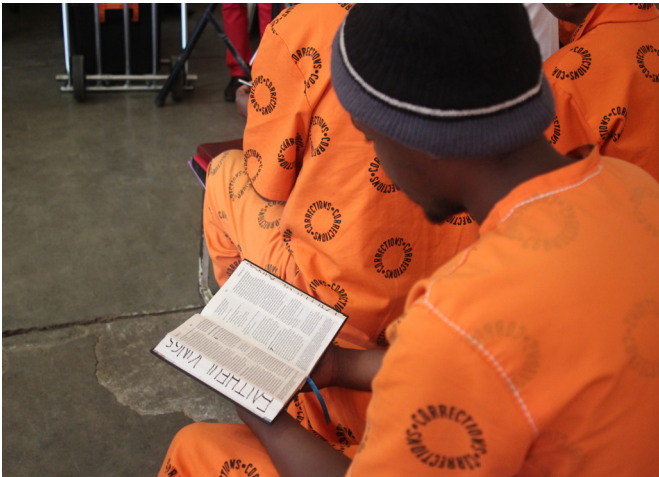


South Africa



Hope for Prisoners

Project: 101791
Non Tax Deductible



Overview

Working with World Hope Ministries, Bible Society Australia (BSA) offers hope with God's powerful word in South African prisons. The objective of this project is for prisoners to engage with the Scriptures, as Bibles are provided by BSA to graduates of the Bible Discipleship course.

The Need

South Africa has the world's twelfth highest number of prisoners, outranking countries with nearly five times its population. There are a total of 235 operationally active prisons in South Africa, with over 164,000 prisoners. The prison population remains overwhelmingly overcrowded, with more than 45,000 inmates without proper accommodation.

Most of the prisoners have never owned a Bible and have a great need to hear the transformative message of God's love.

In addition to this, there's an opportunity to reach out to Department of Correctional Services (DCS) Officials, who experience many challenges and among whom there is a high suicide rate.

235

operationally active prisons in South Africa

164,000+

prisoners in South Africa

45,000+

prison inmates without proper accommodation in South Africa

When the oppressed see this, they will be glad; those who worship God will be encouraged. The LORD listens to those in need and does not forget his people in prison. – Psalm 69:32-33, GNT

Goals

The goal of this project is to impart the word of God in these prisoners' lives, contributing to their rehabilitation process, and encouraging them to live crime-free lives after serving their sentences. For this project, World Hope Ministries partners with the Directorate of Spiritual Care from the Department of Correctional Services and other organisations. Bible Society supplies Bibles free of charge to distribute to prisoners, as World Hope Ministries carry out programs contributing to the rehabilitative care of the prisoners.

The goal is to distribute a minimum of 12,500 Bibles into correctional facilities in South Africa reaching men, women and juveniles.

Impact

Lives are changed through this program, as prisoners receive the opportunity to understand the forgiveness and mercy of Christ. For many, their hope has been restored in God, in man, and in themselves. Many also begin to seek restoration with their families and ask forgiveness from those they have affected by their actions. Making Bibles available, with the support of a structured social and spiritual programme, profoundly benefits inmates. In 2024 World Hope Ministries ordered 3,620 Bibles in 10 of the official languages of South Africa for distribution.

Testimony

*"I was hopeless, I did not have any direction and I was filled with guilt, bitterness, anger, hatred and unforgiveness. [After receiving Jesus and a Bible in prison] My hope was restored. My life has meaning now and I am no longer walking in darkness. I have been set free..." — Roger Jaars**

**Name changed to protect privacy.*

Prayer Points

- Pray for godly revival in the hearts of men and women.
- Pray that the Scripture resources arrive on time to meet the need, and that God provides extra Bibles to accompany this growing prison ministry, including Gospel literature, Bible study materials and Bibles for children.
- Pray for staff and new facilitators involved in this ministry, that God will provide people with the right heart and attitude and dedicated volunteers to assist.