

FOCUS Prison Ministries

2009 Annual Report – Ministry Highlights

Updated: 1/27/10

I. Prison Evangelism & Discipleship Ministry:

In 2009, approximately 123 Volunteers spent 3688 hours Behind the Walls with FOCUS:

- Conducted 56 Discipleship Groups for approximately 1992 men, women, and youth inmates at 4 East Tennessee prisons & Knox & Anderson County (e.g., FOCUS Groups, Share Jesus Without Fear, Experiencing God, Abundant-Life Skills, and Every Man's Battle, etc)
- Worked with TDOC at Morgan County Correctional Complex and Northeast Correctional Complex, and to provide a "Faith-based" curriculum through FOCUS Christian Academy (approximately 300 students attended 23 FCA classes) Also, beginning in 2009, only students enrolled in the Academy in prison will be eligible to attend the Transition Program (FOCUS Christian Academy – Knoxville Campus)
- In 2009, began a new work with Knox County Detention Facility to provide classes for their ITP (Intensive Treatment Program) for both male and female students – this required a FOCUS Women's Team to minister to the women housed at the downtown jail (currently, we have approximately 12 women teammates who have received volunteer certification training to be FCA instructors)
- Began the development of a new FOCUS Juvenile Program at Taft Youth Center with FOCUS support groups, FCA Classes (Inside/Out Dads – 75% of these young men, ages 16-18 are dads), and one-on-one mentoring – we are beginning to look at a Transitional Program for youth.
- Provided Volunteer Chaplain services at Brushy Mtn & Morgan County
- Provided Christmas Parties at each Institution in the Maximum Security Units (approximately 462 men and officers) and provided Christmas food packages to 8 men who had no family support – this opens doors for evangelism



- Conducted Evangelistic Events at Taft Youth Center & Southeastern Tennessee State Regional Correctional Facility with over 70 Volunteers including motorcyclists, athletes, singers, race car drivers, etc to present the gospel in unique & powerful ways resulting in many men and young men being brought into the Kingdom
- Participated with several ministries (Kairos, Torch, Champions for Life, Prison Fellowship, etc) through networking opportunities to provide evangelism and discipleship, etc

II. FOCUS Christian Transition Program:

In 2009, approximately 258 volunteers provided 2742 hours Beyond the Walls with FOCUS:

- Held an open house for our new Knoxville Campus of FOCUS Christian Academy (FCA) which provides housing, counseling, and other basic needs and FOCUS providing additional educational programming through the FCA Spirit, Mind, Body Curriculum to more than a dozen students this year
- Continued development of our Employment Training Program CEOs (Christian Ex-Offenders Services) through our relationship with our apprentice job partner Seahorn Kennedy who employed most of our students to provide income, as well as, on the job training in construction skills
- Expand the East Tennessee Aftercare Support Groups by networking with the Angelic Ministries, the Salvation Army's Boot Strap Program for women, and Steps House to provide additional resources to our FCA Students

- Provided “aftercare support” and mentoring services (e.g., food, housing, clothing, medicine, work tools, financial counseling, employment counseling, etc) to approximately 30 Christian ex-offenders
- Provided several Ministry Leadership Development opportunities for ex-offenders to be involved with – Mentoring, Compassion Coalition Furniture ministry, Transportation, Peace at Last Residence Hall house manager, etc
- Developed a relationship with the Tennessee Department of Mental Health in order to secure needed funding through the ATR (Access To Recovery) Grant for recovery and addiction services provided to the students in FCA

III. Family Support Ministry:

- Continued our partnership with the Teen FOCUS Program - Locked-Down Outside with FOCUS teammates serving on weekend events and providing mentoring activities monthly for these at risk children – we congratulate the leaders of this program who have just received their own non-profit 501C3 status
- Coordinated Angel Tree Christmas Projects at 3 Prisons and then coordinated parties with churches & Ministry Partners for approximately 1000 children in the greater Knoxville area (this Prison Fellowship program allows these children to experience the love of their incarcerated parent, as well as, the love of their heavenly father)
- Provided transportation for Mothers Day visits for moms, wives, and children to Northeast Correctional Complex, as well as, transportation to the event “One Day with God” where fathers were with their children all day while caregivers were at a spiritual retreat
- Provided counseling services and financial aid to families (e.g., housing, utilities, employment, food, etc) with family members who are incarcerated
- Worked with Knoxville Leadership Foundation - KLF’s Amachi program to provide mentors for the children of incarcerated parents
- Provided team support for Kairos Outside – a program for the significant female (wife, mother, sister, etc) for men who are incarcerated



IV. Volunteer Training & Support:

- Worked with the TDOC TREC Team – Tennessee Re-Entry Collaborative on the Mentoring subcommittee as the pilot program for East TN at Morgan County – recruited and trained new mentors for our program entitled “Men with a Mission”
- Participated in various Ministry Fairs at several of our sponsoring churches: Central Baptist Bearden, First Baptist Concord, Cedar Springs Presbyterian, First United Methodist in Oak Ridge
- Participated in the first Tennessee Baptist Convention sponsored East Tennessee Jail Ministry Workshop at Sevier Heights Baptist Church
- Provided training for our Volunteers through several FOCUS Volunteer Information/Training Sessions held every six months at Central Baptist Bearden

V. Ministry Infrastructure Activities:

- Continued development of the FOCUS website (www.focusprisonministries.com) to provide more current information to potential volunteers, as well as, provide a way of completing an online volunteer application. Phase II to include new source of income for inmates families by marketing the prisoner’s artwork on the web – look for this new website in 2010 to be called “Unique-Creations”

- Moved to a new office location at 11043 Terrapin Station Lane (off Lovell Road and across from the US Cellular soccer complex) where we now have our entire FOCUS Team, as well as, a training room for students and volunteers
- God blessed us with Water Processing Equipment, as well as, mobile car washing equipment that we will use in 2010 to begin two new Ministry Teams: Living Water Evangelism Team and FOCUS Car Care