

## **Our Mission to Arizona's Ex-offenders – Along Side Ministries**

Did you know that Arizona has one of the highest per capita incarceration rates in the nation? Arizona has 34,800 men and women incarcerated in the state's 13 prisons. When released, most ex-offenders leave prison with a \$50 check, no place to go, no family support, and no job. Is it any wonder that federal statistics indicate that 82% of those released from prison are rearrested within four years?

**Along Side Ministries**, located in Phoenix, has a four-tiered approach to this huge problem. First, they coordinate a Jail Visitation Program, where volunteers meet with inmates and share the redeeming grace of Jesus Christ. Inmates are encouraged to accept Christ into their lives to help them overcome their past and learn to walk in a Godly manner. Second is a mentoring program that begins prior to release and assists with integration into the community after release. Immediate short-term support is provided by a Prison Transition Service as the third tier, and providing a safe housing environment is the fourth tier. Along Side is supported financially through FBC's missions giving, but perhaps God is calling you to take an active role in this dynamic ministry! Learn more by visiting Along Side's website at [www.asmaz.com](http://www.asmaz.com).