

# Preface

The Institute for Prison Ministries at the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College has created *Free From the Inside* to equip prisoners to live focused lives of witness and discipleship within their spheres of influence. This 4-hour seminar presents a biblical perspective for communicating the gospel with gentleness and respect. Each participant receives a student workbook, which includes a Bible study for additional application and deeper learning. A certificate is available for those who attend the seminar and complete the Bible study.

We are grateful to the correctional staff who have granted us permission to offer this training and to the chaplains and volunteers who serve with us.

Please pray that God will set every disciple of Christ free to share the gospel and be used by his Spirit to reach the mission field that he has set before him or her.

Dr. Karen Swanson  
Director  
Institute for Prison Ministries

## Acknowledgements

The majority of the material in *Free From the Inside* training has been modified from "Bringing My World to Christ," developed by Dr. Lon Allison, evangelist and executive director of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College. A special thanks to Rev. Dallas Anderson for sharing his wisdom and experiences from teaching this material. Thanks to Brenda Ratcliff, Paul Yuen, Jonathan Lewis, and Rev. Kate Hendrickson for their contributions and suggestions.

A special thanks to those prisoners who submitted illustrations for this workbook.

### **Institute for Prison Ministries (IPM) Library**

The IPM Library seeks to share the gospel, equip those serving in correctional ministries, and offer helpful information to offenders, their families, correctional officers, and victims. A situation-appropriate evangelistic message is included in each IPM booklet. For more information on the booklets, visit: [www.bgcprisonministries.com](http://www.bgcprisonministries.com).

# Endorsements

*"Free From the Inside not only opened my eyes, but helped me to understand that God has called me to preach, teach, and show his love and underserved mercy to those who are lost."*

~ Texas prisoner

...

*"I am one of three hundred men in God's army here in this facility. This seminar reminded me that holding onto parts of my old life will prohibit me from moving forward in my new life."*

~ South Dakota prisoner

...

*"I learned that my relationship with God doesn't end with me and my journey. I have been able to make the valuable connections that part of the joy in loving God is sharing him with others and loving them so much that I want them to feel his love, too."*

~ Arizona prisoner

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*"I recently visited two facilities where Free From the Inside (FFI) was offered. The men greeted me with, 'When are you going to have another FFI seminar?' Many were amazed when they began to map their 'faith journey' and document their sphere of influence to bring others to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Many shared their spiritual journey and the wonderful work Jesus Christ had done in their lives. The seminar provided these men the tools they needed to witness to others—from family to fellow inmates. I highly recommend this seminar to engage the Christ-centered leaders behind the walls."*

~ Mary Engle, executive director,  
Prison Fellowship, Michigan

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