

When you listen with love, this is what you can hear...

“Yokefellow gave me a chance to talk with people one on one. These people did not judge me. I learned so much because I had people who cared about me and people who came to lend a listening ear — people who came every week... These people reached out to me and saved my life — and not only my life but the lives of my family.”

— *Former Inmate*

“Yokefellows give us hope, inspiration, and fellowship. They are people who care about us.”

— *Inmate*

“I felt led to be in a place where encouragement and hope was needed the most. I would also be in a position to let those who were incarcerated know that God loves them and that there are people in the community who care. The most important message for me to give the incarcerated person is that God always forgives and gives second chances, if asked with a sincere heart.”

— *Yokefellow Coordinator*

“As a correctional chaplain, I see Yokefellow as an integral part of the effort to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of inmates. They not only inspire and give the inmates hope, they inspire me. They also remind me that while this ministry is not a popular one, there are people who care.”

— *Prison Chaplain*

Prisoners need Yokefellow... and Yokefellow needs YOU!

Without volunteers, Yokefellow wouldn't exist. There would be no meetings, no caring Christian community, for the inmates. And Yokefellows would not have the opportunity to serve as witnesses to the Christian principles of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Yokefellow relies entirely upon the grace of God and the generosity of our churches and church people for our support.

We need your help! Here's what you can do...

- **Pray...**

...for people in prison, their families, victims of crime, and prison chaplains and staff.

- **Become a Yokefellow...**

Each week hundreds of volunteers, lay and clergy, serve as friends and role models in Yokefellow groups inside the prison walls.

- **Send a financial contribution...**

Financial gifts from church groups and individuals make it possible for Yokefellows to continue to recruit, train, and support church members to be volunteers, provide discussion guides to Yokefellow groups, and expand the ministry to include more prison units and ex-offenders.

For more information, write or call:

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**The
shortest
distance
between
two hearts
is through
the ears.**



Introducing Yokefellow Prison Ministry of North Carolina

A ministry of reconciliation... changing attitudes, hearts, and lives

Criminals in North Carolina are often forgotten and neglected, locked away behind fences and walls. Sometimes Christians think that the way to help people who have broken the law is to preach God's judgment to them. The volunteers of Yokefellow Prison Ministry believe the best way to share the love of God to those incarcerated in North Carolina's jails and prisons is to be willing to listen and be with someone who is hurting.

Through Yokefellow Prison Ministry, trained volunteers go into prisons on a regular weekly basis to meet directly with inmates in small discussion groups. These meetings are not services, revivals, or Bible studies. Instead, Yokefellow gives prison inmates an



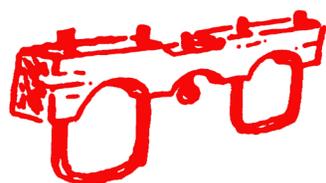
opportunity to talk directly to caring Christian volunteers about the pain, the loneliness, and the isolation they are feeling.

Yokefellow provides a caring place for prison inmates to get to know each other on a different basis than in the regular tense, fear-filled environment of prison. In the small discussion groups, they have the opportunity to express concern for and good will toward each other. Inmates who attend Yokefellow are encouraged to continue to be supportive and caring of each other when they leave the Yokefellow meeting.

While Yokefellow focuses on direct ministry to prisoners and their families, Yokefellow also bears concern for correctional officials, victims of crime, and improvement of the criminal justice system. Yokefellow also encourages and supports relationships between churches and prisoners who are returning to the community.

Yokefellow Prison Ministry was founded and established throughout the United States by D. Elton Trueblood, a Quaker. Founded in North Carolina in 1969, Yokefellow groups now meet in 54 North Carolina prisons plus the Federal Prison in Butner. Each week, more than 800 volunteers meet with more than 1,700 of their incarcerated sisters and brothers.

Yokefellow Prison Ministry of North Carolina operates under the guidance of an interdenominational — and volunteer — Board of Directors and a small paid staff led by an executive director. Yokefellow works in a close and mutually supportive partnership with the North Carolina Department of Corrections.



“Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying your heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. The yoke I will give you is easy (fits), and the load I will put on you is light.”

— Jesus
(Matthew 11: 28-30)

Yokefellow Prison Ministry of North Carolina, Inc.

Mission Statement

In response to the call and the example of Jesus Christ, the purpose of Yokefellow Prison Ministry is to develop personal relationships between inmates and volunteers, individually and in community, which will create a nurturing, nonjudgmental environment in which each will feel free to examine and share their lives and thereby experience the forgiveness, healing, and power of God's love.