

**MINISTRY TO**

**Children**

**OF**

**Inmates**



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# Demographics

- ▶ 2 million children in the USA have parents in prison.
- ▶ 50% of these children live in California.
- ▶ 9% of all children living in California will have a parent in prison during their childhood.

# Demographics cont'd

- ▶ 40% of the children living in Santa Clara County, California had or has a parent in prison.
- ▶ Children whose parents are incarcerated are 5 - 6 times more likely to become delinquent than other children.

# Demographics cont'd

- ▶ One of the major causes of having a delinquent child is having a parent in custody.
- ▶ The majority of delinquents live in poverty and reside in high crime areas.

## Demographics cont'd

- ▶ 60% of these children live in poverty and live in high crime areas.
- ▶ Between 1980 - 2003, the number of women incarcerated increased 9 times.
- ▶ Over the last 20 years, female incarceration has grown 516%.



# Demographics cont'd

- ▶ 75% of female prisoners are parents.
- ▶ 6% of women entering prison are pregnant.
- ▶ Prison and jail systems have a 65% failure rate.
- ▶ On any given day there over 500,000 fathers in prison.

# HOW DO CHILDREN REACT?

- ◇ Have **flashbacks** to *traumatic* events related to arrests.
- ◇ **Embarrassment**, fear, **anxiety**.
- ◇ **Anger**, **sadness**, **guilt**.
- ◇ Low self-esteem, **depression**, **sleeplessness**.



# Children's Reactions

- ◇ Loneliness, feelings of abandonment, emotional withdrawal from family and friends.
- ◇ Eating and sleeping disorders.
- ◇ Attention disorders and developmental regression.

## Children's Reactions cont'd

- ◇ Diminished academic performance, classroom behavior difficulties and truancy.
- ◇ Aggression, acting out, antisocial behavior.

# Response From Children of Inmates

## Developmental Delays:

- **Children** don't devote energy to age appropriate developmental task.
- **Children** focus on their parents being incarcerated and the hardships that come from their parents being away from home.

# Response of *Children* with Inmates cont

## Maladaptive Coping Strategies:

- **Regression**
- **Emotional numbness**
- **Anti-social behaviors**

# Effects of Parental Incarceration on Children

- ❑ Lives of children disrupted because of parental separation.
- ❑ Greater risk of alcohol and drug abuse.
- ❑ A variety of problem behaviors surface.



# Effects of Parental Incarceration on Children cont

- ❑ Disproportionate amount suffering and anxiety.
- ❑ More likely to be victims of poverty.
- ❑ Lives of children disrupted because of parental separation.

## Effects of Parental Incarceration on Children cont

- ❑ Greater risk of alcohol and drug abuse.
- ❑ A variety of problem behaviors surface.

# Parental Involvement with Their Children

- Incarcerated parents don't know how to build a meaningful relationship with their children.
- Incarceration could be a time to develop skills and bonds with their children.

# Parental Involvement with Their Children cont'd

- Positive involvement in the lives of their children:
  - a. Stabilizes and strengthens the family.
  - b. Reduces recidivism
  - c. Promotes self-sufficiency.

# Programs

## Grandmothers

- Motherly Nurturing
- Teach them how to be respectful
- Children learn self-dignity
- Embrace them with love
- Help them to sort through the mirages



# Programs

## School Advocacy

- ❖ Mediates for children with behavior problems in school.
- ❖ Meets with the truancy officer regarding delinquency matters.

# Programs cont'd

## School Advocacy

- ❖ Meet with teachers and school administrators regarding academic issues.
- ❖ Meet with the children and their teachers regarding progress reports and work in conjunction with the teachers for improvement in academics.

# Programs

## Mentors

- ✓ Help curb destructive behavior
- ✓ Make life changing impacts in the lives of at risk youth
- ✓ Help meet physical, emotional and spiritual needs

# Programs

## After School Activities

- Tutorial classes
- Cultural activities
- Athletics
- Gym activities and swimming
- Social Graces

# Programs

## Summer Camp

- Safe Harbor for youth
- Christian care
- Adventure
- Holistic development
- Socialization
- Deprograms



# Programs

## Parental Classes

- Inmates don't know how to be good parents.
- Teaches prisoners how to be responsible parents.
- Teaches relationship building between the parent and the child.
- Restores love, trust and respect from the child to the parent.

# Programs

## Home Visitations

- For relationship building
- To assess family needs
- To help the child to develop core values
- To assist the child in educational developments
- To assist in social endeavors

# PROGRAMS

## Anger Management

- Anger in the child comes from being rejected by someone close, usually from childhood.
- If the problem is rejection, then acceptance is the solution.

# PROGRAMS

## Anger Management

- The kind of acceptance that God has for us.  
He knows us at our worst, yet loves us completely enough to change us
- Anger thermometer, 1=best, 10=over the edge

# Programs

## Life Coach

- Help children to set boundaries
- Administer effective discipline.
- Help them to get over the chronic pain of rejection.



# Programs

## Life Coach

- Provides structure to their lives and deters them away from turning to substance abuse to ease their pain
- Instructs them how to find love and a sense of family with out turning to gangs and risky sexual behavior.

# Programs

## **Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts for Parents in Prison.**

- **Parallels life in prison with life outside the prison.**
- **Takes children of prison inmates behind bars to spend some time with their parents.**

# Programs

## Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts Aim:

- **To develop their full potential**
- **Relate to others with increasing understanding, skill and respect.**
- **Develop a meaningful set of values to guide their actions and to provide for sound decision**
- **To contribute the improvement of society.**

# Faith in The Child

*Believe in The Child Even if He Doesn't*

*Believe in Himself.*

- Help the child to believe that he is somebody.
- Give them compliments.

# *Faith in The Child*

✚ Instill dreams.

✚ Lead them to believe that God makes a difference.

✚ Teach them to realize where the power comes from and how to develop a relationship with Him.