

# The Florida Prison Evangelist

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## Spreading the Good News!

The Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) has issued inmates electronic tablets for a few years. These tablets have applications such as email, games, movies, podcasts, and religious material. The spiritual material available comes from an app called Pando, which provides entirely denominational doctrine. Because of this, we saw a need to provide sound content on prisoner tablets to counter denominational teaching while sharing the truth about the good news of Christ. Accomplishing this could be monumental because we would reach every imprisoned person across Florida. We are thrilled to report that we have achieved this feat using two different avenues:



First, we had a providential encounter with FDC Secretary Ricky Dixon (pictured in this article with Christopher & Sondra Carter). This meeting led us to a collaborative effort with World Video Bible School (WVBS) to supply FDC with videos for an FDC in-house app on the tablet called "FYI." In this app, prisoners can find information such as news or announcements that FDC wants to communicate to the population. Now, they can also find WVBS content in this location. This opportunity comes with NO COST!



The second avenue is to have our own channel on the Pando app. This app is extremely popular in prison. After much discussion and prayer, we paid the HEFTY PRICE to put content on Pando for one year under the name "Off The Chain Ministries." Daryl Townsend, a fellow laborer in our prison ministry effort and an elder with the Middleburg congregation, leads this ministry. Amazingly, we had 63,000 views and 10,000 subscribers in the first week! This route also involves collaboration with WVBS, who led investigative efforts and held necessary meetings. WVBS also supplies us with content for our channel. The picture in this article is a meeting with WVBS (over Zoom) and prison ministers from the brotherhood in the North Central Florida Region.

These avenues come with certain limitations, but we are ecstatic with what we have seen and encouraged by our vision for the future! Pando is currently on prison tablets in 39 states with over 400,000 inmate users. Nationwide, prisoners and their families can view our content. Pando is available to anyone with a smart device. These initiatives have the potential to enhance our prison ministry efforts significantly. Go to your app store, search, and download the app to participate in this transformative journey.

## Prison Ministry Benefit Dinner

We are excited to see you **Thursday, September 19**, and share some recent successes! Please **RSVP by September 14** to let us know you are coming and enjoy a free dinner and fellowship.

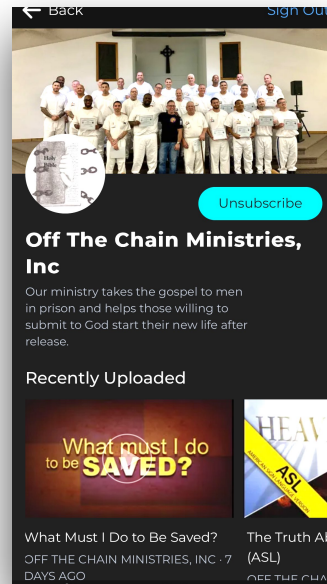
## Jail Doves (University City church of Christ)

We rejoice with the eight ladies who were baptized at Lowell Prison this year due to the efforts of Becky Barclift, Oretha Walker, and Chris Payne.



## More on Pando

Once in the app, navigate to the “Discover” section, select the filter option, and choose Florida. Then, scroll through the list until you see the channel for “Off The Chain Ministries, Inc.” Once you find our channel, you can choose to subscribe, which will put all of our videos in your “My Watchlist.” However, be cautioned there is a vast array of denominational content outside our channel in the same app. To our knowledge, we are the only members from the church nationwide with a channel on this platform. It is our hope others in the brotherhood will join the effort. The left picture in this article shows the channel in the app once you open it. Another caution: once you open a video (right image), Pando has an “Accept Christ” button that will take you to denominational teaching about accepting Christ. Pando has indicated they will allow us to edit or remove this feature. We do not want to promote the false worldly view of accepting Christ.



## Gary & Crew in Texas

This June, we marked the 50th anniversary of the National prison ministry workshop. The event was held in Corpus Christi, TX, and attended by handfuls of Floridians (center picture below). It was an energizing and edifying event, followed by exhaustion! Gary was honored at the event for his lifetime of servitude in the Lord's prison ministry. We are thankful for Gary and his dedication over the years! Also pictured below (left) is Tom Genduso with WVBS and Kirk Ottinaer with Apologetics Press.



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