

WHAT IS REENTRY?
AM I OR SHOULD I BE DOING IT?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- ✘ How many here intentionally do work with previously incarcerated people?
- ✘ How many of you do it as a Church outreach?
- ✘ As a personal calling?
- ✘ How many go into jails or prisons to do the work?
- ✘ How many work with them once they are out?
- ✘ Does anyone do both?

REENTRY DEFINITION

- ✘ Reentry is the personal AND warm “hand-off” of a relationship started while incarcerated AND continued at release, for the purpose of reducing recidivism by instilling hope and opportunity to previously incarcerated people

DON'T CONFUSE MINISTRY WITH REENTRY

- ✘ So, working only inside the jail or prison is not reentry, it's ministry
- ✘ Working only outside the jail or prison is not reentry, it's ministry
- ✘ BUT when the two are coordinated Reentry occurs and resources are maximized and the result is lower rates of recidivism.

TARRANT COUNTY JAIL REENTRY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT PROVES REENTRY WORKS

- ✘ 2012 Tarrant County Jail reports a 77% recidivism rate among County Jail population
- ✘ Tarrant County Administrators office, Tarrant County Sheriff's office, Tarrant County Criminal District Court #3 Judge, UTA, Amon Carter Foundation and Cornerstone Assistance Network piloted a reentry program designed to reduce recidivism by 40 % (a rate of 45%)

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- ✘ The test populations had sentences of 90 days or less and had been in jail at least twice
 - ✘ A five part strategy was developed for use while the offender was in jail
 - ✘ The program was voluntary with no reduction in days for participation
 - ✘ 50 agreed to come straight to Cornerstone from jail, we picked them up at the jail

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- ✘ 195 inmates were deemed eligible
 - ✘ 106 Participated (we picked up 50 of them)
 - ✘ 24 were rearrested within 6 months
 - ✘ That is itself is a 22% recidivism rate compared to the 77% rate reported for this population
 - ✘ HOWEVER, of the 24 rearrested only 1 was one the 50 we picked up

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FAITH-BASED REENTRY PROGRAM

- ✘ 2011 Cornerstone receives \$1,200,000 from DOL to implement reentry strategies with felons returning from the Texas State Jail system to Tarrant County.
- ✘ State Jail releasees come home without being on parole. They “supposedly” have served their time.
- ✘ TDCJ reports the recidivism rate for State Jail releasees is 37%, highest of any population

PROGRAM DESIGN

- ✘ Build a relationship in prison 6 months prior to release
- ✘ Continue that relationship 1 year after release
- ✘ Do assessments and planning while incarcerated that will be continued immediately, within 48 hours, after release
- ✘ Everyone willing to have a mentor will have one
- ✘ Mentors recruited from local churches

PROGRAM GOALS

Performance Measure	Goal	Actual
Enrollments	390	414
Job Placements	117	262
Entered Employment	60%	61%
Retention	70%	65%
Earnings (quarterly)	\$ 9,360	\$ 9,604
Recidivism	< 22%	7%

OBSERVATIONS

- ✘ So, while it is a very small sample, while it is a very short period of time,

IT SEEMS:

- ✘ The sooner they get to organizations that can give them hope and encourage them to take the next step to succeed, the less likely they are to recidivate
- ✘ The first 24 hours after release are critical

THAT SOUNDS LOGICAL BUT

- ✘ Where are these organizations that instill hope and encourage work and are willing to form a positive relationship with previously incarcerated people?
- ✘ Governments ? Not always
- ✘ Families? Usually too many burned bridges
- ✘ Churches? Are scripturally mandated to do that very thing

WHERE DOES IT SAY THAT?

- Matthew 25:31-46 – what you did for the least of these you did for me
- ✘ 1 Timothy 5:16 – let the family help those in need so the church can help those who are really in need. (those that have no place else to turn for hope and help)
- ✘ James 2: 14-17-Faith without action is dead
- ✘ 1 John 3: 17-18-Love in word and deed

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ✘ The Church is the hope of the world and our world needs help. Remember the words of Christ, “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and in prison and you ministered to me. They said when did we do that to you? He replied, “whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did to me.”

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- ✘ Over 10,000 previously incarcerated persons will be coming home to Bexar County this year. Please help us welcome them home by working with the Reentry Committee to provide them the Hope, resources and relationships they need to make Bexar County the best it can be.

Blessings

QUESTIONS?

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Cornerstone Assistance Network

www.canetwork.org