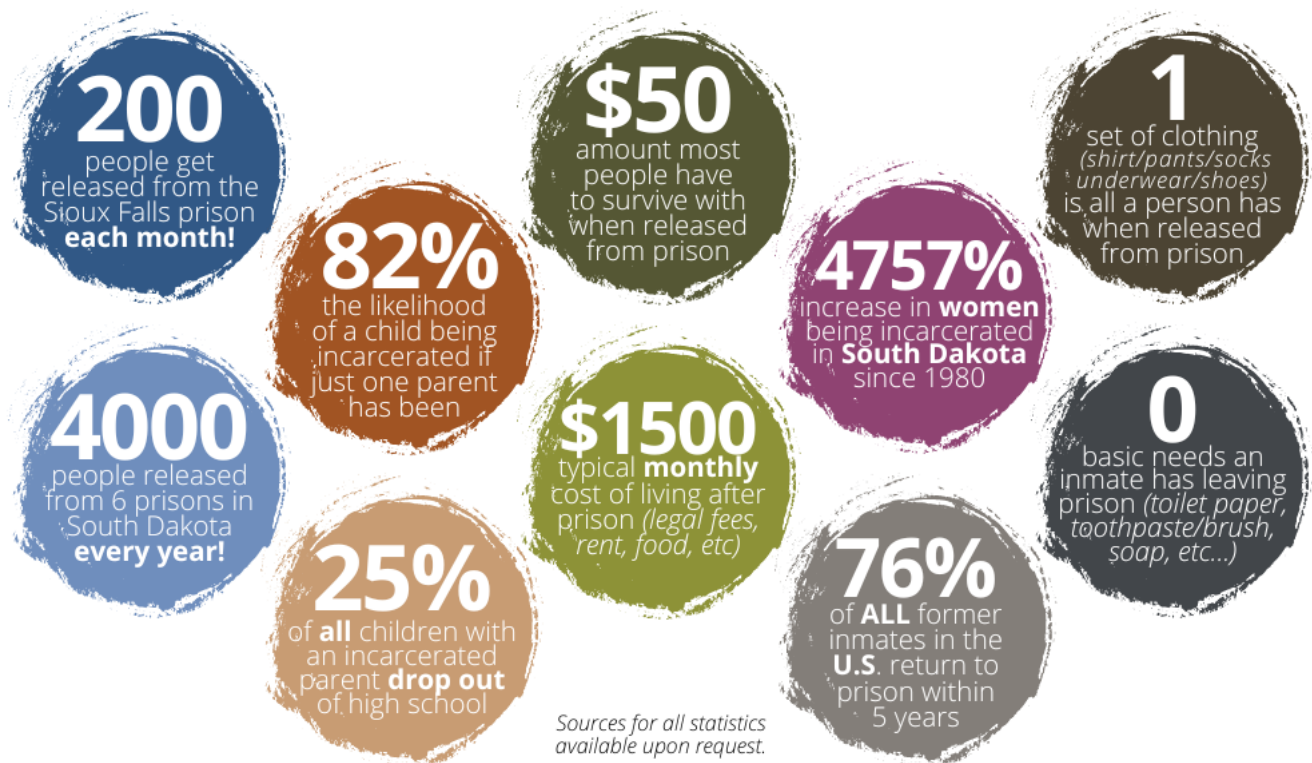


# “Are You Aware?”

By Timothy J. Bariteau

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First, some stats...

Are you aware...**200** people get released from the Sioux Falls prison **EACH MONTH?!?**

Are you aware...**4,000** people are released from the 6 prisons in South Dakota **EVERY YEAR?!?**

Are you aware...**\$50** is all that most people have to **survive** off of when they're released from prison?!?

Are you aware...**\$1,500** is the typical average **monthly cost** of living for someone after prison?!?

Are you aware...**1** set of clothing (*shirt, pants, underwear, socks, shoes*)

is all a person has when released from prison?!?

Are you aware...when a person is released from prison, they have **0** basic needs

(*toilet paper, toothbrush/paste, soap, shampoo, razor, etc...*)?!?

Are you aware...**76%** of **ALL** former inmates in the **U.S.** return to prison within 5 years?!?

Are you aware...the number of **WOMEN** being incarcerated just in South Dakota has increased by **4,757%** since 1980?!? (*That's 476 women today, for every 1 woman in 1979 or before!*)

Are you aware...the likelihood of a **CHILD** being incarcerated when they grow up

is **82%** higher if just **ONE** parent has been incarcerated?!?

Are you aware...**25%** of **ALL CHILDREN** with an incarcerated parent drop out of high school?!?

The need is **real**. The numbers **shocking**. The problem **overwhelming**.

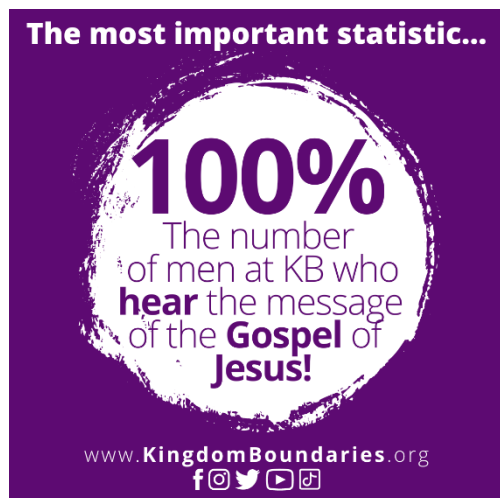
The answer is **NOT** more rules/harsher punishment.

That **obviously** doesn't work. **What DOES?**

Only the TRUTH of the **love, forgiveness & grace** of Jesus & the Cross, to **rescue, heal & restore** ALL of humanity back to our original intended position as deeply loved children of God!

When we believe our TRUE identity as God sees us, habits & behaviors naturally readjust & come into alignment with healthy, wise living.

So, let me tell you one more statistic...and I believe it's the most important one:



**100%** of the residents that come to stay at Kingdom Boundaries Prison Aftercare Ministry when they are released from prison **WILL** hear the Gospel (*good news*) of what **Jesus** has done for them and how they can start seeking His help to turn their lives around for good!

That's right! At Kingdom Boundaries, we present the Gospel of Jesus to EVERY resident that comes to live with us. What they decide to do with that is up to them, of course.

But here's the truth...even though you probably won't hear this anywhere else (*certainly not on the news!*):

Without learning to trust Jesus & lean on Him for help, a person MIGHT do ok. (*Statistics show over 76% of people go back to prison, so obviously trying to do it on their own DOESN'T work well.*) But we CAN guarantee with Jesus' help they WILL be successful. If you're **humble & surrender** YOUR will to His, He will ALWAYS help you! That's a fact! The only people who are not willing to acknowledge this fact, are the ones who are unwilling to consider there really is a God who knows more than them. They don't want to consider He is real, because then they would also have to admit He is in charge...and their pride and selfishness is too great a hurdle for them to overcome. But the TRUTH is that God loves them unconditionally! And the ONLY reason He ever tells someone what to do or not do is because His great Love for them is trying to protect them and provide the best possible life for them...which is ultimately only going to be found and acquired within an intimate relationship with Him!

Argue, resist, deny & fight against God's wisdom all you want, but TRUTH is available (*if you're humble enough to open your eyes & receive it.*)

The TRUTH of God's **love, wisdom, goodness & authority** is not something to be mandated or forced upon a person. (*History proves time & again it doesn't work.*) It is up to each of us to either ACCEPT TRUTH by faith, even if we don't understand it (*that's why it's called faith*) or REJECT it.

YOU get to decide.

But WHY would you WANT to reject TRUTH?! Why CHOOSE to be deceived?! When it comes to something as eternally important as GOD, if you're deceived about this 1 thing, how could you trust ANYTHING you think you know about Him?

Just as TRUE as God's willingness to **forgive/restore** people with a repentant heart, is His desire to **express** that forgiveness THRU His other children: **you & me!** (*It's in the Bible everywhere!*)  
We must ask, "AM I WILLING TO...?"

**"Am I willing to...** SHOW forgiveness (like I received) to people I don't like because of their background/behavior/lifestyle/etc?"

**"Am I willing to...** OVERLOOK surface-level issues they struggle with & help them make deep, long-lasting changes?"

**"Am I willing to...** REMEMBER they're NOT evil/ugly/undeserving of love...they're someone's child/sibling/parent/spouse/family/friend & NEED love just like I do?"

**"Am I willing to...** RECOGNIZE their bad decisions may have been influenced by an uncaring, unhealthy environment?"

**"Am I willing to...** GIVE kindness to those who don't deserve it, since I didn't either?"

**"Am I willing to...** STOP ignoring the problem, turning a blind eye when their actions PROVE they NEED a friend who cares?"

**"Am I willing to...** START being a friend & pull them out of the pit of destructive choices?"

**"Am I willing to...** RISK 'getting taken advantage of' by some, in order to help MANY who sincerely want to change?"

**"Am I willing to...** SPEND my time/money/energy/talent/life to help those REJECTED by society learn they are LOVED by God?"

If you said "YES" to any of these questions, PLEASE consider helping Kingdom Boundaries in our mission to change the world, one former inmate at a time! We ARE making a difference, but we NEED YOUR HELP to expand our reach and help even more people!

Please...**explore** our website for more information on how you can get involved, or to learn more about who we are and what we do! [www.kingdomboundaries.org](http://www.kingdomboundaries.org)

You can also follow us on social media! Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok & YouTube!

Would you consider donating to Kingdom Boundaries to help us in our efforts?

We have a building project we are currently trying to raise the funds for in order to build a larger facility to provide housing and help for both men and women coming out of prison. Our new building would almost triple our current capacity, meaning we could help three times as many people!

Because we are a nonprofit (*and because most people choose to ignore this field of ministry*) we are ALWAYS in need of more financial support to fund our ministry's day-to-day operating budget!

Would you consider become a regular monthly donor? Or even giving a substantial gift to aid our cause to change lives and better our community? There's more information on our website on how to support our ministry's day-to-day operating budget!

And one more thing...please...if this info spoke to you, encouraged you, challenged your thinking, or in any way blessed you...SHARE it with others! And PLEASE find us on social media and leave us a comment! Or contact us thru our website! We'd love to hear YOUR thoughts on all of this!!! We'd also love to talk with you and answer any questions you may have about our ministry, or even just what it's like for a person both while they're in prison and especially after they are released; it's very eye-opening for most people!

Visit our website for more information on how you can get involved!  
<https://www.kingdomboundaries.org>