

Jail Ministry Team Information

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Cell Phone _____

Home phone _____

Approximately how many hours do you feel you can give to jail ministries in a month? _____

We don't expect you to be available all the listed times but it is helpful if I know what are the best times for you to assist in the jail ministries. Just note the hours that you could be available on the days you would be available. We realize we all will have changes in our schedules.

	Afternoons	Evenings
Monday	_____	_____
Tuesday	_____	_____
Wednesday	_____	_____
Thursday	_____	_____
Friday	_____	_____
Saturday	_____	_____

Have you visited anyone in jail or do you have any jail ministry experience?

Are there areas that you feel you need help with?

Please return to: Pastor Bruce Anderson
3508 Prairie Gardens Pl
Sioux Falls, SD 57110
Email: bruceanderson@me.com

Ministering To Those In Jail Is Blessed by God

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:37-40

Ministering to prisoners at the county jail is a God given ministry and a privilege that is granted us by the county Sheriff and the jail staff. We must demonstrate to them that we are willing to cooperate with their security concerns. Respect those in authority. They are responsible for the inmates and your personal safety. We must adhere to the following guidelines:

PLEASE DO BRING:

- A prayerful spirit and be ready to represent the Love of Christ for the glory of Christ.
- A positive attitude, regular prayer and concern for these people.
- Your own Bible, if you wish, but do not leave it or give any other material to prisoners without permission.
- Bring respect and consideration for the inmates and for their needs.
- A cooperative attitude toward the jailers and toward their security concerns.

PLEASE DO:

- Put purses and contents of pockets in the locker.
- Watch Bible translations that the prisoners are using. It is usually best to avoid KJV.
- Every time you meet with a group try to present the basic Gospel in some way. Keep them varied: your testimony, tracts, leaflets etc.
- Don't ask prisoners about their crimes but when possible try to find out how long the prisoner expects they will be in our jail. This is especially important if you are distributing a book in the Bible study. When a person leaves the jail they may take their own books out of the jail but other institutions will not allow them to take them in. The only way to get a book in another institution is to purchase it and have it sent directly from a bookstore or publisher to the inmate.
- Keep your leader or Pastor Bruce posted on availability and changes of schedule. Call Pastor Bruce or your leader if you cannot attend one week
- Ask before entering an inmate's living area or sitting on their furniture. This is their home.
- FOLLOW YOUR TEAM LEADER'S DIRECTIVES. This is a 'MUST DO'!

BE WISE AND CAUTIOUS

- Show respect for those in authority and be careful not to cause them extra work.
- About physical contacts beyond handshakes.
- **Hugs to the opposite sex are not appropriate.**
- Bible study leaders are not permitted to serve as character witness for inmates.
- No contact beyond ministry needs is allowed between inmates and clergy or Bible study leaders while an inmate is incarcerated.
- Wash hands before leaving the lobby

DO NOT BRING:

- Do not bring messages in or carry messages out for inmates.
- Do not write letters to individuals for or in behalf of an inmate.
- Do not make phone calls for inmates.
- Do not bring in mail or take mail out for inmates.
- Do not bring in books (paperback or hard cover), or other materials in without prior approval from Pastor Bruce

DO NOT:

- Do not give pens to inmates. They should provide their own pencils.
- Do not bring in cell phones, cameras, pocket knives or recorders into the jail.
- Do not give inmates your phone numbers or your address.
- Do not get involved with inmates financially.
- Do not give inmates advice about medications.
- Do not allow yourself to get drawn into criticisms of the facilities, food or staff.
- Do not make promises to inmates that you are not prepared to keep.
- Do not attack or criticize other "faiths" or "lifestyles". Stay focused on a positive presentation of the love of Christ and the Gospel.
- Do not argue with anyone. You may find it helpful to say, "Let's stick with the Word of God."
- Do not allow a tough question to paralyze you. Ask for help.
- Do not run in the jail.

This list of dos and don'ts is long so it is almost laughable to say: 'Learn to relax and be yourself with the prisoners.' Never argue. Listen twice as much as you talk. The dos and don'ts are for your protection and so that you will be successful in demonstrating the love of Christ in the jail environment.

Rev 6/11/10

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God." Philipians 1:9-11

WHAT IS OUR ROLE?

1. To represent the mercy of Christ in patient love.
2. To help them face God and themselves humbly and honestly.
3. To help them understand and get beyond the lies they have accepted that have contributed to their troubles.

I am willing to serve the Lord and follow these guidelines in the jail.

Please sign _____ Date

Please return to: Pastor Bruce Anderson
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Sioux Falls, SD 57110
Email: bruceanderson@me.com

Jail Ministry Goals and Guidelines

Bruce Anderson

Our Goal is to help each person take their steps as a follower of Christ, growing in Christ likeness, serving Christ for His Glory.

“Give first priority to Jesus Christ and the values of His kingdom and everything else will turn out all right.”

Matthew 6:33, Translated by Carl Lundquist

1. Help us understand the Bible as the most important guide in our lives.
2. Help us understand better ways to read and study the Bible in order to apply its truth to our lives.
3. Help us understand and experience prayer as the language of a personal relationship that guides our lives.
4. Help us face our character frontiers and courageously repent and make changes in our value system, attitudes, and actions.
5. Help us learn the importance of choices and clear commitments to follow Jesus Christ.
6. Help us interact on faith issues and share our faith with others.

In order to accomplish our goal we need to get to know our friends as quickly as possible.

- How much do they know about the Bible? If the Bible is new to them suggest they start reading in the Gospel of John
- Do they have a church background? Be careful about how you ask this.
- How well do they read and are they comfortable talking and reading in a group?
- Be keenly sensitive to clues that will help you understand others.

OUR GUIDELINES:

1. Every time your group meets make some presentation of the basic Gospel of Jesus Christ and explain how a person makes a commitment to Christ as Savior and Lord.

Using the "Four Spiritual Laws", perhaps your testimony or something that is related to the passage that you are studying can do this.

2. Keep directing the conversation back to the authority of Scripture.

Be ready to graciously challenge statements that are contrary to the teaching of the Bible. You don't have to agree with the statements but be ready to say something like, "we like to stick with what the Bible says" and then lead them to a passage that deals with the subject they have introduced.

Our goal is to help people become followers of Christ not, Baptists. If they ask what Church you attend then tell them but add, "we are not here to make Baptists, we are here to help you understand what it means to follow Christ."

We do not tolerate bashing other religious beliefs or groups.

3. Don't allow someone to silence you.

If you are not sure how to answer a question or leads them to a passage that helps them understand what the Bible says on a subject or question that someone has raised. You may respond with something like, "I don't believe that is what the Bible teaches, let me think about that and see if I can't come up with some Scripture that deals with that question. There is nothing wrong with saying I don't have a complete answer right now." It is much better to be honest and search out an answer later by saying, "I will see if I can't find a better answer later."

Come to the next meeting ready to say, "I have some passages that I want to share with you about the question that was raised, let's talk about that at the end of our study."

4. Don't allow someone's question or debate to dominate the whole meeting.

Don't start a meeting with an answer to a question. Deal with it at the end of the meeting. Keep the group on the track that you have established.

Are there special needs in this person's life, emotional, mental etc.?

If there are special needs or questions call Chaplain Bruce Anderson 310-3418.

5. In order to accomplish these goals we must be good listener leaders.

Make it a personal guideline that you would not speak more than one third of the time, allowing you to understand your friends and their thinking better. Keep the focus on Scripture, the books, or passages they have been studying. This will be hard in the beginning with a group but remember we are not primarily lecturing. We are seeking to help them interact with Scripture and apply it to their thinking patterns, values, attitudes, and actions.

Consider your questions carefully they are keys to opening a group and helping you understand their needs.