 2000 to 2008, Art has been training and mentoring new chaplains with the necessary skills to have an effective ministry inside and outside of correctional facilities in San Diego County.

Art has completed the Institute of Chaplaincy Studies at Vision International University (VIU), has earned a Master's degree in Theological Studies & Counseling from VIU, and is currently completing a Doctorate in Ministry.