

Levers of Change for Justice that Restores

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“/”

...what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

MICAH 6:8



Matthew Charles

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The Problem

The Scope



1.8
MILLION
MEN & WOMEN ARE
INCARCERATED



450K
WILL RETURN TO
COMMUNITIES
EACH YEAR



3.7
MILLION
MEN & WOMEN ARE
UNDER THE OVERSIGHT
OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS



44K
COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES
IMPEDE THE SUCCESS OF
70 MILLION
AMERICANS
WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD



2 of 3
RETURN
TO PRISON

1 in 27 children
have a parent who is
incarcerated,

BUT THAT GOES DOWN TO

1 in 9 among
Black children.



The Problem: Racial Injustice

Engagement with Criminal Justice System

Black Americans make up 13% of the U.S. population, but **27% of total arrests, 32% of prisoners, and 28% of parolees.**

Engagement with the Police

Communities of color are subject to **higher-than-average rates** of traffic stops, police searches, and threat or use of violence.

Sentencing

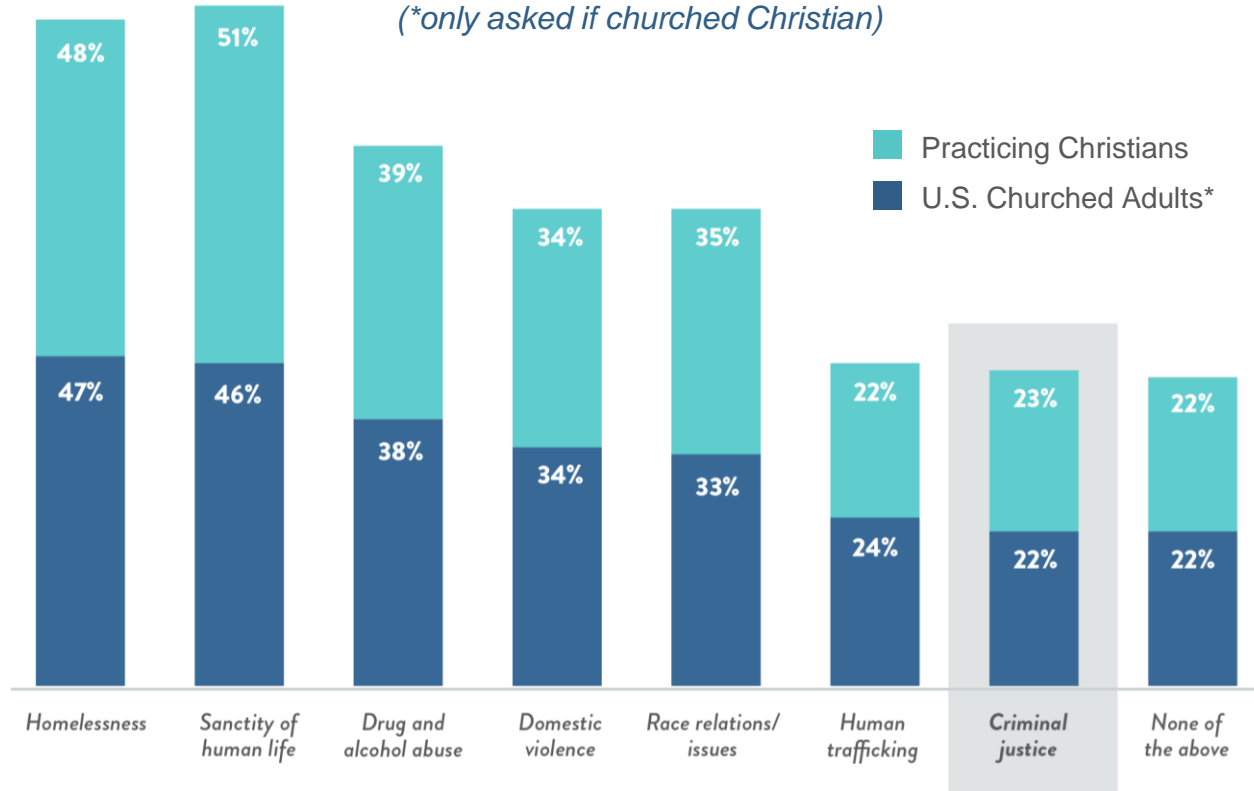
When convicted, black residents are often subjected to **harsher than average sentences** and less likely to receive any form of reduced sentence, charge, or plea agreement, when compared to similarly situated individuals of other races.

Imprisonment

In 2021, the imprisonment rate of black males was **nearly 6 times the rate** of white males and the imprisonment rate of black females was **twice the rate** of white females.

Is your church engaged in raising awareness among its congregants on any of the following issues? Check all that apply.

(*only asked if churched Christian)



Fielded by Barna Group for Prison Fellowship in April-May 2021

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The Solution

Faith in Action

“”

Learn to do good;
seek justice,
correct oppression.

ISAIAH 1:17

“”

Open your mouth,
judge righteously,
defend the rights of
the poor and needy.

PROVERBS 31:9

What We Do

Restore Prisoners.

Our biblically based programs and training help men and women participate in a positive community behind bars, discover new paths for their lives, and continue in the freedom of a transformed life.

Equip Leaders. Transform Prisons.

Warden Exchange convenes corrections officials who want to enhance their leadership skills, exchange transformative best practices, and join a network of peers committed to creating safer communities inside and outside of prison.

What We Do

Minister to Families.

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

Support Successful Reentry.

Prison Fellowship works with local churches and community organizations to connect returning men and women with reentry resources and support that will help them transition successfully into life after prison.

What We Do

Advocate for Justice Reform

Prison Fellowship advocates for federal and state criminal justice reforms that help transform those responsible for crime, validate victims, and encourage churches and communities to play a role in creating a safe, redemptive, and just society.



01

Second Chance Month

Led by Prison Fellowship every April, Second Chance[®] Month is a nationwide campaign to help unlock second chances for the tens of millions of Americans with a criminal record who have paid their debt to society.

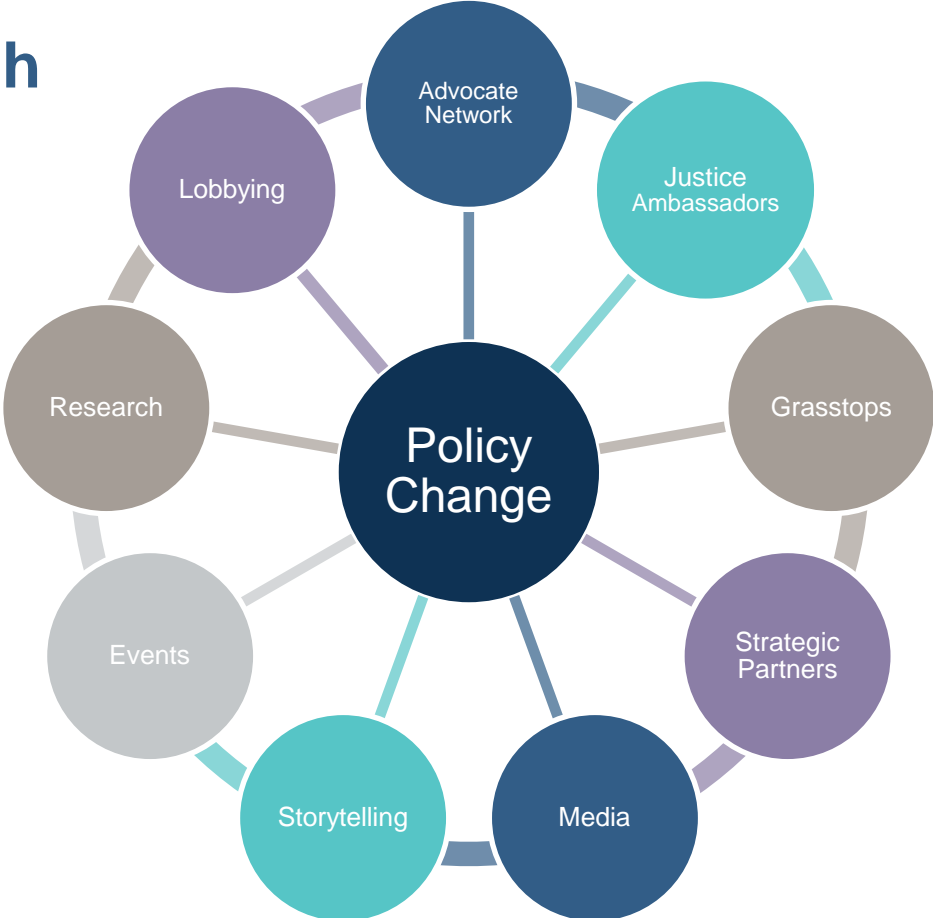


02

Advancing Justice That Restores

We mobilize Christians to advocate for a restorative approach to justice that advances proportional punishment, constructive prison culture, and second chances. Our Justice Ambassador program equips individuals to advocate for policy change on both the federal and state levels.

Our Approach



What Policies Are We Trying To Change?



**Proportional
punishment**

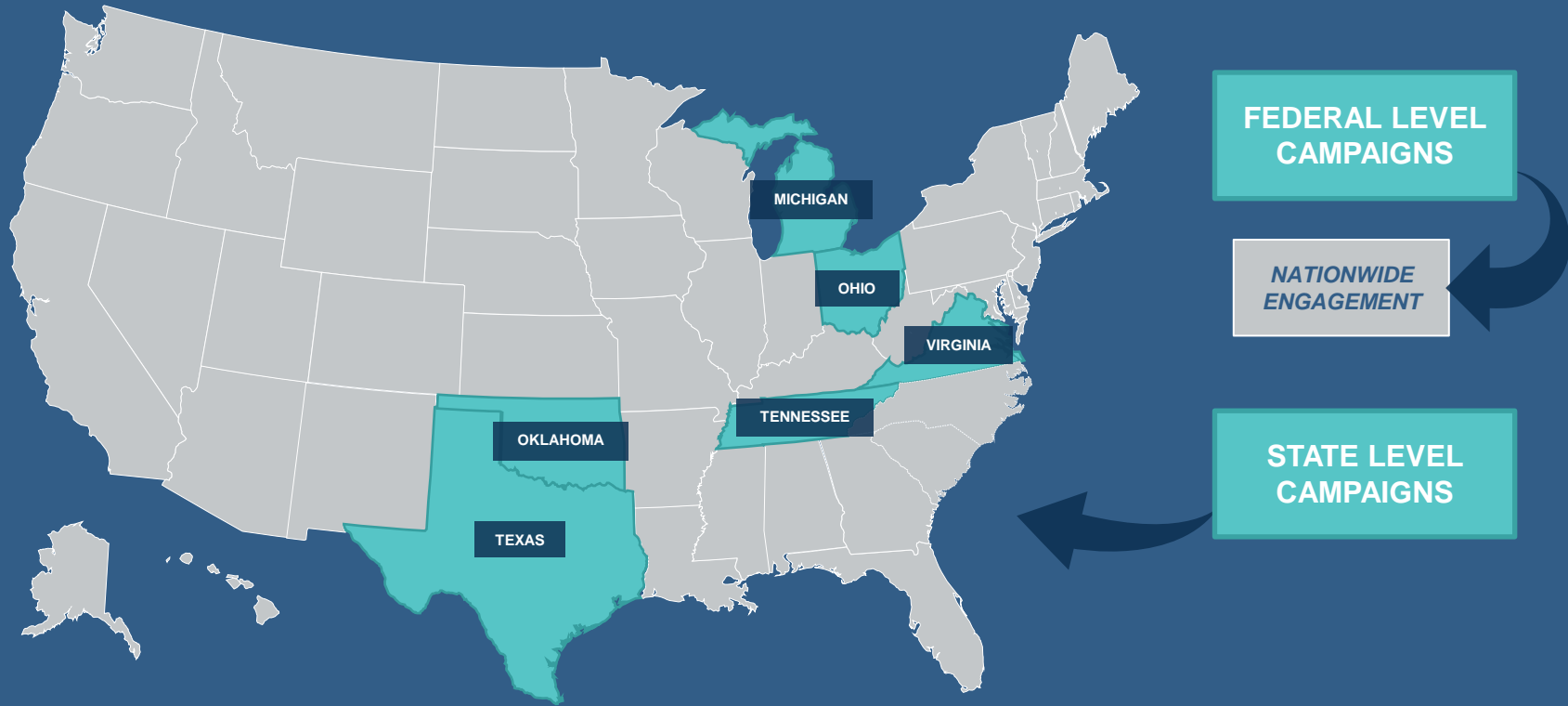


**Constructive
corrections culture**



**Second
chances**

Where Do We Focus Our Activity?



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Policing

Campaign From Start To Finish



BUILDING BLOCKS OF TRUST:

A report on the state of police training
and recommendations for change



PRISON
FELLOWSHIP

Key Recommendations

Policing is predominantly a state and local function to promote safe communities. It is natural that jurisdictions will offer different approaches to policing specific to the crime challenges facing their community, the staff and resources available, and other local dynamics.

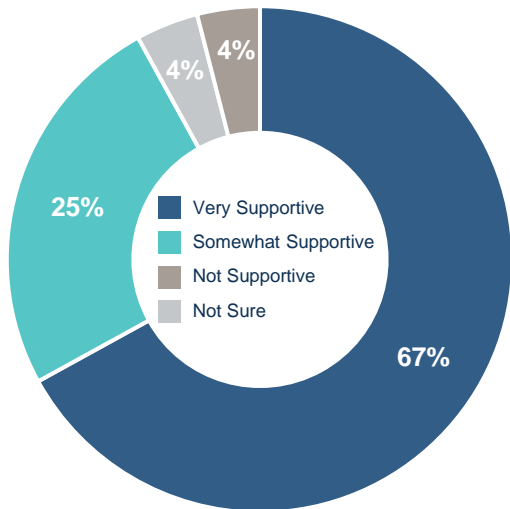
However, states and localities must adopt proven crime-reduction practices as determined by consistent evaluation, reporting, and assessment.

“”

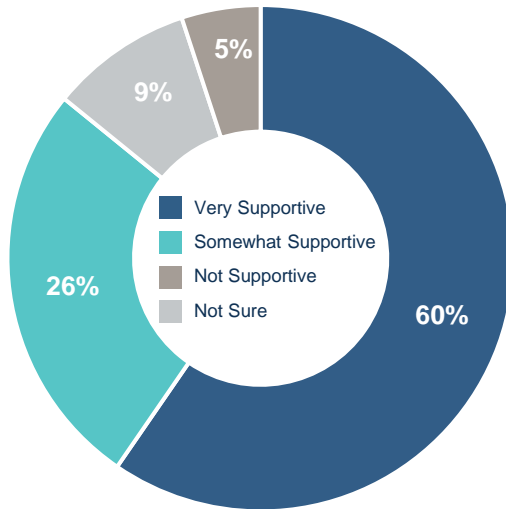
86% of Christians believe the presence of police makes a community safer.

How supportive are you of state lawmakers addressing the following reforms in the current legislative session?

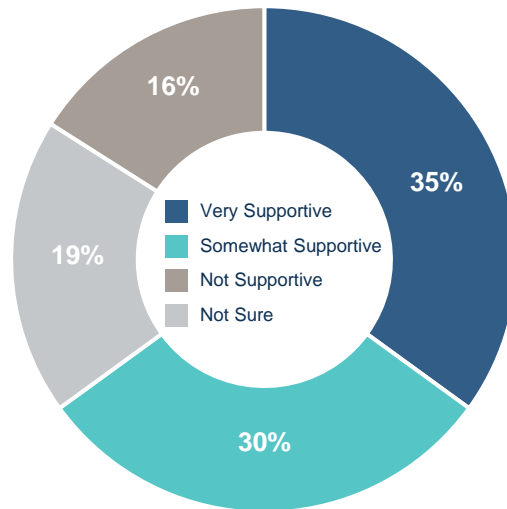
Expanding Police Training



Setting Clearer Use of Force Limitations



Eliminating Qualified Immunity



Which do you think would have a positive impact on making your community safer?

69%

Increased Police Training on
Appropriate Use of Force

66%

Increased Police Training on
Mental Health Crises

58%

Increased Police Training on
Addressing Violent Crimes

“”

Effective, well-staffed, and accountable police forces are a critical component of community safety, and trust is important to their role.

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Recent Legislative Efforts



Proportional Punishment

Policing

FEDERAL
TEXAS
MICHIGAN

Community Corrections

TENNESSEE
VIRGINIA

Pre-trial

MICHIGAN



Constructive Prison Culture

Expanding
Programming/Education

OKLAHOMA

Earned Time Credits and
Parole Reform

VIRGINIA

OHIO



Second Chances

Housing

OHIO
OKLAHOMA

Occupational Licensing

OKLAHOMA
TEXAS
VIRGINIA

Other Barriers

TENNESSEE
TEXAS

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Ways to Get Involved



UNLOCK

SECOND CHANCES

#SecondChanceMonth

PRISONFELLOWSHIP.ORG/SECONDCHANCES



Become a Justice Ambassador

HOST church and community awareness-building events.

SHARE action opportunities through social media campaign tools.

DEVELOP relationships with policymakers.

SUBMIT letters to the editor, op-eds, or blogs about criminal justice issues.

JUSTICE AMBASSADOR



PRISONFELLOWSHIP.ORG/JUSTICEAMBASSADOR

Exhort the Church to Pursue Justice

CREATING A MOVEMENT

- ✓ **Outrageous Justice**
 - 90,000 participants nationwide
 - 99% reported taking action
- ✓ **Second Chance Sunday**
- ✓ **Policing Discussion Guide**





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Seek justice. Love mercy. Restore hope.