

Ministry with Correctional Officers

Description. This workshop discusses how your prison ministry might help to alleviate or mitigate some of these issues facing correctional officers due to the high stress and violence they experience on a day to day basis. This is based on research paper by Pastor Dwight Anderson, director of PMA

Welcome!

**Can everyone introduce
themselves and share what
ministry they are serving with?**

(30 sec)

PRISON MISSION

ASSOCIATION



Church Planting In Prisons

“Helping inmates reach inmates!”



Resources PMA will Provide Your Local Church

1. Provide Free Life Changing Bible Correspondence courses

These studies can be used with any group, not only inmates. Download them at www.prisonmission.org. When a student completes all 35 self-paced lessons, they may earn six credits when enrolling at Berean Bible Institute, West Bend, Wisc. www.bereanbibleinstitute.org

2. Help you start a Prison ministry outreach working from home!

We can equip people to do ministry that will **energize your congregation and reach the lost in your community!** We can give you the tools. You may have some who want to correct lessons and / or visit prisons, we can help with that too. As we establish graduates of our program, it is **our goal to plant churches behind bars**, helping inmates reach inmates for Christ. These can be an extension of your local church!



3. Provide Pulpit supply

We would be happy to preach if you needed a break or out of town. It's exciting to share what God is doing in the prisons and how people can pray for inmates and their families. Often you will have people in your congregation who have families incarcerated. We can help with our

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4. Mission Presentations for mission's conferences

We can teach any age: children, youth or adults



At your missions conference, we can come with a display table and share what God is doing to reach people behind bars here and overseas. **We can do a Zoom call!** I have children's talks as well as youth and adults. I was an overseas missionary for 20 years so also can share missionary experiences from that as well if needed.

5. "Prison Transformation Radio: Changing Hearts with Christ" weekly podcasts. Listen to what God is doing behind bars. Available on Apple Music/iTunes, Google Podcasts, Spotify, TuneIn, iHeartRadio, Pandora, Amazon Music/Audible and <https://prisonmission.podbean.com>



6. Leadership retreats, Outreach Training, 12 Seeds for Successful Relationships Workshops. 12 Seeds Books, workbooks. Contact us for more details of effective programs to help grow and build your church!

**The unique needs of
Correctional officers.**

**Why they need our help and
prayers.**



Why the need to offer help to Correctional Officers?

Extremely high stress job

They are getting attacked more

i.e, In MN several died in 2018.

20% higher divorce rate

39% higher suicide rate

10 times higher PTSD Rates

50% Higher Heart disease

May 21, 2018

<https://armorupnow.org/2018/05/21/ptsd-depression-suicide-divorce-are-highest-among-correctional-officers/>



 PTSD

met the
criteria for PTSD

Caterina Spinaris

 *Suicide Rate*

police officers and
the general public



 *Suicide Risk*



Biblical example – Acts 16

The Apostle Paul tells him,

“Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—

Biblical example – Acts 16

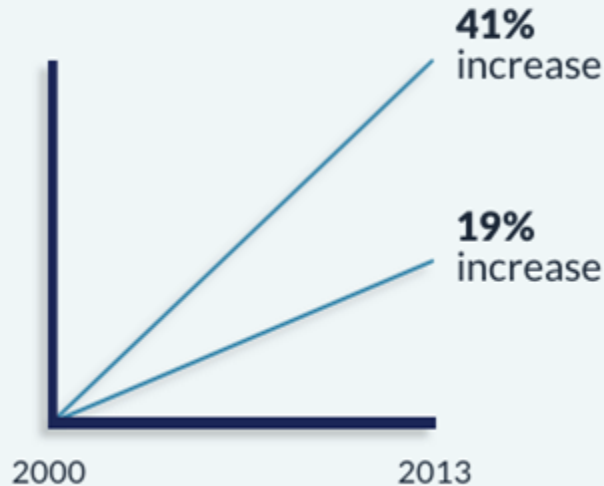
you and your household.” (Acts 16:28-31 NIV).

God showed up to meet the needs of this correctional officer and his whole family! God needs more people to reach out to help those correctional officers today.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

Inmates & COs Increase

In 13 years, the number of inmates in prisons increased by more than half of that of the corrections officers.



CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

The risk of suicide is **39% higher** for corrections officers than all other professions combined.⁹



544

The number of work-related injuries or illnesses per 10,000 full-time corrections officers in 2011⁷

431,600

The approximate number of corrections officers in the U.S. as of 2016⁶

Correctional Officer Among the Top Ten Most Dangerous Jobs

Inmates have a higher-than-average rate of deadly diseases like Hepatitis C, the HIV virus that causes AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus).

Inmates also typically have high rates of STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases), in the event that guards are sexually assaulted

Correctional officers also face:

Drug addicts coming off a high.

The risk of being injured during a body or cell search.

The risk of being blindsided by an angry inmate.

The risks associated with transporting inmates.

Attacks with handmade prison weapons.

Attacks with the bare hands of inmates.

Imagine going to work and almost everyone hates you and would like to hurt you to escape.

Other facts on Correctional Officers

33.5% of all assaults in prisons and jails are committed by inmates against staff.

A CO's 58th birthday, on average, is their last.

A CO will be seriously assaulted at least twice in a 20 year career.

On average a CO will live only 18 months after retirement.

<http://www.corrections.com/news/article/30096->

SHAME

COs self-report that they feel an “inherent sense of shame about what they do.”



Annette and Gene Eastport, NY

She was CO for 9 years.
Out of 12 married CO
when she started. She
is only one still married.



WHO?

Correctional Officers

NO OUTLETS

“Officers rarely, if ever, talk to their families
about what they do.”

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“The end result is that morale among COs is perilously low, leaving many to feel that the only respite and release they can get is from drinking.”

THE NEED

Correctional Officers lack healthy support.

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What is being done to help?

**How can PMA, other
nonprofits and churches
help to make a
difference?**

Who Is Prison Mission Assn?

A Nonprofit Christian organization that provides Bible Correspondence courses at no cost to inmates in all 50 states with the goals of reaching prisoners for Christ, developing Godly leadership, and planting churches in prisons.

How Prison Mission Association started:

In 1955, Joe Mason in Texas developed Bible correspondence courses with the goal of "Reaching prisoners for Christ"



Joe and Ada Mason



Look at Biblical example

“Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ” (Phil 1:12-13 NIV).

What is PMA and others able to do to help with CO's?

Example of Apostle Paul.

Phil 1:12-13

While in prison, he shared the gospel not just with inmates but reached the whole palace guard

What is PMA and others able to do to help with CO's?

It would make sense since we are already working in prisons to offer some help to the correctional officers as well. If we reach the CO they can help us reach the inmates and improve the prison system.

What is PMA and others able to do to help?

Prison culture is very volatile, violent, depressing and discouraging. There is a great need to bring hope, encouragement, and positive impact to make a difference.

What can be done to help?



1. PMA has the goal of planting churches behind bars with the help of local churches which will bring hope and positive culture in the prison which will significantly help the correctional officers.

1. Planting Prison Churches

Angola Prison. It started with leadership committed with teaching moral values.

Invited a Bible College to come and teach. Planted many Churches inside. It changed from one of the bloodiest to one of the safest prisons.



Rick Sharkey, Chaplain at Angola Prison

One way that has lowered the violence and toxic environment is the example of the supermax prison in Angola, Louisiana. It was once called the bloodiest prison in America with over 6,300 inmates who were mostly all serving life sentences. It is now completely transformed.

What they did at Angola can be duplicated. Prison Mission Association (PMA) is one of the fastest growing prison ministries adding 20,000 new students in last 8 years in all 50 states. PMA has a similar vision to teach inmates through life changing Bible correspondence courses which inmates can earn college credit for completing.

2. Provide CO workshops

Pray for us to be able to offer Biblical Relationships workshops for CO's.

* These would be arranged with the Department of Corrections as part of the CO continuing education.

* Each CO would get a free copy of the 12 Seeds book and workbook.

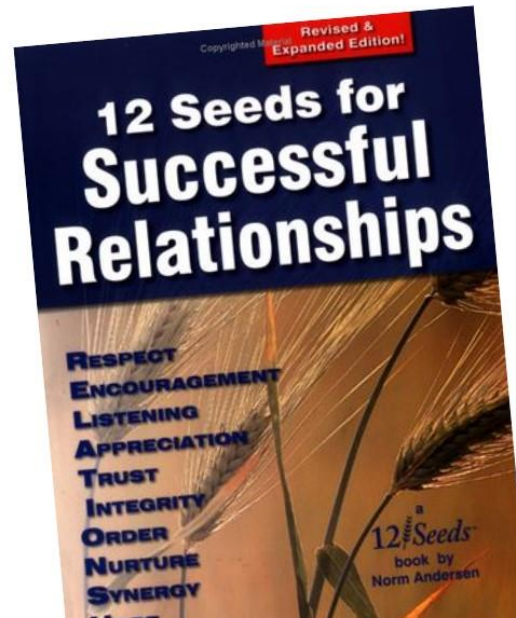
Workshop: 12 Life skills for a Better Life!

*You're invited to discover
12 life-changing principles
that transform*

**CHARACTER, RELATIONSHIPS,
AND ALL OF LIFE**



Norm Andersen
Author



*Presented
by Author,
Norm
Andersen
And
Pastor
Dwight
Anderson*

**Tues.
Nov 20th**



Living by 12 Seeds principles
transforms families,
communities and society!

All Welcome!

Why attend?

POOR
RELATIONSHIPS
= many costs
much pain

GOOD
RELATIONSHIPS
= many benefits
much joy!

Everyone can improve
their relationships!

**POOR RELATIONSHIPS = many costs,
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www.12seeds.com for more resources

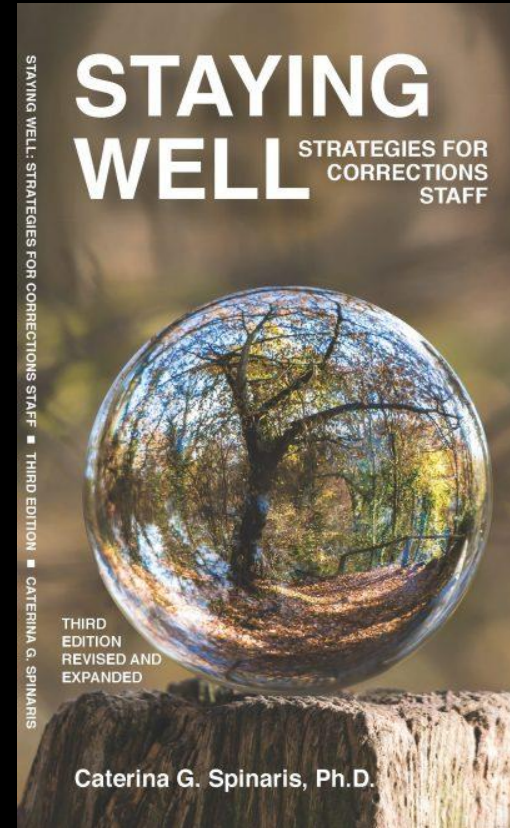
3. Encourage Churches to show COs appreciation

Recruit local churches to help
host an **appreciation**
dinner for CO in their area.



4. Recruit local churches to help.

Churches could make a project to purchase a copy of the book *Staying Well* (Desert Waters) and give as a gift to all correctional staff in nearby prisons.



**Sample
Sticker for
books
- given to
Cook County
Jail, IL.**

**Staying Well:
Strategies for Corrections Staff**

Thank You

CCDOC staff,
from grateful citizens
at The Moody Church!
www.moodychurch.org

THE
MOODY
CHURCH



5. CO Resource sheet

PMA has created a resource sheet that lists the nonprofits helping CO's and resources available.

--- Resources for Correctional Staff --- (updated April 2024)

AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION Website: www.correctionalchaplains.org
2304 West 38th Ave. Pine Bluff, AR. 71603, President, Rev. Norma Gillom, (870) 413-3698,
gillompastor@aol.com

- Spiritual and mental health support for inmates and Correctional Officers.
- Multi-faith background.

CORRECTION OFFICERS FOR CHRIST Website: www.nyccofc.com
Operates in NYC, contact 844-NYC-COFCC (692-2632) contactnyccofc@gmail.com

- Fraternal organization to support Correctional Officers
- Supports CO's by facilitating monthly meetings, hospital visits, grief, and sharing the gospel.
- Their theme is "Bold enough to serve God."

CORRECTIONS STAFF FELLOWSHIP Website: www.facebook.com/correctionsplus

- Primarily an online support Christian organization. • They aim to grow their chapters to become countrywide.
- Provide CO's with daily devotionals, marriage retreats, and a prayer request "page."

DESERT WATERS CORRECTIONAL OUTREACH Website: www.desertwaters.com

Located in Florence, CO. Executive Director, Caterina Spinaris 719-784-4727

- Psychological and mental health support. • Christian background.
- Provides Correctional staff with tools such as Corrections Fatigue self-assessment, literature, personal consultations, seminars, workshops, and a monthly newsletter called "Correctional Oasis" email for COs
- Written many books to help staff including *Staying Well: Strategies for Corrections Staff*

DISMAS MINISTRIES Website: www.dismasministry.org

Located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. President Sr Patricia Weidman of Minersville, PA

- Primarily an inmate ministry but also focused on assisting Correctional Officers when needed.
- A national Catholic organization.

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HEIRS OF RESTRAINT Website: www.heirsofrestraint.com Email: co@heirsofrestraint.com 573-612-9180

- Spiritual, emotional, physical support of Correction staff via personal contact, publications, phone calls, emails,
- Provides prayer ministry via the website. • Provides free Bibles and study manuals to Correction Officers.

ONE VOICE UNITED Website: www.onevoiceunited.org 833-430-0688 info@onevoiceunited.org

One Voice United is a national campaign to give corrections officers a voice by bringing the leading labor unions, policy makers, academics and stakeholders together to discuss issues of importance and work toward solutions.

PRISON MISSION ASSOCIATION Website: www.prisonmission.org

Executive Director, Dwight Anderson, Headquarters: Port Orchard, WA dwight@prisonmission.org

- Provides how to pray for CO handout to local churches and individuals
- Provides a handout that lists the Resources available for Correctional Staff.
- Provides free Bibles and Bible Correspondence courses, which any student may earn college credit.
- Provides 12 Life Skills for a Better Life Workshop for CO includes free 12 Seeds textbooks and workbooks.
- Recruits local churches to host appreciation dinners and projects like *Staying Well* books, Bibles for CO's, and posters for their breakroom, etc.

This list provided by Prison Mission Association. **For more information contact Dwight Anderson, 612-423-3457**

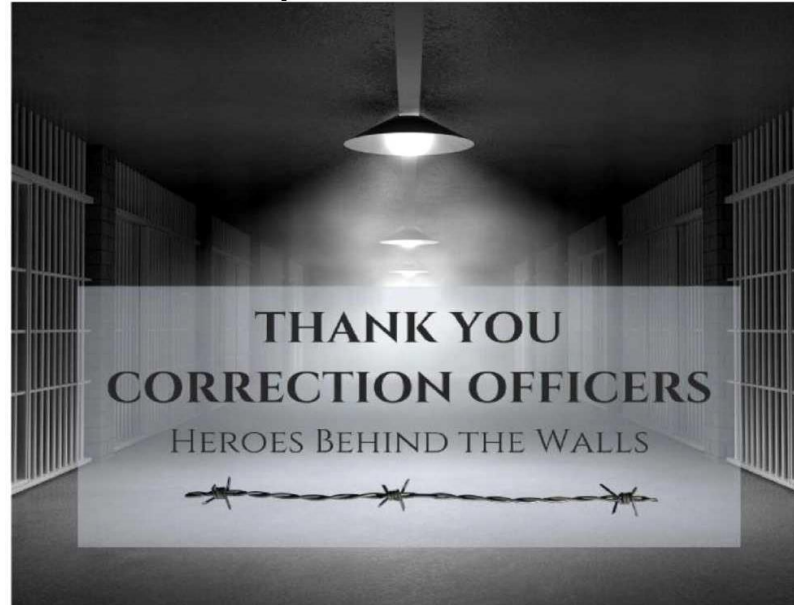
6. Corrections Fatigue Paper from PMA

Written by Pastor Dwight. It gives over a dozen ways that ministries and churches can help alleviate Corrections Fatigue.

Each of you can get a copy and it can be emailed out for you to distribute.

What can be done for Corrections Fatigue?

Dwight Anderson
Grace Christian University
April 26, 2020



Find Resources for Correctional Staff on page 19.

7. Prayer – most important

How to pray for CO handout

Distributed on PMA website resources page. It can be emailed to chaplains to distribute.

Getting inmates to pray for COs would be amazing! We give to inmates to help create and mobilize an Inmate Prayer Network.

How to Pray for Correctional Staff



Prayer is essential for PMA. For any prison ministry to be truly effective, it must have a solid foundation of prayer. In prayer, we call upon God for resources that He alone can provide in our battle against the spiritual forces of darkness. (Eph. 6) Paul reached the officers in his prison (Phil 1:12-14). We also want to do all we can to help as they have one of the hardest jobs on this planet. They have the second highest mortality rate of any occupation.

1. Pray for Correctional staff and their relationship with God, that they would:

- Experience His love and kindness like never before
- Put their faith and trust in Christ's death, burial and resurrection for salvation – 1 Cor. 15:3-4
- Allow God to work in them and accomplish His purpose in their life
- Earnestly seek God and get involved as He leads them in ministry

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- Study God's Word and complete our PMA lessons to build biblical leadership, train for ministry, and to help reach others for Christ!

2. Pray for Correctional staff to grow in godly attributes, that they would:

- Have wisdom in dealing with inmates and difficult situations
- Exhibit the fruit of the Spirit – Gal. 5:22

3. Pray for Correctional staffs' relationships with their families, that they will:

- Be able to maintain a strong connection with their family, despite being under such a stressful job situation
- They have a 20% higher divorce rate than the national average
- Enroll their children the Mailbox Children's Bible correspondence courses

4. Pray for Correctional staff and their relationships with Correctional officers, that they will:

- Make godly friends to support and encourage them
- Stay away from harmful associations that will lead them astray
- Be a friend to the lonely, the discouraged, and the lost
- Share their testimony so they can reach others with God's love – 2 Cor.5:18-20, helping to plant churches in prisons.

5. Pray for Correctional staffs' protection, that they would:

- Resist the snares of the evil one, Satan – James 4:7
- Be safe from the danger of assault and other issues
- Be healthy and free from serious illness
- They have 50% higher rate of heart disease.
- They have 10 times higher rate of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) than average population

6. Pray for Correctional staff and their future, that they would:

- Be wise in the use of their God-given talents
- Seek the wisdom and resources they need to deal with trauma and stress they have every day.
- They keep positive about their future.

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- Seek the wisdom and resources they need to deal with trauma and stress they have every day.
- They keep positive about their future.
- They have 39 percent higher suicide rate than average person

7. Pray that Christian Correctional staff will:

- Remain strong in their faith
- Find a volunteer mentor to encourage and disciple them
- Have strength and courage to witness to other Correctional staff
- Resist temptations and remain good role models

Prison Mission Association

***PO Box 2300, Port Orchard, WA
98366 www.prisonmission.org
Pastor Dwight Anderson
612-423-3457***

***Providing Life Changing FREE Bible
Correspondence Courses with the
Goal to Plant Churches Behind Bars***

PRISON MISSION
ASSOCIATION



With God's power we can make a difference!

We need your prayers, support, feedback and
ideas.

Imagine how different our prisons would be
with godly COs who are serving in the power
of the Holy Spirit and inmates planting
churches behind bars?

Possible Action Steps

1. Pray for the correctional officers near you. Ask God to open a door to reach out.
2. Contact your local prison and ask permission to give 12 Seeds books to CO's as a gift. Invite correction officers to an appreciation dinner.
3. Give out the CO Resource paper to the COs you meet doing prison ministry.

Thank you for coming today!

Please contact me for more info:

Pastor Dwight Anderson

612-423-3457

dwight@prisonmission.org

www.prisonmission.org

Group Discussion and Questions