



CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION



2017 **LOCKED IN SOLIDARITY** **EVENT TOOLKIT**

*CCDA's national day of awareness and action on mass incarceration,
bringing together our prayers, lament, hope and stories.*

Event Date: February 9, 2017

2017 LOCKED IN SOLIDARITY

We are excited to invite you to join the Christian Community Development Association for their annual Locked in Solidarity awareness and action day around mass incarceration. Locked in Solidarity (LIS) began in 2014 as an effort to increase awareness of the impact incarceration is having in poor communities, as well as support each other, as we seek to reverse its devastating impacts.

While there is opportunity to make each day's action and/or event unique to your community, we at CCDA would encourage you to follow these general guidelines:


- Register your event online so we can support you from the national office as well as share the collective work we are doing throughout the country <http://tinyurl.com/LIS2017>
- Host your event in a church, public venue or community center some time during the second Thursday of February
- Have people directly impacted by incarceration share their stories and experiences
- Invite important community leaders to share this opportunity: police officers, school leadership, elected officials at local, state and federal levels
- Make it an open event so that people and even media will be able to attend
- Use and encourage the use of #lockedinsolidarity for all your social media surrounding the event
- Utilize the Locked in Solidarity graphic to promote your event
- Collect names and contact information of individuals who are wanting to more deeply engage a movement to overturn mass incarceration
- Register an articulate community member/leader to be the media contact for your site
- Share at least three names and contact information of local individuals with the CCDA National office who are willing to speak to media if asked.

While there is autonomy to each event, we have provided two suggested formats that you can use as well as a prayer guide that was created for our events in 2014 by Sojourners.

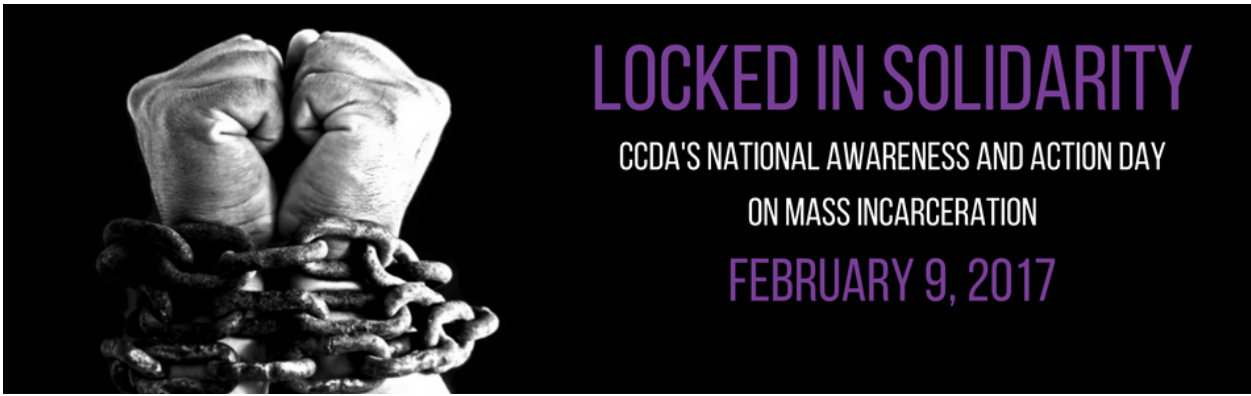
We hope you find the suggested formats along with the toolkit helpful as you host one of the CCDA's *Locked in Solidarity* events. Items in toolkit:

- Fact sheet around Mass Incarceration
- Theological reflections and Biblical narrative
- Event support – invite templates for elected officials, sample flier, schedules, prayer guide, attendee sign-up sheet
- Utilizing LIS as an Advocacy Tool
- Media support

If you have any questions either specific to your site, the event or CCDA's work to engage mass incarceration, please contact **Michelle Warren**, CCDA's Advocacy & Policy Engagement Director, michelle@ccda.org



CCDA expresses its gratitude to **Amy Williams** for creating this toolkit.



As Christians living in communities that are disproportionately impacted by mass incarceration, we believe this injustice, which directly correlates to legislative policies which perpetuate this phenomena, needs to stop.

We are calling on our legislators at the local, state and federal level to come together alongside those in our communities to seek restorative solutions that can build a just community for all people.

2,400,000 - the number of people incarcerated in the United States with a projected 3% increase by 2018.¹

The United States currently has 5% of the world's population and 25% of the world's prisoners.²

Nearly 1 in 100 adults in the United States are currently incarcerated.³

1 in 3 black men in the United States will be incarcerated.⁴

The top worst states for incarcerated black men are: Wisconsin 12.8, Oklahoma 9.7, Pennsylvania 9.4, Iowa 9.4, California 8.7, Indiana 8.4, Louisiana 8.2, Texas 8.1, Kansas 7.7, and Colorado 7.7.⁵

Government spending on prisons and jails has risen by nearly 400% over the past 30 years.⁶

The current cost of the prison system in the U.S. is \$80 billion, roughly \$260 per American.⁷

Putting a minor in juvenile detention reduces his likelihood of graduating from high school by 13% and increases his odds of being incarcerated as an adult by 23%.⁸

¹ http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2014/11/pspp_prison_pop_table_web.pdf?la=en

² http://www.prisonstudies.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/wpl_10.pdf

³ http://judiciary.house.gov/_cache/files/29aa26f0-c772-43ef-bfd1-7f61efb1d7ce/113-101-88643.pdf

⁴ Marc Mauer, Addressing Racial Disparities in Incarceration, 91 supp. 3 The Prison Journal 87S, 88S (Sept. 2011), <http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/Prison%20Journal%20-%20racial%20disparity.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/rates.html>

⁶ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/04/30/the-meteoric-costly-and-unprecedented-rise-of-incarceration-in-america/>; <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/18613/the-growth-of-incarceration-in-the-united-states-exploring-causes>

⁷ http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2014/05/01%20crime%20facts/v8_thp_10crimefacts.pdf

⁸ The Quarterly Journal of Economics, "Juvenile Incarceration, Human Capital and Future Crime: Evidence from Randomly Assigned Judges." (<http://journalistsresource.org/studies/government/criminal-justice/juvenile-incarceration-long-term-consequences#sthash.y6BXV9k4.dpuf>) cited by <http://journalistsresource.org/studies/government/criminal-justice/juvenile-incarceration-long-term-consequences>

RESISTING INJUSTICE: A CALL TO CHRISTIANS

By Shawn Casselberry

America is referred to as the “Land of Liberty,” yet we have more people locked up than any other country in the world. There are over 2.3 million people in our prisons, the majority of whom are minority and low-income. Mass incarceration and the private prison industry has become an economic engine for profit at the expense of economically and socially at-risk individuals and communities. The prison industry has quadrupled in the last three decades even while the rates of crime have decreased.

- The American justice system has become focused on retributive justice instead of restoration and redemption. The God of the Bible is a God of justice and mercy.
 - ◊ “For I, the LORD, love justice.” Isaiah 61:8.
 - ◊ “The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.” Psalm 103:8

Ninevah was a wicked nation that committed many crimes against God and humanity. Jonah is reluctant to go because he knows their reputation as being unlawful but he also knows God’s reputation as being gracious and merciful. Jonah does not want to extend mercy to Ninevah but God does.

- God takes justice seriously and calls us to take it seriously too. As Christians, we are all called to do justly.
 - ◊ “Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.” Isaiah 1:17
 - ◊ “You know what the Lord requires of you, but to ‘Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.’ Micah 6:8

Biblical justice involves protecting the vulnerable and confronting those in power. It calls for an end to exploitation, profiteering, and systems that steal, kill, and destroy.

- Part of the mission of the Messiah was to reveal God’s justice and set the prisoners free.
 - ◊ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.” Isaiah 61:1-2, Luke 4:18.

As Christ’s body on earth, this is our mission too.

- Christ invites us to identify with the prisoner, to see Christ in the prisoner.
 - ◊ “I was in prison and you visited me.” Matthew 25:36

Jesus teaches his disciples that how they treat the prisoner is how they are treating Christ.

- As the Church, we are called to remember the prisoner and enter into solidarity with them.
 - ◊ “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.” Hebrew 13:3

Solidarity involves remembrance, empathy, and commitment to end oppression. Biblical justice moves us toward restoration and freedom. The gospel announces God's kingdom of righteousness and justice and denounces forces and systems that steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus represents God's promise of restorative justice.

The cross restores broken and sinful humanity to God and to one another. We are not given what our crimes deserve, but instead we are shown mercy. Our records are wiped clean. The Church is called to be Christ's body in the world and to live out God's justice. We are urged to enter into solidarity with the prisoner, treat them as we would treat Christ, and seek to end their oppression.

As Christians, we have the power to call down strongholds and to confront principalities and powers. Like Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Daniel who resisted the unfair and oppressive laws of Babylon, we have a responsibility to resist injustice. We have a duty to resist and change unjust laws. We are called to make this world look more like the kingdom of God.

JESUS WAS A PRISONER TOO

By Amy Williams

When we hear the word “prisoner,” certain images immediately come across our mind: violent, angry, mental issues, poor, throw-away, to name a few. Our understanding and experience with the criminal justice system (probation/parole, prisoners, returning citizens) and those involved in it is very limited unless we are directly involved or connected...or so one thinks. The Church is more closely connected to the experience of the prisoner because the One we worship was a prisoner himself.

The story of Jesus’s incarceration parallels the life of today’s inmates. He was seen by political leaders/powers that be as “less than,” a law breaker (Matt 9:3, Matt 12:2, Matt 12:10, Mark 2:16). He was arrested (John 18: 3 – 12) and given an unfair trial (John 18: 28-38). This is a prime example of a broken Criminal Justice System. Jesus was unjustly condemned –“framed” –and sentenced by the corrupt (“jury of peers”) (John 18: 38b – 40). Jesus was given the death penalty (Gal. 3:1).

Once convicted and locked up, he was allowed visitors and fondly remembers the impact that had on his time of incarceration: *“I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. (Matthew 25:36)*

Prisoners who have done their time eventually return back to the community. Could the resurrection of Jesus (Mark 16:5-6) be a parallel story for the returning citizen (Luke 24:6-7)? A story of second

chances. A story of a rebirth of a new life and opportunities. A story of redemption. Even the Prodigal Son experienced the joy of returning home after paying his dues. When Jesus returned, He became fully recognized as the Savior and changed the world. Returning citizens, given the right resources, support and opportunities, can become community changers as well.

The parallels can be summarized as:

- must be delivered into the hands of sinful men – criminal justice system
- be crucified – sentenced, serve their time, treated inhumanly
- on the third day, be raised again – reentry back into society
- FULLY recognized as Savior, changed the world - indigenous leaders, community changers



As we engage the issue of mass incarceration, one of the most effective ways to connect with the incarcerated and returning citizens is

to see them the way God sees them: as His children too. We have to recognize and acknowledge their inherent worth as God's creation.

- Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body (Hebrews 13:3-5 ESV)
- So God created humankind in (God's) image.... God saw everything that (God) had made, and indeed, it was very good (Genesis 1:27, 31)

MASS INCARCERATION: OUR FAITH & THE PRIVATE-FOR-PROFIT PRISON SYSTEM

By Dominique Gilliard

As a pastor I find that my soul is troubled by the following question; “how is it that we can read passages like Matthew 25 and Hebrews 13:3 yet not feel inclined to ask ourselves ‘when was the last time I visited a prisoner?’” Or better yet, “when was the last time I even prayed for someone who is incarcerated?” What does this say about how we’ve been disciplined and about how we’re disciplining others? What does this imply about how instructive Scripture is for our lives?

***As Christians, we believe in a God of redemption, reconciliation,
And restoration, yet we continue to sit idly by as our broken criminal
justice system destroys individuals, families and communities.***

Daily, young, poor, black and brown youth are disproportionately targeted and arrested for nonviolent crimes, transported from decrepit, underfunded schools to brand new, high-tech prisons. As a consequence, today “there are more African-American adults under correctional control, in prison or jail, on probation or parole, than were enslaved in 1850, a decade before the Civil War.”[i] Additionally, Hispanics now have a one in six chance of being confined in prison during their lifetimes.[ii]

Scripture says “love of money is the root of all kinds of evil,” and upon closer examination it’s become apparent that both individuals’ and corporations’ love of money are inherently wed to our nation’s mass incarceration epidemic. From the birth of privatized — for profit — prisons to people’s ability to buy and trade Wall Street Stock in such prisons, money is indelibly connected to our inflated incarceration rates. In fact, the two largest private prison corporations, CCA & the GEO Group, collectively made \$3.3 billion in revenue in 2011 and CCA acquired \$1.7 billion in revenue in 2012, while the Geo group received \$1.6 billion. [iii] Corporations such as these have found ways to financially profit off discriminatory legislation which masquerades under the guise of “get tough on crime” rhetoric. These two companies alone constitute roughly 75% of the entire ‘private prisons market.’

I pray that we begin to take passages like Matthew 25 and Hebrew 13:3 seriously. These texts summon us into relationship with the incarcerated, and through this communion, may our eyes be opened. May these relationships and campaigns like “Locked in Solidarity,” which is the Christian Community Development’s annual national day of prayer and awareness around issues of mass incarceration, foster a more faithful response to the gospel.

May the Spirit of God move and direct the Church and its membership towards a righteous response to this institutionalized injustice. Our current penal system counteracts God’s desire to see people made whole, restored, and holistically reinstated into communities in a reconciled manner. As people of faith, we have a role to play; we cannot be indifferent to the current state of affairs!

[i] Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, The New Press, New York; New York, 180.

[ii] Bureau of Justice Statistic: *Lifetime Likelihood of Going to State or Federal Prison*

[v] These two companies alone constitute roughly 75% of the entire ‘private prisons market.’ These companies are not classified as correctional facilitators; they consider themselves real estate investment trusts, or REITs, to limit corporate tax liability. Corrections Corporation of America and The GEO Group derive about 40% of their revenue from the federal government — and are exempt from paying federal taxes.

The Promise of God's Liberation for Prisoners

- Psalms 146: 7 "He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free."

The Prophetic Confrontation of Injustice

- Amos 5:12, 14-15, 24 "I am the Lord, and I know your terrible sins. You cheat honest people and you take their bribes; you rob the poor justice....Seek good and not evil, that you may live; And thus may the Lord God of hosts be with you, just as you have said! Hate evil, love good and establish justice in the gate....Let justice roll down like water, righteousness like a never ending stream."

The Retorative Nature of God's Mercy

- Matthew 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

The Solidarity of Jesus and the Early Church with the Prisoner

- Matthew 25:36b "I was in prison and you visited me."
- Hebrews 13:3 "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."

Some Biblical Characters and Prison Narratives

- Joseph was in prison, falsely accused
- Paul wrote many epistles from prison
- Philemon is asked to receive back Onesimus from prison not as a reinstated slave but as a fellow brother in Christ

SAMPLE AGENDA #1



REFUGE & RESTORATION CHURCH|215 SHEPLEY DRIVE
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, 63137

AGENDA

Order	Leader	Time
Intro, welcome, opening prayer	LaKricia Cox Reading of Scripture: <i>Isaiah 61:1</i>	5
Short Video	Call to Action	5
Reading Passages of Scripture	Minister Marion McNeil Reading of Scripture: <i>Isaiah 49:8-10</i>	1
First Speaker (Men)	Minister Tony McNeil (Refuge & Restoration) Mission Gate Prison Ministry	15
Success Story & Testimony	Elder Darryl Allen Faith Miracle Temple	5
Second Speaker (Women)	Makeeba Louris (Refuge & Restoration) Cathedral of Hope Prison Ministry	15
Reading Passages of Scripture	Minister Sarah Thomas Reading of Scripture: <i>Hebrews 13:3</i>	1
Prayer for Women in Prison	Mother Jackie Todd	5
Success Story & Testimony	Evangelist Sharon Tate Riverview Church of God	5
Reading Passages of Scripture	Minister Kevin Starks Reading of Scripture: <i>Isaiah 42: 6-7</i>	1
Third Speaker (School to Prison Pipeline)	Minister Alfred Long Sr. (Shalom Church) Jacob's Ladder Ministries	15
Intercessory Prayer for people affected by incarceration	Kacie Starr Long Jacob's Ladder Ministries	5
Closing Remarks	Pastors Ken & Beverly Jenkins	5

Approximate time limit 1 hour 30 minutes

SAMPLE AGENDA #2

Locked In Solitary Prayer Gathering

Agenda:

- 7:00 Welcome & History of Locked in Solidarity
- 7:05 Highlighting problems within our juvenile system
- 7:10 *Prayer for incarcerated minors*
- 7:15 Race & Incarceration
- War on Drugs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cp7GimA-h3Q> (6 min)
 - War on Immigration <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuGE1VxVsYo> (3 min)
 - School to Prison pipeline https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Qe5_1Wayil (3 min)
 - Prison gerrymandering https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzh32Zp_PYk (2 mi)
- 7:35 *Prayer for these issues*
- 7:40 Private Prisons & profiteering <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKfSpfIjo9E>
- 7:45 *Prayer to end the profiteering from incarceration*
- 7:48 Highlighting the role of mental health & addiction in who's in our jails
- 7:50 *Prayer for healing & productive alternatives*
- 7:55 Why we need a theology of restorative justice, not punitive justice, & it's biblical rootedness
- 8:05 Challenges facing those trying to reenter society
- Live guest from the Asian Prisoner Support Committee under Program Area, then video <http://summitforchange.com/portfolio-item/elevating-the-issues-mass-incarceration/>
- 8:20 How can we respond more faithfully as a community of believers?
<http://covchurch.tv/excerpt-04-with-michelle-alexander/>
- 8:30 Share a few tangible walkaways & closing benediction

sojourners

Mass Incarceration

Prayer Guide

Pray for those who are incarcerated and for our society that has fallen into this devaluing pattern.

- The U.S. has less than 5% of the world's total population, but holds 25% of the world's prisoner population.
- The U.S. currently incarcerates 2.3 million people.

Pray for the men and women living behind bars, that they may be transformed by the renewing of their minds and come to know the transformative power of the cross.

- Recidivism among repeat offenders has dropped in some states by 33% among inmates who earned a GED while incarcerated.
- Only 18% of inmates feel supported in their academic journey.

Pray for the perseverance and discernment to do what the Lord has commanded the church to do.

"I, the Lord, have called you and given you power to see that justice is done on earth. Through you I will make a covenant with all peoples; through you I will bring light to the nations. You will open the eyes of the blind and set free those who sit in dark prisons."

Isaiah 42:6-7

Pray for racial equity in arrests and sentencing.

- More African Americans are in the criminal justice system than there were slaves in the 1850s.
- Two-thirds of inmates arrested for drug offenses are Hispanic or black, even though whites and minorities use drugs at the same rate.
- It is predicted that one in every three black males will serve time in jail or prison in their lifetime.

"Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.'"

Genesis 1:26

Pray for at-risk youth, that God brings adult mentors into their lives; that they recognize the importance of education and relationships; and that they always know their own value and dignity.

- 7.3 million children have at least one incarcerated parent.
- Approximately 70% of these children will end up in the criminal justice system in their lifetime.
- Children of incarcerated parents are five times more likely to commit crimes than their peers.

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"

Matthew 19:14

Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19

The Lord says...

"When the time comes to save you, I will show you favor and answer your cries for help. I will guard and protect you and through you make a covenant with all peoples. I will let you settle once again in your land that is now laid waste. I will say to the prisoners, 'Go free!' and to those who are in darkness, 'Come out to the light!' They will be like sheep that graze on the hills; they will never be hungry or thirsty. Sun and desert heat will not hurt them, for they will be led by one who loves them..."

Isaiah 49:8-10

Pray that mandatory minimums and harsh drug sentencing laws may be changed. Pray for those who have been sentenced to life without parole for nonviolent drug offenses.

- The amount of people incarcerated for drug offenses increased 1,412% between 1980 and 2006.
- There are approximately 3,278 people serving life without parole for nonviolent offenses.

Pray that God may end private prison corporations and the business of making money off of inmates. Pray that God will use stockholders to protect the image of the Lord in each inmate.

- The average minimum wage for inmates working in private prisons is \$0.93 per hour. Some inmates receive \$0 per hour.
- In 2011, the Corrections Corporation of America reported \$1.7 billion in revenue.
- In 2011, the Geo Group reported \$1.6 billion in total revenue.

Pray for those suffering from mental illness or addiction, that they may receive medical treatment and rehabilitation, for they are worthy and deserving of medical care.

- About 56% of state prisoners, 45% of federal prisoners, and 64% of inmates suffer from mental illness.
- Nearly 76% of inmates who have a mental health problem are dependent on or abuse alcohol or drugs.

"News about [Jesus] spread as far as Syria, and people soon began bringing to him all who were sick. And whatever their sickness or disease...he healed them all."

Matthew 4:24

Pray for our nation's leaders and decision makers that they may govern in support of all people, including returning citizens.

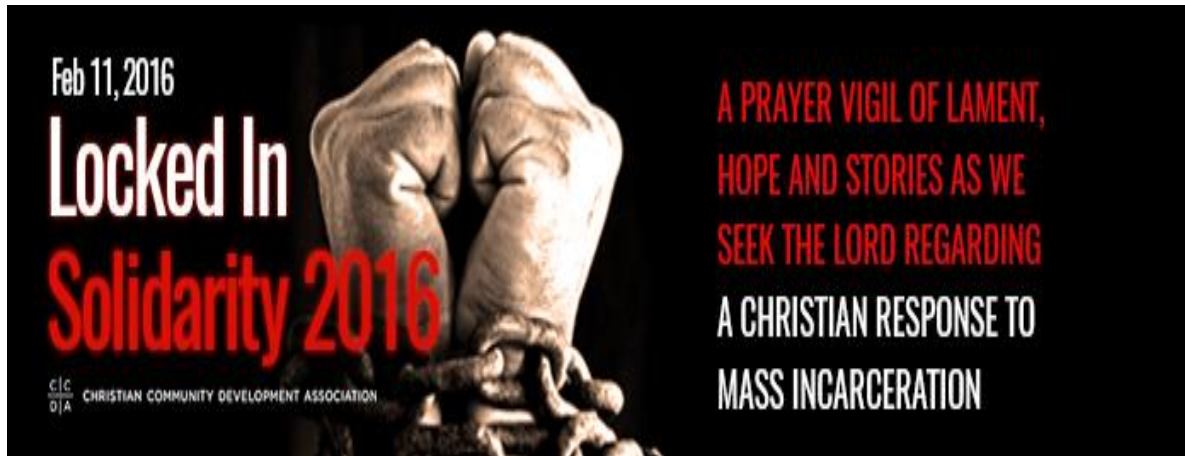
"First of all, I encourage you to make petitions, prayers, intercessions, and prayers of thanks for all people, for rulers, and for everyone who has authority over us. Pray for these people so that we can have a quiet and peaceful life always lived in a godly and reverent way. This is good and pleases God..."

1 Timothy 2:1-3

Pray for the church that we may humble ourselves, show no judgment to those incarcerated, and treat all members of the body equally.

"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Romans 12:3-5



SOUTH STREET MINISTRIES
COMMUNITY EVENT
LOCKED IN SOLIDARITY

FEBRUARY 11, 2016
6:00 – 8:00 PM

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1361 W MARKET ST AKRON, OH 44313

Join Christ followers across the nation as we address the issue of mass incarceration from a Christ-centric point of view. Hear the voices of youth from Akron reflect and give an account of how mass incarceration has affected their lives. Also hear the voices of Akron civic leaders, as well as have the opportunity to have your own voice be heard. You're invited to participate in this special event and become part of the solution to the reality of mass incarceration both in Akron and nationwide.

CONTACT: JOE TUCKER @ JOSEPHJTUCKER@GMAIL.COM OR 330-289-9234

Org/church header - if you have one

Elected Official or civil servant name
Address line one
Address line two

February xx, 201x

Dear _____,

Thank you for your service to our community. We are faith leaders who are your constituents and who work, worship and live in communities that are deeply impacted by the effects of mass incarceration.

We see first-hand the devastating impacts that the War on Drugs, mandatory minimums, “three-strikes you’re out” laws, the private prison industrial complex, solitary confinement, our broken immigration system, the over-policing of our schools, racial profiling, the militarization of the police, re-entry hurdles for returning citizens and other issues has created.

We not only see but feel the devastating impacts of mass incarceration and the lives that are forever changed by its numerous, unjust policies. While we can feel overwhelmed when we look at the consequences of these policies, we also recognize that we have a voice as well as a stake in the future of our community residents and must speak up and speak out.

In an effort to share this voice with you, we would like to invite you to join us for our local “Locked in Solidarity” event to highlight the issue of mass incarceration where we will be sharing stories, prayers and facts around this important issue. We are hosting this event here in _(city)_ but are also a part of a national group where communities across the country will be hosting similar events.

Please join us at _(org/church name and address)_____ from ___(timeframe)___ on February ____.

If you have questions, please contact, ___(name) ___ at ___(number)___

Sincerely,

Name
Title
Org

Utilizing LIS as an Advocacy Tool



Locked in Solidarity is our national day of awareness and ACTION around mass incarceration. We recognize that while it is good to be aware of an issue that is impacting our communities and support those voices impacted, we want to take what we have heard and learned and move into a direct action response.

One of the primary purposes of LIS is to create an opportunity to do direct advocacy. Public sector officials need to know that there are leaders in their community who want to work together to impact change on this issue. Those officials can be, but are not limited to: police officers, sheriffs, ICE detention officers, school & community officers, public defenders, prosecutors, the mayor or city manager, local school board & council members, state level and federal elected officials, state and county department heads and staff who work under the judicial branch.

How to Engage

Included in this toolkit are letters with the framework for writing an invite letter to public sector officials. Send them your flier or Facebook invite. Tweet at them directly and send the landing page that may house your event electronically. Call them and ask to speak to their scheduler. Invite them to join you.

If they are unable to attend, and many will be unable, set up meetings to discuss this community issue. Those meetings can be officially scheduled or “drop by” type meetings. Building bridges to public sector leaders means meeting them where they are at. They serve the public and their buildings/offices are accessible. Find out how to get some face time and when you do, bring people in your community to share how they are impacted. Bring the people who shared during your LIS event. It is so important for them to share their stories to those who can make change.

Some creative ways beyond an invite to the LIS service or meeting with legislators are:

- host a lunch or dinner roundtable event with local public officials and your community to share concerns and engage.
- Invite public officials to one of your regularly scheduled community or youth events, invite both sides to share stories and commit to working together.
- Hold a solidarity vigil outside a detention center, prison or jail.
- Do a rally or march at your state capitol, city building or other public building.

Most of mass incarceration's legislation will need to be changed at the state and local level. While each state has its own separate legislative issues, we have provided some state campaigns in this toolkit that are happening in many places around the country. Our hope is that this might be entry issues in which you begin to engage.

- Ban the Box
- Voting Rights – let my people vote
- LIVE FREE – info
- Death Penalty
- Private prisons at state level
- Private ICE detention facilities at federal level
- Mandatory Minimums

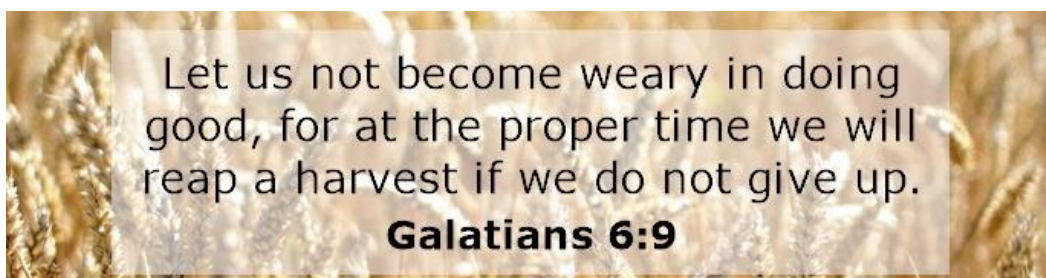
Collaborate with others working on this in your region. Because legislation is always in constant motion and there are different layers of government, we have found that **The Sentencing Project** is the superior resource to stay engaged and connected with others who are working on these issues in your states. While their website is filled with resources, the **[best link to see what is happening at all levels of government is on their "Take Action" section \(www.sentencingproject.org\)](http://www.sentencingproject.org)**. On the right side of the screen, there is both an interactive map and a state contact section. The state contact section will display individuals and organizations who are working to support advocacy efforts on these issues. The interactive map section will show you incarceration facts and details about your particular state. Reach out to them and ask if you can engage alongside them. The issues we are facing in our country today need more representatives like yourself and those in your community so don't assume that you are not welcome. Seek out ways to become connected to the broader movement.

Impacting the effects of mass incarceration may seem daunting but you and your community are not alone. Many leaders, artists, faith communities, people directly impacted, and many others have been working together to highlight the injustices and are seeking to make change together.

Recently we have shared some legislative victories.

- Solitary confinement banned for juveniles in federal prison 2016
- 6,000 non-violent, federal prisoners released 2015
- Virginia reinstated voting rights to 200,000 formerly incarcerated citizens 2015
- Department of Justice withdraws contracts with private prison companies, to be finalized in 5 years
- Ban the Box: Ban the Box policies were adopted in 7 states and 28 localities in 2016
- Phone Justice: New FCC (Federal Communications Commission) rate caps were put into effect for calls from state and federal prison systems; most ancillary fees from all detention fees were also banned and remaining fees were capped

While we celebrate each and every victory we also recognize the necessary work still to do.



Media Support

Getting your message out is a very important element of raising awareness and taking action. For those of us who live in communities impacted by mass incarceration, who attend the CCDA conference learning more about the broken system, we may forget how little many people know outside of our circles. We need to work to raise their awareness so they can join us in the collective effort to dismantle this injustice.

Media is a great way to share what is happening in our community from promotion of our LIS event to the information we learn while there. We want to support you as you engage this important aspect. We want to ensure that we are training, inspiring and connecting the community to what we have learned and currently see.

Promotion:

We have provided a sample flier with logo for you to use if you wish. Please do not feel limited to our sample, as it is a basic communication guide. Create an event on Facebook and invite others through social media.

Social Media:

Social media is a key element of message sharing. **We ask that you use the #lockedinsolidarity or #LIS2017 hashtag on all of your social media posts.** We also encourage you to use media platforms like Facebook Live and Periscope to live stream your event.

Earned Media:

Earned media is also an important way to share a message and if earned, can be further shared through social media. **We at CCDA have put things in place to help support your message by sending media advisories.** Media advisories that share what you are doing, along with quotes from local people as to why you are participating in LIS, is something that incentivize media outlets to cover. It is not unusual for a reporter to walk into your event or call you for an interview. Because of this we advise:

- Choose an articulate community member/leader to be the media contact for your site
- Share at least three names and contact information of local individuals who are willing to speak to media if asked
- Help prepare those who may be interviewed to share their story. Sometimes it can be very intimidating to speak to the media or sometimes the message is not said in a helpful way

While press may come to you, another form of media is **Opinion Editorials (Op Eds) and Letters to the Editor (LTE)**. Both of those formats, which vary in submission guidelines, are opportunities for local people to submit their opinions or responses in an article to their local papers. In 2015 Byron McMillan had an Op Ed published supporting LIS and the need to reverse mass incarceration. Here is a link to his article:

<http://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/op-ed/article59624366.html>.

Please reach out if you have questions as we are eager to support your efforts. michelle@ccda.org



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

www.cdda.org

Many of us have a deep sense that the world is not as it should be. Broken relationships. Divided communities. Poverty and violence in our neighborhoods . . .

The good news is that God longs to work through us to help restore things to the way they were intended to be. In the language of the Old Testament, this wholeness is called shalom—a state where nothing is missing and nothing is broken.

The Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) is a network of Christians committed to seeing people and communities wholistically restored. We believe that God wants to restore us not only to right relationship with Himself but also with our own true selves, our families and our communities. Not just spiritually, but emotionally, physically, economically, and socially. Not by offering mercy alone, but by undergirding mercy with justice.

To this end, we follow Jesus's example of reconciliation. We go where the brokenness is. We live among the people in some of America's neediest neighborhoods. We become one with our neighbors until there is no longer an "us" and "them" but only a "we." And, in the words of the Prophet Jeremiah, "we work and pray for the well-being of our city [or neighborhood]," trusting that if the entire community does well and prospers, then we will prosper also.

Those of us who orient our lives around this practice we call Christian Community Development (CCD) Practitioners. As Practitioners, we often commit to living in an under-resourced neighborhood for a minimum of 10 years. This is obviously no easy task. But we believe that true and lasting change takes time and requires real relationships. We think this approach is pretty unique.

Our Vision

Wholistically restored communities with Christians fully engaged in the process of transformation.

Our Mission

To inspire, train, and connect Christians who seek to bear witness to the Kingdom of God by reclaiming and restoring under-resourced communities.

Our Statement of Faith

The Lord Jesus Christ, God's son, redeems us through His death and resurrection and empowers us by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is God's Word and through it we are called to live out justice, reconciliation, and redemption. The church nurtures God's people gathered in a community to carry out God's Word.

Our Inspiration

"Where there is no vision, the people perish . . ." (Prov 29:18)