

*The general public is not informed about the condition of the criminal justice system. By its nature the only people who come into contact with or have knowledge of the system are individuals who are charged with crimes or are incarcerated and their loved ones.*

To help create a forum for dialogue about our justice system we have recommended the following books, films and scripture

## **Book Selections**

### **Children's**

Amber was Brave, Essie was Smart, Vera Williams

The Kissing Hand, Audrey Penn

Nine Candles, Maria Testa

### **Juvenile/Young Adult**

Dave at Night, Gail Carson Levine

Holes, Louis Sachar

Queenie Peavey, Robert Burch

### **Adult**

Inside: Life Behind Bars in America, Michael G. Santos

They all Come Back , Jeremy Travis

Convict Christ: What the Gospel Says About Criminal Justice, Jens Soering

An Expensive Way to Make Bad People Worse: An Essay on Prison Reform from an Insider's Perspective, Jens Soering

Undoing Time, Jeff Evans

Loving Through Bars, Cynthia Martone

Doing Time on the Outside, Donald Braman

## **Film Selections**

Ulee's Gold                      R language

Spitfire Grill                    PG-13

Holes                                PG

### **Mature Audiences**

First Time Felons

Ma Familia

Sherrybaby

## Scripture

### **Matthew 25:34-36**

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

### **Luke 4:16b-19**

...He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

### **Isaiah 61:1-4**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; [the LORD] has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, an release to the prisoner; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion-to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORDS, to display [the LORD'S] glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

### **Additional texts:**

**Isaiah 61:8-11**

**John 1:6-8,19-28**

**Psalm 79:11**