

CHRISTIAN JAIL MINISTRY FACT SHEET (mid-2006)

Christian Jail Ministry (CJM) strives to meet the spiritual, personal and social needs of jail and prison inmates, former inmates, their families, correctional staff and those ministering to prisoners through a Christ-centered, faith-based commitment.

Since 1979, CJM has worked to transform the lives of the jail and prison population in Howard County (Maryland). CJM provides worship services, Bible classes, a Christian 12-step program to counter addictions, one-on-one discipleship training, pastoral counseling, writing and poetry classes and literature and Bible correspondence courses in the Howard County Detention Center in Jessup (Maryland).

CJM's programs are staffed by one chaplain, an associate chaplain, and 300 volunteers from more than area churches.

CJM also provides Christmas assistance for the children of inmates and encourages inmate families and former inmates to become involved in local churches.

The CJM ministry is overseen by a Board composed of local pastors, correctional officials, CJM volunteers and local business leaders. CJM is financed by donations from individuals (40-50%), churches (35-40%), civic and community groups and businesses (5-10%). These contributions support the CJM chaplain, provide Bibles and the literature needed for religious programs at the Howard County Detention Center, and emergency assistance for former inmates and inmate families.

The current budget for CJM is \$100,000, but twice that amount is needed to fully support the ministry needs of the inmate community served by CJM.

The CJM philosophy of ministry can be found in Hebrews 13:3: *Christians should be as concerned for prisoners as if they were prisoners themselves.* And, Mathew 25:31-46: *Ministry to prisoners can be ministry to Christ Himself.*

To participate in Christian Jail Ministry programs: you can call CJM at 410-997-0253, or write CJM, P.O. Box 2050, Ellicott City, MD 21041, or send e-mail to cjm@christianjailministry.org. Also see the CJM web site at <http://www.christianjailministry.org>.

The effectiveness of CJM is noted by Melanie C. Pereira, Director of Howard County's Department of Corrections. In her view, "CJM is an integral part of many inmate lives, helping them to achieve a successful adjustment with the Detention Center and an equally successful reintegration into their communities upon release."