

Prison Fellowship Partnership

Allsman, updated Nov. 11, 2008

World Impact is partnering with Prison Fellowship to provide theological training to inmates within prisons. Many of these students will want to continue their training in local satellites upon their release from prison.

Part of the mission of Prison Fellowship is to assist ex-inmates as they re-enter the world on the outside, including finding a job, housing, and a church home. Prison Fellowship is interested in continuing their relationship with inmates after they are released, including their TUMI training. Local satellites should be aware of Prison Fellowship's goals as ex-inmates transition from prison to local TUMI satellites.

Inmates can be released from a prison and sent to a location anywhere in the world. For example, an inmate could be incarcerated in San Diego, California, and be deported to Mexico (and attend TUMI courses there). Or an inmate in Norco, California could be released to San Francisco, California. Because of these dynamics, any one of our local TUMI satellites (worldwide) have the opportunity to receive motivated, experienced TUMI students from prisons into their local satellite programs.

Background

1. Inmates in the Prison Fellowship program are not charged for their TUMI training, but they are given their Capstone student workbooks for each class they take in prison.
2. Through the prison chaplain's library, inmates have access to the supplementary textbooks but do not own their own copies of textbooks.
3. Many inmates will leave prison without a job or any means of financial support to cover the typical cost of a TUMI Capstone course. To assist ex-inmates in this transition, it is Prison Fellowship's intent to provide a student workbook for all students who started TUMI in prison, until they have completed all 16 Capstone modules at a local satellite.
4. In order to be accountable for their financial support to ex-inmates, Prison Fellowship must monitor the continued TUMI participation of those students who receive free Capstone student workbooks.
5. We must protect the confidentiality of student records as students transfer from one TUMI program to another.
6. The transfer process, from TUMI prison site to local TUMI satellite, needs to be as seamless as possible, in order to assimilate the ex-inmate into life outside the TUMI prison satellite.
7. Some students will have parole requirements that restrict their lives after release. For example, some ex-inmates may be prohibited from leaving their county of residence, even for education, for a period of two years.

Partnership Guidelines

1. Since Prison Fellowship is providing each ex-inmate with student workbooks, and because many newly-released people will not have the financial capability to pay for TUMI courses, local satellites are encouraged to allow Prison Fellowship transfer students to take courses free for their first year after release. After the first year of release, if the student wants to continue taking courses at a local satellite, he/she must pay within the same fee structure as all other students.
2. Since inmates are used to having access to the supplementary textbooks, and because

many of them do not have the means to purchase their own books upon release from prison, local satellites are encouraged to loan supplementary books, or purchase books for the student at the satellite's expense. Some students will have the financial means to buy their own supplementary texts, and should be encouraged to do so.

3. Prior to an inmate's release, Prison Fellowship will require the inmate to sign a release of their TUMI transcript to be forwarded to a local TUMI satellite. Local satellites receiving Prison Fellowship transfer students will receive copies of the student's transcript, their permission to release information related to TUMI, and contact information about the church they will attend upon release. We encourage local satellites to receive students without the traditional TUMI application since they were already accepted by another TUMI satellite.
4. In order to continue providing ex-inmates with Capstone student workbooks, Prison Fellowship must be assured that students are continuing in the TUMI program at a local satellite. With the student's permission (via their release of information document), Prison Fellowship will request that local satellites send email confirmation of the student's continued participation in TUMI training.
5. Because leaders are best developed within a group of other leaders, students should take courses with other students at a local site. If this is not possible, students should be mentored by a local site until such time they can join group of students. If neither of these options is available, Prison Fellowship will mentor the student in an independent study format until he/she can join a group of students at a local satellite.