

FINAL ESSAY QUESTION

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AT h 621 Prison and Jail Chaplaincy

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Pierce in his book, *Prison Ministry: Hope Behind the Wall*, discusses the impact of Prisonization and the Emotional Ethos on the incarcerated. What are these concepts and perceptions and what is the role of a chaplain in this situation?

“Pierce’s concept regarding prisonization is that it allows the prison ethos to take on the characteristics of a school for criminals. The ingraining into the criminal mind-set or prison ethos includes a vocabulary that is independent of the outside world ; within the prison ethos the terminology depicts the process and violence of prisonization”.

It also deprive the incarcerated of their self –esteem, their individuality, leaving them with life full of loneliness, degradation, boredom, less caring, less sensitivity, and loss of control. These new changes throws the inmates into circumstances in which they feels threatened by a variety of issues that are immediately encircling to them. The incarcerated must develop a new identity that is appropriate to the new ethos and particular institution. Pierce.(pg 65)

Stress is a given part of prison life, especially in a maximum-security facility. Factors that produces a large amount of stress for the incarcerated is reality that they have been deprived of their liberty, goods and services, companionship, independence, security. Inmates uses two methods to deal with the idea of doing” hard time”, they withdraw from the ethos into a fantasy world, engaging in a meaningful, time-consuming activity , which will be a healthier self-esteem. Which is critical in handling the consequences of loneliness, guilt, shame, abandonment, remorse, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Pierce. ( pg 71)

This is when the role of the chaplain comes in to play: They must be there to help with the inmates rehabilitation, utilizing a combination of spiritual and secular methods of counseling, such as bible study, educational programs, for the enhancement and reduction of recidivism for the inmates.

(2) The book, *Prison Ministry: Hope Behind the Wall*, Pierce gives an overview of Latin American Liberation Theology and correlation between the poor and oppressed in Prison Industrial Complex. What spiritual and theological perceptions, scriptures, teachings, and stories can you as a chaplain use to help incarcerated individuals envision themselves and their condition in a more productive manner.

(a) “Many Latin American theologians believe that the church need to be more involved in the politics of individual countries. The theologians who support liberation theology come from a wide gamut of styles and emphases ranging from “the biblical spirituality to the very polemical, aggressive analysis”.

The major emphasis is the poor and oppressed, they are the true subjects of liberation, and should address with these four specific issues; caring for the poor and oppressed, investigating the problem, cause, and factors along with solving the issues, examining a specific point connected with the current issues, engaging new ways of interpreting Christian faith and a new way of doing theology.

(b) A Chaplains' duty is to meet and offer pastoral care to inmate on a regular basis regardless of their ethnicity or sexual preferences. Bible study, worship services, pastoral counseling, and visitation at the bars and on the gallery should be the priority for prison ministry. (c) Some appropriate scriptures that can be used during ministering to help with their coping structures are:

;( Mark 2:1-19) forgiveness, healing and reconciliation.

( Isaiah 43:11,25) God's unconditional love, God's unconditional acceptance.

( Matthew25:31-46 ) Mercy, compassion, and forgiveness.

(Isaiah 64:1-9) God's presence among us.

( 1Cornithians 1:3-9) We are God's people.

#### Reference:

Pierce D 2013 Prison Ministry, Hope Behind the Wall. Published by Routledge Taylor & Francis Group 711 Third Avenue New York, NY 10017



( 1) Interpathic care: Is the unconditional love, empathy, sympathy which reduces anxiety. The perfect love that cast out fear. ( 1 John 4:18 ).

( 2) Empowerment: Authority or power given to someone, or the process of becoming stronger and more confident especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's right.

( 3) Dehumanization: This is the process of depriving human's positive qualities of life.

( 4) Liberation Theology: A movement in Christian theology, developed in Latin America Roman Catholics that emphasize liberation from social, political and economic oppression as an anticipation of ultimate salvation.

(5A) Liberal Punishment: Severe punishment that resulted in people beheaded.(B)Conservative Punishment: Is the preserving or saving lives.

(6) Prisonization: is the process of accepting the culture and social life of prison society, which forms an informal inmate code.

(7) Punitive Forgiveness: Forgiveness in criminal procedure, is the withdrawing privileges, restoring, recreating and believing new agreement of relationship.

(8) Recidivism: the tendency of convicted criminal to be re-offended or relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior, especially into criminal behavior.

(9) Substantial Evil: the wicked or immoral part of someone or something. The fact of suffering, misfortune, and wrongdoing.

(10) The Stages of Incarceration:

(A) Denial

(B) Anger

(C) Bargaining

(D) Depression

(E) Acceptance

#### References.

Pierce. Dennis .w. ( 2013), by Routledge Taylor & Francis Group 711, Third Avenue New York, NY 10017

Dictionary .com