



## **To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith / Summer 2005 (outreach production not for broadcast)**

*To Serve This Present Age: Reentering Through Faith* capitalizes on the black church's growing commitment to play an active role in addressing the substantial impact of crime and imprisonment on families and communities.

The need for the video is based on the large numbers of men and women, disproportionately people of color, who are returning home following incarceration. Many seek assistance from houses of worship, which are striving to meet this demand. The goal of the video/DVD is capacity building and competency training for interfaith and interdenominational lay people and clergy.



The production and its accompanying Viewer Resource Guide are organized around five modules:

- Reentry Support and Mentoring of Formerly Incarcerated Men and Women
- Mentoring Children of Prisoners
- Partnerships and Collaborations
- Strengthening Families and Communities
- Disproportionate Minority Confinement

Offering specific strategies, the 54-page guide functions as a "call to action," encouraging clergy and lay people to create or strengthen their local ministries or programs to assist former prisoners and their families. Each module provides brief profiles and contact information for organizations and houses of worship presented in the video/DVD, and ends with scriptural references. Additional resources include a glossary of reentry terms, suggested federal funding sources, and a list of national organizations that may be helpful in developing a reentry initiative.

Read more about this project and download the Viewer Resource Guide on the Reentry Campaign Web site: <http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/faith.htm>.

## **OMAR AND PETE / PBS Broadcast September 13, 2005**

Omar and Pete are determined to change their lives. Both had been in and out of prison for over thirty years — never out longer than six months. This intimate and penetrating film follows these two long-time friends for several years after what they hope will be their final prison release. In that time, their lives take divergent paths as one wrestles with addiction and fear while the other finds success and freedom through helping others.

Omar was just weeks away from the end of a ten-year prison sentence for armed robbery when Oscar-nominated filmmaker Tod Lending began filming him. At the time, Omar had been drug-free for eight years. He was a devout Muslim and was participating in a new prison release program designed to help long-term recidivists stay out of prison for good. Upon release, the Maryland Reentry Partnership supported Omar with case managers, transitional housing, healthcare, employment assistance, and educational opportunities. Like nine out of 10 men incarcerated in Baltimore, Omar's past crimes were closely tied to his drug addiction.

On the day of his release, Omar reconnects with Pete, a long-time friend, at the transitional house to which he's assigned. Both men had grown up in the same blighted Baltimore neighborhood and struggled with addiction. Pete had been out of prison for ten months and was doing well. Through the Maryland Reentry Partnership, he was managing the transitional house and had a job counseling others at a mental health clinic. When Omar arrives, the two rekindle their friendship, become roommates, and support each other through the transition back into society.



This Reentry Campaign documentary will air September 13, 2005 on PBS' acclaimed P.O.V. Series ([www.pbs.org/pov](http://www.pbs.org/pov)). Please check local listings for confirmation. OMAR & PETE was produced by Tod Lending, Nomadic Pictures.