

St. Dismas Jail Ministry



Building Community in and out of the jails

Jail Ministry

The Paradox of Waukesha county

- One of wealthiest county's in Wisconsin
- heavy Hispanic population
 - Heavy industry: Foundries
 - Light Industrial
 - Agriculture
- City of Waukesha and County offer high level of services.
 - Food programs, work force development, substance abuse

Jail Ministry

The Beginning

- '82- Bud Traynor and Joe Hilger
 - Infrequent visits, one on one, small groups
- '90 – Persistence paid off, not just Bible thumpers.
- '92 – Fr. Papa Joe Wanner chaplain and regular visits established, protocols, orientation, regulations.

What began as 2-3, became 10-12
The rest is history.....

Services

- **Sunday Services**

- Jail services: Men's English, Men's Hispanic, Women's
- Huber Facility: mixed service
- Music Ministry



Bible study groups in the Jail

- Weekly Women's "Writing" group
- Bi-weekly women's bible study group
- Twice monthly women with substance abuse issues bible study group
- Weekly men's bible study group



Services in the Jail

- **Hair cuts:** weekly from professional barber. Ministry purchased equipment
- **Professional eye exams:** Ophthalmologist volunteers time monthly. Ministry purchased equipment.
- **Weekly movies (DVD)**
- **Books:** Chicken Soup series, other paper



Services in the Jail

- **Letter writing..prisons, jails.**
- **Holiday Treats:** Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas
- **One on One visitation**



Services outside the Jail

- Aftercare Program
 - Food
 - Clothing
 - Housing assistance (transitional or new placement)
 - Rent/utilities assistance
- Aftercare Bible study/Reflection group
 - Weekly gathering
 - Positive roll models and influence



Jail Ministers take more away from the inmates than they give

- Letters of thanks and appreciation
- Deep and personal discussions
- The incarcerated offer us a perspective that we can only take for granted.
- God is in the Jail. We only provide a place and freedom to talk and share
- Ministers gain knowledge and confidence dealing with other leaders and the inmates.
 - We mentor
 - We grow