

Syndeo Ministries

"Remember those in prison as if you were bound with them!" Hebrews 13:3
SYNDEO (Greek) Bound with them. This word has two meanings:
1. bound in chains; to a prisoner, as a prisoner
2. bound, connected in heart, as all believers
should be



What Syndeo Ministries has been up to this year!

- **Bible Studies:** Syndeo provides **Bible Studies** quarterly to women in prison, with the number of ladies involved doubling to almost **500** in the past year.
- **Pen Pals:** Our goal is to pair up each woman involved in the Bible Study with a **pen pal** from outside. The pen pal is a mentor, who, on at least a monthly basis, encourages, gives hope and reminds her sister inside that someone cares. This is life changing! The majority of those currently signed up are paired with their pen pal, and this ministry grows daily.
- **Holiday Cards:** Each lady involved in Bible Studies also receives a **hand-signed card for each holiday** from Syndeo. This has grown from an original number of 6 ladies receiving cards on holidays to **500**. Several churches, individuals and a few of Hannah's friends who were inside with her, have joined Syndeo's growing volunteer group to sign all of these cards with encouraging words and Scripture verses.
- **Cooling Towels:** This summer we began a new program of providing **2,650 women** with **chill towels**. Most Texas prisons don't have air conditioning. The dorms in these metal buildings reach temperatures of 115-120 degrees, which causes health issues, heat stroke and even death. These towels stay cool for hours and will save lives!
- **Christmas in White:** This Christmas we will once again be providing "**Christmas in White**" for ladies inside prison walls, which is the only Christmas these ladies will have. Our hope is to let them know they are remembered and cared about, since the majority feel forgotten. Apart from 5 bars of lye soap, and a paper cone of baking soda, hygiene products are not provided. Last year Syndeo provided hygiene products to 2,000 women inside two units, and this year we are honored to distribute gifts to **2,650 women in 4 units**. Each woman will receive a large family size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, lotion, hair ties, coloring cards and Hershey kisses. This outreach requires a network of **volunteers**, and our group of certified Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) volunteers helping to distribute gifts has grown to about **40**. Churches all over the U.S. also help to fundraise for this project which currently costs **\$30,000**.
- **Prison Visitation:** Monthly, we visit a handful of ladies in prison who have been discipled and are now mentors for others inside. These **monthly visits** are often just the encouragement they need to keep going. These ladies are also set up on a system called Securis, which enables them to telephone us. Hannah keeps in personal contact with many of the women inside writing appropriately **50 letters a month**.
- **Release Aftercare:** Some who have been involved in the Bible Studies have been released. We continue to walk beside these women, as the transition to the free world is difficult. We keep in close contact with them, with **phone calls, texts, home visits, and visits to Syndeo Ranch**. The ongoing support makes a tremendous difference.
- **Syndeo Discipleship School:** The truth is that many of these ladies need more support. Many have no where to go, or only have the option to return to the environment that lead them to prison. We have completed a curriculum and much of the administrative paperwork for **Syndeo Discipleship School (SDS)**. Rather than just a traditional halfway house, our hope is that SDS will be a **home**. **Classes** will include Bible courses, healing and recovery classes, and basic life skills, such as parenting and finance courses. The

initial program will be one year in length, with the possibility of staying on for a longer period of time if desired.

- **Housing:** We are in the process of **building a bunkhouse** that will be home to up to 25 ladies involved in the **Syndeo Discipleship School**. The footings, deck flooring and framing have been completed. We hope to get the roof on by Christmas. In this process, we've had the honor of watching God work. Churches have brought **youth groups and work groups** for short-term missions trips to Syndeo Ranch, helping to renovate the main house which will be used for classes, offices, and dining and building the bunkhouse. A lot of love and prayers have gone into building this home. We are excited to see the Lord's provision in it all! Our prayer is that these groups are richly touched by God, as they give of themselves and help to make a home for the ladies. To get to the point of putting a roof on the bunkhouse and making it weatherproof by Christmas, we will need about \$12,000.
- **Until Proven Innocent Screenings:** The Overtons have gone to churches, conferences, theaters, and other events all over the United States to present **25 screenings of the documentary film "Until Proven Innocent: The Hannah Overton Story"** followed by a question and answer time, highlighting through their story, God's faithfulness even in tough times. The film is now available in DVD format.
- **Speaking Engagements:** **Hannah speaks at law conferences, women's events and churches nationwide** about how God carried their family through this ordeal and is now working all things out for good. Hannah is also the **voice for incarcerated women** during a monthly conference call with attorneys and advocates for system impacted women through the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, bringing to light her experiences as they relate to concerns and issues incarcerated women face.
- **Men's Events:** **Larry** has shared on multiple occasions at **churches and men's events** about what a man of God is called to when going through difficult times. Larry took 2 of the Overton kids on a **missions trip to Peru** for three weeks in October-November 2017. Apart from our love for missions, this trip was the first step in planning a **Syndeo Men's Outreach**.

You can conveniently donate by writing a check and mailing it to:
Syndeo Ministries
P.O. Box 3191
Palestine, TX 75802

You can also visit our website at www.syndeoministries.com. We will be more than happy to provide you with a tax receipt for your generous donation.

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