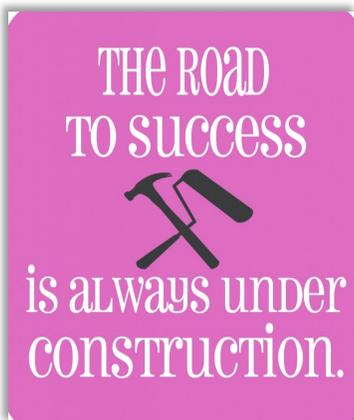


Roadmap for Reentry

In President Donald Trump's 2018 State of the Union Message on January 30th, he said, "As America regains its strength, opportunity must be extended to all citizens. That is why this year we will embark on reforming our prisons to help former inmates who have served their time, get a second chance at life."



The Trump administration has seemingly begun to embrace prison reform as the president's son-in-law, senior adviser Jared Kushner, has pushed for reform, despite Attorney General Jeff Sessions' calls for tougher prison sentences and a crackdown on violent crime in America.

"At the same time, we want to ensure that those who enter the justice system are able to con-

tribute to their communities after they leave prison, which is one of many very difficult subjects we're discussing, having to do with our great country," Trump said earlier in January.

The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign, whose goal is to support the work of community and faith-based organizations, states, "More people are leaving prisons across the country to return to their families and communities than at any other time in our history.

The potential "ripple effects" of the prisoner reentry process for returning prisoners, their families, and communities have sparked a growing level of activity among national, state, and local policymakers, researchers, and practitioners that is unprecedented.

At the same time, some of the most important innovative work in the reentry field is occurring at the community level."

Reentry from jail or prison is not a one-size-fits-all uniform transition. What works is different for each unique individual.

Even though women at Shiloh Village will be working towards becoming self-sufficient, we're aware that often we'll have to sort through individual mindsets, agendas and barriers created within our own community.

As we grow in our commitment to help women reenter society, our board must think as creatively and constructively as we can.

Part of the process will be to teach former inmates, Einstein's assertion: "We cannot solve our problems using the same thinking we used when we created them."



All roads lead to . . .

Shiloh Village!

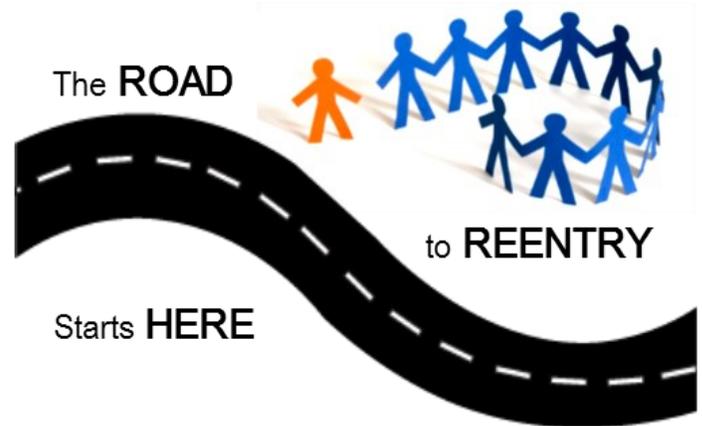
The West Virginia Offender Reentry Initiative

The WV Offender Reentry Initiative is a part of a national initiative to improve the transition of offenders from jails and prisons to communities.

The WV Division of Corrections has designed and implemented a program wherein offenders have a greater opportunity to be successful upon their return to communities, thus protecting the public and reducing victimization. This is a comprehensive program that addresses many aspects of the offender’s life, to include: health, mental health, job skills, education, substance abuse, etc.

The Initiative is a statewide initiative designed to assist in holding offenders accountable and to maintain levels of personal responsibility, with the ultimate goal of reducing recidivism and thus reducing victimization.

Offender Reentry is a critical issue for all West Virginians. Only 5.5% of the prison population is serving life sentences, meaning that the vast majority of offenders will one day return to communities across the state. Increasing personal responsibility and accountability within each offender through programs that are designed to address specific criminogenic risks and needs is essential in decreasing



the likelihood of future criminal behavior and victimization.

As part of this initiative, WV has brought together multiple state and local agencies to serve on a steering committee to the project.

This Steering Committee guides the process of implementation, ensuring that best practices in each discipline are adhered to and that appropriate linkages between transitioning offenders and service providers are not just available, but strong.

Copied from the 2018 WV Division of Corrections Webpage

Top 5 Facts about Women in Jail and Prison



1. The number of women incarcerated has grown by more than 800 percent over the last three decades and women of color are locked up far more often.
2. Many women enter the criminal justice system with a disturbing history of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse.
3. Many girls enter the juvenile justice system with a disturbing history of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse.
4. Pregnant prisoners are often shackled during labor and delivery, risking the health of the mother and child.
5. Women face further discrimination after release from jail or prison.

By Julie Ajinkya with the Progress 2050 project at the Center for American Progress. (March 2012)

Prisoners ... the Story Behind Billy Graham's Casket



Billy Graham preached to more than 215 million people in more than 185 countries. He met with at least a dozen presidents and heads of state.

Graham appeared in the top ten of Gallup's most-admired men in the world 61 times, far more than any other person. Ronald Reagan is his closest competition, making the list 31 times.

So why was the celebrated Graham buried in a plywood casket built by prisoners in Louisiana? The answer helps us understand a key facet of the man's character.

In addition to having an effect on presidents, and millions of everyday people across the world, the Graham family also had a big effect on those the Bible says should not be overlooked: **prisoners**.

The Graham family has been connected to the Louisiana State Penitentiary, a.k.a. Angola, a maximum-security prison once known as the bloodiest prison in America. Most of the prisoners at Angola are serving life sentences without the possibility of parole—meaning they will eventually die and be buried in the Angola prison cemetery.

Editor's Note: Angola first began building their own caskets about 18 years ago. Inmates before then were buried in cardboard boxes, which often fell apart or caved in from the weight of the dirt.

Franklin Graham spoke at Angola in 2009, and the Graham family also donated funds to help build two chapels on the prison property.

When Graham died at 99, this humble religious leader was buried in a simple plywood box built by an unlikely person. Richard Liggett, a convicted murderer, led a team of prisoners at the Louisiana State Penitentiary that built caskets for both Graham and his wife, Ruth, who died in June 2007 at age 87.

Liggett meticulously built coffins for many fellow prisoners before dying of cancer in March 2007, nearly 31 years into his sentence. Liggett would tell then-Warden Burl Cain that of everything that ever happened in his life, the most profound thing was to build the coffins for Billy and Ruth Graham. Franklin Graham purchased the coffins after seeing them during a visit to the prison in 2005.



The plain wood coffins are made of plywood and lined with mattress pads made from Walmart comforters covered by fabric. They are adorned with brass handles and a cross on top and are said to cost **\$215**. The Graham family also asked that all of the inmates who worked on the coffins' construction have their names burned into the wood.

February 28, 2018 post is from Byron R. Johnson, distinguished professor of the social sciences at Baylor University and co-author of the book, [The Angola Prison Seminary: Effects of Faith-Based Ministry on Identity Transformation, Desistance, and Rehabilitation](#) (2016).

Think Outside the Box



A lack of stable employment may be one reason we see such high recidivism rates. When we look past the stigma of a record, we often find talented and qualified workers.

House Bill 4567 was introduced at the WV Legislature on February 13, 2018, to enact the *Ban-the-Box Act*, which would prohibit public employers from asking applicants for employment, to disclose information concerning the applicant's criminal record or history, under certain circumstances.

§29-6A-1. Findings.

The legislature finds that it is the duty of the State of West Virginia to encourage and contribute to the successful reintegration of people with a criminal history. The ability to procure meaningful employment is essential to reinstating good citizenship.

The Legislature also finds that reducing barriers to employment for persons with a criminal history is a matter of statewide concern and that increasing employment opportunities will reduce recidivism and improve community stability.

The bill is pending in Committee.

Trial By Fire!



Unknown to most California residents, 30 to 40 percent of their firefighters are made up of **inmates** from their state prison program; 250 are **women**. The prisoners make up to \$2 a day in the program and \$2 an hour when they're actually fighting fires. This collaboration saves the state close to \$80 million a year.

Home Improvement

Can you really build a cost efficient house, one you'd actually want to live in, for **\$20,000**? Could that concept be transferred to apartments or housing units for Shiloh Village?

Ever on the alert for affordable housing designs, we attended the 39th Annual Construction & Design Industries Expo at Charleston's Civic Center on March 21, 2018. We focused on a session entitled, "Educating the Citizen Architect" by Xavier Vendrell, acting director of the Rural



Studio at Auburn University.

For nearly 16 years, the architecture students at Auburn University have been designing and building striking houses and community buildings for impoverished residents of Alabama's Hale County. Using salvaged lumber and bricks, discarded tires, hay, cardboard bales, concrete rubble, carpet tiles, and colored bottles,

they create inexpensive buildings. What they incorporate into their designs depends on the available materials. Photos showed an outside toilet covered in old license plates, silver side out and arranged like shingles. My favorite is the "Windshield Chapel."

Reclaimed car windshields from a Chicago scrap yard provide a glass ceiling on the north side of a multi-purpose building atop rammed earth walls. The building serves as a transportation stop, community gathering space, chapel for the local choral group, and distribution center for children's summer school meals.

The Rural Studio also restored and preserved what is now known as The Safe House Black History Museum, the shotgun house in Greensboro, Alabama, where on the night of March 21, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. sought refuge from the Ku Klux Klan. Two weeks later he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

They've also built the Hale County Animal Shelter, a community playground from 55 gallon drums, a skateboard park, and transformed an ancient bank into a library—the only place with internet service in the area.

But the centerpiece of the design and build program is the ultra-low-cost homes, called the 20K



Xavier Vendrell, Auburn University

Home that the Rural Studio has created for over a decade.

Auburn students have developed 18 prototypes, including one and two bedroom homes, and constructed them for clients in Alabama's Hale County.

The \$20,000 figure is an estimate for labor and materials; the plans could be altered, and cost is subject to the price of land and other variables. Rural Studio is now in the process of bringing to market, plans that anyone could use to build these homes.

This snapshot of turning trash into treasure is inspiring; both upcycling and recycling are ways to reuse waste and reduce garbage. But upcycling old lives into something beautiful and functional is the handiwork of the Lord, who has been restoring souls for over 2,000 years.

At Shiloh Village, we know when a woman's mind and heart is transformed, she gets a fresh lease on life and a new story.

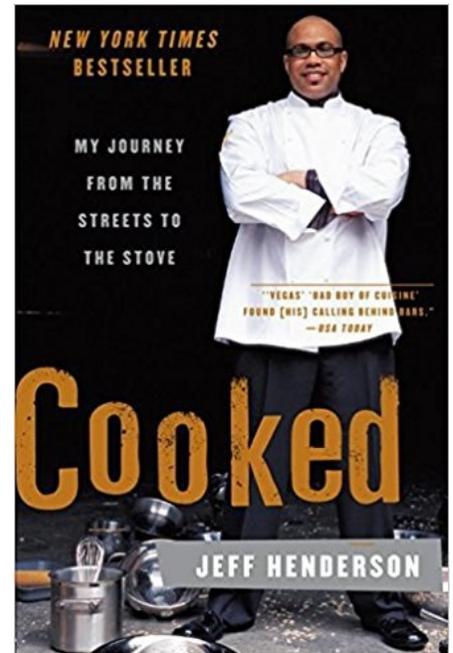
What's Cooking?

Jeff Henderson's rollercoaster ride from **high-stakes cocaine dealer** to **prison inmate** to world-class chef, is an incredible story.

Henderson was clearing \$35,000 per week as one of the most successful cocaine dealers in San Diego, CA. When he was 23, he was indicted on federal drug trafficking charges and sentenced to almost 20 years.

Hardheaded, Henderson held firmly to his gritty street morals until the day he was assigned to wash dishes in the prison kitchen. He immediately took an interest in food preparation and determined that when released, he would become a chef, no matter what.

Within years of his release, Mr. Henderson became the first African-American Executive Chef at the Café Bellagio in Las Vegas and a New York Times best-selling author.



In 2015, “Chef Jeff,” a popular Food Network personality and motivational speaker, spoke to inmates at the **Federal Prison in Glenville, WV**, about setting tangible goals and working to achieve them.

