

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bill Mason at 1:30 p.m. on January 27, 2003 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Rehorn - E
Representative Wilson - E

Committee staff present: Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department
Mary Torrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Rose Marie Glatt, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Candy Ruff
Don Raymond, Director, The InnerChange Freedom Initiative (IFI)
Samuel Mutfwang, IFI
Timothy Diemart, IFI
Scott McLean, After care management, IFI

Others attending: See attached list

The Chairman opened the hearing for bill introductions. Hearing none, he introduced Representative Candy Ruff that presented The InnerChange Freedom Initiative, a faith-based prison ministry program underway at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility ([Attachment 1](#)). Although a new program in Kansas, a similar Texas program has an extremely low recidivism rate. She introduced Don Raymond who explained the program.

Don Raymond, Director, InnerChange Freedom Initiative, provided details of the program stating that inmates enter the program on a volunteer basis. In prison they meet mentors that provide spiritual classes, GED classes, Bible studies, tutoring, computer classes and literacy classes. They work toward identifying positive outcomes while incarcerated and once released, they continue that commitment with the support of mentors from a community church ([Attachment 2](#)). He introduced two inmates that were currently in Phase II and Phase III of the program that shared their stories.

Samuel Mutfwang, who was born in Nigeria, reviewed his educational background and the events that led to his incarceration. He testified that the program changed his life and gave him the opportunity to utilize his education applying it to daily life ([No written testimony](#)).

Timothy Diemart stated that a life of alcohol and drugs led to his imprisonment in 1996. The IFI program was very structured and taught discipline and self-control, and inmates who accepted the Biblical teachings, and applied them to their lives generally excelled in the program ([Attachment 3](#)). He explained the importance of community support in becoming acclimated to life outside prison.

Scott McLean who oversees the after care management program for IFI explained the inmates progress as they left prison ([No written testimony](#)). Volunteers from local churches serve as mentors for one-on-one aftercare counseling to help men rebuild their lives with a foundation based on Jesus Christ. They help them reunite with family, secure living quarters, provide transportation, secure employment and deal with life's challenges for 6-12 months after their release from prison.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for January 28, 2003.

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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

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CULTURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Chairman and fellow Federal and State Affairs Committee members:

With the state facing its worst fiscal crisis in decades, the Department of Corrections struggles with its own challenge to maintain public safety with fewer and fewer resources. The state's Sentencing Commission will suggest this week a way to alleviate prison overcrowding, as lawmakers seek ideas to address the challenge of handling the state's incarcerated population.

Because budget cutbacks will force the Department to reduce considerably its inmate programs except the statutorily mandated sexual offender program, there is not a lot of good news coming from Corrections. But I'm here to tell you, there is a program in which our state can take pride. It's the InnerChange Freedom Initiative, a faith-based prison ministry program underway at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility.

The goals of this program match well those set by the Department of Corrections. Inmates enter the program on a volunteer basis. They work toward identifying positive outcomes while incarcerated and once released, they continue that commitment. Throughout the program, they live in a community setting, partner with volunteers from the faith community and once outside, those relationships remain. Those connections are especially important when it comes to the church in the community where the inmate lives.

Yet the bottom line for this program is the recidivism rate. Because the program is new to Kansas, there are no hard facts. But in Texas, the program has rates that are reported to be especially low, much more so than existing programs.

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But I want you to learn of the program from those who live it everyday. So with the chairman's permission, I'd like to introduce Don Raymond, director of the InnerChange Freedom Initiative. He will be followed by two inmates; one currently in Phase II of the program at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility; and the second in Phase III at the Wichita Work Release Center.

In addition, Corrections Secretary Roger Werholtz is in the audience this afternoon to answer questions about the cuts in program funding currently underway at the Department.



The INNERCHANGE Freedom Initiative™

WHAT IS INNERCHANGE FREEDOM INITIATIVE™?

In 1997, *Prison Fellowship* established InnerChange Freedom Initiative™ in the state of Texas. IFI is a dramatic departure from traditional corrections or other ministries in scope and expected results. Utilizing a totally Christ-centered biblically based curriculum, staff and a great number of Christian volunteers help the IFI inmates through the transformational love of Jesus Christ. IFI is voluntary. You must want to stay out of prison.

IFI consists of 24 months of programming in Ellsworth Correctional Facility. Ellsworth Correctional Facility is a short-term medium security male prison located in Ellsworth Kansas. Operating out of building 3 and 4, IFI has a program capacity of 200 inmates. Upon completing the program at Ellsworth, most members will be scheduled to transfer to the Wichita Work Release Facility. All members then are mentored in aftercare for 6-12 months after their release from prison. Assistance is given to them in seeking employment, a place to live, and a home church.

IFI is 24-hour a day program that promotes personal transformation of prisoners through the power of the Gospel. The first of its kind in the U.S. The program confronts prisoners with the choice of embracing new life in Christ and personal transformation, or remaining in the stranglehold of crime and despair.

One of the largest goals of the IFI program is to provide community support for prisoners while in prison, and upon your return to society. They also reach out to prisoner's families to unite rather than divide as in a usual prison setting.

- How long is the entire IFI program?
Three years ideally; 24 months at ECF; 6 months at Wichita Work Release Facility, Then upon parole or release, 6-12 months with your aftercare mentor.
- What is a mentor?
A wise and trusted counselor, a teacher, friend, confidant, troubleshooter, advocate, role model.
- Who is not eligible for the IFI program?
 1. Maximum-security inmates. Maximum inmates may request medium by exception status to be reviewed on an individual basis.
 2. Mediums with less than 14 months remaining to serve in KDOC.
 3. Sex offenders who need to complete KDOC programming (We may have staff approved to teach in this area in the future.)
 4. Minimum inmates are not eligible at this point.
- If I have a longer sentence, what will happen when I finish at ECF?
This will be on a case-by-case basis. Some will remain at ECF to assist new IFI members; others will remain at ECF as aftercare attending some programming, others may want to go to other prisons and work with the chaplaincy programs.
- What work assignments and pay scale are available?
Similar to other institutions without industries, IFI members will only have job assignments for three hours daily as spiritual and educational programs run from 6AM - 9PM.
- How do I enroll?
Contact your Chaplin's office or your unit team for details, and attend the IFI call out at your facility.
- May I bring my television or radio?
Radios are permissible, but televisions are not permissible within the program. You can bring televisions though, and we can put them in storage for you.
- What about visits?
Visitation is on the weekends according to DOC policies.

What does InnerChange Freedom Initiative™ Offer Me?

Mentoring
 GED Classes and tutoring
 How to stay out of prison
 Help in finding employment after release
 Prayer partnership
 Working with victim's families
 A new-found relationship with Christ
 How to deal with depression

How to love and not hate
 How to structure your lives
 How to present yourself
 How to deal with life's challenges
 How to cope with loss
 Freedom from sin
 Freedom from addiction
 How to be a productive member in society

How to obey rules
 How to become a good leader
 How to deal with your emotions
 Freedom from anger
 Computer classes and tutoring
 Family and parenting classes
 Love

1607 STATE STREET P.O. BOX 107 ELLSWORTH, KANSAS 67.
 DON RAYMOND, DIRECTOR LARRY FURNISH, PROGRAM M

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The INNERCHANGE Freedom Initiative™

BACKGROUND

The InnerChange Freedom Initiative™ (IFI) is a revolutionary, Christ-centered, values-based prerelease prison program supporting prison inmates through their spiritual and moral transformation. IFI is modeled after a successful Prison Fellowship Brazil program founded in 1973 at Humaita Prison in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Today, Prison Fellowship Brazil runs the entire Humaita facility, and their program is now at work in more than 40 additional Brazilian prisons. Prison Fellowship International is also operating programs similar to IFI in Ecuador.

The InnerChange Freedom Initiative's unique plan of restorative and progressive programming begins 12 to 24 months before an inmate is released. It continues for an additional 6 to 12 months of aftercare once the inmate has returned to the community. Inmates volunteer for the program and must meet several criteria before they are accepted.

Anchored in biblical teaching, education and camaraderie, the IFI program consists of four phases.

- **Phase One (18 months)** focuses on the prisoner's internal healing process and seeks to rebuild spiritual and moral filters. A heavy emphasis on education, work, and support helps create a new foundation for productive growth.
- **Phase Two (Re-entry, 6 months)** tests the inmate's value system in real-life settings and prepares him for life after prison. Inmates spend much of the day in off-site work programs, returning in the evenings for more IFI classes.
- **Phase Three (6 months)** inmates continue transition by attending Work Release or a halfway house.
- **Phase Four (aftercare (6 to 12 months))** begins with the prisoner's release and is designed to assimilate the inmate back into the community through productive relationships with family, the church, and the workplace.

The InnerChange Freedom Initiative's Pilot Programs

On April 21, 1997 Prison Fellowship Ministries opened the first prison program of its kind in the United States in a minimum security prison in Richmond, Texas, which is located south-west of Houston. Starting with 25 inmate volunteers, the InnerChange Freedom Initiative currently has a capacity of 200 men. Discussions are underway to increase program capacity to include the entire prison population of 400 inmates.

On October 1, 1999, the second program was opened at the Newton Correctional Facility at Newton, Iowa. A medium security long-term adult male prison located 35 miles east of Des Moines. The program began with 100 inmate volunteers and will expand to 200 inmates.

The third IFI program completing the pilot program of adult male prisons opened in January 2000 at the Winfield Correctional Center at Winfield, Kansas. The program was moved to the Ellsworth Correctional Facility, Ellsworth Kansas in the summer of 2002. The reason for moving the program was Ellsworth was a medium facility while Winfield was a minimum facility.

During this pilot project phase operational policy and procedures have been developed and refined. Course curriculum has also been developed and continues to be modified as necessary. As program participants in Texas have been released the aftercare components of IFI have been tested and evaluated. The volunteer training program which includes both IFI training and institutional training has been developed. Working relationships between IFI staff and state correctional staff have been defined.



The **INNERCHANGE** *Freedom Initiative*™

FACT SHEET

Program Description:

The InnerChange Freedom Initiative™ (IFI) is a Christ-centered, Faith-based prison program designed to support prison inmates through their spiritual and moral transformation. The four-phase program begins 18 to 24 months before an inmate is released, and continues with 6 to 12 months of aftercare once the inmate has returned to the community.

Origin of IFI:

IFI is modeled after a successful Prison Fellowship program located in Brazil, founded in 1973 at the Humaita Prison in Sao Paulo.

Program Providers:

IFI is a joint effort between Prison Fellowship Ministries and participating state Departments of Correction. A formal signed agreement between these entities stipulates their responsibilities.

Current Programs:

- IFI began the first program in April of 1997 at the Carol S. Vance Unit, a minimum-security unit near Houston, Texas.
- The second program was established in October of 1999 at the Newton Correctional Facility, a medium security prison near Newton, Iowa.
- The third program opened January of 2000 at the Winfield Correctional Center, a minimum /community custody facility at Winfield, Kansas.

Prison Fellowship:

Prison Fellowship Ministries (PFM) is a non-profit, Christian ministry organization serving more than 200,000 inmates in 90 percent of the prisons in the U.S. through 55 field offices, 350 paid employees and more than 46,000 volunteers.

PFM Headquarters:

Post Office Box 17500
Washington, D.C. 20041-0500

PFM Officers:

Charles W. Colson, Chairman
Mark Earley, President, CEO
Alan Terwilleger, Sr. Vice President, Ministry Advancement

IFI Kansas:

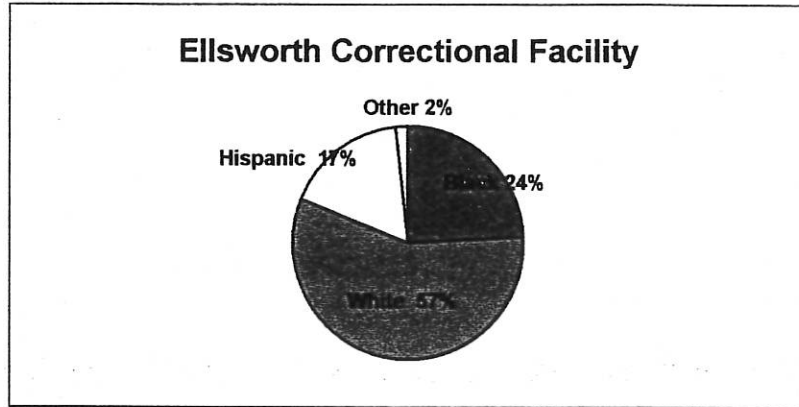
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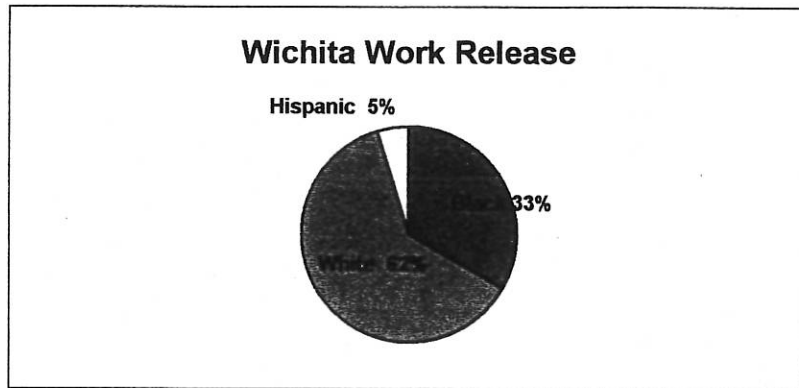
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InnerChange Freedom Initiative Program Numbers and Racial Breakdown

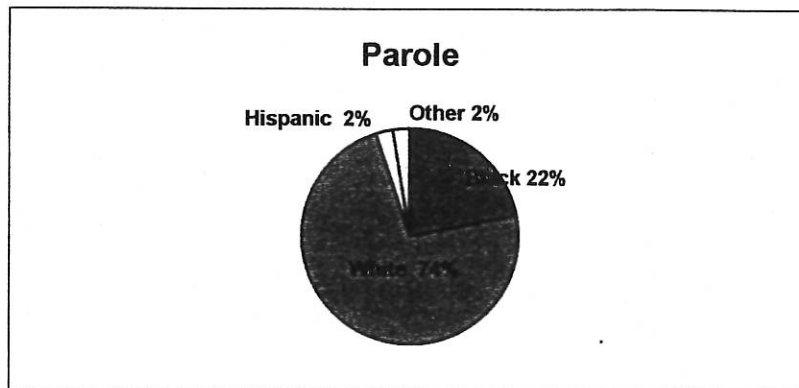
28 Black
 66 White
 20 Hispanic
 2 Asian & Native American
 116 Total



7 Black
 13 White
 1 Hispanic
 21 Total



9 Black
 30 White
 1 Hispanic
 1 Asian & Native American
 41 Total



I graduated for High School in 1973 during a time when society was far more lenient in its views toward alcohol and drugs. I grew up with the idea that it was my right and privilege to use and abuse the drugs of my choice. As I became older my addictions stunted my growth both emotionally and socially, and I gradually became frustrated and angry because I was unable to deal with personal issues. As is typical with such situations, I took it out on those closest to me namely my wife and family. This eventually led to my divorce, which sent me into a downward spiral. I became involved with the drug methamphetamine both in the manufacture and sale of it. As my frustration and anger increased I indeed became a danger both to myself and society. In the summer of 1996 I was arrested and incarcerated for a term of 6 years in the KDOC.

However during this very dark period in my existence there was one ray of light that continues to this day to guide me. In the winter of 1995 while I was gathering wood in a neighbor's field to heat my home, He drove out to me on his tractor, got off and asked me if I would pray and accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I refused because of the shame and guilt in the way that I was living my life. He turned back to his tractor as if to go, but instead of leaving he reached in and took out a King James Version of the Bible. He handed it to me asking nothing in return except that I look into it on occasion. That winter as I sat alone in my house, I did indeed from time to time read from that old book and in time came to believe in what it revealed to me. However I had become to involve in my addictions to help myself.

During my term of incarceration, I had plenty of time to read and study which I took advantage of, becoming fairly well versed in the Scriptures. In the fall of 1999 I began hearing of a program being offered called IFI or Inner Change Freedom Initiative. After some investigation I decided that it was something that I could use in my life.

The program was very structured and required discipline and self-control, those who had accepted the teachings in the Bible, and applied that wisdom to their lives generally excelled in the Program, while those who had entered the program with other agendas usually were unable to cope with what was expected and were returned to the general population of

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The program had classes that taught from the Bible directly in such a way that even those with a limited education were able to grasp what was being taught. There were classes that dealt with relationships, so that when we returned to society we would be better equipped to deal with our families and others around us. Several time a week we had classes on the problems of drugs use and the evils associated with it.

However the program was not all discipline, structure and work. Special banquets were arranged for us, our families and loved ones. We often gathered together to recognize those who were excelling at the program and praise those who had done well. Arrangements were made so that we could attend local schools and churches so that we could help educate and give our testimony to others.

As my time for release drew near the Counselors of the program assisted me in finding employment, a home church of my choosing, as well as continuing classes in the evening. Upon my discharge from Work Release volunteers of the program assisted me in finding transportation, furnishing for an apartment, as well as moral support to help keep me from returning to the destructive lifestyles of my past.

I have been a tradesman for the past 25 years mainly as a welder and a mechanic and I naturally returned to this field of work during my months at Work Release and after my discharge from KDOC. However I desired a change of this way of life and its boundaries. I applied for employment and was accepted at Rusty Eck Ford of Wichita as a New Car Sales Consultant. In the past 9 months I have achieved a reasonable level of success and surpassed many limitations I never thought was possible. I have never thought of myself as anything but a simple man, one who has made many mistakes in life, yet I have come to understand that if one can come to accept his place in this world, discipline himself and use self-control, life can become a good thing.

Leri Desnat