

International CURE

Newsletter

Winter 2008

To Reduce Crime and Uplift World-wide Criminal Justice

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International CURE Conference in Geneva

CURE's 4th International Conference on Human Rights and Prison Reform will be held in Geneva, Switzerland. It will begin on Sunday, June 21, 2009, at 7 PM and end Wednesday, June 24 at 8 PM.

The theme will be "Prison Reform in the World," and everyone is invited. Attendees will have a chance to:

- Ø Meet grassroots criminal justice reformers from around the world.
- Ø Share their experiences and learn more about running a CURE chapter.
- Ø Learn more about a variety of issues, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture.
- Ø Attend a reception with the United Nations representative from their own countries.

The Conference will take place at the UN in Geneva and there will be simultaneous translation.

There is no charge to participate and CURE will raise funds to pay for dorm-like housing at the Geneva Hostel for all participants who wish to take advantage of that opportunity. The Hostel does provide free breakfast and free passes for travel on buses and trams within Geneva.

Participants will be responsible for ALL other expenses including travel to and from Geneva and meals.

Please let us know (by emailing us at cure@curenational.org) if you are thinking about attending.

The Release Process in a Federal State of Germany

By Franz Kurz
<fkurz33@googlemail.com>

Every federal state in Germany has organized its own way to promote the incarcerated person's return to the community. So let me tell, from my experience, of the process of which I am a member, that I am working on.

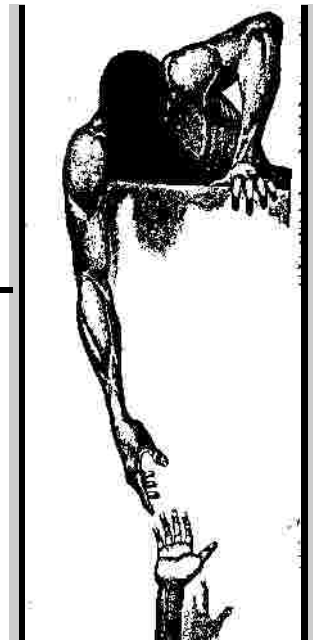
Following my retirement I went from occasional work to full-time with a Registered Society for the support of offenders (in honorary capacity). This is within the 'Association for Probation and Offenders' Assistance, (chaired by the Chief Public Prosecutor). It is work that I have been doing now for over fifteen years. The primary concern of the organization is to assist ex-offenders back into the community. In this endeavor we are supported and financed by both the local and federal institutions besides by donations and fees. I have no 'formal' voice as such but volunteer mentors like me are fully supported and encouraged by the judicial system.



"Family Visiting" photo by Alan Pogue

The justice system here in the German federal state of Baden-Wurttemberg is keen to engage volunteers for the support of offenders in order to assist in their return to the community and help them in 'opening doors' as it were. Our work has

(continued on page 13)



"He Ain't Heavy"
by Gilbert Young

What Works

The Peter Young

Housing, Industry, Treatment Program

Excerpts from an article by Fr. Peter Young

I've been blessed to work for 50 years with our friends who need assistance in all facets of the criminal justice system. It started from my experience as a pastor in an extremely poor area of Albany, the capitol of New York State. I operated a very large homeless shelter and at that time I was also serving as the police court and county jail chaplain. This gave me the experience and the urgency to find a solution to some of the problems by writing legislation to create positive assistance for thousands of those caught in the custody of our justice authorities; Much of my time was spent serving the homeless and getting them the essentials of treatment, housing, and a job. Those coming from incarceration were always one of our top priorities; they quickly came for any of those needed services.

It resulted in over 20 non-profit agencies which operate here in New York State under several different names getting together and forming what is now PYHIT (Peter Young Housing Industries and Treatment). PYHIT now has 98 locations serving over 3,500 people a day.

This all started with my efforts to decriminalize public intoxication in NYS, and then it spread to many other areas. The daily duties of working in the courts and county jail gave me the knowledge of what people need to be successful as they are released; and that is what became my priority. After 18 years of county experience, I became the chaplain at a state correctional facility and developed an alcohol and substance abuse treatment (ASAT) program. At the time of my retirement from the state system, ASAT served an average of 40,000 inmates ever day.

PYHIT programming, on a daily basis, serves more than 3,000 persons afflicted with the illness of alcoholism and substance abuse. The program also offers a wide range of vocational, educational and employment training programs, as well as aftercare housing. The overall mission is to create taxpayers; i.e. give clients the tools to reintegrate back into the community as dignified, productive, and contributing members of society.

Vocational services include assessment, job preparation, and post-employment support programs. PYHIT operates NY State Education Department certified Proprietary Training Schools in Hospitality, Culinary Arts, Maintenance, and Computer Skills. It also operates Social Purpose Businesses in those industries. These businesses include quick service deli's, catering services, convenience stores, computer repair, and commercial motels, all run by clients helping them to develop the skills they have been taught. The housing programs include certified supportive housing licensed through the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

Services. Depending on the level the client has reached in treatment, this housing ranges from a totally supervised environment to completely independent housing with different stages such as half-way and three-quarter housing in between.

Other housing options include emergency housing, transitional housing for homeless adults and families, transitional housing for homeless veterans, parole stabilization facilities, and permanent supported housing for single adults and families in recovery.

The comprehensive model teaches individuals how to build a life of sobriety and achieve freedom from addictive substances. Aftercare programs offer linkage to community resources. They are a positive stabilizing transition mechanism to provide the tools, education, and support for continued recovery and the maintenance of employment. This system provides an alternative; an environment where individuals work toward similar goals of abstinence, employment, and self-determination. While many of its clients have succeeded in their task of overcoming years of addiction, we believe that they have succeeded in more important ways. They have demanded of themselves that they care not only about themselves, but also about their families and their communities as well.

PYHIT understands the importance of recovery to independent living and the connection between employability and long-term job retention. The PYHIT vocational staff is an integral part of the clinical team that works closely to ensure a continuity of care. Vocational counselors provide ongoing services to meet the individual needs of the program participants.

As the resident progresses in treatment, as demonstrated by clinical achievements, vocational/educational services are provided that corresponds to the treatment level. Residents are required to develop interpersonal skills and behaviors that are associated with training and/or employment. The vocational staff places the same expectations on a resident in treatment as that resident is likely to experience from an employer. These expectations include punctuality, reliability, dependability, and good interpersonal skills.

PYHIT has successfully served thousands of individuals across the state and enabled many to successfully reintegrate back into society. The PBS national network aired our video "Glide Path to Recovery", that effectively addresses the obstacles to a successful recovery by providing guidance in the way of professional treatment, a safe place to stay, and a meaningful job.

Our success, over a ten year period, was evaluated by a graduate school study, and their results found that 92% of our clients never returned to the state correctional system.

Reforming the Prison

Excerpts from <http://www.segoleneroyal2007.net/article-5274293.html> by Segolene Royal

We must break with the policy of "increasing isolation" that wants us to believe that more prisons mean more security,



"while this policy has clearly failed in the fight against rising violence." The many reports on prisons and the operation

of the prison system insist on the disastrous consequences of the situation in the prisons for inmates and for staff who work there. They are sometimes heard, but they are rarely followed up.

The state must do everything in its power to assist and support persons to whom harm was done. But it should not yield to the logic of revenge: the suffering and loss of dignity imposed on the convicted can in no way compensate for the pain of victims.

We need to reverse this trend with fundamental reforms. That is why I want to quickly pass prison legislation to remind people that deprivation of liberty is a serious sanction, with serious consequences for those who suffered and their families, and therefore sentencing of the offender should be appropriate.

First, there are people in prison who have nothing to do, and who should be punished or otherwise directed to other institutions. Studies show that the perpetrators of petty crimes are less likely to re-offend if they are given a penalty of alternative community service. Criminal policy should, as far as possible, develop positive modes of punishment. Convicted elderly, sick, severely disabled, or those at the end of life and those suffering from serious psychiatric disorders should be given appropriate care.

By retaining the lessons of Outreau, we could restrict the use of detention which made France the European champion in the matter, by wisely delivering sentences to those accused of the most serious offenses, and giving secure confinement to persons awaiting trial.

Thus the prison cannot remain the place of arbitrariness. The Prisons Act recognizes for detainees, the full rights of man and citizen, except freedom of movement and rights that a court can withdraw. Only a prison respectful of human rights will assist offenders to return to the path of compliance with laws and rules of society.

The law should clearly define the circumstances in which disciplinary action is taken and submit these decisions to judicial control. The law must ensure that public services are carried out in prison, as well as outside, and that the rights to health, education, work, and maintaining family ties, are recognized. It should wisely define prison time for the prisoner and society, preparing prisoners for their release with the establishment of training and assistance in finding employment.

There is evidence that the incarcerated's re-entry into society without housing, without professional help, and having lost all family ties can only encourage recidivism. In contrast, the systematic development of the sentence, to distinguish a time of incarceration and a time of coaching in the free world is the key to the reintegration of detainees. We must ensure that sentences for the convicted do not make any prospect of rehabilitation impossible.

This policy assumes that prison personnel (who are, let us not forget, justice officials) can be useful and should be fully involved in this process of reintegration.

The Prisons Act must also create a monitoring body, which is specific and independent, in order to ensure its effective implementation.

The prison system works today within a permanent contradiction; on the one hand it must make use of the rules and requirements of a free society, but it is also supposed to encourage detainees to return to the path of a responsible life respectful of the law.

The reforms in our prisons, proposed by the States General on the Status of prisons, aim to break this contradiction, so that our penalties are meaningful both for the convicted and for the whole society. That is why I am going to implement them, if I am elected.

Drugs in Lome Togo Drug Addicts in the Ghettos

by Greenly Lawson greenlylawson@yahoo.fr

Today, drugs are a scourge in all social strata. A few years ago, poor children who were found starving on the streets in search of food, often met up with criminals and became drug addicts. Now the hungry and homeless child is also found coming from among the rich; they once were secure with a roof over their heads, but now they are among those tormented by the evil of drugs.

It's sad to see and experience these things. The ghettos of drug addicts grow like mushrooms in areas of Lome.

Pastor Epiphane Yao recently organized an anti-drug week in Lome, June 23-29, 2008, with conferences, seminars, workshops, films, and festivals pronouncing on the evils of drugs.

Yes, there are still people who have never seen drug addicts, and yet an addict may be on their own doorstep or in their own homes. Often parents think when their child exhibits strange behaviour that he is simply being a difficult child or the child is possessed by a demon.

That is why Pastor Yao without church affiliation took his pilgrim's staff of nine years, to devote himself to drug addicts. During the anti-drug week, he made several radio broadcasts on Gospel Radio and Radio MARIA where he held missions on Fridays and Sundays. That is a drop in the ocean, the work of that Pastor, but he saved 95 drug addicts who have regained their good conscience and returned home.

The Pastor works in the waiting room of a clinic in Lome. He receives drug addicts twice a week, especially those who want to stop their drug habit. Some families help him to buy drugs for detoxification.

Pastor Yao regularly uses evangelism to save the souls of drug addicts. He established a center called SITSOPE (Source of Water of Life) situated 25 km from Lome, where he organized a week of prayers combined with weaning from drugs. For Epiphane Yao, the drug habit is a demon that destroys youth. He has been saying prayers at the same time that he saves the body with treatment and medications.

The drug addicts, who are selected, are drug addicts who agree that they want to be healed. There are only small contributions from families with drug-abusing children while the number of drug addicts is still growing. There are 1800 girls, 2200 boys and even 100 small children from 7 to 8 years of age. Lome contains 36 ghettos. They are places where drug addicts are hiding in order not to be caught.

The Pastor Yao visits houses and markets to collect clothes, shoes, food and money.

A ghetto is a place of misery, dirt, and violence. It is difficult to enter as an unknown foreigner into the ghetto. Most drug addicts want to die. Some couples are formed and they have children who are sick and do not attend school. The children take drugs early.

The addicts do not like men in white or hospitals. There are some who say it is because they have no money and others say that life outside is worse than life in their ghettos. When women give birth, we cut the umbilical cord with a broken bottle. Currently there is a drug addict who fell and broke a leg 3 months ago. He still can not walk well, but he says he has no money to pay hospital bills.



Access to the ghetto is prohibited: anyone who ventures there is deprived of his money, jewelry and may even lose his life. There is violence with drug addicts who live in their parents' homes.

Parents call for help to Pastor Yao. Occasionally, this happens to calm them down because they say the Pastor is the only man who is interested in their fate and who loves them. The drug addict demands a lot of love, affection, friendship, and solidarity. Those whose parents are rich think their parents love money more than their children.

Going off drugs is difficult because the means to buy medicines are not alike. Through Togo CURE International, Pastor Yao asks for help, seeking investment partners. His ACAARD or NGO Action Aid and Support for Drug Rehabilitation are an association that has been approved for 9 years. Their slogan is "If the son liberates you, you are truly free."

Pastor Yao is without church backing, but he raises awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse in many schools (Example: the French school of Lome).



This is a great scourge of more than 30 years. There is a large psychiatric hospital and detoxification ZEBE (ANEHO) located 50km from Lome. Doctors, nurses and other staff are still on a war footing. Parents bring their contribution to the purchase of medicines for their children.

There is no service to ensure their cleanliness of body, such as washing of clothes, soap, or dishes. There are some parents who take care of this. The treatments are effective, but the means are minimal. The hospital was renovated with the collaboration of some NGOs.

The state says it will take care of drug addicts, but state aid and contributions from NGOs are tiny for all the drug addicts in need of care. Drug addicts are often irresponsible, inactive, and have the most risk of ending up in prison.

Those seeking prevention have an attitude that is responsible, humane and fraternal. Togo CURE International wants to create a detoxification centre. We will conduct actions in schools, parishes, markets, community centres, etc. to sensitize the youth to the dangers of drugs through conferences, training seminars and information, etc.

Once a parent is a drug addict, shame comes down on the family and children who may become morally disabled. They inherit the violence and may become unbalanced without even touching the drugs.

Togo CURE International sends an SOS to all partners who will provide assistance to drug addicts. It needs doctors, nurses, medicines, trainers to monitor drug addicts, and investors to establish enterprises that cut down on drug use among young people. Yes, young unemployed school graduates plunge into drugs. The idleness, lack of money and affection push youth into the arms of dealers.

Togo CURE International extends its thanks to all those who help, united together to foster under standing and to give the addict a choice to live and work honestly.

We have seen their eyes light up with flashes of confidence when we organized celebrations in their honour and when we offered them prizes. They are still sensitive and can recover to make good citizens of themselves.

The American Vote

Excerpts from *Fr. Shay Cullen* < preda@info.com.ph >
<http://www.preda.org/archives/2008/r08111201.html>

Since the historic victory of Barack Obama, the first African-American to be elected to the most powerful presidency in the world, world opinion has turned more favorable towards the American people. It recognizes and cheers the fact that they have come to their senses and turned out to vote for change - a massive change. Their overwhelming vote for Barack Obama is a loud statement that they reject almost everything that was done in their name in the past eight years under the dynasty of the Bush family and it's corrupt cronies in the corridors of corporate America. They made a massive democratic vote to elect a leader of their own choice this time and thus repudiate the appointment of Bush by the Republican-nominated US Supreme Court after a flawed election that was stolen from Al Gore. By choosing an African-American as the most qualified to lead their nation, they sent another powerful message - that the age of racism and white supremacy in America is coming to an end.

World opinion is already rising with great hope inspired by president-elect Obama. The greatness and goodness in America is reemerging in a person that represents the racially oppressed, not only people-of-color in America, but oppressed and discriminated people everywhere. The reaction of many, especially Africans, is to say "He is one of us, he will understand". After the dark night of its soul under the Bush administration, the victory of Obama and all he represents lifts America in world opinion.

I believe the nightmare will soon be over but recovery and healing will take many years. The American people must never forget how they let it happen and never allow false fears, empty rhetoric, exaggerated dangers to blind their reason and cloud their better judgment of what is truly right and just. The years of appalling apathy to the violation of human rights dragged the nation down. They were years marked by war mongering, violation of human rights, the tolerance of torture, prison abuse, abduction, environmental destruction and the present economic disaster that has impoverished millions of people in America and around the world.

Starting a Chapter of CURE

by Kay Perry

Before starting a chapter of CURE, there are some features of CURE that you should understand.

1. All chapters are autonomous. That means that you will be responsible for conforming to the legal requirements in your country. You will be responsible for organizing your own board of directors. You will be responsible for raising the money needed to support the chapter. International CURE does not have the capacity to help with these requirements.
2. CURE is a grassroots organization. We exist in order to advocate for changes in the criminal justice system and to provide prisoners and their loved ones with the information they need to improve the criminal justice system. Our leaders are volunteers. No one will get wealthy running a CURE Chapter.
3. Many chapters are able to finance their work with membership dues and contributions from members. Dues should be set at a level that is consistent with the low-income of many of our members.
4. CURE is a secular organization. Our members all share the view that the criminal justice system must improve. All should feel comfortable and welcome, regardless of their religious beliefs or lack of religious affiliation.

If you are interested in establishing a chapter of CURE, the first step is to contact International CURE's Director Charlie Sullivan at CURE@CURENATIONAL.ORG. Once Charlie has confirmed that there is no chapter in your country, you can begin the effort to set up the chapter. These are the steps that must be done:

1. Recruit a board of directors to work with you. The board can be just a few people.
2. Establish a permanent address (including a phone number and email address, if possible), so that we can post it on the website and so that individuals can contact you.
3. Complete the paperwork that is needed to set up a nonprofit organization in your country.
4. Set up a bank account. Though you will not have a lot of money, it is important that you manage it carefully.
5. Create a brochure that describes the work your chapter will do. Charlie can send you samples that you can customize for your chapter.

Once you are organized, you can begin the work of your chapter. If you do not know much about the system, you will need to learn that. Find out who is responsible for managing the system, where the prisons are located, how prisoners are treated, what problems prisoners have and what problems the family and friends of prisoners have. You may want to visit some of the prisons and/or meet with the people who manage the system. If other organizations that provide services to incarcerated people, you will want to know about them.

Distribute your brochure to all interested persons. You may want to publish a newsletter to let your members know what is happening in the system and why. If there are ways your members can improve the situation, explain what they must do to accomplish that.

You may get a lot of mail from persons in prison or their loved ones. Do your best to answer the mail, even if you must tell them there is nothing that you can do to help them. If there is another organization that can help them, send them the contact information for that organization.

If you receive many similar complaints, that may be an issue you want to try to fix. Meet with prison staff to see how the problem can be addressed. If that doesn't work, try to think of other approaches. Find out if other organizations are working on the problem. If so, perhaps your CURE Chapter can work with that organization on the problem. Explain to your members what you have found and what they might do to help.

Starting and running a CURE Chapter can be a challenging job. It is also very rewarding.

Understanding CURE

On the surface, Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE) is typical of many other nonprofit organizations:

- CURE has obtained consultative status with the United Nations, enabling it to participate in a wide range of discussions on issues affecting civil society.
- CURE is multi-layered with International, National, State/Issue, and local chapters governed by CURE's constitution and bylaws.

In some very important ways, CURE is unique:

- CURE is a grassroots organization – from top to bottom. Its leaders and members often come largely from the ranks of people formerly in prison and family members or friends or advocates of prisoners. These are people who are passionate about seeking improvements in the criminal justice system.
- The vast majority of CURE's funding comes from membership dues and contributions of members. Because our members often come from the ranks of the lower economic strata, annual dues are relatively inexpensive and may be waived for the indigent.
- The budgets for CURE Chapters are typically very small. The work is done by volunteers, with little or no paid staff. "Offices" are usually in the homes of leaders. We must be good stewards of the resources of our members.

The largest expense categories are generally printing and postage.

- CURE leaders are cautioned not to accept funds that might obligate them to support any other entity's positions or actions. Since we are working to improve the criminal justice system, it is important that we are able to speak the truth and act autonomously.
- Because we operate on small budgets without paid staff, our members can trust that we will act with their best interests in mind.
- CURE's leaders work to improve the criminal justice system and to empower members to help with that work.
- Country, state, and issue chapters are relatively autonomous. While a chapter is expected to support any positions established by International CURE, it is also expected to establish its own policies and priorities and raise and manage its own funds.
- Unlike many nonprofits, CURE does not provide services. We exist solely to promote positive changes in the criminal justice system. To do that...
 - o We work with policymakers in all branches of government,
 - o We provide information and encouragement to our members so that they will work with policymakers to foster constructive changes.

One other feature of CURE that is worth mentioning is that it is a secular organization. That does not make us unique, but it is important. Our members all share the view that the criminal justice system must improve. All should feel comfortable and welcome, regardless of their religious beliefs or lack of religious affiliation.

It would be impossible to achieve many of our goals without entering into coalitions or working with other organizations. For example, often the best way to help our members is to refer them to another organization that deals specifically with the problem that is troubling them.

Research and policy organizations can provide direction for our advocacy. Their position papers may serve to educate our members on important issues. Sometimes, the only way to achieve a policy change is to enter into a coalition with a group of organizations sharing that common goal. As we work with other organizations, it is important to be mindful of several guiding principles:

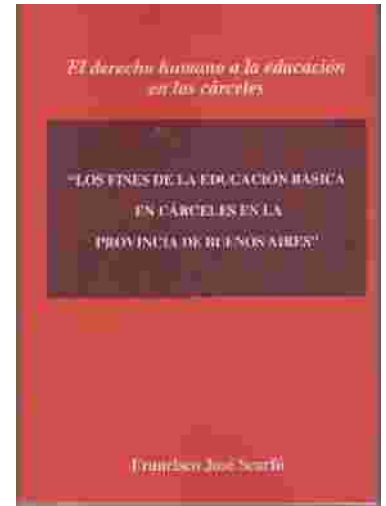
- The work must serve to advance one of our criminal justice policy goals or assist our members.
- No element of the effort should promote a goal that is contrary to a CURE position.

New Book on Education

The "Right to Education in Prisons", was presented by the author, Francisco José Scarf at the University Expo 08, in Argentina.

The work carried out an exhaustive search and analysis on the situation of basic education in criminal units in the province of Buenos Aires, recovering the value of education as a human right.

Emphasizing the importance of education as a right inherent in the human condition, Scarf stresses international standards and specifics, to which his country adheres, which note that it must ensure the full enjoyment of this right for all people.



Disenfranchisement An International Comparison

The data below presents an overview of how "democratic" countries regulate voting for felons.

The data have been collated from work by [Brandon Rottinghaus](#), [Jeff Manza](#), and [Christopher Uggen](#).

- **19** countries have no voting restrictions on felons, permitting them to vote while in prison or jail.
- **13** have selective voting restrictions, banning voting for felons based upon various criteria
- **11** have a complete ban on inmate voting (voting while in prison or jail)
- **6** have some type of voting disenfranchisement for felons after their release from prison or jail
- Ø Belgium bans felons from voting after release from jail if sentence was for over seven years.
- Ø Finland bans felons from voting for up to seven years after imprisonment.
- Ø Germany bans felons from voting only in rare cases if ordered by the court.
- Ø United States: Two states permit felons to vote while in prison

X11 ICOPA International Conference on Penal Abolition 23-25 July at Kings College London

by Mary Nordvelle (PTSC) mary.nordvelle@berr.gsi.gov.uk

I had been asked to attend as a representative of CURE..

23 July. David Wilson Professor of Criminology at Birmingham UK introduced the Conference. He is currently appearing in a TV programme called 'Banged Up' where teenage boys are given the opportunity to spend time in a prison for 10 days and see what it is like so that they may change their ways.

Then Frances Crook from The Howard League for Penal Reform who were hosting the event spoke. She said ' This is a timely opportunity to focus on the global debate on what the criminal justice system can and should do. The commercialisation of justice has now turned it into a transaction rather than a service. ICOPA will bring together experts from all over the world to push the agenda for a penal system that is centred on communities and restoration, not budgets and warehousing criminals.'

Other speakers were Joe Sim Professor of Criminology at Liverpool University, Thomas Mathieson Professor of Law from the University of Oslo, and Louise Christian a lawyer for Guantanamo prisoners.

In the afternoon were Breakout sessions. I attended session C – this was a talk on Prison gangs, human rights and the need to abolish imprisonment by William Luyt from South Africa. He talked of bad management, long hours of idleness, poor visitation, lack of re-habilitation, no anti-gang strategies, oppression and lack of motivation. Building more prisons to address crime is like having more graveyards for a fatal disease.

This took up to tea and after tea Session B was with Martin Wright who spoke about Restorative Justice, and Maria Lucia Karam, a retired judge from Brazil..

Restorative Justice encourages acceptance of responsibility and gives opportunity to make things right and reintegrate the offender into the community. In some countries like Norway and Austria there are Mediation Centres where the victim and the offender get to know each other and learn from what has happened.

24 July: Barry Goldson from the University of Liverpool introduced the day and Moazzam Begg a former Guantanamo detainee showed us a film ' Taxi to the Dark Side'. He said that Abu Ghraib prison was even worse than Guantanamo.

Julia Sudbury from California who co-founded Critical Resistance showed a film from 10 years ago and asked what would it take to change mind states? What would communities need to feel safe? Education not incarceration. We must live abolition now. Re-examine how we deal with conflict in our lives. .

After coffee Session G: Violence against children in conflict with the law: developing international indicators by Rosie Meek a lecturer in Psychology at the University of Southampton UK. The use of child imprisonment in Belgium, England, Wales, France and The Netherlands was discussed and different forms of violence such as assaults, self-harm and the use of physical restraint with consideration to complaint mechanisms and independent inspections.

Also Dr. Bob Johnson spoke about his work in prisons. The criminal system terrifies people who are already terrified. Treating prisoners too violent for Broadmoor in Parkhurst Prison with the healing hand of kindness he eliminated all violence. Despite being scientifically proven – no alarm bells rung for 3 years, a unique world record for any maximum security wing this was politically suppressed and the unit closed down. Punishment entails degrading human beings, inflicting pain, reducing esteem, and making more insecure.

After lunch Session H consisted of Kevin Marsh speaking about the economic case for and against prisons and Katrien Mestdagh talking about the future of imprisonment in Belgium. Prison should be a last resort . Look at the situation and its causes. Why put more people in prison? Overcrowding causes violence.

Kevin's paper assessed the relative costs and benefits of alternative sentence types. Prison is not good value for money. There was conflicting evidence that prison has a deterrent..

25 July: The role of privatisation and capitalism on penal policy was chaired by Caroline Newman, a trustee of the Howard League. Stephen Nathan spoke about international growth and the impact of prison privatisation. The prison industry is a multi million dollar industry.

Brett Collins from Australia spent almost 10 years in prison, and is a co-ordinator for Justice Action and spokesperson for Prisoners Action Group. They have a newspaper 'JUST US' and we were asked to take part in the Offer of Hope which is a one minute silence at 12 noon for prisoners world-wide. Who will be the voice for those not able to speak out about injustice.

After lunch: Session L: Helen Codd spoke about Prisoner's Families and Penal Abolition, a Global Perspective . There needs to be a greater awareness of the negative impacts of

imprisonment on the families and communities, including questions of race, gender, punishment and ultimately penal abolition (Healing and Caring centres instead of guards).

Klaus Junschke was in prison for 16 years because of his beliefs. All people who are not wanted in the European Union are over represented in prison. As long as prisons exist the minorities will suffer. Social conflict – surveillance and control, solve nothing. Prison is there to cover up that the whole society is in chains, deprived of freedom, equality and human rights

Last session of the day; FOR ALL WHO DIE IN PRISON: A memorial to Pauline Campbell who was due to speak but died this year. She campaigned by taking direct action against the deaths of women in prison. Whenever a female ‘self-inflicted’ death occurred Pauline held a demonstration outside the gates.

She would block any transportation carrying new prisoners from entering the jail on the basis that it was not a place of safety. Over 4 years she held 28 demonstrations and was arrested on several occasions. This was the time to honour her work and her memory.

What Works

Hampden County Correction Center

<http://www.hcsdmass.org>

This county, in Massachusetts, U.S.A., has a deserved national reputation for innovation in its facility and community programs. It is considered a model of safe, secure, orderly, lawful, humane and productive corrections, where persons incarcerated are challenged to pick up the tools and directions to build a law abiding life in an atmosphere free from violence. Excerpts follow.

PHASE I: FUNDAMENTAL PROGRAMMING

Purpose

- To provide Fundamental Programming to every sentenced offender.
- These programs target criminogenic or crime-producing risk factors that research indicates are most important to reduce recidivism and criminal behavior.
- The programs focus on the following criminogenic factors: Substance abuse, Education/employment, Anger management.
- These targeted criminogenic factors must be addressed in both Phase I and II.
- The parallel program for female offenders is called Discovery. This program focuses on such core areas as

attitudes, substance abuse, work, relationships, parenting, and mental health.

Benefit

- The Phase I Fundamental Program provides a foundation of services for every sentenced offender. This foundation of service enables offenders to build upon what they were exposed to throughout their incarceration and beyond into the community.
- This Fundamental Programming approach provides education and awareness regarding anger management, substance abuse, and education. Phase I is a building block for more intensive core programming.

PHASE II: TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM

Process

- After Phase I men and women offenders attend the Phase II Transitional Program during their first 4 weeks in sentenced population.
- This program ensures all offenders receive the basic core programs at the front end of their incarceration. Offenders must meet expectations of each program to receive additional privileges and lower security consideration.

All Transitional Program classes are open-ended.

Purpose

- To provide Core programming to every sentenced offender.
- Research indicates that programs targeting criminogenic or crime-producing risk factors are most important in reducing recidivism and criminal behavior.
- Effective programs focus on the following criminogenic factors:
- *Substance abuse, education, employment, anger management, victim impact and cognitive thinking skills.*
- These are targeted criminogenic factors addressed in both Phase I and II.

Benefit

- The PHASE II Transitional Program greatly reduces the idle time of offenders while targeting criminogenic risk factors during the first 5 weeks of incarceration.
- This model addresses the Core programming needs for every sentenced offender, capitalizing on the culture-changing approach in Phase I.

CORE PROGRAMS:

Offenders must complete approximately 5 weeks of core programming for other considerations such as moves to lower security.

During Phase II, men attend a 4 week Transitional Program in which they participate in core programming classes that focus more intensely on substance abuse, anger management, cognitive thinking, and victim impact. Phase II classes also focus on vocational skills, employment, and career resources through a Learn 2 Earn curriculum developed by The Corrections Learning Network. This pre-employment training is enhanced by vocational program and industry overviews that each vocational instructor presents during the 4-week program. Education Program staff discuss the Adult Basic Education and college level programs offered here in a curriculum entitled Why School? Emphasis is also placed on reintegration services and post-release planning from this early point in an inmate's period of incarceration.

Women attend a 4-week Transitions Program that has been carefully crafted to meet the gender specific needs of female offenders. Program staff teaches curriculum units such as Beginners Addiction Program, Staying Out of Jail, Exploring the World of Work, and Thinking about Relationships.

PHASE III: PROGRAM MAPPING**MAPPING MEETINGS & REQUIRED START DATES**

Mapping Meetings is the vehicle to assign inmates into PHASE III core programs. PHASE III programs are tailored to address the specific needs of each inmate. At each Mapping Meeting, Managers provide required program start dates for each inmate in order to continue to address the major criminogenic risk factors of each individual. Inmates are assigned required start dates and times for the Core Programs to Include but are not limited to the following:

- *School, ESOL, ABE, GED, SPED, Title I*
- *Violence Prevention*
- *28 Day Program Substance Abuse & Basic Life Skills*
- *Pre-employment Training Programs*

PHASE III CORE PROGRAMS:

After completing the Transitional Programs, each sentenced offender is required to participate in the mandatory programs outlined in his/her Individual Service.

Plan (ISP). The ISP is developed and based on the results of the LSI screening and psychosocial assessments completed by counselors during Phase II. Offenders begin Phase III programs within one week of completing Phase II. The weekly ISP Mapping Meeting has been instituted to ensure the prioritized

and organized matriculation of inmates into Phase III programs.

Phase III programs are designed to help inmates gain skills to avoid re-offense in the future. Inmates experience a busy and productive 40-hour "work week" during their sentence. The programs offered are designed to address core criminogenic factors and to provide a continuum of services as the offenders step down to lower security settings. The Phase III Programs are comprehensive in nature and cover a wide array of topics including:

SUBSTANCE ABUSE:

- Basic Life Skills Training
- Ongoing Treatment
- Ethos Discharge Planning
- AA Meetings
- NA Meetings
- New Attitudes
- Pathways Community Treatment
- Relapse Prevention
- Residential Treatment Programs
- Blind Spots/Issues of Denial
- Basic Drug and Alcohol Education

VOCATIONAL:

- Vocational Exploration Program
- Pre-employment Training Program
- Business Vocational Skills
- Culinary Arts
- Custodial Maintenance Training
- Graphic Arts
- Construction Trades
- Welding Shop
- York Street Industries
- Keyboarding Metro Farming Project
- Barber/Beautician Apprentice
- Auto Shop
- Job Search

EDUCATION:

- Adult Basic Education – Literacy Level
- Pre GED
- GED Preparation and testing
- Special Education

- Title I
- ESL – Beginner
- ESL – Intermediate
- College Classes – STCC
- Voices from the Inside
- Creative Writing

PERSONAL/EMOTIONAL AND ATTITUDES :

- Violence Prevention
- Life Management Skills
- Anger Management Treatment
- Domestic Violence Reduction Group
- Sex Offender Education Group
- Sex Offender Treatment Group
- Conflict Resolution
- Anger Basics
- Channeling your Anger
- Love and Violence I & II
- Trauma Program I&II
- Victim Impact
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Thinking for Changes
- Self-esteem
- Community Accountability Board
- Community Service
- Transition to Community
- Criminal Thinking
- Stress and Anger Management

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS:

- Father's Work
- Mother/Child Connection
- Parenting
- Family Program
- Couples Support Program

RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS:

- Chaplain's Bible Study
- Christian Fellowship
- Protestant Services
- Protestant Choir

- Catholic Bible Study
- Catholic Masses
- English Bible Study
- English Video Bible Study
- Islamic Community Meeting
- Islamic Daily Prayer
- Islamic Jummu'a Prayer
- Islamic Quranic Studies
- Jehovah's Witness
- R.E.C. Bible Study
- R.E.C. Reunion
- Rescue Mission
- Shiloh 7 th Day Adventist Bible Study
- Spanish Bible Study
- Spanish Choir
- Spanish Protestant Services
- Spokesman's Club Bible Study
- Russian Bible Study

HEALTH EDUCATION:

- Asthma Education
- AIDS Education
- Diabetes Education
- Men's Health
- Fitness for Life
- Women's Health Issues
- Wellness Training

PHASE IV: [Release Planning](#)

- Each inmate creates a Release that is reviewed by [After Incarceration Support Systems Staff \(AISS\)](#).
- [AISS](#) staff helps inmates schedule appointments at community agencies.
- [AISS](#) staff provides ongoing support for released offenders through drop in services and support groups.

If you would like more information please contact Andree Duval at andree.duval@sdh.state.ma.us

Education

EDUCATION AS FOUNDATION. Social unrest, violence, and crime are too often the evidence of failures to invest in social development. Instead of ever harsher repression, punishments, and building more prisons, increased attention must be given to the social development of all and the integration of our marginalized populations.

Education is often key; expansions are needed in three categories: 1) Skill development. Employability and economic self-sufficiency are pre-requisites to productivity and to reducing social rebellion and crime. In today's work environment, that usually means at least primary, secondary and vocational education/training; 2) Consciousness and attitude development. Constructive participation in society involves a growth in awareness of community responsibility, the common good, the value of cooperation, and peaceful methods of conflict resolution; 3) Professional development. Broad leadership in economic and social development can be fostered by higher education that is available to an ever growing portion of the population.

LOW COST EDUCATION. As noted in the Fall Newsletter (<http://www.internationalcure.org/newsletters/10-Fall08.pdf>), today, hundreds of free open-coursewares are contributed on the internet by leading universities and schools in dozens of countries around the world (e.g., see <http://www.ocwconsortium.org/>). By taking advantage of the internet and downloaded videos, high quality educational courses can be given to many – even to the poorest people in the most remote villages, to those relatively isolated, and to people in every community organization.

The prime ingredients are: (a) worldwide availability of courseware through websites on the internet, (b) distributed centers for on-site learning, and (c) availability of low cost digital video disks (DVDs, by down-loading or purchase); for those in remote regions, and for those in other isolation.

For item c above, *the courseware can be presented off-line*, using *portable DVD media* via (a) a stand-alone lap-top computer, or (b) a projection display driven by a laptop, or (c) a television (TV) driven by a DVD player.

Teaching modes. Downloaded open-courseware can be used in a least three ways:

1. Downloaded courseware as a secondary source, with college or school faculty as the primary source.
2. Downloaded courseware as the primary source, plus occasional support of faculty from a local college or school. For example, using community volunteers (*a teacher, teacher-assistant, or other facilitator*) to manage student discussion, assignments, and exams, with monthly reviews by a faculty member.
3. Downloaded courseware as the sole source.

Teaching Mode (1) above is usually very dependent on tuition funding (a best solution for a relatively small population). Mode (2) could be implemented at a fraction of ordinary tuition costs (enabling further outreach of colleges or schools to a larger population). Mode (3) above could be almost costless.

THE OPPORTUNITY IN PRISONS. The prisons of the world, like urban ghettos and some rural areas, contain large pockets of educationally marginalized people. They are likely candidates for low cost school and college extensions via downloaded video files. Saving lives, reducing future crime, reducing future expense, and aiding social productivity are some of the objectives.

Personnel needs for facility trials.

1. One (possibly volunteer) person per facility to produce the downloaded DVDs of a selected course.
2. One or two (possibly volunteer) persons to facilitate each class, - ideally in collaboration with a cooperating college.

Coordination. One organization (e.g., CURE) could collect and publish a list and a rating of the video courses chosen by each prison. Prison-oriented core-curricula, and a list of the more restorative courses might evolve.

Security. Consideration should be given to any policies or procedures that may be necessary to safeguard materials, equipment and personnel engaged in such expansions of correctional educational programs.

Demo video. Seeing is believing, so CURE has produced a 16 minute DVD which enables one to experience brief visits to actual classrooms in Stanford, Berkeley, MIT, City College of NY, and other colleges. If you can use this DVD demo to show institutions the potential of downloaded education, just send us, at (cureny@bestweb.net) a postal address and we'll send you a copy of that DVD (while they last).

You can see a 10 minute version of this video on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONKLGVoSqA4&feature=related>

Supplementary sources. There are myriad other sources of online education (with connection to the internet), and possibilities of downloading videos.

One very good source is <http://www.collegedegree.com/library/college-life/the-ultimate-guide-to-using-open-courseware>. There you'll find lists of: search engines and directories, open courseware collections, podcasts, videos, ebooks, educational TV, resources, articles, and guides.

The Release Process in a Federal State of Germany

(continued from page 1)

shown positive results. Independent Registered Societies have been established across the state. They are integrated within the Association for Probation and Offenders Assistance. They have formed a network that covers every prison and region. Since I have served as a member of our regional Registered Society, we have had three chairs. The founder was a Professor of Sociology, followed by a Probation Officer, and now we are proud that a Judge of the Federal Supreme Court has taken over. The Association's chair had been a former Federal Prosecutor General, who was followed by the present chair, a Chief Public Prosecutor. There are 5 professionally employed social workers busy in the Registered Society (Ludwigsburg Social Welfare Consulting). Volunteers get permission (after having all their records examined closely) to see the prisoner alone and in a separate room, with no video or microphone, in order to establish a personal and confidential relationship with the inmate and to give him individual advice.

All those involved should be knowledgeable about punishment and the return to society, which is the best way to improve security in modern structured society. However, we are aware that deficits from previous lives within childhood, family, school and social surrounding or post traumatic stress levels are difficult to punish and correct by incarceration. These basic comprehensions we achieved after the fascist experience in our history.

Every inmate remains a human being and fellow citizen. They maintain voting rights (unless withdrawn by court decision). Looking back to the history of punishment and to a society's development and present status, clearly mirrors the cultural quality of a society.

I would like to draw your attention to an article, exceptional for a politician, by one of the French Socialist Party lead persons: ([Réformer la prison, par Ségolène Royal \(Libération\)](#)) - [Reforming the prison, by Ségolène Royal](#). Tuesday January 16, 2007 (See article on page 3 of this newsletter). This article gives me hope, and I look forward to the improvement of the way we human beings live together on Earth.

Even life sentences end in general after 25 years – unless insanity is evaluated by the experts, and by court decision. First offenders usually are released after 2/3 serving time. The law clearly differs between adults (over age 18), minors (from 16-18), and children (under 16). With outgoing mail, inmates do not write a number or the sender's address or the name of the facility on the envelope; and there is no facility's stamp on the envelope.

A Therapeutic Facility exists in our region. I still stay in good contact with a man, I helped out, who had the privilege to be treated in that facility for over 6 years, and who is now out for

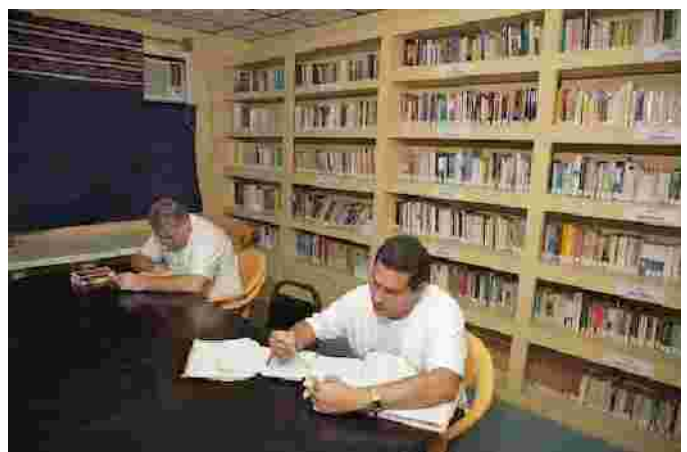
5 years (without having any problems). I take from this that we should never give up. Only recently another Therapeutic Facility was opened in our fed state because of the need.

If a soon-to-be-released inmate gets a job nearby, he'll be placed in a so-called prison's "free-walker" section. He leaves the prison in the morning for work and returns after work. Salary is transferred to the prison. The employer has to inform the prison about irregularities arranged by contract. There exist furthermore complete "free-walker" or so-called "open prisons" (without wire around) where minor felony inmates are placed, such as driving under alcohol or drug related felonies by addicts.

Our Regional Society runs a residential home. Those who have no place to go after release. Home is used as well for 'weekend-holiday from prison' .e.g. meet with wife or girlfriend. We organize group meetings inside prison and outside at our office once a week. At least once a year we make a weekend-trip, we meet for ninepins/bowling or offer other cultural events. Every inmate supposed to be released should get the opportunity to re-adjust with life outside.

Release process starts about one year ahead of the release date. Some get permission to walk out in company with an officer, then later with a volunteer. It depends on the inmate's behavior, interest, and activities. We've realized it saves much money when an inmate's return process is prepared carefully, and then the recidivism rate is kept below 50%.

There is a competition between prison officials to become creative. For example, the adjoining region's prison runs a big farm besides having woodworking and iron workshops where an inmate can achieve qualification or license. Some offer paid jobs inside, but there is a clear understanding that a prison is not a working camp such as a GULAG or Concentration Camp, as was sometimes practiced in the past.



Inmate library photo by Alan Pogue