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Living Stones International A Quarterly Insight into "Building True Relationships"

the **stone** builders

ask the Expert >>>

Q: *How do I forgive my enemies?*

- ⇒ . . . and of course, forgive that person as well as repent of your feelings and ask God to forgive you.
- ⇒ Pray actively for your enemy's good, which will help to fill you with love for them.
- ⇒ Ask God to meet their needs by overcoming evil with good.
- ⇒ You are filling your minds with good thoughts; you begin to have a spiritual stake in their well-being.
- ⇒ When they are blessed, you will learn of redemption, the ultimate form of forgiveness.

A: The first step is to recognize your resentment against an enemy.
 Matthew 5:43-48

Other Scriptures: Luke 11:4, Matthew 18:21-35, Ephesians 4:32

Yes! Through Acts of Giving. . .

I will partner with you in declaring that families need assistance, spreading the good news, and preparing the next generation to reach and restore healthy relationships among our families.

Please find my . . .

1. One Time Gift \$ _____
2. Monthly Gift I want to be part of the Stones Builder that is used to sustain the work of Living Stones in the Big Bend region. Here is my first monthly gift of \$ _____.
3. Please give me a call. I'd like to talk more with you about how I can help Living Stones through my time, talents and treasures.

Phone # (_____) _____

Living Stones' Program Children of Inmates



The Facts:

Two visits at Wakulla Correctional Institution Annex resulted in:

- ⇒ **31 youth** attended bonding visits with their incarcerated parent
- ⇒ **20 incarcerated fathers** were in attendance
- ⇒ **16 caregivers** attended bonding visits
- ⇒ **21 staff/volunteers/interns** attended the visits
- ⇒ **100 hours** providing case managers, mentors, tutors, and parenting classes



Pastors Gary & Josephine Montgomery

As lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. | Peter 2:4

Pursuant to the requirements of Solicitation of contributions Act, Chapter 496, Florida Statutes, Living Stones is registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.—Dept. of Agriculture Solicitation #CH28758.

Living Stones does not employ professional solicitors. 100% of each contribution received is used for the operation of Living Stones and servicing its clients and programs.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your contribution to Living Stones is tax-deductible.

A message from the Founders. . .

It's a new day, a new year—what a relief it is to know that today is our time to get it right. Josephine and I have reflected over this past year. We have done a lot of work with the help of our staff, volunteers, interns and know that there is still much to do. Our success with the Children of Inmates' Program will be our focal point for this year.

Our staff, interns, and volunteers receive first-hand knowledge of how the program works, what benefits the children receive from bonding with their incarcerated parent, and the ancillary benefits both caregivers gain as well. Our dates for the next bonding visit are set for March 19th and 21st of this year. It is an ambitious schedule since we are moving into the Main Unit of Wakulla Correctional Institution for our first visit while maintaining the third visit to the Annex.

Don't forget, partners are welcomed. LSI sends a thank you to First Baptist Church, Jacob Chapel Baptist Church, and Capital City Christian Church for stepping up with their assistance this past visit by providing transportation, a staging area for meeting with the children, caregivers, and staff/volunteers, as well as Christmas gifts.

Continue your support so Living Stones may extend this program into other counties and state prisons.

This program has a five year history of evidence based research which 1) proves

children are able to step out of their parent's footsteps not following them to prison, while making decisions to graduate from high school, go onto college, and/or military or technical school. 2) Incarcerated parents who are leaving prison have single digit recidivism rates of seven percent versus the state average of 33%, ex-offenders returning to prison within three years when released. 3) Caregivers are not only receiving services they need to attend to their families' material needs, but now are completing their own educational opportunities or finding higher paying employment upon receiving these services.

Additional benefits to the children are case managers, mentors, and tutors for as long as they need it. We welcome any of our local colleges and universities—FAMU, FSU, and TCC to join us in this effort. Students are receiving immediate experience through internships and volunteering with our organization. Those wanting more practical application relative to your classroom training are welcomed, too.

Do contact us at (850) 765-0320. Ask for Chaplain Montgomery to find out more how you may assist us with our program. We also accept gifts, no matter the size—let this newsletter touch your heart today to meet the growing demands of these children. You may also mail your checks to: Living Stones, PO Box 6747, Tallahassee, FL 32314-6747. Call us today, stop by the office and join us in this effort ensuring a child's future.



Children of Inmates' Program

helps children first, then caregivers & inmates



Your Support is Key...

Thank you for your support to Living Stones' Children of Inmate program. Our bonding visit to Wakulla Correctional Institution Annex on December 21, 2012 was a huge success. This visit allowed twelve inmates to spend a day with their twenty children and thirteen caregivers.

Everyone welcomed...

Starting at 6:00 am, children, caregivers and volunteers arrived at Jacob Chapel for orientation, coffee, juice and donuts. After making sure all documents and I.D. were supplied, we loaded onto two large vans provided by First Baptist Church and drove to Wakulla CI Annex.

It's all about the children. . .

Prior to the visit, LSI hosted a mandatory six week parenting class at the prison. Inmates that successfully completed the classes and were approved by the Warden's office participated in the visit. During the bonding visit with Fathers, children and caregivers created a number of Kodak moments.

After the visit, we travel to Fun Station to decompress from being inside prison walls.

Living Stones' accomplishments:

- Children successful & productive in their own lives; finishing high school, entering college, trade school, or military.
- Caregivers have the necessary resources for their own success and productivity, i.e. financial support & employment.
- Inmates to bond with their children, reduce their recidivism rates and disciplinary reports, as well as help them obtain jobs and start their own businesses.
- Working with twenty children and their families.



We are thankful for our awesome volunteers willing to take their time and talents to assist us with the visit.