



PRISON VOICE

March 2019

Vol. XVI Issue 7

NATIONAL MONTHLY

₹ 20/-



Incarcerated Children with Mothers

6th National Conference of Heads of Prisons of State/UTs at Bhopal



Inauguration of Community Radio Station at Taloja Central Prison - Mumbai



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION At Central Prison, Nashik, Maharashtra



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PRISON VOICE

NATIONAL MONTHLY

Are
we
blind
to
their
needs?



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Are you willing?

"Help a Child of a Prisoner

*Prevent a Potential
Criminal"*

*80% of the children of
prisoners are potential
criminals unless somebody
takes care of them. Prison
Ministry India has begun
a scheme to educate 1000
children of prisoners, by
giving*

*Rs. 3,000/- per child in a
year. Your contribution is a
help to mend a life.*

*Please send your valuable
contribution.*

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He is living here, but he is not a prisoner

Life does not come with a manual. It comes with a mother. Mother is a blessing that no one can replace, and for mothers their children are a blessing. The blessings of God in the human form is a mother is what I have experienced in my life. She is there before I need her. When I think of my mother, my eyes fill up with tears remembering all the sacrifices that she made for her three children. For me, another word for mother is 'Sacrifice', who never looks to her comforts. My mother had spent days and nights without food and sleep. She would wait till we finished our meal, wait till we retired to bed. She accompanied me to the school, to the church, taught me how to pray, how to kneel down, to feel one with the poor and the needy, to never send anyone away empty-handed and to get up and stand when I fell down.

She used to say to us frequently, 'Only the child which runs will fall, so never stop running, and get up each time you fall'. I remember her placing me on her shoulders and running to the hospital even when I was 14 years old. Even when she was sick, she did not worry about her health; her only concern was that nothing should happen to her children. She lives following the words of Jesus in John 18:9, "I've not lost one of those you have given me". Admirable are the ways the mother cares and protects her children.

There is no velvet as soft as a mother's lap. Life began with waking up, seeing and loving my mother's face. Wherever the mother is, the child wishes to be with her. We often hear mothers saying that even if they had to beg to take care of their child they would do so, rather than giving them over to somebody else to take care of them. If this is how mothers who are at home think, what would be the thoughts of



Sr. Lini Sheeja MSC
Chief Editor

mothers in jail, who have lost their hope and trust in humanity? Will she take one more chance to entrust her baby to somebody who is miles away from her. A mother in the jail does not wish to deprive her child of her love. 'She motivates me and makes my time in here go faster', says a mother from jail. 'This smiling baby girl has brought much relief to this cell, where her mother and her adoptive aunties like to spend time playing with her', says the jailor. 'I would not hide away from him, because he is living here, but he is not a prisoner', says another mother whose child is with her in the prison.



Now, our view is: This child that spends these years in prison, what would her/his future be? Will this child be normal like other children or is she/he mentally, psychologically and spiritually going to be troubled? Is this experience going to be like medicine to the child, or will it harm her/him permanently? Everybody feels affection and responsibility for these children who are in prison. Is that going to make these children optimists or pessimists? What impact is it going to make on her/him as the child grows? What are the remedies taken by the government to provide growth and developmental opportunities for these children as they are the citizens of our country? What are our concerns when we come across a 2-year-old child in the prison? Do these children behind the bars get the privileges that other children outside the bars enjoy? Children are the same wherever they are. Are their basic needs being met behind the bars?

Increased Participation of Community in the Context of Aftercare System for Released Prisoners

From National Coordinator's Desk



Fr. Sebastian Vadakumpadan LLM,
National Coordinator & Secretary to C.B.C.I
for Prison Ministry India

The most poignant moment for a prisoner is not the time of entry to prison but the exit from prison. "The penitentiary system shall comprise treatment of prisoners the essential aim of which shall be their reformation and social rehabilitation."¹ If crime is on the rise in India, it would not be entirely incorrect to say that it is due to the failure of the existing state-appointed guardians of law and order, the police, the judiciary and the prisons. However, it should be realized that the governmental institutions have not, in fact, failed; they are and will always be inadequate by themselves to deal with this proliferating social problem in the absence of whole-hearted voluntary participation by the public, both in the prevention of crime and in the treatment and rehabilitation of the offender.

If the Indian society wishes to have fewer criminals, it shall have to take a two-pronged approach to solve the problem:

1. First to counteract socio-economic-religious- political conditions which contribute to crime.
2. Second, to extend all possible help and cooperation to the treatment devices

enabling an offender to return to the social milieu as a normal citizen.²

The rehabilitation of prisoners starts not from the moment of release but from the moment of his/her entry to prison. Prisoners are sent to prisons for their rehabilitation and reformation. Depriving a human being of liberty is a very severe punishment. Of itself imprisonment is a severe deprivation of rights and thus it is only to be imposed by a judicial authority in clearly defined circumstances and when there is no other reasonable alternative. So, the authorities of prisons should do all that they can to prevent the physical and mental deterioration of those in their care.

Aftercare becomes possible only when the prisoners are provided with the proper opportunity to change themselves and to develop their skills. It is not sufficient that prison authorities treat prisoners with humanity and decency, they must also provide the prisoners in their care with opportunities to change and develop. This requires considerable skill and commitment.

Their time at prison should be filled with activities which improve their situation.

¹ ICCPR, Article 10. The ICCPR is a legally binding convention (as of Oct 2012 it had 74 signatories; 167 parties).

² Handbook for Prison Visitors, by R. Sreekumar, CHRI, pg.22.

At the very least, the experience of prison should not leave prisoners in a worse condition than when they started the sentence. Rather it should help them to maintain and improve their health and their spiritual, intellectual and social functioning.

A rehabilitated prisoner is not one who learns to survive well in prison, but one who succeeds in the world outside the prison upon release. So, we will need to base the activities on developing the resources and skills they need to live well outside prison. Prisoners should be helped to learn the skills and gain the capacity to earn a living and support a family, bearing in mind the discrimination that ex-prisoners are likely to face when trying to find work.

None of this will be easy to achieve, especially in circumstances where many jurisdictions face severe overcrowding, a shortage of trained prison staff and few opportunities to make links with the world

outside the prison, as well as the hostile reception of prisoners by society when they leave.

Aftercare has not been compulsory in India as there is no legal compulsion for an ex-inmate or a destitute to accept the services provided by an aftercare institution. The position is, however, different in the United Kingdom where the law provides for compulsory aftercare for certain categories of offenders.³

The Special Rehabilitation Department should work in prisons and outside with proper structure at three phases such as in-care phase, half-care phase and aftercare phase. We hope that in the coming future, the government and public would work hand-in-hand for better facilities for reforming the prisoners.

³ R. Deb, After-care Organization, Journal of Indian Law Institute, Vol. 13:4 (1971) at pg. 518.

Observation Home

Vasai Unit Report

We are from PMI, Vasai. We had a visit by Judge Savarkar, the Principal Magistrate. He came on rounds to the Boys' section. In the same section, Br. Joe gave a talk on "Hygiene & Self-development." The boys participated in a skit that was based on Humanity- reaching out to the needs of others. They boys enjoyed the skit and understood the message. They were very receptive and answered the questions we asked. We gave prizes to the best answers, which in turn was a motivation for the other inmates.

Girls' Section: In the Girls' section, we started with prayers. After the prayers they sang patriotic hymns and spiritual songs. Then they were asked questions based on the prayer, to which they gave answers. They said that God was like their mother and so they cannot forget God. They confessed that they missed their families, especially their mothers. They repented about not listening to their mothers and about landing in prison because of friends' influence. Prizes were given to the girls also for the best answer received.

THE FIRST SIGHT OF THE CHILD IS A PRECIOUS MOMENT



Dr Mercy Sabu MBBS, DLO
ENT Surgeon
St Martha's Hospital, Bangalore

Being a mother is one of the best experiences a woman has in her lifetime. Both pregnancy and delivery are at the same time a matter of joy and concern. The first sight of the child is a precious moment which leads to happiness and responsibility. The arrival of the child is like the clear skies after thunderous rainfall. Even after all these years I still remember that little face struggling to keep those small eyes open, the red luscious cheeks, the curly tangles of hair and the rhythmic movement of those tiny hands and feet. Yes, it was love at first sight. The voice of the doctor still rings in my ears, "Your itsy-bitsy angel has many fans already." My dreams and aspirations for my child began then. These dreams have never been about laying down the blueprint for my children. They have always been about providing them with the opportunity to grow up as compassionate, sensible, grateful human beings. Taking every step understanding the relevance of God: "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

Birbal's wit, Tenali Rama's intelligence, Tom Sawyer's active imagination, unique folktales and Biblical stories all contributed to the wholesome growth of my child. The preparations for the kindergarten admissions were more nerve-racking than the PG admissions. She used to shed tears every morning for a month as she was being dropped off at her nursery. It was heart-breaking to leave her of course, but her relief in the evening when I returned to pick her up was amusing and that is what made my heart light each time. The checklist for school consisted of neatly bound notebooks, sharpened pencils, a pinned handkerchief on her crisp uniform, polished shoes and a nutritious lunch. The checklist for school was as tedious as the cross checking at the immigration counter at an airport.

Yet honestly, dressing her up was one of my all-time favourite activities. Picking out the fluffy dresses, choosing the ballerina shoes,

applying rouge and lipstick were all things that gave me great joy. The fact that she enjoyed it too made it all the more easier for me. She was my real life doll. I took her to numerous birthday parties, weddings, picnics and Sunday services, she came along everywhere with great enthusiasm.

As the years passed leaving for school became much more joyful. She usually came home bursting with excitement to tell the stories that had happened that day. I looked forward to her stories as well. Her successes became my victories and her losses my sorrows. Primary became middle-school which became high school and then college. The years flew by faster than an arrow.

From mother trainee to a more-or-less professional mother took decades of experience. Along with the growth of my two lovely daughters I too grew in age, wisdom and a whole new skillset that I acquired along with motherhood. For example, I always thought winning was essential; only later did I find out that losing endless Ludo matches gave me greater joy. I started with the simple grooming of a mushroom haircut which evolved into a coconut tree-hairstyle and finally I had to learn to do the intricate French braid itself. Hindi was a language I knew fairly well, but I truly mastered it during my daughter's 10th grade board exam, maybe more so than her!

It was not always sunshine and rainbows; there were times when the decisions I took were not looked at with favour. The choices were hard, but they were always taken with the best of intentions whether she saw it that way or not. There was never a concrete plan on 'how to parent'; I took each day as it came, and mistakes were made. After all, it was a learning process for myself as well. The learning never stopped.

Emotional and Psychological Impact

Fr. Napolian
Jharkhand

Incarcerated mothers represent a rapidly growing sector of the prison population. This article on the phenomenon presents the psychological and socio-emotional well-being of children with an incarcerated mother, highlighting they suffer the stigma of criminality. Their rights to be nurtured are affected both by the criminal action of their parent and by the state's response to it in the name of justice.

Children with incarcerated mothers, like children in general, are all individuals. Each will have different experience of and response to parental imprisonment, and the unique situation of each child should be considered in all interactions with them and decisions that affect them. But regardless of individual circumstances, each child also has rights, including the right not to be discriminated against based on the status or activities of their mothers or fathers.

Unfortunately, children with incarcerated mothers are too easily ignored in the criminal justice system, which deals with identifying and responding to individual guilt or innocence. Children interacting with the criminal justice system (for example when visiting incarcerated mothers) are 'reduced to a security risk assessment, while within the broader community they are silent and silenced'. Only rarely do Child Welfare Centres responsible for children see them as a group of children exposed to particular challenges. Meaning, children with incarcerated mothers often fall into the gaps between private agencies.

Children with incarcerated mothers exist in India and also all around the world, with certain experiences and features common to many such children. For many, the removal and detention of a mother is a negative experience, with implications for their future well-being. The risks associated with incarceration of mother

have been categorized into four main areas:

- Risk of deprivation of basic necessities and opportunities
- Risk of danger of secondary victimization and depersonalization
- Risk of deterioration of overall situation of a child
- Risk of descent into antisocial behaviour

More specifically, children may experience impacts including physical and mental health impacts related to separation and other aspects of mother incarceration; a risk of relationship breakdown; the possibility of having to move from their house or be taken into care; financial difficulties; problems at school (educational and behavioural); increased vulnerability to neglect, abuse and victimization; and difficulties in visiting incarcerated mother/father. Finally, it increases the risk of a child's own prospects, as they fear or distrust authority, fail to receive the help they need, live in impoverished and unstable circumstances, and begin to accept prison as "normal" – or as the only place they can be with their mother.

Some of these problems will depend on factors such as the nature of the offence and sentence, the age and maturity of the child or which parent (mother or father) is imprisoned. But as a group, children with incarcerated mothers face all the issues detailed above and more, and would benefit from considered and timely interventions.

Unfortunately, these steps too often depend on the interest and involvement of individual prison staff or non-governmental organizations, rather than institutionalized good policy and practice. By sharing these examples and encouraging their use, we hope to increase the range, quality and consistency of support for children with incarcerated mothers.

Pappa...! When will you Come?



Sr. M. Shalini SRA
Bengaluru

This month is March and on 8th we celebrate Women's Day in the Prison at Parappana Agrahara, as well as elsewhere. The celebration gives us time to pause and reflect on the worth of woman from 'womb to the tomb'. The importance of women is highlighted and stressed on this day. It is a day to thank God for all his blessings. If a woman has the opportunity and support that she needs, she is ready to spend countless hours to achieve her ideals. Pope Francis has rightly mentioned in 'Gaudate Exultate' (Rejoice and be Glad) 'About the Saints, who encourage and accompany us in everyday life' and 'Saints at the next door...' It has convinced me fully that I am living among Saints. I am not biased against men, but there are many women in our life, whom we meet daily that are saintly, who have shown us a world beyond our immediate goals and horizons. Think of our own mothers, women known to us...

Now coming back to the Parappana Agrahara Central Jail, all the 170 and odd women there, I feel, were quite ambitious in life. They dared to do things, which ordinary mortals would not imagine or dare to do. They wanted a happy and prosperous future, I suppose.

When there is a crime, the woman is brought to the police station, whether she is responsible for the crime or not. She has no time to make the necessary arrangements, like bring her clothes, toilet articles, etc. After the trial when she is arrested and taken to prison, she pleads with the authorities to take her home for

a while. The police would say 'Yes', but when she sees the prison gates, she realizes this is where she will be spending a good portion of her life.

By now, I have visited a few families of the women prisoners. Maya, who was accused of murder, repeatedly said that she had not murdered anyone. She was there in prison, with her little child. So, another volunteer and I decided to visit her family. It was a long distance away. Maya's husband was informed for the umpteenth time that we would be visiting his family. But to our dismay, he could not be found anywhere. Hence, we decided to go to the police station and get the preliminary information. The man in uniform gave us a very vivid and colourful description! In the absence of the husband she had hired two relatives to kill the second wife, and conceal the body. Maya was angry with her husband. After she had given birth to four girls, he had brought to the house another woman, to have a son. Of course, she bore him a son and two daughters. Maya noticed how all the love and admiration went to the young one!

At that point in the narration, I felt that it was this man that should have been arrested! By the time we finished with the cop, we had a call from Maruthi.

We visited his so called 'house.' The construction of a building was going on and Maruthi was working as the night security. He took us to the terrace of a small building where construction workers were staying for the night. Maruthi's house was only a shed of tarpaulin sheet, waving with the breeze. The eldest daughter was cooking a few beans in the hot sun. Maruthi was carrying his two small

children on the waist, one on the right and other on the left. My companion was almost in tears.

Now I wish to narrate the second case. We, the volunteers, were told to visit five people, who did not have any visitors. I collected my list, and started serious enquiries. I spoke to the man, who was convicted for 14 years. Then after getting the phone number from him, I spoke to his wife. The wife gave a very good picture of her husband. She was trying to convince me that he had not committed a very big mistake. She had to look after their 3 little children, all below the age of ten, single-handedly. She had endless questions about her husband. I had only met her husband once, so I was not in a position to answer all her questions. My PMI volunteer friend, who has a very kind heart, agreed to visit her family, though it was at a distance on the outskirts of Bengaluru. Finding her place was another herculean task! We sat at the edge of a cot. Then a relative of hers came along. Her husband was living with two women simultaneously. The second one committed suicide, he went to save



her, and he too got burned partially. The first wife, Latha, told me that I should visit her husband regularly, and give her all the news about him. Her children missed their father. When the children saw other fathers caring for their children, they would ask, "When will Appa come home? How long will he be away?" There were many more years to go before his release. Recently I told her, "Why do you worry

about your husband, you are doing double duty? Besides, you sit up in the night and stitch clothes; why worry about that man? If he comes home, he may keep another pretty-looking young woman, and what profit would you have?" Her children go to a nearby government school. Though poor, the children are well-behaved.

I really admire these women. One is suffering inside prison, another one lives in a small hut. It is not just those who are in the prison that suffer, but their dependents, family members, and many more. Alcohol is another cause for the break-up of families. Many do not know that alcohol addicts can be treated and brought back to the main stream. Let us work as one team to lessen crime in society, by our visits to the families, joining hands with people with similar goals and vision. There are various church organizations, where we can join or extend our support to spread peace and the spirit of brotherhood. We provide various opportunities inside the prison to make these women realize how they could achieve true peace and happiness in life.

No one on earth can substitute mother's love

We live in a society where good and evil exists. In this journey of life, we come across different people with myriad characteristics. Life teaches us many things – good and bad; but every experience teaches us a wise lesson. Some of our young sisters are incarcerated for being caught doing something wrong, or at times they are imprisoned for no fault of theirs. And, most of the time due to poverty, they cannot hire a good lawyer to take up the matter and fight in court. In such situations, many young married or unwed mothers end up giving birth to their children within the confines of prison. These children are kept with their mothers up to the age of 6; then, they are sent to Apna Ghar, or handed over to their next of kin. The first few years in the life of the child are very crucial. During this time, they need their mothers' love and care, and the right values which cannot be imparted to these children by strangers. As we all know, no person on this earth can substitute for mother's love. So, when these children grow up they tend to become very aggressive. Due to lack of parental affection and interaction with society, they tend to go astray. It becomes very difficult for other children to accept these abandoned children; hence they are always shunned. I remember an incident that was narrated to me by late Sr. Mary Jane. I



Mrs. Goretti Martins
Goa Unit

was paying her a visit at her place, when I saw her with a 4-year-old child. She told me that the mother of this child was jailed and that he had been born in a cell. As the Sister was walking out of the jail with this child, he was astonished when he saw, what according to him were gigantic buses, and moving cars on the outside. For him, the world till then was limited to their cell. Before bringing him out, Sister Jane used to make frequent visits to see this child and showered him with love. So, when she brought him out, he was extremely close to her. Similarly, there are many such sad stories to be told. As responsible citizens of this country, I reckon we all need to do something for these children. Prison Ministry India takes care of all such children, by looking into their basic needs like food, clothing, and education through their numerous rehabilitation centres. PMI being an NGO, has to depend solely on its benefactors who pay ₹3000 per child per year. Hence if any of us can sponsor at least one child, we will be able to bring about a lot of good in these children's lives. And definitely there is no doubt that God will bless us a hundred-fold every time we reach out and shine a little light on these innocent lives.



No schools to go ! No homework to complete !!



Sr. Olive PSOL
Bhopal

Mk10:14: Talking about the children Jesus said, "For it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs". So very true! But when I see the children behind bars, I see that their kingdom exists just within the four walls of the prison. They are the innocent convicts, born under the shadow of the crime of their own mothers. Some have not seen their fathers, instead there are some men in brown uniforms whom they see occasionally. They have no family or relatives, no relationships to live for, no friends or playmates; they do not know any games to play. They cannot look at the sky and say, "Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are"; no poems to recite or songs to sing, no schools to go to, no homework to complete, no tiffins to share, nobody to wait for them after school, no mama or dada to come and pick them up. Even if they have a few classes here, nobody really cares about their life or their future. They grow up in the company of indifferent adults, belonging to none; their language abusive, their behaviour uncontrolled - like sheep without shepherd. Their life is without purpose and at times tears gleam in their blank eyes.

They say the future of a child depends on what s/he learns in her/his first five years as a child. But here they have no access to any supportive person who understands, listens or are approachable; who respects them, loves them, guides them and whom they feel they can trust. It is difficult for them to be locked up, bound by rules which are beyond their understanding. As a result, their childhood is lost, dignity is lost. Their future is bleak. One does not know what type

of citizens they will grow up to be, because even among themselves they are so abusive, both verbally and physically. I believe that if we, as a community, try to reach out to these vulnerable children with our love and understanding, and any help that we could provide, would make their world a better place. And yes, we have helped about 10 children by taking them out from there and giving them hostel facilities in the last three years. One girl from among them has finished her nursing training and is now working. One boy is doing his 11th and the others are in schools.

Once these children were taken out for a day's outing. Oh, the joy that they felt! They were so thrilled and excited, happy and overwhelmed as if they were in another world. Their joy knew no bounds, they were amazed to see cars, buses and vehicles for the first time. Even animals like ducks and buffaloes surprised them. And when they were given ice cream to eat, some did not even know how to eat it; one dropped it, another wanted to take it along to be given to his mother, little knowing that the ice cream would melt. On the whole, they had an exciting time, an experience of a life time, which could be seen in their tiny gleaming eyes. We hope and pray that this spark in their eyes remain and lasts forever, freeing them from their physical, mental and social bondages. We pray that every one of these children be blessed.

5th State Conference - Chattisgarh

The 5th State-gathering of Prison Ministry India of Chattisgarh state was held on 4 March 2019 at Raigarh. The PMI volunteers from various units of the Chattisgarh state were present for the gathering. The conference began with an invocation dance on the Prison Ministry anthem. The Rev. Bishop Paul Toppo, Bishop of Raigarh in reference to the gospel of Luke (4: 18), highlighted that Prison Ministry is a divine appointment to bring deliverance and comfort to the prisoners in his inaugural address. Rev. Fr. Sebastian Vadakumpadan, National Coordinator and Secretary to C.B.C.I for Prison Ministry India and Rev. Fr. Wilfred V. Fernandes, the Central State Coordinator PMI, elaborated on the themes, "Walls do not create prisons" and "To restore joy and dignity of the captives" respectively. They enlightened the gathering on various possibilities of reaching out to our brothers and sisters behind the bars. They also presented diverse challenges that we encounter in the ministry and exhorted the volunteers to be strengthened in prayer. The experience-sharing by Mr. Petrus Tirkey from Bilaspur, a released prisoner gave a genuine picture of the life of the prison inmates. Mr. Nico Dious Ekka, a retired district judge from Bilaspur with his immense experiential knowledge enriched the volunteers' knowledge by explaining about being a beacon of hope to the prisoners. The sharing of achievements, as well as the challenges faced by the

PMI unit coordinators revived the strength and spirit of the members. The Rev. Bishop Emmanuel Kerketta, Chairman of the Prison Ministry, Chattisgarh state gave a concluding message which inspired the PMI members of Chattisgarh state to be worthy instruments of God's mercy to restore joy and dignity to the captives. All the participants benefited and highly appreciated Rev. Fr. Theodore Kujur, PMI State Coordinator for the Chattisgarh state, for organizing this one-day seminar. Rev. Fr. Leos Ekka OFM, coordinator of Raipur proposed the vote of thanks and the meeting was concluded by everyone holding hands and praying, 'Our Father.'



An unique Step for the Welfare of Prisoners

Mumbai Unit

This year the Prison Ministry Mumbai tried to reach out to our brethren behind the bars at Talaja in a different way by offering them a 'Community Radio Station' of their own entitled 'TLCP' i.e. Talaja Central Prison. The Superintendent of Talaja Prison Mr. Kurlekar expressed his desire to initiate a new project in the prison for recreation and entertainment of the prisoners. The volunteers of Navi Mumbai unit immediately began the spadework to setup this facility inside the prison by providing a laptop, sound system, audio mixer and other accessories required for the Community Radio Station. A professional radio jockey trained two inmates on the practical details of interacting with their fellow prisoners and also on operating the radio system.

Now the inmates can listen to their choice of songs on request and also songs based on different themes. In an atmosphere that is filled

with drudgery and negativity, this Community Radio Station is indeed a source of blessing to many inmates who can relax, be motivated and reflect on the messages aired by their fellow prisoners. This Community Radio Station has truly become a stress-buster for many brothers in prison. The programme is aired twice a day for one hour each. In the future, they will also present religious messages based on the Bible and play Hindi bhajans. This first of its kind project in Mumbai metropolitan area was inaugurated by Fr. Joseph Gonsalves, the Director of Prison Ministry Mumbai in the presence of the Superintendent, other prison officials and PMI volunteers of Navi Mumbai unit on 28th January 2019. Fr. Joseph thanked the co-ordinator of Talaja Prison Mr. Flavian Santarita for his total dedication and for pursuing the initiative of setting up of the Community Radio Station.

Message from His Eminence Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, former president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and presently First Prefect of the Dicastery for the promotion of Integral Human Development in Rome.

No Law Should Exclude a Person

The term 'Prison' carries a lot of baggage with it, such as punishment, pain, stigma, agony, trails, injustice, and hardship. Prison leads to exclusion of people from society. It has positive features also, such as learning of skills, education, and so on.

The basic question to be asked is this, what is the purpose of prison or correctional homes?

There should not be any law which excludes a person from society completely. Today people want to exclude others and make them outcasts from society through law. We have to change this attitude and ensure that they are indeed part of society, and become renewed persons. We cannot gain someone by keeping them out for ever.

Today the idea of Justice is pain, but it should carry the basic idea of transforming a person so that they can be reintegrated within society. It includes relationships, reformation, pardon, forgiveness and reintegration. It should be a restoring of relationships.

The structure of Justice should help a person to reconcile with other people, to live together and help them co-exist with society. No law should exclude a person from society, rather it should integrate the person within society. We pray for the same and wish you all the best for the work done by the volunteers of Prison Ministry India under the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India.

Sr. Lini Sheeja MSC
Chief Editor

Life's Offer

Editor: Good afternoon, Jeena.

Jeena: Good afternoon, Sister. How are you and how is my son doing at your rehabilitation centre?

Editor: Extremely good, Jeena. He is preparing for the final exams.

Jeena: Thank you, Sister. I'm happy to hear that he is doing well and improving day-by-day. I was so happy when I saw him 2 weeks ago. I see in him a lot of hope for the future and I'm sure with all your love, care, support and encouragement he will excel in his life. I've no doubt about this and all my fears have disappeared now.

Editor: Yes, Jeena. And he is also happy after seeing you.

Jeena: (Weeps bitterly) My past.....

Editor: I understand completely, Jeena. We are with you and your child.

Jeena: I know dear sister that you all are there for me and my child. But that what happened in my life! I really can't understand how my life turned out thus and how I landed up here. We were 4 children - 3 daughters and a son; and I was the youngest child in the family. A capable little girl loved by everybody. Others used to say that I was a pretty girl with a charming personality. Life was a blessing and I enjoyed all the opportunities I was provided with.

I completed the 10th Std and my parents wanted me to marry my uncle's son. He was an alcoholic and my parents said that after the marriage he would become better. With a lot of hope I got married to him. But things turned out to be contrary to

my hopes; he became worse and started to borrow money for drinking. Every evening he would return home completely drunk and he would beat me mercilessly. I would report this to my parents, and they would talk to him, but he was not receptive to any advice. He continued on and I was in utter confusion as to what to do with life. When my son was born, I decided to keep aside all my worries and I wanted to live for my son. Every time he called me 'Amma', he brightened my life.

But things didn't get any better with my husband. He was neither looking after our son nor me. Many times, I thought of ending both our lives, but my conscience would not permit me every time I looked at his face. As time went on, he started to beat me more and more. One evening I was feeding my child when he returned home and started to argue with me. He started beating me and I couldn't bear the pain. I took a stick from the kitchen, beat him once and just wanted to escape from the house. Since he was completely drunk, he fell down and collapsed. Seeing him thus I ran to my neighbours and informed them of this. They took me to the police station and reported to them, but they were engaged with other cases. By the time the

police came to our house, my husband was found dead. I was arrested with my son and send to prison.

Is this the life that I wanted? Confusion arose in my mind. My charming son growing up in prison, I couldn't accept that. He was loved by everybody in prison. There were a few other children in the prison, and he would play with them. But I being a mother, couldn't accept seeing my son behind the bars. Spending sleepless nights in the prison thinking of my future gave me the courage and I decided to live for my son.

Editor: Oh, Jeena! Thank you for sharing. It's heart-breaking to hear about this shift in life. How did your son reach our rehabilitation centre? Are you happy with it that he is there in the centre?

Jeena: Oh yes, dear sister! The Sisters from Prison Ministry come every day to the jail. They talk to us and reaches out to us in our time of need. They were following up the case of my son and I; when he reached age 6, they did all the legal procedures and took my son to the centre. More than all my relatives, you all took care of my son. I've no fears or worries about him because he is in the right place. I'm at peace here than when I was with my husband. There was no end to my agony when I was with my husband. There was no night when I went to bed without tears. He always took pleasure from our sufferings. The years that my son spent in jail shouldn't affect his future is my only prayer.

Editor: Thank you dear Jeena, for placing all your trust in God and moving ahead with your life. We will continue to accompany and support you. Nothing to worry about; time will heal, and time will answer.

Educational Scholarship given to Prisoner's Children in Palayamkottai Unit - Tamilnadu



We come with NOTHING We go with NOTHING

We come with nothing, We go with nothing But one great thing we can achieve in our beautiful life is the remembrance of those that did good by us. Hence, someone I will never forget in my life are my heroes, Sr. Olive and Sr. Sophia who did their best so that I could come out of jail where I spend a good 7 months. They did their best to see that I could get back to Uganda to meet my family.

I thank God for your help and thank God for the work you did through Sr. Olive and Sr. Sophia.

I will always call them my heroes or God's Army who always stood by everyone who was in need and they did not care who you were or where you came from. Like me, I'm from Uganda, but they liked me so much they treated me like their own sister. They took on many sacrifices for my sake. Sr. Olive and Sr. Sophia, may God bless you more and more! I will never forget how Sr. Olive kept me in her own convent and treated me like her own from 22nd December 2018 to 30th January 2019. She took responsibility on me like my own blood sister.

My heroes I will never forget what you did for me, what you are to me. I thank God. May God bless you and give you long lives. The world needs you, my army, my heroes, Sr. Olive and Sr. Sophia.

I love you, love you both.

From **Rashidah Juma**
Uganda

On the occasion of Women's day, this note of gratitude written by women prisoners, Bhopal Central Jail:

Respected Srs. Olive and Sophia,

When a mother enters her home, all her kids gather around her. Similarly, as soon as we hear you have entered, we run to get a glimpse of you. You have loved us unconditionally and irrevocably. This place was difficult for us but you brought peace to our minds. You help us stay connected with our families.

It is because of you our Diwali was full of lights, our Nav-Durga was musical and we are sure you will make our Holi colourful too.

Sisters you have not only helped us with celebrations, but it is because of you that we have an amazing English teacher.

We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your sincere efforts which have made our lives easy and beautiful.

I step in anxiously and the little children surround me with cheers

Sr. Reena D'Souza SSPS

*Secretary, Commission for Prison Ministry
Diocese of Gulbarga*

As I walk through the gate, I am welcomed with beautiful smiles, making me forget the barriers around their small world. I step in anxiously and the little children surround me with cheers, laughter and playfulness! They hold my hand with their tiny hands. They play with me, take the sweets from me and move away slowly.

I am not speaking of a visit to the children at a kindergarten; rather these are the children in prison with their mothers.

It is a different world for the children here in the Central Prison, Kalburagi. Though the number of children in the prison varies from time to time, there will always be a few women with their children incarcerated with them. These children play a substantial role in the life of the women. The children bring joy and smile to the face of every woman prisoner. Children play, laugh, cry and add noise to the silence that prevails in the prison every day. The children become part of the lives of these women who are sad, heartbroken, disappointed, and depressed; and they bring life by adding joy at times.

These children have journeyed with the mothers from the time of the mother's arrest to the police station, the court and then to prison. The anxiety, sorrow, fear and worry of the mothers have enveloped them so badly that sometimes they become inseparable from their mothers. Hence,

the early years of a child become tough while she/he grows up in a different social environment. Their cognitive, behavioural, and emotional developments are conditioned in an unsuitable location.

Children of women prisoners:

A study done by Women and Child Department of Karnataka (2018) says, "As on last count, a total of 1,597 women inmates are living in prison with their 1,866 children". Children up to the age of six years are allowed to live with their mothers in prison if no other arrangements for their care can be made. This age limit varies from state-to-state. Further, with regard to the care and protection of these children in prison, the Supreme Court issued guidelines in 2006 under which children in jail are entitled to food, shelter, medical care, clothing, education and recreational facilities as a matter of right. Before sending a pregnant woman to prison, the concerned authorities must ensure that the prison has the basic minimum facilities for child delivery, pre-natal and post-natal care. (Ref: Women in the Prison, June 2018, Women and Child Department).

Therefore, the children in prison are entitled to facilities that would help in their development. However, the presence of the mothers and the other women do have

an impact on their early stage of growth. Often, the mothers or the other inmates are found to be in a state of depression, disappointment, frustration, anger and helplessness. They express these emotions time and again either in the group or to themselves. At times, there are a lot of arguments among the women and they shout at one another out of frustration. When there is a new admission to the prison, the scene is worse. There is weeping, crying or yelling by the prisoners. There is a lot of chaos in the environment of the prison every now and then, which affects the children. Hence, the prison as a whole is a difficult place for a child to live in. The child silently watches the painful condition of the mother and the other women. The child grasps the situation in its own way, and learns to react accordingly. The child may grow up being silent and withdrawn or being aggressive and agitated. Most of the time, the behaviour of the child is controlled by the environment within the cells, and there are no mechanisms or measures in all the prisons to handle the children's behaviour.

Trauma faced by the children in prison:

Roshan, a one-and-half year-old boy, is always in his mother's arms. Roshan has an anxious look; there is no smile on his face, rather a fearful look. "How is your child doing?" I asked the mother. "Now he is better," says the mother. "He sleeps well at night," she continues, "It was not so in the beginning; I found it difficult to put him to sleep. As soon as I put him down to sleep, he would start crying. In the nights he would wake up so often crying, and I had to sit up with him for a

long time to put him back to sleep." This mother and child have been in prison for the past 5 months.

Allowing children to grow up in small cubicles in prisons has its own implications. These children are also isolated from the world outside.

It is an undeniable fact that early childhood is a unique time for every infant when both physical and mental growth takes shape rapidly. Each level of interaction be it at home, community, school or other social environment - everything makes an impact. The role of the parent or caregiver has significant bearing on the child, and it is co-related with emotions, behaviour and cognitive development. The child will learn different behavioural patterns as she/he grows and will react differently to different situations based on her/his experience.

Early childhood trauma generally refers to the traumatic experiences that occur to children aged 0-6. The young children's reactions are different from older children. Young children experience traumatic stress in response to painful or fearful events or the sudden loss of a dear one. Small children depend exclusively on parents or caregivers for survival and protection, both physical and emotional. When parents or caregivers face trauma, the relationship between that person and the child will be strongly affected. Experience of trauma can also affect a child's thinking, feelings and beliefs, thus changing the child's perception of society. Hence, we find children suffering from a range of problems during their parent's imprisonment, such as: depression, hyperactivity, aggressive

behaviour, withdrawal, regression, clinging behaviour, sleep problems, eating problems, running away, poor academic performance etc. Such behaviour may continue in the later stages of development and sometimes it can affect the person lifelong.

Rehabilitation of children:

Children lodged in jails with their mothers are neither convicts nor under trial. They are entitled to their rights such as nutritious food, proper shelter, medical care, clothing, education, and recreational facilities. The guidelines set out by the Supreme Court of India in 2006, makes the obligations of authorities clear: "Children below three years shall be allowed crèche and those between three and six years shall be looked after in the nursery. The prison authorities shall preferably run the said crèche and nursery outside the prison premises". The guidelines go further, acknowledging that holding children with convicts sentenced for all types of crime, including violent crime, is "certainly harmful"; that authorities should ensure facilities for the "proper biological, psychological, and social growth" of children; and that the cases of female prisoners with children should be expedited.

The United Nations Convention on the rights of the child (CRC) 1989 is the specific international instrument intended to secure specific children's rights. Article 3 (1) of the CRC reads as follows: "In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration".

Therefore, there must be mechanisms to periodically review the implementation by prison authorities. The Department of Social Welfare allows scholarship schemes for children of imprisoned parents, and this may prevent them from dropping out of schools. The concerned authorities should consider ways to support caregivers, as their welfare will impact the children. In addition, in prisons, counselling should be provided to both mother and child from time-to-time so that they can deal with the challenges of maternal deprivation and prolonged separation, effectively.

Spending their formative years in prison can have severe negative impact on the entire lives of children. Prison administration should ensure that their facilities are tailored towards children living under their care, and these children should not be made to feel like offenders. Linkages can be established with NGOs, local schools and paediatricians to ensure children living in prison have access to at least basic services. Children in prisons also need to have access to basic facilities of education, day care, recreation and a healthy lifestyle. The mothers need intense counselling by prison doctors, social workers or prison authorities before they can be convinced of the benefits of their children being enrolled at such facilities.

Children are innocent and deserve proper care and protection at that tender age. Child-friendly ambiance should be created in women's prisons. The right of a child to a healthy environment needs to be maintained by every prison that has children.

From the Right to demand to the Duty of giving!!!



Sr. Theresa Mascarenhas
Karnataka State Secretary

My name is Shivu (name changed), and I was known as a rowdy on the streets of Bijapur and Bengaluru. Though I did not take part in crimes first-hand, I was certainly the mastermind behind many.

On a fine afternoon, I was shocked to see a group of policemen at my front door. I was so surprised that I could neither swallow nor drop the morsel of food in my right hand. The policemen rang the doorbell, and they could see me through the mirror on the side of the door. Without waiting for the door to be properly opened, two policemen with their gun drawn and three others rushed in. They signed that I should stand up, without giving me the option of dropping down the food in my hands. My mother started screaming as though I had been shot dead. Nobody bothered to answer her fear-laden questions. She could not withhold her tears when I allowed myself to be led away instead of making a scene in that decent neighbourhood.

I had to sit and think of how I had escaped from such a situation for so long with money and power. I had been successfully extorting money from the rich till then. I also had a group of followers who were at my beck and call, doing exactly what I wanted. With this money I had been

living like a king with people working for me like slaves. People knew me as a well-known rowdy from an important place in Karnataka. Even within the dark walls of prison I had influence by shelling out money. I continued my jail life lavishly; spending and getting all that I needed, including alcohol, secretly. The superintendent arranged a special room that was painted and curtained for me. He renovated the bathroom with tiles on the floor and clean white-washed walls. Only a handful of inmates who feared me were allowed inside my cell. After a few interrogations the police told me that I could not get bail. Hence, I could not be retained in that part of the city.

I was taken to the Mysuru jail since the most recent case was filed from there. But I did not stay for long in Mysuru as my cousin was murdered inside the same jail on my instructions. The jailors could not sleep; the superintendent could not leave the place for fear of how things would turn out as I was still seething with anger. Inside, I was pleased and satisfied that the staff were in a quandary and helpless. The more the situation tensed up, the more my ego grew. The inmates were afraid to talk or even to look at me despite my

friendly demeanour. Their scared response boosted my confidence. My family and friends outside the jail were even more frightened. They asked for better treatment for me and managed to come and meet me by influencing high-profile officials and politicians. I could perceive the changed atmosphere in prison; instead of correcting me, I was being given everything I asked for. It no longer felt like jail. I started to ask to meet the officials, and this used to happen so often that we developed a rapport. The inmates who observed all these started envying my freedom. They must have given the news to someone higher up and I was transferred to Nanjangud. This place had a small and homely atmosphere compared to Mysuru. Since the superintendent there had heard through other sources on how I expected to be treated, he made all the arrangements. I also thought of myself as special as everyone treated me thus. Among inmates, I alone had a cook, someone to wash my clothes, clean the room, to fetch warm water for me, etc. My royal life continued without disturbance.

Here, I observed two ladies coming in every Tuesdays. To my surprise, all the inmates would wait for Tuesdays to meet them. One of them told me that madam understood everything. She made them happy. I too wanted to be happy. But my ego did not allow me to enter that room with the others. Still I wanted those nuns' attention. So, whenever they came in, I would stand outside the room and attempt to talk to them. Once I succeeded in drawing their attention, smiled and followed them to the conference room. To my surprise the other

inmates did not enter seeing me there. Perceiving their reluctance, the PMI nun asked me why was it that people were scared of me. Further she told me that I was neither a tiger nor a mad dog. She sees me as a human being just like her. So then, why was I enjoying the scared faces of these innocent boys? Instead, I should be feeling sad; people should love me instead of fearing me and trying to get away from me. She said that I had created negative vibes and was hated by all. Then she went on to say that God still loved me, and I could not hold myself. She further said that God had kept me safe there from my enemies. It was a different experience, and I kept thinking on and on about this. How could God do this for a wretched sinner like me was my query. I felt like an electric current had run through my entire body. Seeing me engrossed in my thoughts, the nun took me to the vacant room kept aside for the counselling sessions of the inmates. And she dug up my life story. Listening to the series of crimes I had orchestrated she asked me if I wanted to marry and settle in life. If so, she said, I needed to cultivate a habit of loving people, and of forgiving the faults of colleagues. Otherwise it would be difficult for me to live with a girl with my commanding and demanding nature. I was ready to change because I wanted a partner and marriage. At the same time, I realized how my demands were creating excruciating pressure on the people around me. I had to learn from scratch on talking lovingly to people and to understanding them. I asked her why she was not scared of

me. Her answer was that I was her brother. This brought on a smile to my face while shocking me simultaneously.

The very thought of being her brother humbled me to touch her feet. I was extremely grateful that she considered me her brother. She had a bottle of Coca-Cola in one hand a bottle of Oxy cool water in the other. She shook them well to show how my pressure, tension and shouting at people affected me. When she opened the Coca-Cola bottle the liquid frothed out leaving nothing behind. But the Oxy cool remained cool in spite of the pressure. By then I understood that I needed to keep cool and practice smiling which I had forgotten over the years. Thus, I experienced genuine smiles from others. I determined that day to learn to do simple meditation. Week-by-week my desire to meet this PMI nun increased. The officials observed the changes in my talk and behaviour. I had already started requesting rather than commanding for anything; was spending my time meditating than wasting it. I started to love staying within the quiet confines of the jail. At this juncture I decided to change for good.

After 10 months my case had come to the point of being closed. I told the Sister about my decision. She too felt happy and promised her prayers for me. When I met my parents at court, I told them about my plans for business and they showed their support and told me about the arrangements they had made for my wedding, which shocked me a bit. Once again, this PMI nun was my solace. I confessed my anxiety to her. She gave

me a long talking to on the sacredness of marriage and how a family should live together in adjustment. She assured me of her prayers and convinced me of being worthy of my spouse's love. However, she begged me to make myself worthy of love. Though I was apprehensive about getting married, I took it as a blessing and prepared for it with the spiritual and emotional help of the PMI nun. For me, the most heart-warming part of the counselling was when she kept her hand on my head and prayed for a long time with her eyes closed. May be this prayer and my willingness to change brought about the closure of the case; I was released from jail. Once I reached home, I decided to go to my uncle, whose son was killed by me. I kept praying en route. I fell onto the feet of my uncle seeking his forgiveness for killing his son, determined not to get up till he blessed me. I could feel warm tears dropping on to my back. I got up immediately and hugged my uncle putting an end to an enmity that had lasted 10 long years. I was finally convinced of every word the PMI nun had said to me, and her words were making a deep impact. Forgiveness from my uncle does not erase my sin, but it gives me an opportunity to live in that same area without undue tension while dedicating myself to the betterment of humanity rather than for myself. Now I am a businessman, living happily with my young wife. I am not alone. I am moving in with my uncle and family who were once my enemies, and my family which I could not even dream of. Thanks to PMI volunteers who brought out the original me, having fun without guns.....

PRISON MINISTRY INDIA

Theme: THE SOUL OF INDIA LIVES IN ITS VILLAGES भारत की आत्मा गांवों में रहती है

Let's explore and explode in expressions.

PMI conducts a National Pencil Drawing Competition for the brothers and Sisters behind bars.
Don't miss this golden opportunity.



- Only for the Prison inmates.
- Use white paper (30 x 42 cms) and pencil or pen only.
- No colouring is required.
- Mention UT or CT Number, Name & Address of the person in English

- Last Date : The entry should reach the office before **31st May, 2019.**
- Decision of the PMI will be final.
- No drawing over any photocopy allowed.

खोजो, व्यक्त करो और अपनी भावनाओं को बिस्फोटने दो

आप के कल्पनाओं की कोई सीमा नहीं है, आपके दिल की भावनाओं को 'खोजें' और चित्रकला में अभिव्यक्त करें।
जो भाई लोग कारागृह में हैं, उनके लिए पेश करते हैं, राष्ट्रीय पेन्सिल ड्रॉइंग प्रतियोगिता। आप यह सुअवसर को ना खोएं।

- केवल कैदियों के लिए हैं।
- चित्र बनाने के लिए केवल सफेद कागज (30x42 cms)
- और पेन्सिल या कलम का इस्तेमाल करें।
- रंग करने की जरूरत नहीं है।

- कैदी संख्या, नाम और पूरा पता अंग्रेजी में लिखना न भुले।
- आपकी कला ३१, मई २०१९ से पहले PMI के दफ्तर पहुंचना चाहिए।
- अंतिम निर्णय PMI का होगा।
- किसी तस्वीर में प्रति आकस्मिंत करने की अनुमति नहीं।

**All the Best
for the
DRAWINGS**

1st Prize - ₹ 10,000/-
2nd Prize - ₹ 5,000/-
3rd Prize - ₹ 3,000/-

and 10 consolation prizes.
A special prize awarded to the
Superstar for the winning
drawing of young inmates
on participating this contest.

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

AT CENTRAL PRISON
NASHIK ROAD



Walter Kamble

*Nashik Road, Lay representative, PMI Central
Region*

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Nashik Social Service Society, Nashik road along with Prison Ministry India celebrated the day with great love and joy with the inmates of Central Prison, Nashik road. The team consisted of five women lay missionaries, one Sister from St. Philomena Convent and two teachers along with the children of St. Philomena Marathi Medium School. As men are not allowed in the women's cell, the only exception was Father Allwyn and I.

Initially, we had a prayer service conducted by the women lay missionaries. During the prayer services, we always experience joys and sorrows expressed through tears by everyone. Many of the inmates say that during the prayer service they feel relieved of their sorrows and tension.

After the prayer service, the children aged 7 to 12 years performed dances and skits with their colourful attire lifting up the spirit of the inmates. We could see the joy on their faces. After the cultural program, sandals and shoes were distributed to the small children in the women's cell. This need was expressed by the Senior Jailor in charge of the women's cell. These children walk around barefoot in the heat of the sun. When they received the sandals, they immediately wore them and looked so happy.

One of the inmates came forward and thanked us for bringing the outside world to them and the experience of an hour of joy. The Senior Jailor, Mr. Ashok Karkar, was also very happy with this gesture and thanked the organisers and the school children. Moreover, he immediately ordered his staff to bring sweets for all the children present on the occasion. Mrs Kadam, the Senior Jailor too expressed her joy on the occasion. Fr. Allwyn exhorted the inmates to hold their head high and foster inmate talents and aptitudes.

Smt. Usha Kadam, our teacher for the Balwadi in the women's cell told us that the women inmates are always waiting for us to come and conduct prayer service. It was a moment of joy to hear the non-Christians greeting us saying "Praise the Lord". Walter Kamble of PMI gave the vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to the prison authorities and stated that Women's Day celebration with the inmates was a unique experience.

At the outset it could be said, "Women still have so much to overcome to reach true equality, especially female prisoners who are so unfairly stigmatized. We need to not only highlight their problems but also give them hope for the future... And what a wonderful way to do it, by visiting them and bringing smiles to their faces!"

"LENT IS ABOUT CARING AND HEALING"

Lent is a wonderful season. As we enter this holy season of grace, trust in the Lord with all our hearts and lean not on our own understanding. In all our actions, acknowledge Him and He shall direct our paths. This season provides us with an opportunity to extend more care and love to the least, the lost and the last – the brethren behind the bars – by our prayers sacrifices and penance.



Ash Wednesday is a gift from God. This day is about giving and newness and possibility. We, the Salem Unit, organized a Dental camp on Ash Wednesday in Central Prison Salem from 10 am to 2 pm. Sp. Thiru. Tamilselvan inaugurated the camp. Sr. Joyce, the coordinator welcomed the gathering. And Dr. Barth from Vinayaga Mission Hospital with a team of 10 doctors did the screening and prescribed medicines. 150 inmates benefitted through this camp. At the beginning of the camp Dr. Barth gave an awareness talk on oral health and



Sr. Joyce SJC,
Coordinator, Salem – Tamil Nadu.

brushing techniques which was appreciated by all. At the end of the camp, the doctors and the prison officials had a meal served by PMI volunteers.

*"Life ends when you stop dreaming,
Hope ends when you stop believing
and*

*Love ends when you stop caring.
So don't stop doing well to others.*

*Dream, hope and love makes life
beautiful".*

*"Wish you all a fruitful Lenten
season."*



5th State Conference - Chattisgarh



Visit to Observation Home
by PMI Vasai Unit



Visit of Dubai Prison Ministry to National
Office, India



WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION
At Central Prison, Nashik, Maharashtra



Bidding Farewell to Sr. Celine.
Thank you for your service rendered to
brethren behind the bars





PRISON MINISTRY INDIA

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2019-2020 FULL TIMERS/VOLUNTEERS COURSE



- The last date for submitting the applications for both 21st April 2019.
- Who can apply? - Priests, Sisters, Brothers, Lay people, new and regular volunteers who are willing to extend their compassion and care towards the brethren behind the bars.
- Financial support -Generous contributions from every good heart.

Here is an invitation for you to send at least one person from your congregation, province and region. Hope to receive a positive response from you all, we remain.

Yours in Christ,

Sr. Lini Sheeja MSC

National Secretary, Prison Ministry India
Ph. +919880022209

Fr. Sebastian Vadakumpadan

National Coordinator, Prison Ministry India
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