

The Florida Prison Evangelist

Fall 2026

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Lowell Correctional Institution



Lowell Correctional Institution, located just north of Ocala, is Florida's largest women's prison, housing approximately 2,500 women across a wide range of custody levels and specialized populations. Its size and diverse population provide an incredible opportunity to share the gospel and offer the hope and new life found in Christ.

Women from the church, affectionately known as the Jail Doves, faithfully minister at Lowell through Bible studies and correspondence courses. They conduct two classes: one focused on managing anger and making positive changes in thoughts and actions, and another devoted to Bible study. Approximately 50 women participate in these classes at any given time. Some are regular students who sincerely desire to grow in their knowledge of God, while others come and go as they search for answers. Each student represents another opportunity to sow the seed of God's Word.

One of those regular students is Sarah, who has attended the Bible studies for several years and completed numerous correspondence courses with Becky Barclift (pictured). Recently, Sarah indicated in one of her lessons that she wanted to be baptized. Becky contacted Christopher Carter (pictured), and the two went to Lowell on a Sunday morning. Christopher led a worship service for a room full of women, teaching about the biblical purpose and importance of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Among those attending the service was Tielsha, another inmate who wanted to be baptized. Following the lesson, Sarah and Tielsha were both baptized into Christ! The two new Christians then joined the others in observing the Lord's Supper. It was a wonderful morning and a reminder of the fruit that can come from faithfully teaching God's Word behind prison walls. We rejoice with these two new sisters in Christ and pray that they will continue to grow in their faith. We thank Becky and the Jail Doves for their labor of love and dedication to helping change lives!



Transitions

As the seasons change, so do the individuals we serve. This recent photo shows participants at the Off the Chain transition house. The group meets every Monday night for class and has just completed a conflict resolution course.

We are encouraged by this group of men who have dedicated themselves to living life differently. Their transformation began in prison, but this photo reminds us that it did not end there. They are committed to learning what Christ taught and putting it into practice in their lives (Matthew 28:19–20). This is what walking in newness of life looks like (Romans 6:4)!

Caverns Road church of Christ

An important part of our mission is encouraging brethren to become involved in prison ministry by showing congregations where and how they can help. We recently visited the Caverns Road congregation in Marianna, where we were given the opportunity to present our work and discuss ways to serve in nearby prisons. Through that visit, we found not only brethren willing to volunteer but also opportunities to minister to the congregation's incarcerated loved ones.



We continue to seek congregations and individuals willing to take the gospel behind prison walls. Perhaps your congregation has members willing to serve inside prisons or members who have loved ones incarcerated. We would be grateful for the opportunity to visit your congregation and share with you the Lord's work in prison.

Florida Prison Ministry Fellowship and Appreciation Dinner

Join us **Thursday, September 17, at 6:15 PM** for the Florida Prison Ministry Fellowship and Appreciation Dinner at the University City Church of Christ Family Life Center, 4626 NW 8th Ave., Gainesville. The evening will feature a complimentary dinner, special guest speaker Ronnie Crocker, and plenty of fun, faith, and fellowship.





Ronnie Crocker is the founder and program director of Project Rescue, a faith-based nonprofit addiction recovery ministry located in the Decatur/Priceville area of Alabama.

Crocker's passion for helping others grows out of his own experience. Before dedicating his life to serving others, Crocker spent 15 years struggling with drug addiction. During a five-year prison sentence, he obeyed the gospel and began a new life in Christ. Following his release from prison in 1989, he immediately began helping others trapped in addiction, starting prison ministries and laying the groundwork for what would ultimately become Project Rescue. He later studied at the Memphis School of Preaching to better equip himself for ministry work.

PLEASE RSVP BY SEPT. 10

Evening Schedule

6:15 — Welcome & Social
6:30 — Opening Prayer & Dinner
7:00 — Jail Dove Highlights
7:10 — Prison Ministry Highlights
7:20 — Door Prizes
7:30 — Ronnie Crocker
7:55 — Closing Remarks & Prayer

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