

What is the Pen Pal Ministry?

A group of volunteers who have expressed an interest in corresponding with someone in prison.

A ministry that you can engage in without leaving your home, and at your own convenience.

An exchange of friendly letters that provides a diversion from the endless grind of prison life.

A way of reaching out with compassion to those on the margins of society who are disconnected from the outside world.

Who would I be writing to?

Most people in prison are ordinary folks who have made a mistake of some kind.

They have the same interests and concerns as you do - family, current events, TV, sports, etc.

Because of the circumstances that led to their incarceration, many have strained relationships with family and friends. Many do not have a lot of positive support.

Having a pen pal connects them to the outside world, and gives them a sense

that someone "out there" cares about them.

The inmates have to agree not to ask for romance or money.

Project Scope

Participants in this program will be writing to fellow citizens who are in prison

The purpose of this effort is to link those in prison to the outside world in a positive way

While there is no direct relationship with other Prison Ministry programs, we hope that your ground work will help citizens to a successful reentry into society

We are all stakeholders in this effort both as Christians and as fellow citizens

How do I become a pen pal?

Contact: Pen Pal Ministry, P.O. Box 398, East St. Louis, IL 62202-0398 OR

Hilary Evers 120 Autumn Ln Belleville IL 62223 (618) 394-0542

Hilary.evers@sbcglobal.net

Pen Pal Ministry will make contact and discuss guidelines for correspondence and how to address correspondence to an assigned Pen Pal.

Some ideas starters when you are stuck on what to write your Pen Pal

- States and countries, you've been to
- People you'd invite to a celebrity dinner
- Your family members, and something they each like and dislike
- What you'd put in a time capsule
- Parts of society that you'd like to change
- Things you're really good at
- Things that you do every day
- Your favorite TV shows, movies, bands, or books
- The things you've dressed up as for past Halloweens
- Unusual facts about you
- Things that make you happy
- Your duties at work
- What you're currently seeing, smelling, hearing, tasting, and feeling

Your Pets

Your Garden

Prison Facts

Prison is emotionally stressful isolating the individual from many positive support systems such as family and Church

Within 5 years of imprisonment the vast majority of citizens no longer receive any mail

A significant number of citizens in prison are suffering from some form of mental illness (by Federal statistics 45%)

With contact to the outside world broken the citizens released from incarceration have difficulty making parole, finding a place to live, obtaining a job. They develop a mentality of failure in which criminal actions can seem the only option

45% of all those released from each year are back in prison within 12 months over 60% return to prison over the next 3 years

Individuals in prison are Human

Got a moment?



**You can Make a Difference in the Life
of Someone at the Fringe of Society**