

INMATE NEWS

August 2010

Introductory Sample Page

WELCOME!

A note from Deborah Martin, Editor
Working Together Founder

I am so glad you are reading this sample page for our newsletter! I hope you will order a subscription and then share this page with as many others as you can. This is our first "issue" of Inmate News, a quarterly newsletter for WT's Inmate Project. The purpose of Inmate Project is to gather EVERYONE we can (inmates, their family and friends, and all the organizations that want to help inmates change their future) INTO ONE BIG GROUP so our individual voices will carry more weight when decisions about Inmates and their families are being made.

We want to see POSITIVE changes in the penal systems of America.

Later, Working Together will expand the reach of Inmate Project to other parts of the world. When we become a large group, we will be able to take our voices into decisions about Inmates, their crimes, investigations, sentencing, and prison operations. We will be able to create programs that will benefit Inmates and their families and, hopefully, keep some from returning to prison.

As a Christian organization, Working Together wants to make sure our actions are what God would want them to be: without profanity, misdirected sexuality, or a focus on illegal activities. **We want to lift up what is good in Man and our world, promote healthy decisions, and increase the value of families.** This newsletter is the first step toward achieving this goal for Inmates and their loved ones.

One of our main desires is to help inmates create personal income options while they are still incarcerated so they can pay their restitution debts, help their families, and buy the things they need each month. We want to improve Inmate opportunities in education and job training so they will be ready to find a new life after they are released. AND, rather than waste all their jail time, we want to help inmates find ways they can contribute to making this world a better place. Your subscription will begin this achievement.

The Internet has changed the way businesses operate and how they make money. Prisons need to get involved in that change. Inmates need access to Internet sales opportunities if they are going to create income by selling their personal crafts, art works, music, writings, and other creative activities. Corrections departments COULD also enjoy added income by including a listing fee, like eBay and others, to that sales option. Inmates will begin to see an honest work opportunity to access when they are released.

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To order, send mailing information with payment by USPS Money Order or an Institution issued check to the address above. You can also go to our webpage and order by credit card through a PayPal link. After payment is processed, the next available issue will be sent.

Inmate News accepts freelance articles about topics that concern Inmates and their families. Payment is a one year subscription.

www.work2gather.us

(WELCOME - continued from page 1)

WT's Inmate Project is focused toward creating continuity between US corrections institutions. To do that we will need to start a database of information about every corrections program. **We will be trying to discover which programs improve family relationships and success after prison – from an Inmate and family member perspective, not a government viewpoint.** We want to help expand these activities.

As the mother of two sons who became involved in US penal systems as teenagers and adults, I know that mail regulations, personal safety, education, and visiting are issues I want to see improved. But **Inmate Project needs to know is what matters most to you.** Send us the details about your experiences with corrections facilities and what you want to see changed. If you are an Inmate, let us know what will improve your life in prison and what will help you to succeed when you are released.

I look forward to hearing from you. ♦



VISITING ISSUES

When someone you care about is in prison, keeping in touch with them becomes an expensive activity, whether you are the one in prison or the one at home.

The miles between home and prison can seem like the Grand Canyon, and just as impossible to travel. In Oregon the cost to reach an Inmate across the state is \$200 to \$300 per visit, whether you drive yourself or ride with a ministry van, camp out or get a motel. That's a huge piece of family income and too much for a poverty household to bear.

Writing takes too long, and when you choose the phone, high per minute charges can get away from you and wind up causing the phone to be shut off, making any future communication impossible.

Sending a "CARE" package to prison is another mountain that sometimes cannot be climbed. One state may allow a family to send a package every month, another will not allow any. The need to have every gift sent through expensive online sources is a burden for most Inmate families.

We have to find better solutions for these problems. Visiting with those who are important in our lives is an essential part of being happy, and a necessary part of building a new life when an Inmate is released. Visitors are about maintaining a positive focus, keeping our eyes on the future, getting through a hard time, and building stronger families. I read somewhere that isolation is a torture technique. What does that say about our prison systems?

Keeping Inmates as near their home base as possible is the only way to invite frequent visitors. That allows mentors in the local area to keep in touch and create bridges to employment and housing and support. **County prisons seem like the best solution to almost every problem associated with incarceration, rehabilitation, and returning to society.**

How can we accomplish this? ♦

WHAT IS WORKING TOGETHER

Working Together is a business dedicated to Christian principles and theology. Its purpose is to build and preserve resources to help the Body of Christ survive the years leading up to the Biblical End Times. Prisons will be part of that End Time process, but they are not the main focus of Working Together efforts. **Food, water, shelter, employment, education, financial assistance, transportation, worship, fellowship, and other basic needs are the main directions of Working Together.** Most of these activities will be connected to membership status. Find out more by exploring our website at www.work2gather.us and think about joining us. Thank you.