

## WILLIAMSON'S CHAPEL WOMEN'S PRISON MINISTRY

Pastor Jan never intended to be involved in prison ministry. She did not sign up for any workshops or receive special training. But when a church member in her previous church in Greensboro asked her to visit a young woman in the state women's prison, she embraced the opportunity. After all, Jesus was pretty clear about how we would be visiting him if we visited others in prison. What has unfolded since that visit is way beyond what anyone could have imagined.

The young woman Jan visited asked if she could start receiving Jan's sermons with the study questions. Jan complied and those sermons ended up being shared with many others within the prison system. In time, Pastor Jan's assistants found themselves with their own ministry; sending out packets to the prison ladies that included copies of Pastor Jan's sermon study guides, Bibles when requested, small devotionals and of course letters of encouragement, hope and love. It has been about ten years ago now that this ministry began. The names of those initially receiving the sermons have all changed.

When Pastor Jan came to Mooresville, her first assistant, Season, took over managing the ministry who then passed it on to Joe, when he assumed the role as Jan's assistant. Joe retired recently, but chose to continue to stay involved in helping manage the ministry as a layperson.

In addition to regular mail packets we also provide funding to purchase food boxes for the ladies, once a year in the Spring (*for those who have no family to send them one*). Williamson's Chapel also has helped with clothing when opportunities for transition arise. But mostly, we are just Christian friends on the outside who care.

The ministry has increased tremendously. The one or two we supported in the beginning now number seventy (70) on our active mailing list with eighteen WCUMC members serving as pen-pals.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We can always use helpers to assist with preparing the semi-annual mailing packets (addressing envelopes, sorting material and creating letters) that we send out to all our prison ladies in January and June. We are continually getting requests for pen-pals, so there is always a need for church members to consider serving in this role. The ministry is carefully structured to retain anonymity and requires very little effort or time. Being a Pen-pal is a simple way to do exactly what Jesus told us to do ---

## WHAT TO KNOW

### YES ...

- First & foremost, **PRAY** for your pen pal
- Use only your first name in any correspondence
- Write at least once a month or every other month
- Send/Receive all letters using only the church address

### NO...

- You would not provide any financial support
- Offer few specific details about your own life. (no children's names, address, etc)

## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Contact Joe or Susan if you are interested in helping and we'll get you started.

Email Joe at [joesaok@roadrunner.com](mailto:joesaok@roadrunner.com) | Contact Susan at the church office at (704) 664-3680