



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ROBERT HINSHAW
Sheriff

141 WEST ELM * WICHITA, KANSAS 67203 * TELEPHONE: (316) 383-7264 * FAX: (316) 660-3248

February 1, 2010

RE: Religious Services at Sedgwick County Detention Facility (SCDF)

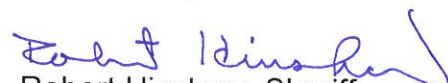
Dear Citizens:

The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office has a very credible history of providing for the religious and spiritual needs of the incarcerated through its affiliation with local churches and faith organizations. Presently, inmates have the opportunity to attend weekly chapel services and well-organized Bible study classes. They may choose to participate in Bible correspondence courses and, in some instances, receive college credit. Those that feel more comfortable in a private setting may request one-on-one Bible study and/or counseling provided by licensed and ordained ministers.

In 1979, Ralph Allen, then a Wichita businessman, created a lasting foundation for spiritual services at the SCDF with the formation of Christian Ministries to Offenders, Inc. (CMO) and his appointment as jail chaplain by Sheriff Darr. To date, this organization is the recognized provider of religious services and has initial oversight of ministry activities and their volunteers. Rev. Scott Davis is now Chaplain Coordinator and CMO executive director.

As has been indicated, CMO is a volunteer organization, and therefore dependent on the community for a continuous flow of providers and economic support. Because of their value to the Sheriff's Office and the detention facility, I strongly encourage your support of CMO. Many of the activities they perform with volunteers are mandated by law and would of necessity have to be provided by the Sheriff's Office, using tax dollars, requiring yet additional funding and stress on budgets. In my view, it is imperative that we exercise good judgment and fiscal responsibility in all areas of government. I believe part of doing so is to support CMO in any way possible. I am asking for your support for CMO; however you may be able to do so.

Warmest regards,


Robert Hinshaw, Sheriff
Sedgwick County, Kansas