

PRISON MINISTRY VOLUNTEER DO'S AND DON'TS

DO'S

1. The main thing is that you must not be afraid, be prepared and prayed up. We are in this together, so please keep one another lifted in prayer even when you are not going in to minister. II Timothy 1:7, I John 4:18, and Psalms 34:7.
2. Smile, be cheerful and radiate a positive, Christian disposition: Proverbs 18:24 says, "Show yourself friendly".
3. Remember that the chaplain in the prison is the pastor of that institution. He is to be respected and held in high esteem by every volunteer. His office is to be complimented and magnified; his work is to be strengthened. Also remember, that the officers are to be held with the same respect.
4. Share your personal testimony of salvation with the inmates. Tell them what Jesus Christ has done for you.
5. Let the inmates leave the chapel when the service is over. To delay and linger after the service will frequently delay the count. We want to cooperate with the institution in every way.
6. Always keep a commitment once you accept, this is very important. Please call your team leader ASAP if you are unable to minister on the date you have committed to.
7. Arrive at least a half hour in advance for check-in and setting up equipment for prison volunteers and fifteen minutes for county jail AND WAIT UNTIL ALL TEAM MEMBERS HAVE ARRIVED BEFORE ENTERING THE FACILITY.
8. When counseling, one to one, it is very important to listen to what the inmate is saying.
9. Always remember that you are there for spiritual guidance—not to be a lawyer or errand boy.
10. Obey all prison/jail rules (this is very important even though it might not seem so to you).
 - a. Relatives or friends of any current resident of the Champaign County Correctional Center shall not serve as a volunteer during the inmate's period of incarceration.
 - b. All volunteers are required to sign in and out at the Master Control desk at the Champaign County Correctional Center.
11. All appointments made are to go through the office staff of JITWPM; Example: If a Champaign County Jail inmate asks for a one on one visit refer them to the jail staff and then Nancy Griffin will contact JITWPM to set up the visit.
12. When the service is completed never assume it is alright to leave the assigned room and walk down the hall unescorted. ALWAYS wait until they return to escort you.
13. Do not detain the inmates once the officer has come to escort them back to their quarters. If you are praying with one of them or just visiting, finish up "quickly". Never interfere with the officer's work. When the officers are present they are in charge.
14. Men minister to men and women minister to women.
15. Immediately following each service we need a brief report; number of attendees, rededications, saved, names of volunteers, etc. you can send information to the office staff at info@jesusisthewayprisonministries.org or mail to the PO BOX 98 Rantoul IL 61866 address or call 217-892-4044.

DON'TS.

1. Don't be shocked. Some inmates will try to shock you with their conversation and their attitude. Take everything that is said in good spirit and don't show any emotional shock.
2. Don't talk about prison conditions, policies, prison reform, the death penalty, or things of this type. We are not prison reformers; we are ambassadors for Christ.
3. Don't talk to an inmate who doesn't want to talk to you. There may be another counselor whom the Lord has chosen to deal with that particular inmate.
4. Don't sit on an inmate's bed without his permission. That is his/her home. Respect his or her "house".
5. Don't argue with an officer about anything.
6. Don't give an inmate anything such as paper, pens, pencils, candy, gum, cigarettes, money, etc.
7. Don't agree to make phone calls/contact anyone for any purpose on behalf of an inmate or take out notes, messages, or anything else THIS IS STRONGLY PROHIBITED!
8. Don't promise anything.
9. Don't argue with an inmate over doctrinal questions or anything else.
10. Don't get involved talking about religion. We are there to share CHRIST and HIS LOVE and encourage other Christians.
11. Don't panic if you get locked in a cell.
12. Don't use "Church talk" that might confuse an inmate while sharing the love of Christ with him. Try not to use big words like "sanctification", "justification", and "regeneration" are not normally understood by inmates. Just keep it as simple as possible, be led by the SPIRIT!
13. Don't ever show favoritism. Do not offer something to one inmate that you are not willing and able to give to every inmate in the facility

