

# Frequently Asked Questions about Jail/Prison Ministry

## ***What is the difference between jails and prisons?***

Jail is a holding place for people who have been arrested and are awaiting trial, who have not been granted bail or cannot afford the bail set. Some inmates who have already had a trial and been sentenced to incarceration for a year or less may serve that time in a jail. Jails are generally administered by local governments. People in the jail may be charged with violating local, state, or state federal laws.

Prisons are institutions that house people sentenced to incarceration for a year or longer. People convicted of a state crime will go to a state prison, while people convicted of a federal crime will go to a federal prison. About 10% of inmates are housed in private prisons which have government oversight.

## ***What are some of the jails and prisons that house people from Central NY?***

### **PRISONS**

Auburn Correctional Facility- Auburn  
Willard Drug Treatment Center-Willard  
Cayuga Correctional Facility-Moravia  
Mohawk Correctional Facility-Rome  
Mid-State Correctional Facility-Marcy  
Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women  
Albion Correctional Facility (for Women)

### **JAILS**

Onondaga County Justice Center  
Hillbrook Juvenile Detention Center  
Cayuga County Jail  
Jamesville Correctional Facility (Onondaga County Jail)  
Cortland County Jail

## ***I am interested in participating in Jail/Prison ministry. What can I do?***

- ✚ Join our letter writing team, to encourage incarcerated men and women in prison.
- ✚ Pray for: 1) the incarnated people, either generally or specifically for needs of current inmates; 2) people who are engaged in jail or prison ministry; 3) the people working in jails or prisons.
- ✚ Offer your gifts or skills as part of a re-entry team to assist inmates that are released from jails/prison.
- ✚ Join the Justice Action Center arm of Prison Fellowship to participate in Justice Advocacy.
- ✚ Offer to buy other books (through Amazon) for inmates.
- ✚ Consider joining one of the many prison ministry groups, for example: Kairos, Prison Fellowship, Crossroads Prison Ministries.
- ✚ Volunteer to drive people to/from church.

## ***What can St. James' Church do?***

- ✚ Offer a group book study at St. James to deepen our understanding of the justice system.
- ✚ Become a participating parish in the Angel Tree project of Prison Fellowship which provides Christmas gifts for inmate's children that live in our area.
- ✚ Host a person recently released from jail/prison to speak of his/her experience at Sunday worship.
- ✚ Consider being a welcoming church for people who are released from Cayuga County Jail.
- ✚ The Thrift Shop can provide clothing for people being released from the Cayuga County Jail.

## ***Departing Facts about the United States Justice System***

- ✚ The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate compared to every other country.
- ✚ 1 in 115 Americans is currently incarcerated in jail or prison, over 2.2 million people.
- ✚ 1 in 9 African American children (ages 5-18) has an incarcerated parent
- ✚ 70 million or 1/3 adult Americans have a criminal record.
- ✚ The U.S. has one of the highest recidivism rates in the world, with almost 44% of people returning before the first year out of prison.
- ✚ The strongest predictor for recidivism is poverty.
- ✚ Want to learn more: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/>

