

Grace Team Service Agreement

Our Mission: Helping Friends Discover true Freedom and Changed Lives Through Christ.

Steps to Complete to Seek Volunteer Approval so you can enter the Jail

- Willingness and call to serve those who are on the fringe of society
- Read, sign and return Grace Team “Guidelines and Goals” to Greg Friesner
- Fill out background check material (May take two or three weeks to process)
- Fill out Minnehaha County Volunteer Agreement
- Watch Volunteer instructional video (Ten Minutes in Length)
- Have finger prints and photo taken at Minnehaha County Jail
- Participate in ongoing training at both the County jail and with the Grace Team
- Allow the Holy Spirit to guide and use you as you walk alongside Men and Women at the Minnehaha County Jail.

...I have discovered that God can and will lead you down His path if you choose to follow it. God has given me so much wisdom and grace. I spend every day with God either with people in worship or by myself praying or in my Bible looking for encouragement. God has given me a blanket of hope and an army of support. So today I know through God I can be a better father, a better son and help people along the way to hopefully find what I found through Christ. But without the support of caring people this would honestly not have come true for me because God uses every one of the people he sends to spread his word for a purpose. Thanks for my stepping stones, and continue to send the troops Father. Amen

Justin Travis McKinney (Born Again)

P.S. I pray for more people to help every day here so you can feel the presence God has made here.

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Key Verse: "Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." Hebrews 13:3 NIV

Goals (Evangelize, Disciple, Love and Provide Resources)

1. Share the gospel of Jesus Christ through the testimony of who He is through scriptural witness of the Bible.
2. Share the gospel of Jesus Christ through the testimony of what He has done in our lives.
3. Model the gospel of Jesus Christ through our words and actions.
4. Allow room for God to work towards the salvation and sanctification of our friends.
5. Share the freedom that comes with true repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.
6. Walk alongside our friends by teaching them the foundational truths of the Bible and help them practice reading and applying Biblical truths in their lives.
7. Help them understand and experience prayer as the language of a personal relationship with God that guides their lives.
8. Help them understand and experience the power of fellowship with other believers.
9. Help them learn the importance of choices and clear commitment to follow Jesus Christ.
10. Help them with the good fight of leaving old value systems, attitudes and actions and support them in their struggles as they follow Jesus Christ.
11. Help them see their identity as a child of God who created them for a purpose and equipped them with Spiritual gifts to participate with other Christians in building Gods Kingdom for His glory. Help them to discover them and use them in service to others.
12. Provide resources for our friends in order that they may thrive and mature as Christians.

Ministering to prisoners at the county jail is a God given ministry and a privilege that is granted to us by the County Sheriff and the jail staff. The jail staff is responsible for the inmates and your personal safety. WE MUST adhere to the following guidelines. **We must demonstrate to them that we are willing to cooperate with their security concerns and respect their authority.**

Our role is to:

Represent the mercy of God in patient love. Help them face God and themselves humbly and honestly. Help them understand and get beyond the lies they have accepted and have contributed to their troubles. Help them experience true freedom in Christ and follow him in service for the glory of God.

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Please Do Bring:

A prayerful spirit and be ready to represent the love of Christ for the glory of God.

A positive attitude and regular prayer concern for prisoners and jail staff.

Your Bible, but do not leave it or give it or any other material to friends without permission of your team leader or Bruce Anderson.

Respect and consideration for the prisoners, staff, fellow volunteers and their needs.

A cooperative attitude toward the staff about their security concerns. Don't create more work for them.

Do not giving anything to prisoners that have staples or paper clips in/on them.

Be Wise and Cautious (If you have questions or concerns ask)

Put jackets, purses, cellphones and any metal objects in a locker in the lobby. You cannot wear jackets in the jail. Don't take pictures, or make recordings in jail.

It is helpful to know how long a prisoner expects to be in jail. When appropriate ask when they came to jail and what their next step in the court process (preliminary hearing, dispositional conference, release, trial or sentencing). If they expect to be released within the next month offer them Preparing For Release worksheet if appropriate. Keep some in your notebook.

Be sure each person has a Bible. We suggest NIRV or New Living Translation. We do not give out KJV unless they request that version. **NO HARDBACK BOOKS ARE ALLOWED IN THE JAIL. NO LEATHER BOUND BIBLES CAN BE GIVEN TO PRISONERS. ONLY PAPAERBACK BOOKS WITH SOFT COVERS.**

Make no physical contact other than handshakes. Even when a woman hugs another woman you will make the correction officers nervous because of the possibility of contraband transfers. **NO HUGS PLEASE.**

Keep your team leader or Bruce Anderson informed on availability or time when you will not be able to attend one week in advance whenever possible.

Bible study leaders are not permitted to be a character witness for prisoners in court. If you would like to write a letter for a prisoner contact Bruce Anderson before you do that.

You may write to a prisoner by regular mail. Keep a copy of your letter for your file. The address is **Minnehaha County Jail, 500 N Minnesota Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104**

Greg Friesner are allowed to go into the cellblocks but Bible Study leaders are not.

Always follow your team leaders and jail staff directives. THIS IS A MUST DO.

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PLEASE DO NOT

Bring messages in or carry messages out for prisoners. Suggest they just drop them a note or call.

Write letters or make phone calls for prisoners.

Bring in books or pamphlets without the permission of your team leaders or Bruce Anderson

Give pens to prisoners. Do not give your pencils if they have any metal attached. You may give golf pencils with permission from team leaders or Bruce Anderson.

Give your phone numbers to prisoners, or make calls for them.

Get involved with prisoners financially, loans or payments etc. If they need help when they are released discuss it with your team leader or Greg Friesner.

Give advice on medications, legal matters, policies or staff in jail.

Allow yourself to be drawn into criticisms of jail staff, facilities or meals.

Make promises to prisoners that you are not sure you can keep. They have already had many people disappoint them. Don't add your name to their list.

Do not criticize other faiths or churches. Keep your focus on the truth of God's Word. It is better to ask, "What does the Bible say about that?"

Get involved in arguments with prisoners.

Allow tough questions to paralyze you. Ask for time to study that or get help. You may respond by saying, "Let's think about that and talk about it next week." Deal with the question after you have completed the lesson. Listen twice as much as you talk.

This is a long list of do's and don'ts. It is almost laughable to say now, "Learn to relax and be yourself" with the new friend that you will make in jail. There is an important paradigm shift that will take place in your mind when you see them as friends, not just prisoners. When that happens you will be better prepared to pray for your friends and minister to them in more fruitful ways.

Paul has an excellent prayer for you to memorize and use for yourself and also for your new friends.

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-to the glory and praise of God"

Philippians 1:9-11 NIV

I am willing to serve the Lord and follow these guidelines as a part of the jail ministry team.

Sign _____ Date _____

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Statement of Faith

1. The Word of God

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

2. The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

3. God the Father

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of all people, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

4. Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit.

We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

5. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

6. Regeneration

We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

7. The Church

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon

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the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

8. Christian Conduct

We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

9. The Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local **church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration** of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

10. Religious Liberty

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

11. Church Cooperation

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether it is the Conference or a district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis.

12. The Last Things

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

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Statement of Faith and Essential Actions Steps

The Grace Team Believes Jesus Christ is the only Son of God and the only way to God.

- We are all sinners and are separated from God.
- **Jesus' death on the cross paid full pardon and forgiveness of my Sin** so I can be in relationship with a holy God.
- By choosing to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior and what He did on the **cross for me, I am choosing eternal life with Christ.** "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16
- **Jesus' resurrection from the dead demonstrates His full power over sin, death and Satan.** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2Corinthians 5:17

Essential Action Steps for a Growing Follower of Jesus Christ

- Growing acceptance of the authority of the Bible and regular surrender to its authority in personal life.
- Growing compassion for God and others.
- Persevering in the pursuit of Christ likeness in: character, values, attitudes and actions.
- Regular involvement in Christ centered worship, teaching and accountability to a community of followers of Christ.
- Growing commitment to service in the Kingdom of God and understanding and **practicing God's** principles of stewardship of time money and other resources.

As a member of the Grace Team I affirm this statement of faith and essential action steps and will endeavor to live this out in my life. I will use them as a framework of truth when I work with others.

Signature _____ Date _____