



ENGAGE / EDUCATE / EQUIP Annual Report 2018

Me|anoia
MINISTRIES

Mark Casson, Executive Director
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P.O. Box 11092
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Remember the prisoners as if chained with them – those who are mistreated – since you yourselves are in the body also. (Hebrews 13:3 NKJ)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

Strategic Highlights

2018 was a year of growth for Metanoia. More importantly, it was a year of spiritual growth for hundreds of incarcerated men and women through great outreach by godly volunteers from churches across the country. This was made possible by the prayerful support of willing partners, expansion of our Board to create a greater national footprint, the giftedness and commitment of existing and newly-added staff and regional representatives, enhancement of administrative tools, and an increase in our indispensable volunteer base.

Financial Highlights

It was a good year financially. We raised \$218K cash, received in-kind donations of \$70K, and benefitted from missionaries' self-support of \$80K and \$10K directed giving for libraries & seminary expansion. This, plus careful spending and cost-avoidance, let us meet 2018's budget requirements and be left with a positive year-end, cash reserve balance. Also, a single donor funded a new Deep Reserve Fund with \$50K for future needs. We are grateful to individual donors, churches, presbyteries, corporations, and foundations for putting us on sound financial footing in 2018.

Please pray that God will supply all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Operating Highlights

- Mentoring was launched at Perry Correctional in Pelzer, SC where the Warden hopes for us to raise 1,000 mentors. We've trained more than 100 volunteer mentors there to date.
- We finished our first full year of seminary at Walker State Faith and Character Prison in Georgia with 23 students pursuing AA / BA / MA Degrees in Theological Studies.
- Volunteers topped 1,000 for the first time in Correspondence, Mentoring & other facets of ministry.
- Since our work is one-on-one and repetitive, we conservatively figure that in 2018, Metanoia facilitated more than 10,000 meaningful relational contact-hours between volunteers and prisoners - building up one another in Christ.
- Our Board experienced a seamless leadership transition. Great ministry demands a great Board. We are blessed to have such supportive officers and members.

Our mission is to engage, educate, and equip the Church for the discipleship, mentoring and reintegration of prisoners.

To God Be the Glory

What a privilege it is to serve with Christians who don't shy away from doing hard things. The saints race towards prisoners when most people, even in the Church, run the other way. All success to date we attribute to God and His faithful dealings with us. To Him alone be the glory.

Mark Casson
Executive Director

Jim Prieb
Board President

CORRESPONDENCE MINISTRY

Our unique ministry touched more than 1,200 enrolled students in 2018. Throughout the year, many prisoners come and go, but what doesn't change is our commitment to providing one-on-one discipling relationships with Church members. Some of our Graders have been with their students for 10 years. They deeply appreciate studies that enrich their own Christian walk while responding to Christ's mandate to visit the prisoner. Think about it -- for some prisoners, this is the ONLY interpersonal interaction they have with someone on the outside. How lovely in the prison are the feet of those who bring Good News.

- We ended 2018 with 975 active students and we have many new sign-ups on the rolls.
- Our Corresponding Disciplers (Graders) come from 225 churches across the country.
- The Correspondence Ministry reaches prisoners incarcerated in 49 of the 50 states.
- One prisoner was asked to write a 28-day devotional for Haven Ministries' *The Anchor*.

Metanoia is blessed to be in our ninth year of a strategic relationship with Ligonier Ministries. Ligonier supplies advanced coursework for prisoners who have finished the Metanoia studies. We offer many studies and tools, including R.C. Sproul lectures on CDs where allowed.



A student in a Texas prison recently wrote his Corresponding Disciplex:

"Hey, just touching base to say hello and to express my gratitude and my love to you, my brother in Christ. I talk to my wife about you all the time and share what God is doing in my life through y'all, until I get home. You and your family are in my prayers each morning and night. I love you, brother, and I'm growing in Christ right along with you."

Matters for Prayer

- For Shelly Marshall - Ministry Coordinator, who through reaching out to prison chaplains has received hundreds of new student requests.
- Please pray for volunteers to meet this large demand.
- For first-time creation of gender-specific studies, i.e., Biblical Manhood & Womanhood.
- That our students would grow deeper in their faith and more in love with Jesus Christ. Also pray for student longevity so our volunteers can work with them as long as possible.
- For deep and abiding relationships between prisoners and their Corresponding Disciplers.

LIFE-ON-LIFE MENTOR MINISTRY

Sporadic visits as one-off occurrences in prisons have little potential for bringing transformation. We don't do "drive-by" ministry. Plenty of people engage the prisons to "show up, shout out, then get-out", which doesn't prepare prisoners for balanced, well-lived Christian lives. Our mentors enter one-on-one personal relationships with prisoners after undergoing special training to understand prisoners and prison culture. They then engage to enrich prisoners' lives through guidance, encouragement, accountability, and love. Intentional, repetitive visits several times each month focus on prisoners' long-term spiritual well-being and life skills that benefit prisoners upon release.

Locations Where Metanoia Has Launched Mentoring

- Hays State Prison, Trion GA
- The Next Door (Pre-release) Women, Chattanooga TN
- Perry Correctional, Pelzer SC
- Phillips State Prison, Buford GA
- Walker State Faith & Character Based Prison, Rock Spring GA

How You Can Become Involved

Mentoring started when a State prison Chaplain asked a Metanoia Board member if his church would be the catalyst to create a mentor ministry at his prison. That was seven years ago. Metanoia ended 2018 with about 300 active and inactive mentors (inactive mentors are on break between mentees). Contact us if you see potential for your church to launch mentor ministry at a prison near you. We'll evaluate the opportunity, raise champion churches, approach wardens, provide training and materials, and administer details. The work is vast so we'll gladly work with churches from other denominations.

Ps 107:10-16 God Hears the Prayers for Restoration from Imprisonment

... The prisoner bends the knee of his heart

¹⁰ Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction and in irons, ¹¹ for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High. ¹² So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor; they fell down, with none to help. ¹³ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart. ¹⁵ Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! ¹⁶ For he shatters the doors of bronze and cuts in two the bars of iron.



Matters for Prayer

- For ladies to launch new ministry to women at Leath Correctional in Greenwood, SC.
- For volunteer stamina as they face challenges walking in what is essentially a "foreign culture".
- For the whole armor of God for mentors as this is spiritual warfare against a violent foe.
- Please pray for the right people to step into leadership roles as Prison Liaison and Team Leaders.
- For partner churches to raise mentors to join us at the locations where we presently are serving.

OTHER MINISTRY COMPONENTS AND PLANS

Special Relationships and Activities

PCA Mission to North America

Metanoia collaborates with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) through their Mission to North America (MNA). This lets us come under their umbrella for spiritual oversight, accounting, auditing, and financial accountability. We draw from many churches



and church members while maintaining independence to work across denominational lines in special ministries like mentoring. Another benefit of partnership with MNA this year is access to powerful database tools to manage operations.

Reintegration and Restoration

The work is not over until we see prisoners reintegrated and restored to churches, family, and society. God did this for many of us serving Metanoia. We know it is not easy. Still, we know the work is not over until having grown in grace and obedience, the prisoner joins us all in carrying out Jesus' Great Commission for the Church to the world. In 2019 we'll partner with knowledgeable ministries bringing skills and training to help our churches come alongside people who are "thrice born" - from the womb, in Christ, and from prison. Productive discussions are underway now.

Regional Expansion

Metanoia now has offices and representatives in GA, TN, CA, SC, and FL. We are on track in 2019 to add new teams in TX, IL, and WI. Our representative in the San Joaquin Valley (CA), Tim McCracken, is situated in the center of the largest single concentration of prisoners to be found in the world - nearly 37,500 in all. The labor is plenty, and the workers are few.

Seminary

2018 saw the strengthening of our alliance with MINTS International Seminary. MINTS trains

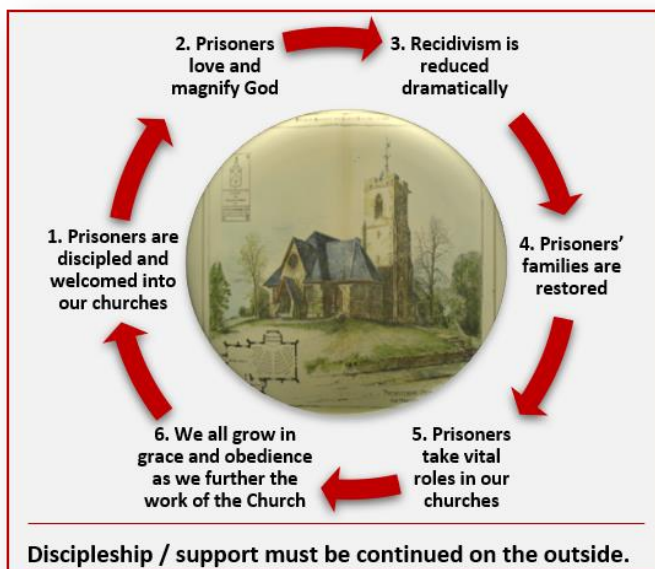


leaders, pastors, and Christian workers to reach their own people by educating and granting degrees to instructors, equipping them to operate their own study

centers, and training them to multiply throughout their sphere of contacts. MINTS provides the curriculum, academic standards, and administration software. There are currently 550 MINTS centers worldwide. Prison is its own type of "foreign" mission field. MINTS' approach is a perfect fit. We planted a MINTS seminary at Walker State Prison in Georgia and are led to expand into other prisons. Pray for this and give praise to God for local pastors, elders, and teachers stepping up to meet the need.

Your Participation

It's taken a few years, but Metanoia is out of the blocks and running the race at full speed. We are experiencing our fastest period of growth and expansion ever, thanks to prayer, partner churches, volunteers, and donors. Our eye is fixed on the upward calling of Christ for the benefit of the prisoner. We do not do this work -- it is the work of the Church. We exist to engage, educate and equip the Church. Consider how you or your church, Sunday School, or Bible study can work together with or fund Metanoia.



WE COOPERATE WITH GRACE



Greetings. I'm Mark Casson. Serving prisoners comes from knowing Jesus Christ as lover of my soul. He saved me for all eternity from sinful depravity and hopeless dereliction. Whether "free" or incarcerated, only Jesus saves. Neither the gates of Hell nor the prison gates can prevail against Him. Read the words from our brothers, below. Then prayerfully consider joining and supporting Metanoia. Like the Samaritan who gave extravagant assistance to an injured stranger, Jesus says, "Go now and do likewise." Please join us in God's work of saving the lost and discipling the faithful in prison.

From a Correspondence Ministry Student in TX - *"Thank you, thank you, thank you so very much for your efforts and passion in the Lord's work. Thanks to all behind the scenes working diligently for our Father to get materials into the hands of hungry prisoners like me."*

From a Prisoner in the Mentor Ministry in GA - *"I thank God for the mentors and for the staff striving with us to make it work in such a positive way! I've been incarcerated 17 years and I've never seen anything like it. I pray thanks for mentors for being willing vessels for God to work through to make such a beautiful difference of the lives of the men here and for my mentor who now is my family."*

From a Mentor in TN - *"It is such a blessing for me to be involved in this ministry. I never knew it could be such a vital part of my life. I've been a Christian for decades. Until now, I thought my obligation as a believer was to attend worship, tithe, go to Sunday School and support unity in the body. I'm now 80 years old. This is the most important thing I have ever done in my life."*



Metanoia leads the Church to impact the world for Christ behind bars and in our communities.

The mission field is at our doorstep with 7.3M people in jail, prison, on probation or parole, about 3.2% of all adults, that includes Christians.

Recidivism drops for prisoners who are disciplined, who build godly relationships, and who integrate into caring churches upon release.

Donate to:

Mission to North America
Designate - Metanoia/Casson
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