



Why Do Incarcerated People Do What They Do?

To this question we can answer "sin" and, of course that is the reason. Men and women in prison usually have broken God's law and that often translates to man's law. But, there are contributing factors that lead up to their breaking the law.

I believe that people are who they are because of developmental issues that they have learned from their environment early in life and because of the sin factor.

When a father's norm is abuse towards a child's mother, this can become "normal" for the child. When drugs and alcohol are prevalent, the last thought that enters the parent's mind is the welfare of the child. Therefore, neglect and rejection result, along with irrational thinking and behavior. When there is verbal, physical and/or sexual abuse, the result is that abuse is also considered normal.

Male Incarceration

One of the main contributing factors for male incarceration often stems from a father or step-father who has either abandoned his family, mentally or physically. He may also have verbally, physically, or sexually abused his son or stepson which is often the case, or all of these. *Rejection* can result, along with a cry for help, hope, love, and a desire quite often to strike out to hurt others because of the hurt they have experienced.

The mother may have done all of these as well. A boy absolutely requires a healthy male role model. Consequently, when that is absent, he misses out on being able to identify with what a man is supposed to be, how to act, and learning all the identifying attributes of a healthy male role model.



Testimonies of the Once Incarcerated

During a visit to the family of a man who had been in jail for six months and had lived a life of drugs and sexual abuse, his wife said, "I don't know what (you) did to him, but his letters have changed dramatically; they aren't the same as they used to be. His words are positive and uplifting." Now she understands that God is doing a work in her husband's life.

This ministry, as with all ministries, is about relationships. While speaking recently in a church, I was excited to see three individuals who I had once ministered to. We embraced - they were glad to see me as well. One of the men who had severely abused alcohol now has been free from it for over two years and is serving his church.



On The Calendar: Maine Coastal Regional Reentry Center:

The Waldo County Jail is now a 'small' jail and yet is opening up the *Maine Coastal Regional Reentry Center* for a few men coming out of prison. I will be involved there with Bible study during the week. Also, I will be participating in the Sunday afternoon church service. We will also be holding *Celebrate Recovery*, an addiction recovery program.

Maine Prison Ministries

Ministering to incarcerated men and women



"I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." Acts 26:17-18

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Where Do I Serve?

by Warren Doersam

The Lord brought me to the Waldo County Jail 16 years ago, where I served as a chaplain for the Sheriff's Department for 10 years. Service has led me to the Knox County Jail in Rockland. I minister in the Maine State Prison in Warren twice every week and the Maine Correctional Center in South Windham, where I preach in two chapel services for men and women. Ministry also takes me to the Bolduc Correctional Facility in Warren, with occasional visits to other facilities in Maine.



Once a year I host a conference including worship, speakers, and workshops to equip the ministry workers.

I am available to present the ministry to churches and groups, and sometimes I'm called upon to preach as well as visit released inmates and accompany them to church.

Why Do I Serve?

At the end of 2002, I had a deepening desire for greater commitment. In 2003 I heard the Lord say, "I want you in full-time ministry." Representatives of Vision New England (VNE) hosted a prison ministry conference. They approached me and asked if I would like to represent VNE in Maine in prison ministry. I was ready. "Can I start on Monday?"

But (there is always a but) there was training and growth needed. I needed to be raising my own support! This sounded exciting - a job with no pay. Wow! Who could beat that? I needed to learn how to present the ministry to churches, and that was very troubling for me. My faith was weak.

Now, having learned to rely totally upon God for His provision. I've been brought by Him on a wonderful journey of growth and the blessings of service.

Warren

Helping released prisoners
...stay out of jail

Maine
Prison Ministries

