

A Special Mailing from Christian Jail Ministry (CJM)
Howard County Detention Center (HCDC) Christmas Activities

This special mailing is to let you know about HCDC Christmas activities so that you can pray for God's blessings upon them and so that you will be aware of some opportunities to be involved.

Christmas for Inmate Children: Since about 1990, CJM has provided Christmas presents for HCDC inmate children (presented as from the inmate). We normally serve 75-125 children this way each Christmas. Unlike Angel Tree and other programs which serve prison inmates and have months to make arrangements, we have only a few weeks since HCDC is a jail with the high turnover of inmates typical of a jail (4,000 pass through HCDC in a year, but the daily population is about 300).

Just after Thanksgiving, Chaplain Nichols announces the Christmas for Inmate Children Program and collects children and guardian names and addresses from inmates who want to participate in the program (which is made available equally to all inmates, regardless of their faith or involvement in CJM activities). The child's names and contact information is passed to a church helping in this program. The church contacts the guardian for size and need information, and for delivery arrangements for the gifts. The church then buys the items, packages them, and delivers them to the child as from the parent at HCDC.

Churches involved in this program let the CJM Coordinator (Mrs. Geneva Colbert, the member of the CJM Board who started this program way back when) know how many children for whom they will be able to provide presents. When the information is available, the church is given the names of that many children and they can go to work. Churches involved in this program in past years include Chapelgate Presbyterian, Celebration Center (previous Long Reach Church of God), Community Baptist, Covenant Baptist, Gethsemane Baptist, Mt. Zion UMC (Highland), and Rivers Edge Community.

If your church (or church group such as a Sunday Class, missions group, etc.) would like to be involved in the Christmas for Inmate Children Program this year, please contact Mrs. Geneva Colbert (410-792-0514, jgcolbert@verizon.net) as soon as possible.

Christmas Activities Planned for HCDC 2007. This year, Christmas activities beyond the normal Bible classes, worship services, discipleship training, Christian 12-step meetings, pastoral counseling, etc. provided through CJM are expected to include the following:

- The Christmas for Inmate Children program (described above)
- Christmas Concert by the Alleluias Choral Group with Baked Cookies and New Testaments given to all inmates who want them by the Gideons
- Christmas Concert by the Mt. Pisgah AME Men's Choir
- Working on a Christmas Eve program (if enough key volunteers are available – if you or others from your church would like to participate in this worship service, contact Chaplain Nichols as soon as possible – contact information at bottom of the page)

We appreciate the churches and people directly involved in CJM's ministry and these special activities as well as the prayers and financial support of God's people who care about this ministry. We also appreciate the HCDC leadership and staff for their part in making these special activities and all religious programs at HCDC possible.

For more information about any of these things, contact CJM (same for Chaplain Nicholes):

By mail: Christian Jail Ministry, P.O. Box 6037, Columbia, MD 21045-6037

By phone: (410) 997-0253

By email: chaplain@christianjailministry.org