

## VISION STATEMENT

Ex-prisoners and their families  
in southwest Kansas have safe, stable,  
and productive lives.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Seeds of Hope Jail Ministry, Inc.  
reflects God's love by  
helping inmates grow spiritually,  
intellectually, and in character  
during and after incarceration.  
This provides an avenue for them to  
successfully transition  
out of the corrections system and  
become valuable and contributing  
members of their communities.

## BOARD MEMBERS:

---

President:

- ◆ Sid Thomas

Vice President:

- ◆ Fred Palmblade

Secretary:

- ◆ Jeff Upshaw

Treasurer:

- ◆ Brenda Wehkamp

Members at Large:

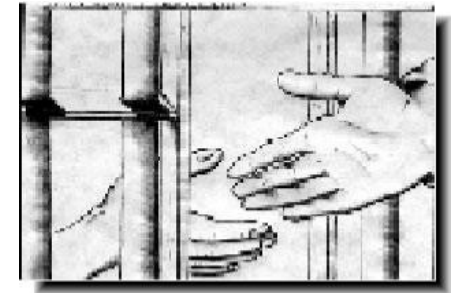
- ◆ Guillermo Reyes
- ◆ Mike Johnson



Our door is always open to  
new members, supporters,  
and volunteers. Please call  
(620) 276-9649.

## SEEDS OF HOPE JAIL MINISTRY, INC.

---



Helping inmates grow,  
succeed, and become  
contributing members of  
their communities.

---

Interfaith Meeting  
Mondays, 6:00—7:30 p.m.  
Regional Prevention Center  
GCCC Student Center  
801 Campus Dr.  
Garden City, KS 67846

# TODAY'S INMATES WILL BE TOMORROW'S NEIGHBORS

---

## SEEDS OF HOPE JAIL MINISTRY, INC.



Planting Seeds of Hope: Growing together by sharing God's love.

is rooted in the belief that the best way to reduce crime in our neighborhoods lies in changing the hearts and minds of offenders. We work toward this goal by offering the love of God and the gospel message to inmates in a way that builds positive, supportive relationships and encourages long-term connections with local faith-based communities after release.

Seeds of Hope started with a group of Gideon's Bible Ministry volunteers witnessing to inmates in the Finney County Jail in 2003. Since then, concerned individuals who are members of various churches in the area have joined us in offering the support of local faith communities to prisoners and their families. Seeds of Hope was formed in September, 2007, to fill the need for a full time ministry presence in the jail. Since then, we've expanded our ministry to serve ex-inmates and their families after they're released from jails or prisons. Future goals include providing transitional housing and supportive services to support successful reentry for ex-prisoners. We seek to involve members from all segments of the community in this endeavor.

## STATEMENT OF NEED

Recent changes in crime legislation have been effective in getting criminals off the streets and putting them behind bars. Unfortunately, statistics also show that approximately two thirds of those released from jails and prisons will re-offend and return to jail or prison within three years of being released. Typically, inmates return to their communities with few resources and poorer life skills than before incarceration. Finding steady employment has been shown to be a key protective factor to avoid returning to prison. A transitional work program to provide temporary jobs for unemployed ex-inmates is a long-term goal of our ministry. This would also provide opportunities for volunteers to continue mentoring prisoners and for ex-prisoners to be influenced by a positive and supportive peer group.

## HOW TO HELP

Opportunities for participation include:

- ◆ Leading praise and worship services inside the jail
- ◆ Mentoring inmates and ex-inmates
- ◆ Employing ex-inmates
- ◆ Financial contributions
- ◆ In-kind Contributions
  - ◆ Stationary, Cards & Stamps
  - ◆ Paperback Bibles, magazines or books (no staples)

## THE MINISTRY SOLUTION

Many of those released from our jail have never been taught about God's love and how they can experience real and lasting change in their lives by basing their attitudes and behavior on faith-based teachings. Jesus said: "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Matthew 9:13

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 15:16

"Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." Hebrews 1:3

God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land." Psalm 68:6

"When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

---

SEEDS OF HOPE JAIL MINISTRY  
PO BOX 2435  
GARDEN CITY, KS 67846

For more information, call Becky Upshaw at (620) 276-9649 (evenings & weekends call (620) 272-5089) or email [becky.upshaw@gcccks.edu](mailto:becky.upshaw@gcccks.edu).