

### **How to write letter(s) to inmates for a Kairos weekend**

You are writing a message conveying the love that comes from the grace of Jesus Christ. The person you are writing to does not feel worthy of this message, may not know what love feels like, does feel alone and forsaken, and may or may not be Christian. Here are some tips:

- You won't know the inmate's name, so it's fine to start the letter "Dear Brother in White"
- It must be handwritten and individual. It doesn't matter how bad your handwriting is. Do not make a single letter and then photocopy it.
- The length is up to you. A single page is sufficient, though feel free to write less or more.
- Sign the letter only with your first name.
- It is fine to relate some testimony about how God has moved in your life. Refrain from giving any personal information that could be traced to you or be used to identify you.
- You can use a Scripture as part of the message.
- Be encouraging, positive, hopeful. You are telling the inmate you want the very best for him or her.
- Do not make references to what they did to get in prison or how long their sentence is.
- Do not include anything in the envelope beside the letter.
- Do not put stickers on the letter, just your handwritten words.
- Put the letter in an unsealed, unaddressed, plain white envelope. Each letter will have to be inspected by the prison mail office anyway.

The team serving the weekend will distribute the letters. There are typically 42 inmates on a Kairos weekend, and the team tries to ensure that every inmate gets the same number of letters. So if you are writing together with others in a Sunday School class, you could try to organize yourselves to produce batches of 42 letters.