

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

To understand another person, you must place yourself in his or her situation. Imagine if you were the one released from prison.

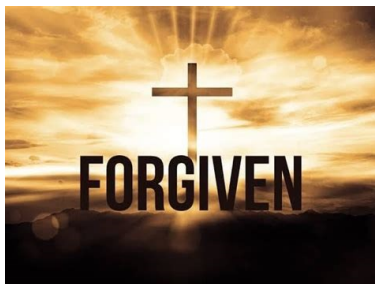
What would you do in this situation? How would you cope and react?

- * *No Place To Live*
- * *No Family or Friends*
- * *No Job*
- * *No Transportation*
- * *No Money*
- * *A Record That Will Follow You Everywhere You Go*

The common line of thinking about ex-offenders is that they got what they deserved. People do not understand that one day, this person could be their loved one: son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, brother, sister, and even a husband or a wife. One wrong choice could cause a lifetime of problems. This wrong choice will never go away and society may never forgive or let go. Even after you have paid your debt to society, it continues to follow you.

We are blessed that God does not have that attitude!

Luke 6:37 (NIV):
“...Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”



Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach

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Office Hours:

Tuesday & Wednesday
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Thursday
10:00 am - 5:00 pm



FELLOWSHIP

For over 40 years, Kingsway Prison and Family Outreach has worked to help those who have been impacted by incarceration. Kingsway understands that people have struggles in their lives. People are different following release from prison in the ways they react to stressful situations that arise. Finding a group of people to fellowship with is very important. While in prison, the inmates have more time to spend reading their Bibles and praying. Once released, the concerns of this life can be overwhelming. Fellowship with other believers with the same experiences empowers them. Christian support groups and programs help them target the areas in which they are most vulnerable to failure upon re-entry. Supporting the physical body helps their spiritual and mental well-being. God has called us to encourage one another through fellowship in Christ and through prayer.



BREAKING THE CHAINS OF INCARCERATION



Life Outside the Prison Walls Can Be Confusing!



Ministering through the heart of Jesus to those impacted by the criminal justice system.

IMPACT OF INCARCERATION ON AN INMATE

- ◆ Possible very young age when arrested
- ◆ Many years in prison
- ◆ No money / No family support
- ◆ High School Education or GED
- ◆ No Job Skills
- ◆ No responsibility - everything has been decided and done for them
- ◆ Little or no knowledge of modern technology
- ◆ Felony conviction
- ◆ Opportunity to study the Bible and attend church "on the inside"

A NOTE ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

Someone who has been incarcerated for many years will have difficulties using computers and even mobile phones. Our society has moved almost fully in the direction of using electronic devices in our daily lives. This can be a real challenge to the coping skills of ex-offenders. Our country was one way when they entered prison, but is completely different when they are released. They may feel as if they are in a foreign country where no one speaks the same language. The things we take for granted are an obstacle for them. They may need dedicated guidance about and help with learning to live with today's technology.

OBSTACLES UPON RE-ENTRY AND HOW KINGSWAY MAY HELP

HOUSING

A major concern upon re-entry is finding housing. Many places will not rent to an ex-offender. Other challenges can make it difficult to obtain housing. Conditions of parole may dictate the location and type of housing that will be permitted. Kingsway can assist with locating sober living housing.

EMPLOYMENT

Jobs can be difficult to find upon re-entry. Some employers will not even consider hiring an ex-offender. The length of incarceration may mean that a person will not have the skill set needed for a job, nor the knowledge of or accessibility to technology needed for a certain job or even to complete a job application. Kingsway can assist with completing online job applications and providing job referrals.

TRANSPORTATION

Lack of transportation can make applying for jobs, going to work, going to appointments with doctors and even with one's parole officer quite challenging. Bus routes do not necessarily coincide with the areas in which people live. Kingsway can assist with finding transportation.

PHONES

Mobile phones are a basic necessity in today's society. Without a phone, ex-offenders cannot call for information, be contacted by an employer about a job, contact their parole officer, or call for help in an emergency. Kingsway can assist with providing phones for those who are unable to get them another way.

ID CARDS

Due to fines and charges, some ex-offenders have lost their driver's licenses. Some may have even lost their birth certificates and Social Security cards if their personal belongings were misplaced or disposed of. Having an official ID with a photo is essential when applying for jobs and any type of housing or services. Kingsway can assist with the process of procuring valid ID cards.

BASIC NECESSITIES

Inmates may be released from prison with only the clothes they are wearing at the time, with no additional clothing or hygiene supplies whatsoever. Kingsway assists with providing hygiene kits, limited clothing items if available, and referrals for clothing and food.

RECOVERY

Many ex-offenders need ongoing support for substance abuse. Kingsway provides referrals for drug and alcohol recovery programs.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Families of an incarcerated loved one are highly impacted, both during their family member's incarceration and during the re-entry process. Kingsway strives to assist the families through several programs and services:

- ◆ Providing referrals for food, clothing, and household needs
- ◆ Providing referrals for family counseling
- ◆ Assisting with support groups, Bible studies, and fellowship services
- ◆ Providing financial counseling
- ◆ Providing the Apple Tree Project Christmas gift program for the children of incarcerated parents

