



# Network News

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ADVENTIST PRISON VOLUNTEER NETWORK

APRIL 2006

Volume 2

*"Verily I say  
unto you,  
Inasmuch as  
ye have done  
it unto one of  
the least of  
these my  
brethren, ye  
have done it  
unto me."*

- When your only  
tool is a  
hammer, every  
problem looks  
like a nail. -  
Unknown*
- Do not look  
where you fell,  
but where you  
slipped. -  
African Proverb*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- **Bike Rodeo in Prison . . . The Bike is the Bait!**
- **Woman! Wearing the Title of "Inmate".**
- **VOLUNTEERS! How Important Are They?**

## FROM ELDER JOHNSON

Hello, fellow Prison Ministers! I greet you in the Name of Our Lord who promises that "He is always with us" (Matthew 28:20)!

It is my privilege to continue our discussion of some things we can do to assist others along the path of understanding the power and value of doing and/or supporting Prison Ministry. MINDSET, as The Wise Man indicates, is a first step toward the achievement of any noble purpose.

Therefore, as we indicate that Prison Ministry is a necessary, equal, and viable component of the total ministry of Jesus, let us assist our friends and neighbors by showing that Prison Ministry was the last ministerial function performed by Jesus before His death on The Cross, thus underscoring the significance of this ministry. This reality will of itself begin the process of assisting listeners in the process of awakening to the fact that Prison Ministry is a positive, front line Ministry that is worthy of their participation and support.

We need all the good help we can get! I will share more on this subject in coming issues. May Our Lord keep on speaking His peace and power upon your ministry, and to those that dwell under your roof.

MARANATHA!

JAJ II

## MEET THE DIRECTORS

Each issue of *Network News* will feature a Local Conference or Union Prison Ministry Director.

Welcome Joan Green to "Meet the Directors." She's the Director of Sabbath School, Personal and Prison Ministries, for the Idaho Conference, Boise, Idaho. I called her at her office - what a lively gabfest we had, and Joan sounds like a joy of a person to know. Not only is Joan one of our newest Directors, but she says, "I've gotten involved in so many different types of ministries these days; Vacation Bible School (VBS), Women's Ministries, Short Term Mission Trips, and Child Evangelism.

Joan was an active Prison Minister for about four years. She organized and

coordinated a Prison Ministry group that visited two different facilities, the Farm and the Medium/Maximum Facility near Boise. The team ministered in those facilities one Sabbath a month. But in the position Joan now holds, she does more "leg work" than anything else – and calls herself a "resource person." She's in close contact with people who are more directly involved in Prison Ministry, such as Volunteers, and Parole Officers. But soon she's going back to visit in one of the prisons – Snake River Correctional Institution with David and Karen Ronk, who are great and active Prison Ministers.

"In Prison Ministry," Joan says, "the needs seem to be far beyond the attention it is receiving." She's not sure where the problem lies – but she believes there are a "variety of reasons" this ministry is somewhat "neglected."

Green doesn't know how individual churches are promoting the need for involvement in Prison Ministry, but from a Conference standpoint, she is "aware of" and sees the "need for" and is in "favor of" involvement in Prison Ministry.

Who'll be next? Directors, look for your personal call or e-mail from the editor. It's coming!



#### WHAT'S HOT!

Bikers, Dan and Priscilla Jones from Saint Louis, Missouri.

This husband and wife are members of the Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA). They have been riding with CMA for five years. Now for us who are not familiar with CMA (me, included) – here's a little something about

them. CMA is not a club. It's a ministry!

Their **Vision**: "Changing the world, one heart at a time." Their **Goal**: To make ministers of their members. Along with being involved in motorcycling events across the country, they are involved in taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ into America's prisons. WOW!

Dan Jones has been doing Prison Ministry for 10 years. A friend got him started in Prison Ministry in some small town, somewhere in these United States. From then on, Dan has been involved and loves it.

He joined CMA so he could witness more. He and his wife, Priscilla, ride out in evenings where kids "hang out" and pass out tracts and Bibles. Sharing a little of Jesus! (Priscilla has her own bike. You, go, Girl!)

They take their bikes "off the streets" and "into the prison." They ride over to Arkansas each month, visiting a different prison. They ride over on a Thursday afternoon, fellowshipping with the inmates, and then at night they hold a service – sharing Christ.

A "Bike Rodeo" is put on for the inmates. The bikers have a slow race – two bikers riding side-by-side for 60 feet – seeing who can go the slowest, with a balloon over the bike, and the bikers trying to catch it. All the while the bikers are going - S - L - O - W.

Dan says, "A lot of times when we take the bikes in on a Sabbath, the inmates will come out – they may not talk to us – they're just 'eyeing' the bikes. Then they'll start talking – that's when we share Christ with them. **The bike is the bait!**" If you're a "wanna-be" biker or a biker who wants to do more than "just ride" –contact Dan at [dcma1@cdsinet.net](mailto:dcma1@cdsinet.net) – he'll be glad to talk with you, and get you "rolling."

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## Q & A

### Who makes up the greater percentage of today's prison population than ever before?

WOMEN! Since 1977, the population of all prisoners sentenced under state or federal jurisdiction has grown tremendously. Men continue to make up the bulk of the prison population, but the rate of female incarceration is growing at a much faster pace. The population of women in prison is now as large as the population of the city of Trenton, New Jersey. Between 1977 and 2001:

- The population of all prisoners grew by **348%** - from 300,024 in 1977 to 1,344,512 in 2001.
- The population of female prisoners grew by **592%** - from 12,279 in 1977 to 85,031 in 2001.
- The population of male prisoners grew by **338%** - 287,745 in 1977 to 1,259,481 in 2001.

The increase in female incarceration has significant consequences for the criminal justice system, families, and neighborhoods.

Taken from Women's Prison Association. WPA Focus on Women & Justice. *Trends in Incarceration 1*, August 2003.

### VOLUNTEERS

There's a **Volunteer** who goes to a local prison and spends a "few moments" with an inmate – just to give some encouragement.

There's a husband and wife **Volunteer Team** who travel to see an inmate in a Texas prison. They bring him smiles, words of cheer, along with books to read. Many of the members of the Volunteers' church send Christmas cards and notes to the inmate - helping to keep his spirits up. He answers all the notes and cards.

There's a **Volunteer** who stays up late at night correcting Bible lessons from inmates across the United States. The **Volunteer** writes a note on each lesson encouraging the inmate to be faithful to God, knowing, perhaps, they will never meet here on this earth – but looking forward to meeting in Heaven.

As a **Volunteer**, you assume certain responsibilities – responsibilities that demand loyalty to the facility where you volunteer, and to the inmates, as well. They come to depend on you.

Many of you reading this are **Volunteers**. We thank you. If you're not volunteering, maybe now is the time to contact your Church or Community Volunteer Coordinator and get busy. Your services are needed. Please, get involved! Become a **Volunteer**, today!

### "INMATE SPIRITUAL COUNSELING" CURRICULUM SEGMENTS

"Inmate Spiritual Counseling" with an emphasis on Volunteer Prison Chaplaincy, is the new training curriculum for those who are very serious about updating their prison ministry skills. The 46-hour course is offered by the North American Division Academy of Continuing Education, and will be conducted in association with the International Institute of Christian Ministry of the General Conference Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department, which has a direct relationship with Griggs University. Continuing Education Credit is a possibility for college credit in the future.

**Curriculum Segment Highlights: Criminal Justice Overview.** This is a summary of the sociological components that make up the Criminal Justice System. An integration of the police, courts, and corrections in the arrest and sentencing, classification, security levels, statistical criminal analysis, and court processes.

This Module will help the student to understand the basic fundamentals in the Criminal Justice process from the initial arrest by the police officer, through the sentencing process; assignment to a correctional facility or jail facility, and the issues that inmates face in confinement facilities.

**Criminal Justice Overview** will also acquaint the student with the fundamental workings of the Criminal Justice System. Some of the topics that assignments will cover are: Levels of Security; Criminal Case Processing Statistics, and Kinds of Corrections.

Each issue of **Network News** will feature a segment from this 17 Module Curriculum. We, at the North American Division Adult Ministries Academy of Continuing Education, encourage our readers to enroll. Call Carol at 301.680.6430 or click on to [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) for registration information.

### RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS

**No Time to Play: Youthful Offenders in Adult Correctional Systems.** *Barry Glick, Ph.D. and William Sturgeon, M.A. with Charles R. Venator-Santiago.* **No Time to Play** provides fundamental knowledge for policymakers, administrators, managers, supervisors, and direct line staff to apply to their current and future situations. It also provides basic information about adolescent development, and the organization, administration, and management issues that need to be addressed when providing programs and serves to the violent youthful offender. Specific programs and services required for violent youthful offenders with special needs are also considered. #221-WS6 – nonmembers \$25.00 – ACA members \$20.00. Order by fax – 301.918.1886. **Criminal Justice: Retribution vs. Restoration.** *Eleanor Hannon Judah & Rev. Michael Bryant, Editors.* This book provides new answers and conventional suggestions addressing America's overcrowded prisons and jails, high recidivism rates, and weakened family and community relationships with ex-prisoners. This groundbreaking book introduces encouraging, therapeutic approaches to criminal justice that include treatment, rehabilitation, and the direct involvement of the victims, the families, and the communities. #940-WS6 - \$29.95 – no discount. Order by phone 1.800.222.5646, ext. 1860. **The Holy Bible.** Still good reading. Available at all book stores. Prices vary.



### HAPPENINGS

**The Dress Out Program.** For the inmate being released from prison, this program does several things:

1. It gives inmates with no funds decent clothes upon release – helping them to be outfitted for society.
2. It helps them to feel a little better about themselves.

**Remedial Reading** – is where the Bible is used as a text book. The inmate is not only being taught to read, but it leads the inmate to Jesus.

Contact Don McClure at: [www.sdapmsomeonecares.org](http://www.sdapmsomeonecares.org).

## MINISTRY BLESSING/SUCCESS STORY

Tameca Cole is at a turning point in her life. The 33-year-old Birmingham native is one month out of the Julia Tutwiller Prison for Women in Wetumpka. She was paroled after serving 13 years for her role in a drug-related homicide.

Tutwiller currently houses 932 inmates who, along with 299 other women in State Department of Corrections custody, make up part of an ever-growing trend – women behind bars!

In 1994, just three years into Cole's sentence, Alabama prisons had 1,214 women incarcerated, statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice show. By the end of 2003, the number had nearly doubled, to 2,003. In just three years, since the end of 2000, the number of women in Alabama prisons jumped 28.7 percent, from 1,556 to 2,003.

The problem is not a regional one. Across the nation in 2003, there were 101,179 women in prison, a 8.5 percent jump from 2000, when there were only 93,234.

Drug and alcohol addictions contribute to the numbers of women in prison. Most women are caught for property crimes, burglaries, and thefts to feed their habits. But some, like Cole, are in prison for violent offenses.

Cole, who was 20 when she was incarcerated, said prison was not something she'd expected to find in her life. "I don't guess no one ever thinks they're going to end up in prison," Cole said. "But it was kind of a mixed blessing."

Cole said her mother, who had alcohol and drug problems, used her going to jail as a reason to get clean. Her father, who was living in California at the time, moved back to Alabama.

She said her parents are proud of the forward movement she's made in the past several years. While in prison, Cole studied to become a certified electronic technician.

Due for release from the LifeTech Transitional Center – just down the road from Tutwiller – she already has jobs lined up.

Cole said she is also working on a book of poetry. A talent she discovered while in prison.

## BEST PRACTICE TIPS

### Guidelines for Volunteers

- **Get acquainted with the personnel with whom you will be working with.**
- **Do not criticize what you do not understand. Ask for an explanation.**
- **Be truly interested in your volunteer work and the people with whom you are working with.**
- **Ask questions about what constitutes contraband or what should be considered confidential. Ask a staff person.**
- **Be well-focused on your particular duties. Concentrate on how you can best fulfill them.**
- **Don't be afraid to ask questions.**

*North Carolina Department of Correction. Source: Internet.*

### **HELP THE NETWORK GROW**

Calling all our readers! Please ask your friends to sign on to *The Network*. Feel free to forward the newsletters to people on your e-mail list. The newsletters are archived on our Web site [www.nadadultministries.org](http://www.nadadultministries.org) - just keep us posted on how many people you forward **Network News** to. Thanks for keeping *The Network* growing!

### **EDITOR'S P.S.**

More women are wearing the title of Inmate. Reading the *Women's Prison Association* fact sheet regarding female inmates, and I'm quoting, "The yearly rate of growth for women is 1.5 times higher than the rate of growth for men." That troubled me when I read that.

What's happening to our Families? Churches? Communities? Society at large? Maybe I should ask, "What's **NOT** happening to **cause** this growth in female incarceration? Are we caring enough?"

Permit me to leave you with two thought questions – and hopefully, we'll get some answers, some feedback.

Question #1: Is there anything you can **DO** to help keep a woman, a young girl, a child from going to prison?

Question #2: Is there anything being **DONE** to keep a woman, a young girl, a child from going to prison?

Someone out there, not only has the answer to these questions, but you're **DOING** something about it. And someone out there needs to **KNOW** what you're doing, because they need **HELP**, and they need it badly. Something needs to be done! Tell me what **YOU'RE** doing.

Emily Kimbrough wrote, "Remember, we all stumble, every one of us. That's why it's a comfort to go hand in hand.

We're interested. Talk to us! The ball's in your court!

The Network wants to help an active **Church-based Prison Ministry**. The first Prison Ministry to respond to our office by **e-mail**, will receive a \$500 grant.

I'm out of here.

CB

We're still waiting to hear who you are forwarding this newsletter to. Send me names and e-mail addresses – [carol.barron@nad.adventist.org](mailto:carol.barron@nad.adventist.org). Thanks!

