

# Sport Ministry: Sharing Christ's Love Through Athletics

## Volunteer Opportunity

The majority of prisoners do not attend Bible study or traditional religious programming in the chapel, but athletics are a different matter. Inmates are inclined to attend sporting events, whether to watch or participate.

Prison ministry volunteers can capitalize on inmates' inherent interest in sports to engage them in a game of softball or volleyball, demonstrating Christ-like behavior and potentially having a chance to share the Gospel.

Using athletics as an accessible entry point to the correctional system can empower many Christians to do what they might not otherwise consider – prison ministry. Men and women who shy away from teaching or leading Bible studies may not have considered their athletic prowess as a tool in the hand of God to draw men and women to Himself, but it can be! What a great way to equip the Church with additional opportunities to reach outside the walls of the local church and go behind prison bars.

*“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news.’”*

**Romans 10:14-15**

### Church Softball Leagues

Many denominations have softball leagues, and some churches participate in leagues across denominations. These churches would be a great place to begin recruiting teams to participate in this vital ministry of being the hands and feet of Jesus, through sports.

#### Examples:

*Colorado Community Church*  
[www.coloradocommunity.org/jail ministry](http://www.coloradocommunity.org/jail%20ministry)

*First Baptist McKinney*  
[www.firstmckinney.com/608724](http://www.firstmckinney.com/608724)

### Nonprofit Sports Organizations

I've had the privilege, on several occasions, of supporting a chaplain from Delaware's Sussex Correctional Institute as a team member of the nonprofit sports ministry, The Saints Prison Ministry. They and a few other non-profit sports ministries go from prison to prison across the country with one goal in mind, being Christ to the inmate population in a fun, non-traditional way.

*The Saints Prison Ministry*  
[www.saintsprisonministry.org](http://www.saintsprisonministry.org)

*Texas Sports Reach*  
[www.texassportsreach.com](http://www.texassportsreach.com)

Consider saturating the prison facilities with the people of God, from the chapel to the yard; church sports teams and ministries may be one way to do just that.

