

CARRYING THE MESSAGE INTO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

AM I RESPONSIBLE?

Some alcoholics aren't lucky enough to be able to go to meetings when they want to.

They are in prison.

They have limited contact with the shared experience that our Fellowship offers through its meetings.

service

What if I needed an A.A. meeting and there was none?

There are over 38,664 A.A.s in confinement and over 1,559 prison groups throughout the United States and Canada. These meetings answer only a fraction of the need for more groups in correctional facilities all across the country. Many there reach for, but don't find, the hand of A.A.

You can help. Here are some ideas:

- Offer to speak at a correctional setting.
- Volunteer to be a temporary contact upon an inmate's release and take them to their first outside A.A. meeting.
- Provide the correctional facilities, with their permission, with DVDs of A.A. material.
- Donate the price of a Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve to your local corrections committee, as well as back issues of the Grapevine and A.A. Conference-approved literature.
- Correspond with an inmate through the Corrections Correspondence Service.
- Support your district, area or intergroup/central office correctional facilities committees.
- Participate in correctional facilities workshops.

In carrying the message inside a correctional facility, we are sharing our experience, strength and hope with another alcoholic. We let our stories speak for themselves. Our audience is more interested in learning how to stay sober than in hearing how we got drunk, so we talk about our program of recovery with the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Deciding to participate in Corrections Twelfth Step work is an important individual decision. A.A. members should carefully read all paperwork required by correctional facilities, and fully understand and be willing to comply with all rules/regulations prior to commencing such work. Dress neatly and in keeping with the requirements of the facility. A.A. is a program of attraction.

The only thing we take in is our message. Take nothing out—no letters, messages or notes. Don't promise anything but sobriety.

By giving this program away we get to keep it.

Remember—when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there—FOR THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE.

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