

## Good News Jail and Prison Ministry

Morris Johnson spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on August 27. Mick Gutttau met him in January 2006 when he spoke at church. That began his involvement.



Morris Johnson was a boxer. He has spent 24 ½ years in the ministry. He spent the last 12 years in Douglas and Pottawattamie counties.

There are 2.4 million people in jail. Morris calls it a “great harvest field”. Jails are now getting a lot of mentally ill people.

There is now a national prison ministry and an international ministry. Morris says he can go into prisons where Christianity cannot be taught. The goal is to “meet the needs of inmates and staff.” They also make sure that religious rights are not compromised and facilitate other religions.

Morris said that most inmates are fatherless. His father was killed before he was one. His mother divorced her second husband, choosing God over him. His mother died 14-15 years ago.

Good News Jail and Prison Ministry has a variety of functions in the jail. They offer a life learning program that teach life skills from a biblical perspective. The students have to memorize 21 verses of scripture. It takes 3-4 months to graduate and they get a Bible certificate upon completion.

The Ministry delivers death notifications. They also have a bible study, train and teach volunteers, and have a women’s ministry. They also act as a liaison between church and jail.

97% of men and women in jail have some type of trauma in their lives. The Ministry provides trauma counseling.

Since 1961, all money to fund the Ministry comes from donations. They have a banquet in the spring as a fundraiser.

Prisoners fill out a KITE (visit request form) to have visits.

Morris requested that you “remember people in prisons in your prayers.” There is a higher level of suicides in the first 10 days in jail.

He is working on satellite churches, where churches adopt a cell in prison. Cells have 44 beds. 75% of the local cells have been adopted out.