

Prison Ministry

***As Though You Were in Prison with Them* edited by Richard A. Symes (Presbyterian Criminal Justice Program, PCUSA, 2000)**

A comprehensive guide for those interested in or thinking about participating in prison ministry, for those who are engaged in it, and for all who may want to interest others in joining them.

***Between a Rock and a Grace Place: Divine Surprises in the Tight Spots of Life* by Carol Kent (Zondervan, 2010)**

In this six-session DVD study, author Carol Kent tells her own story and passes along the lessons she's learned in finding God's grace amidst challenging circumstances (her son is serving a life sentence for murder).

***Everybody Wants to Change the World* by Tony Campolo and Gordon Aeschliman (Regal, 2006)**

This book provides numerous practical ideas for compassionately responding to the needs of others, including a chapter called "Prisoners - Befriending the Outcast."

***Good Punishment? Christian Moral Practice and U.S. Imprisonment* by James Samuel Logan (Eerdmans, 2008)**

This text was required reading for students in a ground-breaking course in Restorative Justice first taught by Bishop Kenneth Carder at Duke Divinity School in 2009. Duke now offers a three-course series resulting in a "Certificate in Prison Studies."

***I Was a Stranger: A Christian Theology of Hospitality* by Arthur Sutherland (Abingdon Press, 2006)**

This book includes a chapter entitled "Remember My Chains--Hospitality and Eschatology in Prison Life."

***I Was In Prison: United Methodist Perspectives on Prison Ministry* edited by James M. Shopshire, Mark C. Hicks, and Richmond Stoglin (GBHEM, 2008)**

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer wrote the foreword for this book on a much-neglected aspect of our responsibility as Christians and particularly as United Methodists and spiritual heirs of John Wesley. The book explores various aspects of restorative justice, including biblical and socio-theological perspectives, historical perspectives, and ministry perspectives. It provides a good blend of theory with practical suggestions regarding how congregations can get involved in this critical area of ministry.

***Tie That Binds: Connecting With God, The Church, And The World* by Richard Wilke (Abingdon Press, 2008)**

This book, written by one of the featured speakers for the Deeper Still retreat in Decatur in the spring of 2012, explores the weaknesses of many churches and gives hints for new directions. It includes a chapter entitled "Let's Go to Prison."

***To Do Justice: A Guide for Progressive Christians* by Rebecca Todd Peters and Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty (Westminster John Knox, 2008)**

Encouraging Christians to call for public policies to benefit those most vulnerable in our nation, this book offers tools for studying complex domestic social problems and serves as a guidebook to becoming involved in social action. Each chapter focuses on support for a different issue, including one chapter on prisoners.