

Prayer Requests

PRAY that each candidate will accept Christ as their personal Savior if they have never done so.

PRAY that each candidate can forgive those who have “wronged” them and that they will extend forgiveness to those people that they have harmed.

PRAY that the fathers will love their children and become stronger in their relationships to all the members of their families.

PRAY for unity among the candidates, inside team and outside team.

PRAY that we all will hear the voice of the Holy Spirit as He speaks to us and that we will obey.

PRAY for the candidates that Christ has chosen; that they will attend the weekend and stay for the entire time.

PRAY that the inmates will be delivered from bondages, sinful behaviors, and wrong attitudes; that they would get free from drugs, alcohol, sexual addictions, and selfish behaviors that brought them to prison.

PRAY for wisdom of each team member as they listen and love each candidate.

DO's

DO dress properly. Wear a belt so you can carry a PPD. Avoid any blue shirts with orange trimming. Wear minimal jewelry. Refrain from hooded shirts or sweatshirts due to possible choking potentials.

DO call the prison workers “Correction Officers” because they are not guards.

DO be careful about physical contact. No hugging, only shake hands with inmates.

DO listen, listen, love, love, and pray, pray for the candidates.

DO be very friendly with the inmates and staff but refrain from discussions of personal matters. Remember to keep information in confidence.

DO remember to maintain quiet in the lobby area as we check in. Make sure you print your name in the volunteer log. You need to get your hand marked if you wish to leave each day.

DO let the Co-Rector know of any medicines you need to bring in. Prescriptions must be in original containers and have a doctor's note.

DO sign the logbook in alphabetical order and exit the prison alphabetically.



Keryx Prison Volunteer Reminders

Tips for Keryx Volunteers as they enter MDOC facilities

Published by Chippewa Area Keryx

DON'Ts

DON'T give out your telephone number, address, email, or any other personal information to inmates. Avoid talking about your wife and children by name.

DON'T bring anything into the prison or out unless it is on a manifest and has been approved.

DON'T bring any type of tobacco products into prison. Leave it all back at the sleeping quarters.

DON'T bring in watches unless they are in the Rector's tub and have been manifested and approved for entry.

DON'T bring cell phones into the lobby or the prison. They are contraband and must be left in your vehicle or at the church.

DON'T forget to lock your vehicle and remove any firearms or tools that could be used for escaping. Owners of pick-up trucks need to remove all materials from their open pick-up bed.

DON'T bring in gum, mints, or other food products unless they are on a manifest and been approved for entry.

DON'T forget to bring a valid photo ID, without it you will not be admitted.

DON'T run on prison grounds.

DON'T ask inmates why they are in prison or how long their sentence is. They often tell us, but never ask.

DON'T criticize the staff, the food, or prison policies. If inmates are being critical, try to change the subject.

DON'T preach at the candidates or criticize their religious preferences. Let God speak to them about bad choices or false ideas that they have.

DON'T discuss politics because your view may be offensive to them.

DON'T make promises to inmates to come back and visit or help them with their case.

DON'T force candidates to seek spiritual counseling, but do encourage them if you feel they would benefit from it.

DON'T put into writing any personal information that they may share with you on the weekend. You never know who many end up reading a letter or note that you wrote or might discover private, personal information about a candidate. Remember to keep all personal information in strict confidence.

DON'T argue with candidates, inmates or other team members. We must work in unity as examples of Christ.

DON'T get into theological debates. We preach Christ, Him crucified, and risen! We are on a mission from God!

DON'T leave your assignment without letting another team member know where you are going.

DON'T leave the food room area unattended, at least one outside team member must be present at all times.

DON'T forget to stay on time when giving your talk; look up and smile!

DON'T forget to bring palanca to give to each candidate. Please count your gifts and put the number of units in your package.

DON'T wear sandals; have shoes that you could run in if necessary. Please do not wear shorts.

DON'T forget that while in prison you are under constant surveillance via cameras throughout the complex. The staff is also listening to your remarks. Be careful about what you say or do.

DON'T forget to read the training manual from cover to cover. Know your job and do it to the best of your ability.

DON'T forget to be constantly in prayer!