

To: ABA Churches at Arkansas Community Corrections Locations

“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:38

Faith Missionary Baptist Church of Cabot, AR wants to share with your church a ministry we have begun at the Arkansas Community Corrections (ACC) office in Lonoke. Our pastor, Bro. Richard Hamlin, and Faith church invite each of you to be part of a book ministry at your local county ACC office.

Approximately 2,000 new and used Christian books and bibles have been donated to the Lonoke County ACC office since September 2015 because of the generosity of God’s people. Our goal is to show a way to Christ through His love and forgiveness. We offer Christian books, Bibles and materials to the 1,000+ men, women and teenagers on parole or probation who meet with their officers each month. We want them to realize that there are people in their community who do care enough about them to take the time and effort to share God’s Word.

Since a lot of the offenders have children, we also donate books and Bibles for children. Sometimes these offenders may take a children’s book, but don’t take one for themselves. Our prayer is that they will receive a taste for God’s Word when they read that book to their child (or to themselves, which we have seen them do), and that this will make them thirsty for more.

We are concentrating on supplying books to ACC offices at this time, but if you aren’t able to provide a book ministry at an ACC office in your community, maybe you could check with nearby jails, detention centers or rehabs. Don’t miss out on the blessings this ministry can provide to your whole church family (men,

women, children, young, old and in-between) by simply donating books.

We have had such a good response from the officers at the Lonoke County ACC. They love to see offenders come into their office with a book or Bible in their hands! We encourage them to take a book for themselves and put it back when they finish. One of the officers involved with the drug court program told us that this was the best thing that had ever happened at Lonoke ACC.

Kevin Murphy, Chief Deputy Director of ACC in Arkansas, and his staff have encouraged us to reach out to the other 55 offices and the 6 residential facilities in the state with this ministry. There is a list of all the ACC office locations and residential facilities in the state at dcc.arkansas.gov/county-offices. From that list, we are contacting the ABA churches in those areas that are listed in the ABA directory online at abaptist.org (under general information, directories, and yearbook). We are asking that you coordinate with the other churches in your area to supply books and Bibles to the ACC office or other facility closest to you if you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry. Please respond back to us by sending an email to books@faithcabot.org so that we can send you more information. If you don't respond back, we will know that you chose not to be a part of this type of ministry and we will try to get this letter sent to other churches outside of your area.

Our church website, faithcabot.org, has more information about our ministry and also includes pictures taken at the Lonoke office. This ministry is only a small part of what can be done at ACC to help people be reached for Jesus. We like to compare the book ministry to the parable of the woman at the well found in John chapter 4. We spread the gospel to others by supplying the living water (books & Bibles) to the well (ACC office) for anyone to receive.

So put out a box, a basket, a trunk (which is what we use) or even a well! Put a note in the bulletin asking for donations and watch the Lord work in people's hearts and lives. Pray that not only will people receive a **free** book or Bible, but that they will receive God's **free** gifts through the reading of His Word.