



A Stop Mass Incarceration Initiative

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Dear Faith Leader,

Reverend Jerome McCorry
Founder / CEO

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We are facing an emergency situation - the lives of tens of millions of people are being enmeshed in the web of the criminal justice system in this country.

- 2.4 million people, over 60% of them Black or Latino are being warehoused in U.S. prisons;
- 1 in 3 Black men born after 2000 will be imprisoned at some point in their lives;
- The U.S. has 5% of the world's population but 25% of the world's prison population;
- The incarceration of women has increased by 800% over the last 30 years;
- Immigrants who come to this country seeking work and survival are being caught up in raids that tear families apart as many are thrown in detention centers.

These facts combined have led to America's prison industrial complex which is inclusive of the school to prison pipeline. For those of us in the Christian faith this represents a "What Would Jesus Do" moment." As was the case with the civil rights movement of the 1960's, the faith community must again speak out with clarity and vision to combat the new Jim Crow of Mass Incarceration.

As faith coordinator of the "October Month of Resistance to Mass Incarceration" I am asking for your involvement. We are planning a month of Resistance to Mass Incarceration, Police Terror, Repression and the Criminalization of a generation in October of this year. We are setting out to make October a month of powerful demonstrations across the country, ferment in the faith community inclusive of sermons and songs, panels and symposiums on campuses, and in neighborhoods block parties, concerts, poetry slams, and other cultural expressions.

We are kicking the month off with a series of sermons to be preached in Churches, Temples, Synagogues, and Mosque throughout this nation. This powerful demonstration by the faith community will usher in the month of resistance leading up to the other activities.

Enclosed are a sample liturgy, responsive reading, and sermon ideas that are appropriate for your worship inclusion. We are asking you to endorse this month of activities and participate in the worship experience, and to share this vital information with your circle of influence. We have also established a speakers bureau and can be contacted at the number and email address above. You can also log on to StopMassIncarceration.net for more information and updates.

Let us again join together and let freedom ring as we work to end mass incarceration in our lifetime!

Reverend Jerome McCorry
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