



PRISON
FELLOWSHIP®

PEN PAL PROGRAM IN DOUGLAS PRISON

MISSION

The mission of the Pen Pal Program is to establish Christian friendships with interested inmates in the Douglas Prison.

The Pen Pal Program is a part of the Prison Fellowship program working in Douglas Prison in partnership with Thunder Mountain Church and the Douglas Prison Chaplain.

The King will say, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For...I was in prison and you came to visit me"...Then the righteous will answer, "Lord, when did we see you in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:34-40

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

1. Must be 21 years of age, cannot be a current or former prison employee or volunteer, or a halfway house inmate.
2. Personal qualities include motivation for ministry, emotional and spiritual stability, not easily discouraged, and commitment to a long-term friendship with inmate(s).
3. Complete the Prison Fellowship application, sign the Statement of Faith, and provide two references.
4. Complete the Pen Pal Program training offered through TMC.
5. Write your assigned pen pal(s) at least once a month for at least one year; report any inability to write to the Pen Pal Program Leader immediately.
6. Maintain the privacy of your pen pal(s), and do not ask the reason for incarceration.
7. Learn about ADOC and Prison Fellowship resources available to inmates while in prison and on release.
8. Pray for your pen pal(s) and the program regularly.
9. Attend meetings as requested by the Pen Pal Program Leader.
10. Report any concerns or suggestions to the Pen Pal Program Leader.
11. Follow all rules set by Prison Fellowship, the Arizona Department of Corrections, and the Pen Pal Program.

SAFETY RULES

1. Do use a pseudonym for your last name, and possibly your first name.
2. Do use the church address with pre-printed labels on correspondence, not your personal address.
3. Do not provide your pen pal with personal information, such as your phone number, workplace, or names of spouse or children, or contact information for other people.
4. Do not send photographs of yourself or your family; large group shots may be safe (with permission of those in the photograph).
5. Do not send stamps, money or gifts, co-sign loans, or process money orders.
6. Do not give legal advice or counsel regarding the pen pal's case, agree to write letters or testify on the pen pal's behalf.
7. Do not contact family or friends on the pen pal's behalf.
8. Do not visit your pen pal.
9. Do not offer to provide personal support to the pen pal upon release from prison, but do provide information on appropriate resources, such as Prison Fellowship's "Shortimers" booklet and bridge churches in their community.
10. Once your pen pal is released, your role as a pen pal ends, and you may continue a Christian friendship on your own terms.