

“How to start your own Bible Correspondence Fellowship”

Here is a letter from a retired couple, Gene & Bev Lynn, who are dear friends of Prison Mission Association in Franklin, NC., who want to share their story with you.

Since 2006 we have been sending PMA lessons to prisoners scattered all over the US. It all began when our friend Pastor Lynn Dulakis who was serving as chaplain in our local county jail, led a young lady to the Lord and suggested we print lessons from the PMA website to get her established in her spiritual life. In her fervor as a new believer, Melody "advertised" the lessons in our local jail, and then to several more facilities in North Carolina, and into the federal system as well. This ultimately has led to perhaps a few thousand contacts.



Gene and Bev Lynn with PMA Director, Dwight Anderson

Prior to this, Gene and I had never considered getting involved in prison ministry. One of our sons is a police officer in our little town, so we certainly were aware of the need, **but our efforts, we feel, have been Holy Spirit inspired** from the onset.

Currently, two friends from our home Bible study group, are active in jail visitation, so we get new contacts from them, but most of our new folks are referred from current students. Occasionally we get lessons mailed to us from guys we've never heard of before explaining, "this appeared on my bunk" or "I found this in the trash."

At times we feel led to contact people, without their having asked, such as **those in our area we've read about in our local newspapers**. Some of our most faithful students and even graduates have resulted from what we can only acknowledge as the Holy Spirit's guidance.

For those wishing to initiate such a ministry as individuals, we would suggest a **phone call or visit to your local sheriff's office to obtain a contact with their chaplain**, perhaps offering a sample of the lessons and explaining how the process works. While we've tried various methods to exchange completed and new lessons, we've found the most reliable to be our federal postal system. **We advise using a post office box** with the name of your ministry and when corresponding, use only your first names. It's difficult not to get personally involved with individuals, as in many occasions we are their only supportive contact "on the outside".

We have, however, been greatly blessed by men and women praying for us, especially when one of our sons was deployed to the Middle East on four different occasions. **It's also advisable, as a leader, to do all of the lessons** to familiarize yourself with the material and format. A cd of all the available lessons and answer keys can be obtained by contacting the PMA director. The director, Pastor Dwight Anderson and Karen, operations manager, have always been helpful and quick to respond to our needs as a satellite of this great organization.

On a practical note, the expenses associated with this ministry are the post office box, paper for printing the lessons, envelopes, and postage. We use business size envelopes for the initial two page **"An Introduction to New Life in Christ"**, or if they indicate they are already a believer we send the 11 page Introductory lesson. Then for returning a completed lesson and the next lesson, we use a 6 by 9 inch booklet envelope. Other expenses would include a rubber stamp with your address, and a digital postal scale. We add the advisory sheet of how best to utilize the lessons, a tract, calendar pages and devotional pages up the next ounce of weight.

There are very specific restrictions from some facilities as to what may be sent to prisoners, such as no stapled material, no stickers on the outside envelope. These and other items will be brought to your attention by the mailroom supervisor if something you send is not allowed. **We are constantly seeking God's wisdom as to how best to respond** to folk's individual questions related to their studies or personal problems. He is faithful to provide in all facets of this most amazingly rewarding ministry.

We would be happy to "coach" newcomers to this type of ministry by contacting us at bevgene601@frontier.com

To God be the glory
Gene and Beverly Lynn

Download lessons PMA website: www.prisonmission.org
PMA Director: Dwight Anderson, dwight@prisonmission.org