

How to Set Up a Letter Writing Ministry in Your Church

To Christians Imprisoned for Their Faith





Start a Letter-Writing Ministry *to Christians imprisoned for their faith*

Why do it? As Christians, we follow the directives in the Word of God. We are told not to forget suffering Christians.

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, told us to visit prisoners in Matthew 25, stating that ***“I was in prison and you visited me.”***
(Matthew 25:36)

The apostle Paul said we must ***“Remember the prisoners as if chained with them.”*** (Hebrews 13:3)

How to Start

1 - Devote a location in a visible spot for the ministry, along with a table for materials and room for a poster.

2 - Obtain a prisoner list from Voice of the Martyrs (www.persecution.com) or other organizations that work with the persecuted church.

2 - Create a poster for the wall or bulletin board. Keep the message simple. Ask people to remember those in chains by writing a note and signing their names on the cards provided. Ask them to check back each month for the names of new prisoners.

3 - Prepare and place postcards. Creating the cards can be an enjoyable project for scrapbookers, budding graphic designers or others with a creative bent.

Choosing three people a month for focus is a good way to start. Most prisoner addresses are unknown. That's why it is so important to help when we know the address. Selecting three people to focus on each month allows for attention to the humanity of each individual. However, you should do whatever the Holy Spirit leads in this matter.

4 - Print out a short paragraph on each prisoner, if available. It helps if you provide a sentence or two about the prisoner, when available. Post the information next to the poster. A picture is not always available, but that is wonderful to include.

5 - Post short instructions for the writers.

The instructions are simple: Pick out a postcard, write a note of encouragement, **PRAY over it**, and drop it in the mailbox.

You can also add a note letting people know they can take cards home with them to write their messages, then bring them back in for mailing. That way, they can take more time to write the message.

6 - Create a "mailbox" for the signed cards. In our example, a simple basket works.



7 - Create a donation box or coffee can. Ask for donations to pay for postage and printing of the postcards. It will help the ministry to become self-sustaining.

8 - Place several pens in a variety of ink colors at the station.

9 - Say a prayer over the ministry to ask for God's blessing and that each message be received!

10 - Finally, *spread the word!*

Find out if there are other churches or Christian schools in your area interested in a mail ministry. Copy this booklet and get them started!

Remember the Prisoners!

Write to Them!

**Send a note of
encouragement.**



Why postcards?

Of course, you can supply note cards with envelopes if you prefer, but I think postcards are better. Postcard messages will be visible to others who read it along the

way, even the government censors who may or may not deliver it. The message of Christ is for all.



If the cards are hard to find, or it is difficult to find someone to design them, then by all means, place notecards and write anyway!

(Incidentally, if you have talented graphic designers or scrapbookers in your congregation, why not get them involved? Prisoners love to receive beautiful Christian cards, and this is a way for all to get involved. Put out a request in your church bulletin for their help!)

Print out labels with the prisoners' addresses, and put them on the backs of the postcards, on the right hand side. Leave room for a message. Put on the return address of the church in the upper left corner.

Put postage on the cards, or wait until they are dropped in the mailbox at the table---then place postage on them. International mail postage can be obtained from www.usps.gov. (As of this writing, an international postcard is 70 cents, but check to confirm this.)

Want to Know More?

Check out these web sites:

Voice of the Martyrs
PO Box 443
Bartlesville, OK 74003
www.persecution.com

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted
Church (USA)
www.persecutedchurch.org

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