LIFELINE GLOBAL™

TRAINING GUIDE



For Men:
Malachi Dads



For Women:
Hannah's Gift

Mission and Vision

To restore and equip incarcerated men and women to become godly parents, so the generational cycle of incarceration can be broken.

Dear Friend,

We are so excited that you are pursuing the launch of a Malachi Dads or Hannah's Gift program. Your willingness in listening to the call of God to minister in this area is helping to change the paradigm of how Christians engage the incarcerated, leading the church to live into Jesus' words in Matthew 25:40. God is challenging all of us to take a look at the epidemic of generational incarceration and ask the question "**What if…?**"

What if the church approached imprisoned men and women from an opportunity for discipleship? **What if** through this discipleship, men and women who were thought to be lost forever were transformed by the Holy Spirit? **What if** these transformed disciples were to fully engage their roles as Christian mothers and fathers? **What if** the children and families of those incarcerated became the hands and feet on the outside of prison walls? **What if** the Holy Spirit continued to move like wildfire throughout prison facilities around the world? **What if** the next revival in the Christian church were to come from behind bars?

Sound impossible? In our world it is. But from a Savior who could hold the sun in place, multiply food and raise the dead, it is nothing. Your willingness to join us is helping to build the discussion of "what if...."

What if this was the exact type of direction that would force the world to recognize God's almighty power? Do we have enough Faith that it could happen? Let me assure you that it is already happening… around the globe.

Your work is pushing a movement, giving God the room to maneuver, and transforming the trajectory of families and communities. We are excited you are here.

In His Name,

Dr. Romney Ruder
President of Lifeline Global Ministries

Index

5 Lifeline Global's Story

6 Our Biblical Mandate

7 The Need for Transformation and Reconciliation

8 Battling the Cycle of Incarceration

9 Results and Lifeline Global Ministries Growth

10 Lifeline Global Curriculum Resources

11 Malachi Dads and Hannah's Gift Planning Phases

14 Sharing the Gospel

15 Our Commitment to You

Lifeline Global's Story

In October, 2003, Burl Cain, then warden at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, invited Awana Co-Founder Art Rorheim and then President/CEO Jack Eggar to speak to the prison's fellowship of Christian men. What they found was inspiring. The inmates recognized their role as spiritual leaders of their families and wanted an evangelism and discipleship program to reach their children. The Awana Lifeline program was born.

"Art Rorheim knew something we didn't know," says Burl Cain. "He knew that the children were the key to the inmate's heart." Awana Lifeline became a key agent in moral rehabilitation and prison rehabilitation. "Remember, by educating an inmate without morality, you've only made a smarter criminal," says Cain.

Children desperately need their fathers and mothers to lead and direct them. The longest serving warden at Angola prison went on to say that Awana Lifeline's Malachi Dads and the Returning Hearts Celebration are the most profound, important programs we could do for prison rehabilitation.

The principals of Awana Lifeline were founded on a spiritual truth from Malachi 4:6, "He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers."

In January 2019, Awana Lifeline became Lifeline Global Ministries, an independent ministry with programs in prisons and jails throughout the world.

There are three unique programs to Lifeline Global Ministries: Malachi Dads, Hannah's Gift and the Returning Hearts Celebration.

The **Malachi Dads program** offers a five book curriculum that guides inmate fathers to become godly men and fathers. *Psalm One-The Blessed Man* is a six-lesson study written by the Malachi Dads inmates at Angola Prison.

The **Hannah's Gift program** offers inmate mothers the opportunity to have a spiritual impact on their children's lives following the example of Hannah in 2 Samuel. This program has three books plus the Psalm 23 book, written by women at the Louisiana Correctional Institution for Women.

The **Returning Hearts Celebration** is an event held on the prison grounds that unites children with their inmate mother/father for an unforgettable day of games, food, and the inmate parents taking steps toward restoration with their children.

Our Biblical Mandate

Throughout Scripture, God moves with compassion for those within our society who are most often forgotten – the sick, marginalized and imprisoned. While statistics of those incarcerated continues to increase, it is the Church that has been called to be a light of hope.

James 1:27 *Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*

Hebrews 13:3 *Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.*

Matthew 25:35-36,40 *"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."*

And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."



The Need for Transformation and Reconciliation

1. According to a report released in February, 2008, for the first time in history more than one in every 100 adults in America are in jail or prison. This accounts for 2,319,258 adults held in American prisons or jails.[1]
2. In 2008 alone, states spent more than $49 billion on corrections, an increase from $11 billion 20 years before. However, the national recidivism rate remains virtually unchanged, with about half of released inmates returning to jail or prison within three years.[2]
3. Over 1.5 million children in the U.S. under the age of 18 – approximately two percent of the minor children – have a parent serving a sentence in a state or federal prison.[3] This number increases to 2.2 million if you include jail sentences.
4. Forty-six percent of all imprisoned parents lived with at least one of their minor children, prior to entry.[4]
5. The average age of children with an incarcerated parent is eight years old; 22 percent of the children are under the age of five.[5]
6. According to statistics from the Department of Justice, children of incarcerated parents are seven times more likely to wind up behind bars than their peers.[6]
7. Parental incarceration created additional challenges for children and families often resulting in:
   - Financial instability and material hardship, with financial problems the most severe for already vulnerable families.[7]
   - Instability in family relationships.[8]
   - School behavior and performance problems.[9]
   - Shame, social and institutional stigma.[10]

1 The Pew Charitable Trusts, "One in 100: Behind Bars in America 2008," available online at [http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploaded Files/One%20in%20100.pdf].
2 C. J. Mumola, (August 2000), "Incarcerated parents and their children." U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Washington, DC, accessed 04/17/08 at [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/iptc.pdf].
3 Ibid.
4 C.F. Harrison, et. al, "Focus on Children with Incarcerated Parents," (2005).
5 Ibid.
6 The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, accessed 05/15/09 at [http://www.ojp.gov/bjs/abstract/pptmc.htm].
7 I. Garfinkel, A. Geller, & C. Cooper, "Parental Incarceration in Fragile Families: Summary of Three Year Findings". An unpublished report to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2007.
8 Ibid.
9 T.E. Hanlon, "Vulnerability of children of incarcerated addict mothers: Implications for preventive intervention." *Children and Youth Services Review*, 2005, Volume 27, 67– 84.
10 Ibid.

Battling the Cycle of Incarceration



To combat this cycle of incarceration, prisons are joining efforts with Lifeline Global to offer rehabilitated, yet still incarcerated fathers and mothers, a chance to have a positive impact on the next generation. This is accomplished primarily through three Lifeline programs: Malachi Dads, Hannah's Gift, and the Returning Hearts Celebration. The combination of these ministries has had positive results in the lives of inmates, their children and the guardian family to which they belong. For this we credit God and the faithful work of chaplains, wardens and church volunteers. (To find out more about the Returning Hearts Celebration, e-mail info@lifelineglobal.org.)



Results and Lifeline Global Ministries Growth

According to the caregivers of children who attended a past Returning Hearts Celebration at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, 67 percent have observed positive behavior changes in their children. For example, they have seen a greater interest in talking to or visiting the father and asking them questions about God. Guardians of the children also observed an increase in academic improvement.

Further evidence supports this on a broader scale. In addition to lowering the likelihood of recidivism among incarcerated parents, there is evidence that maintaining contact with one's incarcerated parent improves a child's emotional response to the incarceration and supports parent-child attachment.[1]

God is at work throughout the country with the Lifeline Global message of Biblical fathering/mothering.

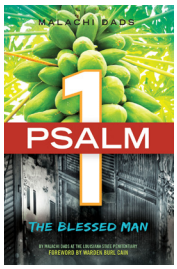
Lifeline Global Ministries equips churches and parents to build a legacy of hope in Christ for inmates and their families.

- We empower the local churches with resources that build life-changing prison ministry.
- Some fathers and mothers are reunited with their children.
- We encourage an ongoing connection between fathers/mothers and children that results in better choices and futures for the children of inmates.
- We can equip churches with biblically based, hands-on training.
- We offer gospel-centered products and event resources.
- We seek to connect churches with other compassion ministries that have a heart for inmates and their families.
- We seek to disciple inmates so they are empowered to spiritually lead their own children and families.

1 N.G. LaVigne, R.L. Naser, L.E. Brooks, and J.L.Castro. "Examining the effect of incarceration in in-prison family contact on prisoners' family relationships." *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 2005, 21(4).

Lifeline Global Curriculum Resources for Malachi Dads and Hannah's Gift

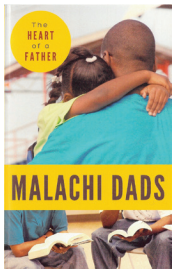
Visit www.lifelineglobal.org/curriculum to order curriculum



Psalm 1
3-6 week Bible Study



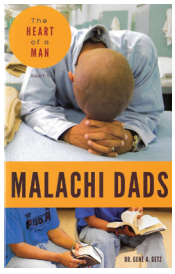
Psalm 23
3-6 week Bible Study



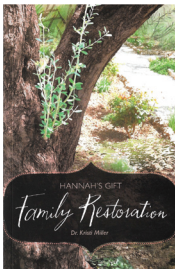
Malachi Dads:
The Heart of a Father
12 week Bible Study



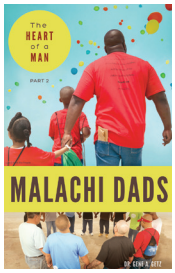
Hannah's Gift:
The Heart of a Mother
12 week Bible Study



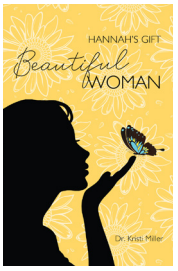
Malachi Dads:
The Heart of a Man
(Part One)
12 week Bible Study



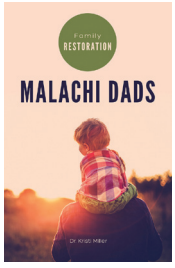
Hannah's Gift:
Family Restoration
12 week Bible Study



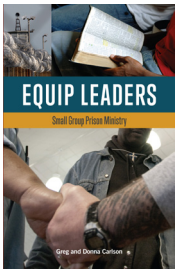
Malachi Dads:
The Heart of a Man
(Part Two)
12 week Bible Study



Hannah's Gift:
The Beautiful Woman
12 week Bible Study



Malachi Dads:
Family Restoration
10 week Bible Study



Equip Leaders
This guide prepares Malachi Dads and Hannah's Gift facilitators to effectively lead inmate small groups. Each chapter includes key verses, biblical foundations, methods, teaching points and more.

Malachi Dads / Hannah's Gift Planning Phases

1. PREPARATION PHASE

Checklist:

- ✓ Pray, Pray, Pray.
- ✓ Read Burl Cain's book *Cain's Redemption: A Story of Hope and Transformation in America's Bloodiest Prison*; by Dennis Shere (optional). *Cain's Redemption* gives exceptional insight on what can happen through prison reform. It's a great read to help inspire and encourage you in your prison ministry journey.
- ✓ Read *Equip Leaders: Small Group Prison Ministry*; by Greg and Donna Carlson (optional). *Equip Leaders* is highly recommended to help prepare Malachi Dads and Hannah's Gift facilitators to effectively lead inmate small groups. Each chapter gives key verses, biblical foundations, methods, teaching pointers and more for leading their groups. This book is available through the Lifeline website at www.lifelineglobal.org/curriculum.

2. INVESTIGATION PHASE

Checklist:

- ✓ Have an informal conversation with the Chaplain or Warden regarding their interest.
- ✓ Learn about the prison where you will be volunteering (size, programs, average length of sentences, etc.).
- ✓ Read and view all the material on the website at www.lifelineglobal.org.
- ✓ View Lifeline Global videos at https://www.facebook.com/watch/lifelineglobalmin/
- ✓ Pray and ask others to pray.
- ✓ ***Decision Point:*** Determine to have the program or not.

3. RECRUITMENT PHASE OF VOLUNTEERS

Checklist:

- ✓ Determine how many volunteers you will need:
  - Instructor(s) (1 per class)
  - Facilitator(s) (1 per 5-6 inmate participants)
- ✓ Establish criteria needed to have a successful program that is God-centered and God-honoring.
- ✓ Do the due-diligent background checks (prison's responsibility).

4. ORIENTATION PHASE

Once a decision has been made to implement the program, consider the key stakeholders and consider dates to begin. Begin to form an advisory board including: Wardens, Correctional Officers, Chaplains, Ministry Partners, and Volunteers.

Checklist:

- ✓ Determine your stakeholders.
- ✓ Set time to meet with and explain the program to the stakeholder(s).
- ✓ Determine if you will hold a 3+, 12, 24 or 36-week program. Get support from volunteers ask them to play a role.
- ✓ Understand the cost of the program and where you will get the resources to pay for the program.
- ✓ Set a 1-4 hour training time using the *Equip Leaders* book.
- ✓ ***Decision Point:*** Determine an inmate orientation date for Malachi Dads/Hannah's Gift, after having the needed number of volunteers.

5. SELECTION AND TRAINING PHASE

This is a critically important phase as the prison or ministry begins to select the inmates who will participate in the program. The Malachi Dads/Hannah's Gift Leadership Team should be composed of inmate leaders (if permitted by prison) as well as volunteers. There will be a training session (1 to 4 hours) for the volunteers before the program starts.

Checklist:

- ✓ Determine how many Dads/Moms you want in the program.
- ✓ Schedule an Inmate Orientation
- ✓ Pray and select the volunteers who will lead this program.
- ✓ Provide a training session for your volunteers using *Equip Leaders* book (1-4 hours). Include curriculum plan.
- ✓ Pray for the men and women who will be in the program.
- ✓ Provide the training for the Malachi Dads/Hannah's Gift Leadership Team.
- ✓ ***Decision Point:*** Have confident and committed volunteers who are well-trained.

6. IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

Checklist:

- ✓ Purchase the Malachi Dads/ Hannah's Gift materials. (Visit www.lifelineglobal.org/curriculum to order.)
- ✓ Prepare, prepare, and prepare.
- ✓ Schedule and hold your first Malachi Dads/Hannah's Gift week (Introduce the Pledge).
- ✓ Determine weekly meeting time with Malachi Dads/Hannah's Gift volunteers and advisory team.
- ✓ ***Decision Point:*** Set a graduation date that is approved by the prison.

7. EVALUATION AND RESTART PHASE

Checklist:

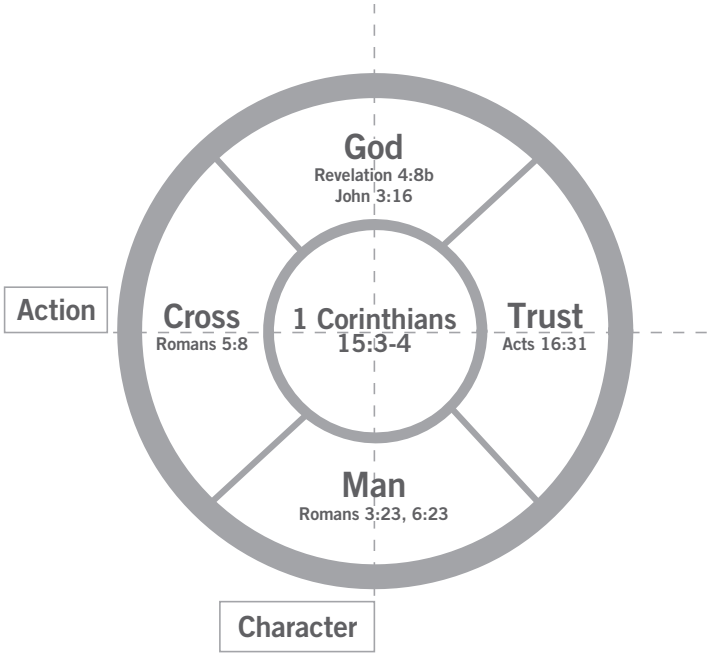
- ✓ Print out certificates for all Malachi Dads/Hannah's Gift graduates. (See website www.lifelineglobal.org/curriculum).
- ✓ Prepare for graduation, and celebrate the accomplishments of the men/women with their families, if possible. Provide the prison with an evaluation of the program.
- ✓ Determine if the prison or ministry wants to do another year of the Malachi Dads/ Hannah's Gift Program.
- ✓ Gather your advisory team and volunteers to evaluate and determine time frame for next start-up.
- ✓ ***Decision Point:*** Determine ways you will improve the program and thank God for how He worked.



Sharing the Gospel

One important thing to never lose sight of is opportunities you may have to share the gospel with volunteers, caregivers, children, inmates, chaplains or wardens. It is wise to not assume people know that Jesus Christ paid for their sin by dying on a cross and being raised from the dead. If you are comfortable sharing the gospel by your testimony or another tool, great.

A simple way that Awana suggests for presenting the gospel is a tool called the Gospel Wheel. You simply need to know the verses within the model. Just start sharing from the Scriptures at any entry point, and let the Holy Spirit use the Word to lead a person to faith in Christ. At the center, of course, is the gospel in its most concise form (Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again). To access a copy of the Gospel Wheel provided by Awana visit **www.lifelineglobal.org/curriculum**.



The entry points align themselves along two dimensions. The character line (vertical) could begin with a discussion of God's character (love and holiness) or man's character (sin). Either entry point gets you to the gospel.

You could also share along the action line (horizontal), that Jesus' shed blood on the cross provided for our salvation, or the corresponding action of a person, which is to trust (have faith or believe) in Jesus Christ. Start anywhere, but get to the gospel.

Always keep in mind that a person will accept Christ's love when he or she is ready. This is the Holy Spirit's work, not yours. Avoid assuming more responsibility than God intends. God expects you only to share His good news.

© 2010 Awana Clubs International. Used with permission.

Our Commitment to You

You are not alone! Lifeline Global stands with you through prayer and partnership.

Our desire is that this training guide will help you in your ministry as you lead inmate mothers and fathers in their relationship with God and move them to reconciliation with their children and their family.

We would like to be a resource for you, so do not hesitate to let us know how we might be able to serve you though this endeavor. For information on how to become an official ministry partner with Lifeline, please contact us.

We would love to celebrate your ministry with you. Please feel free to contact us with any stories of how God is moving in your ministry. Send your stories to info@lifelineglobal.org.

Thank you for your ministry and your love for inmate mothers and fathers.

8918 W 21st N, Suite 200 #179, Wichita, KS 67205-1880

lifelineglobal.org | 316.425.9096