

## **Information Sheet for The Moody Church Freedom Sisters ministry to women in Cook County Jail**

Here are some facts you will want to know as you consider joining our team:

### **Why have a jail ministry?**

IT IS A MINISTRY THAT IS CLOSE TO THE HEART OF GOD. Isaiah 61:1 states that: "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound"

And Jesus said in Matthew 25 that when we visit someone in jail, we have done it unto him.

Freedom Sisters is not just a ministry to inmates but a ministry to the Lord as well. Also, this ministry will build your faith and change you profoundly, as you give of yourself to others.

### **Who should be involved in Jail Ministry?**

The answer is simple. Not everyone. It takes a special person to be in the environment of a jail. The woman who should be a Freedom Sister is the one that sees beyond a person's faults, sins and crimes and looks deep into the soul of a person and determines in their heart that this person is worthy of the Grace of God. Plus nothing minus nothing!

### **What is your motivation for Jail Ministry?**

First of all, it is not glamorous. You should be motivated by a calling from the Lord Jesus Christ and that is enough.

### **Commitment of a Freedom Sister**

1. To be faithful - You will be assigned to one Saturday each month, where you will assemble at the Cook County Jail at 11:45 to be inside and ready to teach at 12:00. The teaching time is from 12:00 to 1:30. There are several different rooms (known as pods) where we are allowed to hold Bible studies. At least two women will be assigned to a pod. As a new member, you will work with one of the experienced Freedom Sisters to see how the Bible study works, but we would want you to be able to eventually lead a Bible study. It's not difficult! But it is important that you do everything possible to be there on the day assigned to you. Faithfulness and commitment are essential.
2. To be real - They will know if you are not sincere. Just relate to them as one woman to another - for that is exactly who they are.
3. To obey all the rules whether you agree or not. It is a privilege to be there and not a right, and we are very careful to follow all the rules and guidelines set down. These will be explained in detail once you are a Freedom Sister!

## **How to apply to become a Freedom Sister:**

Every applicant must be submitted to the Sheriff's office for approval. Applications are accepted only at certain times each year—usually only twice. The current window for applications expires September 1, so any applications that are not submitted by that date will have to wait until early next year. Therefore, it's really important if you want to be part of Freedom Sisters soon, that you complete the application right away and return it to Mary Lowman for submission. Note that you must include a copy of your driver's license or State ID Card.

If you prefer, you can fax it to Mary at 630-462-1613 or scan it and email it to her at [mary@christianworkingwoman.org](mailto:mary@christianworkingwoman.org).

Once you are accepted, you will be required to attend a one-evening, one-hour training session at a facility near the jail. That is required in order for you to get a red badge, which authorizes you to enter the jail with us. Once your training is completed, you will need to go back to the jail and get your red badge, but that is usually at prescribed times and you can choose the time that suits you.

They are very careful about who goes into the prisons, so it's a bit of a hassle to get approved, but it is all worth it. Also, this training is required every year, so you'll need to be prepared to go for the training once each year.

### **Is this for you?**

Prayerfully consider if this is something that fits with your gifts, and is the direction God is leading you. If so, please respond quickly or you will have to wait a few months before you are eligible to go with us.

It is our goal to have four teams of women, one for each Saturday of the month, with up to eight women on each team. Our goal is for a total of 30 women, which is the limit allowed by the Sheriff's office, so that we can cover three to four pods each week. (We currently have nine qualified Sisters.) The more trained and qualified women we have, the more we can do.

Once we receive applications this month and submit them, we will have a brief meeting to answer all your questions.