

Ministry to the Incarcerated

by Dr. Henry G. Covert

In *Ministry to the Incarcerated*, Dr. Covert uses his experiences as both police officer and retired state prison chaplain to examine the problems of the incarcerated, specifically the stressors which are obstacles to a prisoner's personal and spiritual development. In his analysis he provides both secular and biblical themes that promote penal reform and offender rehabilitation.

Ministry to the Incarcerated also provides instructional outlines for staff and volunteers, as well as Dr. Covert's experience being the chaplain for Pennsylvania's first execution in thirty-three years.

Ministry to the Incarcerated has received endorsements from the American Correctional Association, Journal of Pastoral Care, Prison Fellowship International, Yokefellows International, Coalition of Prison Evangelists, the American Chaplaincy Training School at Taylor University, Dismas Catholic Prison Ministries, Christian Chaplains and Coaching, Catholic Prison Ministry Coalition and Correctional Ministries and Chaplains Association. It has also been endorsed by numerous volunteer groups, prison administrators, the academic community and religious groups.

This book is for everyone who has an interest in law enforcement, the penal system, and rehabilitation and ministry in the prison system.

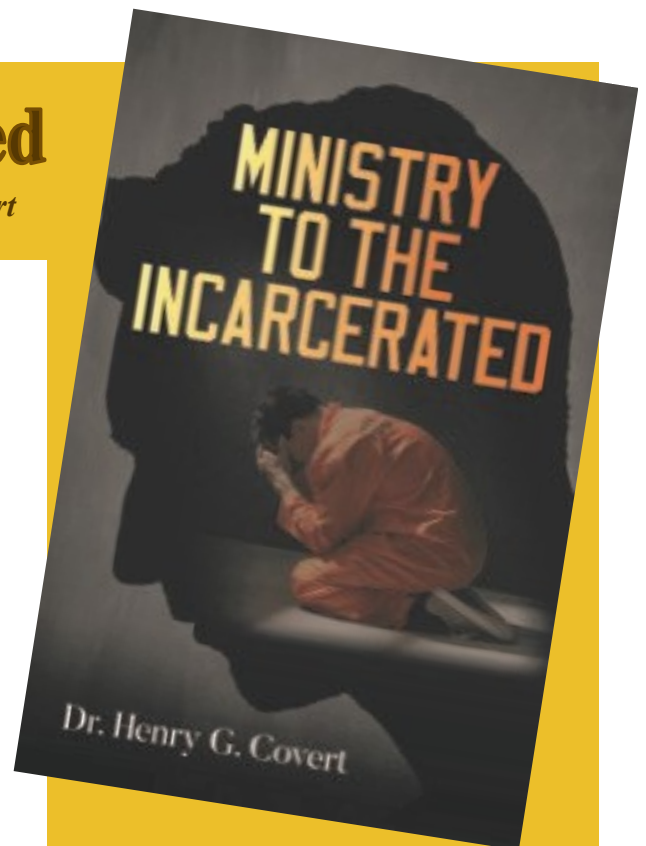


Ministry to the Incarcerated

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Dr. Henry Covert is an ordained minister with the United Church of Christ. After a tour of duty in the military, he worked in law enforcement for twenty years as both a patrol sergeant and county detective. Toward the end of that career he began his studies for the ministry. He served several parishes, worked in therapeutic communities as a counselor, was a state prison chaplain, and acquired adjunct faculty status at the Pennsylvania State University. Reverend Covert was the chaplain for Pennsylvania's first execution in thirty-three years. An account of this is found in his book. He holds several academic degrees in the Scriptures and theology, including a doctorate from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He is the author of seven books, including: *Discovering the Parables: An Inspirational Guide for Everyday Life*, *Spiritual Reflections: A Journey through the Scriptures, Prayers That God Hears*, *Exploring Christianity, Spiritual Insights and A Journey to the Next World: Understanding Death and Resurrection*.

All of Dr. Covert's books
are available through
MASTHOF PRESS.

Praise for *Ministry to the Incarcerated*

“In my seventeen years of prison ministry, I have never seen a book so sensitively written about prisons and prisoners. I rode on a roller coaster of emotions as Dr. Covert’s writing demanded that I not just look at the situation, but actually become a part of it while reading. This book needs to be read by everyone who is involved or thinking about getting involved in prison ministry.”

— **REV. NICK BARBETTA, Executive Director, Crossroads Prison Ministries**

“A timely message juxtaposed to the political rhetoric and public mood of today...Reverend Covert’s treatment of the challenges of ministry in prisons is insightful in describing both the uniqueness of the environment and the role of the church in it. His book should be read by chaplains, prison staff, inmates, and policymakers - especially those who seek to make these environments “harsher” and “meaner”.

— **JOSEPH D. LEHMAN, Commissioner, Maine Department of Corrections**

“*Ministry to the Incarcerated* gives excellent materials for understanding the correctional system in which both chaplains and volunteers are ministering...Specific teaching and training dealing with the “Inmate Stressors” is an example of subjects that help prepare prisoners for their return to society. I would recommend [Dr. Covert’s] book be used in the training of new chaplains and in the orientation of volunteers coming into jail and prison ministry. His insights will help prevent some of the common errors of judgment made by newcomers to the correctional setting.”

— **RICK DAVIS, minister in military, correctional, hospital, and industrial settings, Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy. The General Council of the Assemblies of God**

“Valuable supplemental reading for students considering employment within the criminal justice system, Covert’s *Ministry to the Incarcerated* focuses on the basic human needs of inmates, delineates the roadblocks that hinder prisoners’ personal and spiritual growth and development, and offers concrete suggestions that would tear down the roadblocks and promote positive change...The detailed curriculum outlines found in the appendix would be especially helpful to those considering prison ministry; however, anyone who works within the prison system would benefit from reading Covert’s book and seeing the prison system from the eyes of those who live there.”

— **DIANA L. KUHNS, Director of the Integrated Studies Division, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Penn State**

“*Ministry to the Incarcerated* is a clear, comprehensive introduction to effective ministry within the prison system. Obviously based on years of experience, it presents the problems and pressures of prison in a way that would keep a new chaplain from many mistakes and make his counseling much more realistic. Beyond that, it gives fresh and thoughtful suggestions for bringing the Christian faith alive for one of the more neglected groups of our population. It is an eye-opener, a heart opener, and an encouragement.”

— **REV. JAMES PETERSON, Office of the Marginalized, Diocese of Erie Catholic Charities**

“At last, a sober, insightful, practical, and modern expression of Jesus’ ancient command that we are to care for the prisoner as well as the sick and naked.”

— **ORLO STRUNK, JR., PH.D. Managing Editor, The Journal of Pastoral Care; Professor Emeritus, Boston University**

“*Ministry to the Incarcerated* should be on the desk of every prison chaplain. It provides a comprehensive view of the challenge that lies before the chaplain...Enlightening, encouraging, relevant.”

— **REV. FRANCIS T. MENEL, Administrator of Religion & Family Services, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections**