

**POTOMAC CONFERENCE**

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**PRISON MINISTRY**

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# MISSION STATEMENT

"We exist, by the grace of Christ, to transform and restore the lives of inmates, returning citizens and their families."

"Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them."  
Heb. 13.3

*"Ministry to men in prison is another activity of sufficient importance to come up for consideration in the final judgment (see Matt. 25:36). As elsewhere in scripture (see 1 Cor. 9:22), the principle is here set forth that the Christian should endeavor to think of himself as being in the same circumstances as any person he finds in need and minister to him accordingly, in harmony with the golden rule.  
(see Matt. 7:12)*

*(Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary on the book of Hebrews, page 490)*



# MISSION OBJECTIVES

1

Potomac Conference Prison Ministry Teams serves in areas like jails, prisons, and detention centers assisting chaplains in meeting the spiritual needs of inmates and staff throughout the Potomac Conference territory.

2

Potomac Conference Prison Ministry Teams through the Holy Spirit team members encourage inmates, former inmates, and members of their families to become Christ's disciples and responsible members of His church and community.

3

Potomac Conference Prison Ministry Teams provides re-entry and family ministry services to meet the social and spiritual needs of individuals recently released from incarceration and to the families of prisoners.

4

Potomac Conference Prison Ministry provides training, recognition, and support for Christian fellowship, to ensure all volunteers members are efficient, effective, and knowledgeable.



**1**

Potomac Conference Prison Ministry provides comprehensive prison ministry training to all team members.

**2**

PCPM provides free consultation and assistance to churches of the Potomac Conference in developing and/ or maintaining a prison ministry program. Our volunteers are expected to reflect Christ-like character and to follow the instructions of the institution.



## **HOW DO WE CARRY OUT OUR MISSION?**

**3**

Potomac Conference Prison Ministry holds Conference-wide and regional meetings that provide opportunities to fellowship, growth in God's work, and share best practices.

**4**

Potomac Conference Prison Ministry provides speakers (at no charge), for the Sabbath Worship Service, to churches throughout Potomac Conference, on a Sabbath that has been designated to promote Prison Missionary Day.

## GOALS AND OBJETIVES

Potomac Conference Prison Ministry goals and objectives are simple and straightforward and are shared through volunteers, family ministries, re-entry councils letter writing, and other support functions of prison ministries.

### THE SPIRITUAL GOALS:

To present the Gospel  
of Jesus Christ



To share the meaning  
of faith



To share the love of  
God



To show the power of  
prayer



06  
JULY



**Potomac  
Conference Prison  
Ministry Volunteers**  
members desirous of  
becoming jail and  
prison missionaries  
must first be  
committed to God  
and “called” by Him.  
If Jesus has truly  
called you to this  
Ministry, He has  
already started to  
prepare you by  
giving you the  
following  
qualifications for  
service:



- ✓ A Sense of Mission. An awareness of just how important this work is to God, and the willingness to give it a priority (at the times designated for it) in your life. (1 Kings 8:61)
- ✓ **A Desire for Spiritual Growth. You must not only lead inmates to new spiritual growth but must also be willing and anxious to continuously grow yourself. (Ephesians 4:15)**
- ✓ A belief in the power of Prayer. You must believe that God can be moved into action by the “effectual (unceasing) fervent” prayers of His people (James 5:16).
- ✓ **A Kind compassionate spirit. You must be able to be kind in all your dealings with your fellow man. (Matthew 14:14)**

## Step 1

**Potomac Conference Prison Ministry believes that as an Organization the following steps are necessary for starting and maintaining a successful Prison Ministry program.**

Contact the Potomac Conference Prison Ministry (PCPM), by e-mail, to find out the name and telephone number of your Prison Ministry English/Spanish Coordinator, who will be able to tell you about the jail or prison nearest to your Church and if there is a Seventh-day Adventist Prison Evangelism Team already operating in that jail or prison



## Step 2

Meet with Pastor to discuss the feasibility of establishing a prison ministry team. Follow up this with building a team and contacting the English/Spanish coordinator for training, and any other assistance your team needs.





## Step 3

After securing the pastor's support, ask the Area Director to assist you in planning this "Prison Ministry Day" that should involve him/her, or a PCPM representative. Speaking during the divine service. Then after lunch conduct a prison ministry orientation. After the orientation, those church members present that are still interested in organizing a team should set an organizational meeting date. (The date should be at least 2 Weeks later, and ensuring the English/Spanish coordinator, or a PCPM representative, can make it.)



## Step 4

Put an announcement in your church bulletin requesting church members interested in being a part of the prison ministry team to meet with.



## Step 5

Complete a “Volunteer Questionnaire” that will help in determining who is interested in doing what on the team.

Then, let the Area Director or representative assist in organizing the team.



## Step 6

If there is an Adventist team operating in the jail or prison nearest to your church, simply request permission, from them, for your team to be cleared to work with them. Otherwise, ask your pastor to submit a proposal to the jail or prison top administrator, who will either act on it or refer the pastor to the appropriate staff person. (The Area Director is available to assist in preparing the proposal.)



## Step 7

After one week, you or the team leader should call to find out the status of the proposal push for a meeting (preferably over lunch) to discuss it. However, don't be "too pushy". Remember that you are trying to get the door open. (The Area Director will help you prepare for the call and the meeting.)



## Step 8

Organize a Prison Ministry Team can vary anywhere from two or more persons.



# WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PRISON MINISTRY

## Letter Writing:



This means the Re-entry and Family Ministry coordinators will be responsible for matching persons outside with prisoners as pen friends while keeping a log of all pen friends.

## Re-entry and Family Ministry:



The Re-entry and Family Ministry coordinator shall serve as coordinators of the PCPM Re-entry and Family Ministry Network, and therefore has ultimate responsibility for providing services through that network to families of prisoners and former prisoners.

## Literature Distribution



The literature distribution coordinator shall have responsibility for ordering all Bibles and/or other literature, other than that donated by each church's Personal Ministries Department, for use in the varied institutions serviced by PCPM. The literature distribution coordinator shall maintain a supply of Bibles and literature to mail, when necessary, to prisoners and their families.

# WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PRISON MINISTRY

## Institutional Coordinator(s)



This person is needed if more than one institution is visited by the team. He/she implements the overall agreed-upon program. Institutional coordinators shall have responsibility directly or indirectly, through the assistant institutional coordinator, for supervising the volunteers servicing the institution during worship services, Bible study classes, etc.

## Video Conference



Provide the opportunity for family members to see and talk to loved ones through live video in your church

## Prayer Warriors



Members of your church praying for inmates and their families who are coming up for parole



# WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PRISON MINISTRY

## Podcasting



Providing Christ-center messages to be sent out to prisons and detention centers

## Angel Tree



STRENGTHENING BONDS,  
SUPPORTING FAMILIES  
Prison Fellowship Angel Tree equips churches to strengthen relationships between incarcerated parents and their children and support the families of prisoners year-round.

## Social Media



Posting on Facebook, twitter and blogging

# WHERE TO START?



## PRAYER

Ask the Holy Spirit  
to order your  
steps



## PLANNING

Organization and  
training is key We are  
here to assist you



## IMPLEMENTATION

Let the work begin,  
we have tools and  
resources

# CONTACT US

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*Our new web site provides additionnai information and serve as a tool to request training and or sign up for the any areas of prison Ministry.*



<https://pcpmsda.org/>