

Christian Jail Ministry, Inc.

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Lead Chaplain

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Memorandum

RE: Christian Jail Ministry Activities at the Howard County Detention Center During 2001

Christian Jail Ministry began the year 2001 with one full-time chaplain (Rev. Guy Nichols), one part-time chaplain (Rev. Walter Smith), and two associate chaplains (Rev. Herbert Gross and Rev. Angela Bonitto). It finished the year with one full-time chaplain (Rev. Guy Nichols), one associate chaplain (Rev. Herbert Gross) and two chaplain's assistants (Ms Anne Dutra and Mr. Merton Teixeira). Chaplain Smith retired in mid-September and Chaplain Bonitto withdrew for personal reasons in November. The two chaplain's assistants (Ms Anne Dutra and Mr. Merton Teixeira) were so designated in order to assist Chaplain Nichols in the absence of Chaplain Smith. As of November Rev. John Cawthorne, an Episcopalian priest, became a "visiting pastor" in CJM's one-on-one pastoral counseling program.

The following is a recapitulation of the ministry activities carried on at the Howard County Detention Center by Christian Jail Ministry during 2001:

- The total count of inmates attending CJM activities was 8,700.
- Total hours contributed by CJM chaplains and volunteers to HCDC was 6,000 hours.
- The total number of Bible Correspondence Courses completed by inmates and graded by CJM volunteers was 4,120; and the number of course completion certificates awarded to inmates was 436.
- The combined one-on-one discipleship/pastoral counseling sessions held with inmates by chaplains, visiting CJM pastors, chaplain's assistants, and volunteers totaled 1,016.
- In May there were two special activities for both male and female inmates by the Mt. Zion UMC (Highland) Handbell Choir and the Alleluias (choral group). Combined attendance of both male and female inmates was 60 and 75, respectively.
- Approximately 10 individuals attended one of the four HCDC/CJM Orientations and Training Courses required of all religious volunteers.
- Throughout the year, **toiletries** were provided by several churches, for indigent inmates.
- This was the first complete year for the monthly Poetry Program with Mr. Art Milkes. The attendance totaled almost 100 for the year. Several of the inmates' poems were presented on the CJM web site (www.christianjailministry.org). Signed releases were obtained from the inmates in each case.

Christian Jail Ministry special activities during the 2001 Christmas Season:

- Approximately 2000 Christmas cards and matching envelopes were distributed to inmates to be sent to family and friends.
- On Wednesday, December 12th, the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church (Highland) Handbell Choir presented a concert at HCDC for a combined audience of inmates (men and women). A total of 70 inmates attended (61 men and 9 women).
- On Tuesday, December 18th, the Alleluias (choral group) presented a concert at HCDC for a combined audience of inmates (men and women). A total of 76 inmates attended (66 men and 10 women). In conjunction with this activity, the Gideons gave out New Testaments and 250 dozen cookies, provided by Covenant Baptist Church, to the inmates throughout the detention center and to the correctional officers.
- On Sunday, December 23rd, the Youth Choir presented a musical and drama presentation, with a proper appreciation of Christmas as its central focus. A total of 39 inmates attended (33 men and 6 women).
- On Christmas night, Tuesday, December 25th, there was a combined worship service for men and women inmates. Christmas hymns were sung and the sermon, based on the Christmas story from Matthew and Luke, asked the question – What will you do with the Christ Child? A total of 50 inmates attended (38 men and 12 women).
- The Christmas for Children program, which provides Christmas gifts for children, under the age of 16, of men and women who were incarcerated at HCDC during the Christmas season. There were a total of 122 children who received gifts. Often times volunteers also provided gifts and other items for the families to meet apparent needs.
- This was a very blessed time at the detention center, during which inmates responded in a very good fashion and the correctional officers and staff were, as usual, very cooperative and supportive of the CJM programs.

It is a privilege to be a part of providing Christian ministry here at the Howard County Detention Center. The “experts” (the inmates who have been around), tell me this is about as good as it gets when it comes to being incarcerated. They say that it is clean, the food is reasonably good, and that they are treated better here than anywhere else they have ever been. In addition, they say that no other facility can even compare with the level of Christian ministry programs that are provided here at HCDC. That level of programming could not exist without the cooperation and support of the HCDC administration, staff, and officers.

Thank you for helping make 2001 a great year!

May God bless you and all who work here at HCDC,

Chaplain Guy R. Nichols, Jr.