

INTRODUCTION

When the Yokefellow Prison Ministry began to turn its attention to the county jail it was argued, at first, that the county institutions are for short-term prisoners and the time limit would make a remedial program impractical. Some even questioned the need and feasibility of a program that would be productive for short-time offenders in the jail setting.

All were agreed, however, that a major concern of the Yokefellow Prison Ministry is for those who have become offenders, whether they are incarcerated in a state or federal prison, or in a county jail. That each is a problem and his problems are ours...for his life is irrevocably bound up with ours in society. No man or woman can live his or her life solely unto himself or herself. We are our brothers' keepers.

Every man and woman, boy and girl, found in a state or federal prison first entered a jail where he, or she, experienced the first shock of guilt and shame. It follows then that it is in the jail setting where a ministry of care, concern and love can be most effective.

Experience has proved to us that most offenders do need corrections in the best and fullest sense of the word...that they need real understanding, not sentimental softness...that they need reforming, not damaging treatment. We know that many offenders are serious about wanting to change their lives...all of them should...most of them won't.

Yokefellows invites the Christian community to become involved in the very important ministry where it all begins...on the local level, in the local court, in the county jail.

Newman R. Gaugler