



*Un programa de la Confraternidad Carcelaria Oruro*



### **Objective:**

To seek the restoration of lives affected by crime inside and outside the detention centres in Oruro through activities focused on the Christian faith. To awaken hope for the future through those activities challenging the participants to reflect on their lives, actions and attitudes, to repent and to take responsibility for their actions, leading them to a process of change.

### **Activities**

The Restoring Hope volunteers meet together weekly to plan, pray and learn and are involved in the following activities:

#### **Sycamore Tree Course**

- Based on the story of Zacchaeus and how he changed after meeting Jesus. Works with groups of offenders sentenced for a particular type of offence eg murder, robbery with violence, drug related offences. On each course all offenders are sentenced for the same offence
- Participants consider the story of Zacchaeus through drama, activities, worksheets etc including who he was, what crime he committed, who did he hurt, how the community was affected and how they feel about what he did
- They then apply this to their own lives looking at what they did, who they hurt (and how)
- We talk about restoration – the process of restoring a broken object first and then a broken relationship
- A “surrogate” victim (ie not the direct victim of the participants but victim of the same type of crime) shares their story and participants are asked how that makes them feel
- We then work on repentance and forgiveness with the participants
- The course culminates with the participants writing a letter to their victim(s) or victim’s family explaining what they did, why, their understanding of how they hurt

their victim, their commitment to change, how they will go about that etc. Those letters are not handed to their victims

### **¿Qué hice? (What have I done?)**

- A victim empathy course for Young people with lots of dynamic activities to get them thinking about how they hurt people, what leads them into situations where they might hurt others, how the people who they hurt feel and what they can do about it.
- We include discipleship content and work on forgiveness
- The course similarly concludes with writing a letter to their victims

### **Alpha**

- A chance to explore the basics of the Christian faith

### **Discipleship Courses**

- Discipleship material from Prison Fellowship Ministries in the USA adapted to Bolivia and from Time for Change Ministries

### **Apology Workshop**

- A workshop on apology aimed at those going to trial
- Why apologise? (or why not?)
- What is an apology? (and what isn't)
- When should you apologise? And How?
- Uses lots of practical examples and role playing to encourage YP to take responsibility for their actions and risk apologising!
- Talks about possible forgiveness from victim but even though it's also possible that they won't forgive it is still worth apologising sincerely

### **Restorative Practice training**

- A variety of workshops and courses for workers in the justice system, social services, young offenders, prisoners and others.

**Participation in the Working Group on Juvenile Justice Oruro**

- Prison Fellowship Oruro is a member of this group striving to implement the aspects of the new Code for Children and Teenagers relating to Adolescents in conflict with the law, especially the emphasis on restorative justice.

**Vocational Training**

- A course teaching the female young offenders craft and cooking skills

**Social activities**

- Participation in key events at the prison and young offenders' centre (eg anniversary, mothers' day etc)
- Annual pizza day at Young Offenders' Centre for Christmas