

# Justice Sunday

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of children of incarcerated mothers lived with a grandparent or other relative. Although research has indicated that parents and children should visit one another, less than 50% of prisoners receive visits from their children. Oklahoma's incarceration rate of 622 offenders per 100,000 population is the third highest in the nation. Among females, the incarceration rate of 122 per 100,000 leads the nations.

Research indicates prisoners who try to maintain their family ties do much better when they're released. Because children are vulnerable to the negative consequences of the incarceration of a parent, reentry and after care programs that include the children can foster strengthening and maintaining family ties.

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The Central Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, has selected **Rebuilding Communities - Family Literacy and the Employment of Ex-Offenders for their grant project.** Our goal is to develop a family literacy program to improve the literacy skills for parents and children. This project will take place at the Hillside Community Corrections Center, in Oklahoma City, for mothers with children grade K-6 in partnership with the Ralph Ellison Library Literacy Program; and Provide ex-offenders with the skills to prepare for and seek employment opportunities upon release from prison. This project will consist of a mock job fair, followed by a real job fair in partnership with All of Us or None organization, in Oklahoma City and St. John Missionary Baptist Church Prison Ministry in Oklahoma City.

The local chapter jump-started Justice Sunday on Saturday, January 15,

2005 with a program at the Lexington Assessment and Reception Center in Lexington, Oklahoma.

Dr. Major Jemison, pastor of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, and National President of the Progressive Baptist Convention Inc. was the guest speaker. His topic was: **"Right Side Up for a World Upside Down."**

A presentation of coloring books and crayons were given to the One Church, One Child of Oklahoma organization through donations by offenders at the Lexington Assessment and Reception Center. Valarie Howard, Executive Director accepted the donations.

Approximately twenty-two volunteers to include Chapter President

Lenora Hudson, Regional Service Coordinator for West Central Region and Deputy Warden Jimmy Green of the Lexington Assessment and Reception Center and approximately eighty-nine offenders participated in the event. Justice Sunday has been held at the Lexington Assessment and Reception Center for its third year beginning under the direction of Reginald Hines, former Warden and now Assistant Deputy Director for Community Corrections and National Board Member of NABCJ.

Special thanks to Warden Workman for the use of his facility, Rev. and Mrs. Barber of St. John Missionary Baptist Church Prison Ministry, and all the volunteers.