



Jail Ministry: A Mission Field in Our Backyard

Introducing Jail Ministry

Suggested Talking Points for the PowerPoint Presentation

If time allows a more extensive presentation, you may prefer to show one or both of the videos.

Slide 1

JAIL MINISTRY: A Mission Field in Our Backyard

The public often uses the term prison and jail interchangeably, but they are not the same. Jails are used to house people waiting for their case to be resolved or in most states, sentenced to less than a year. Prisons are used to house persons sentenced to one-year or more.

Slide 2:

Mass Incarceration

We live in the era of mass incarceration or over-incarceration. There are approximately 2.3 million people behind bars. The U.S. has less than 5% of the world's population, yet we have more than 20% of the incarcerated population.

Jails

- **In our backyard** - Virtually each of the more than 3000 counties in the U.S. have a local jail and hold more than 731,000 adults and youth. Most likely your county has a jail.
- **One in three incarcerated persons** are held in jails and more than 12 million people are processed through the jails.
- **High suicide rates** - Suicide in jails is an overlooked national crisis. The rate of suicide in local jails is far greater than that of state prisons and the American population in general.

Slide 3

Incarcerated People experience profound

- **Loss** of family, friends, custody of children, employment, housing, material possessions, and reputation to name a few of the losses.
- **Brokenness** of heart and spirit where they are looking for hope and healing and open to learning about God.
- **Shame** - Feeling unworthy of love, forgiveness and acceptance.

Slide 4

Most Incarcerated People have experienced

- **Trauma** – Reports indicate that 77-98% of the incarcerated have experienced interpersonal violence and/or physical/sexual abuse.
- **Addictions** – 68% of those in jail custody report having symptoms of drug or alcohol dependence/abuse.
- **Mental Illness** – 63% of jail residents have mental health problems.

Slide 5

Children with an Incarcerated Parent

- **More than 2.7 million children** in the U.S. have an incarcerated parent. That equals 1 in 28 children.
- That equals **1 in 28** children.
- **Approximately half of these children are under the age of 10**

Slide 6

Feelings and Impact on Children

- **Fear and Anxiety** – wondering where mom or dad is and if they are safe
- **Disruptive living conditions** – living with a relative or placed in foster care
- **Lack of contact with incarcerated parent** – women, more than men receive fewer visits. Parents may not want their children to know where they are, and phone calls are expensive.
- **Shame and Stigma** – the children feel shame of having a parent behind bars and may be labeled by others.

Slide 7

This slide should be specific to your county jail. The slide is given as an example.

Cook County Jail

- **Population:** 5900 in jail custody, a capacity of 10,000
- **About 100,000 people circulate through Cook County Jail annually**
- **Incarceration rate 238.3 per 1000,000**
(This rate can be obtained by accessing <http://trends.vera.org/incarceration-rates?data=localJail&geography=counties>)

Slide 8

Cook County Jail Residents

Males

Females

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 67% African American • 21% Hispanic • 13% Caucasian • Average age is 33 years old • 85% are single | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 68% African American 20% Hispanic/Other 14% Caucasian Average age is 34 years old 86% single |
|--|--|

Slide 9

(This is optional information but may be helpful to people who think that everyone behind bars is violent).

Cook County Jail Offense Types

28.7% Violent (includes harming a person) This represents less than a third of those in custody.

17.9% Property

26.9% Drug

15.4% DUI

2.2% Sex

Other and Unknown

You have been introduced to the people in the jail mission field

Slide 10

The Church has the Answer for those in custody and for reducing the crime rate in our county.

Slide 11

- The Church can bring **HOPE and HEALING** by showing and sharing **the LOVE OF CHRIST**

Slide 12

- **Jesus said... *Go and make disciples of all nations* - Matthew 28:19**
- **Jesus said ... *Love your neighbor as yourself* -Mark 12:31**

This is the great commission and the great commandment.

Slide 13

Jesus specifically lists ministering with those who are incarcerated and meeting basic needs when released from incarceration.

Jesus said....

“For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in; naked and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison,

and you came to Me. . . Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.”

Matthew 25:35,36,40

Slide 14

The Church can make a difference in the lives of those society wants to forget.

Slide 15

We have established the need and biblical foundation, now let's look at Jail Ministry.

What is Jail Ministry?

Slide 16

Jail Ministry is providing *compassionate holistic care* through the transforming message of *the gospel* with those who are *justice-involved*. Justice involved includes those in jail, released from jail, their families, and victims.

Slide 17

What is God calling you to do?

Slide 18

(Insert information to guide congregants in the next steps to get involved.)

Next Steps

- **PRAY** – How does God want you to participate in jail ministry?
- **MINISTRY CONTACT** (Kati Williams, kwill@gmail.com)
- **MEETING (January 15 at 7pm/Community Church)** This meeting is for everyone interested in serving in our jail.
- **MINISTRY NEEDS (One-on-One Bibles)**. One-on-one visits and purchasing and delivering bibles.

Slide 19

If you are interested in learning more about jail ministry, visit the Lausanne North America that's www.lausannena.org for tools.

A Toolkit for Churches

- **A Guide for Starting a Jail Ministry**
- **Communication Tools**
- **Trainings**
- **National Organizations**
- **Resources**

Thank you.