



Institute for Prison Ministries

Wheaton, Illinois

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Project Summary

Equip chaplains and those who lead worship in correctional facilities with youth and adults through a two-day conference to learn together, train volunteers, and share their experiences and learning as web resources and workshops.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What is the purpose and meaning of Christian Worship
2. How is the great commission fulfilled in worship?
3. How does worship enhance spiritual transformation?

Two worship leaders asked the following question of inmate worshippers: I view God as...When I worship in jail... In jail, I will not be able to...How does the outside feel about you? How does your church feel about you?



Theological Reflections

People who hurt the most, need the best! —God is asking correctional ministers to aid the Great Physician Jesus by pursuing excellence in ministry delivery.

We must give hope to the hopeless —People at the rock bottom of their lives need to experience the outstretched arm of a loving Father.

A disrupted societal shalom needs to be restored —God is asking correctional ministers to aid the Prince of Peace Jesus in making society safe and its citizens secure.

The Great Commission is a great commission —God is asking correctional ministers to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ behind prison walls. We will make disciples and God will be glorified as we do.



CALVIN INSTITUTE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP
for the study and renewal of worship

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What We Learned

Overworked, bound by habit—the average correctional minister is overwhelmed by the immense workload and habits become ruts.

Culture bound, we do not see others clearly—The average correctional minister is limited by their own culture and experience. Therefore the correctional minister must mature in their “other directed.”

Teaching is an art, sorely and sadly neglected —Correctional ministers think their teaching is clear and effective when it is not. Therefore, the teacher must both determine “what” will be said, and “how” it will be said, so the learner can properly learn.

The worship service is a team effort— Having team members come together without team effort is chaos. Correctional ministers need to communicate effectively with each other, coordinate efforts, and mutually work together to bring needed quality to correctional worship. This must include feedback and input from those sitting in the pews; for they are the reason we are there.

Who Am I?

