

## Tips for Visiting the Jails in Person

Every institution has its own rules for volunteers to follow. Below we have listed some of the most common and helpful tips for being prepared.

**What to wear** - Modest, professional dress is recommended. Jeans are fine, but no leggings or athletic wear. No sleeveless tops or shorts. No scarves, zippered vests or jackets. No hooded sweatshirts and nothing with writing on it. These requirements are generally jail mandated.

**What to bring** - Travel light. Purses, phones, keys, and outerwear must be stored in lockers upon arrival. Locks are usually available, but not always. A picture I.D. is required to get your volunteer pass to enter any secure areas. If conducting a service, no hard back books or metal markers should be brought in. CD players and hymn CDs are a possibility, but check before your first visit to confirm that they will be allowed.

In the past we have been able to bring in paperback copies of the Bible and Science and Health for use during visits and to leave with inmates who want a copy. Sometimes copies of the CS Monitor have been allowed in and available for inmates to take with them. Individual copied pages have also been allowed in for use. These have included copies of the Bible Lesson, words to hymns, and Journal and Sentinel articles. Currently, nothing with staples, paper clips, or colored ink may be brought in, and in recent years, restrictions have become more stringent, so be sure to check before carrying anything into a secure area.

**What to share** - Each session, whether a conference or service, requires a prayerful, listening ear on the part of the volunteer. Let our Pastor do the talking as much as possible, and listen for guidance as to what to share. The Bible is a wonderful point of connection for many of all denominations, and Science and Health WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES often illuminates the Bible passages as no amount of conversation can. If sharing personal healings, be sure not to share specific personal information, such as names, addresses or church membership location. Never share your full name, where you live, or what church you attend. The institutions ask this as a means of supporting the safety of volunteers and also regularly specify no handshaking or hugging. Anyone who wishes to have contact with our committee outside of the regular volunteer opportunities may be given our P. O. Box address (found on the back of every copy of the Bible or Science and Health) and invited to write to the committee.