



# PRESS RELEASE

MISS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS \*723 N. PRESIDENT ST. \*JACKSON, MS 39202 \*(601)359-5600 \*(FAX: 5738)

Date: April 19, 2001  
Contact: Claire Papizan  
Phone: (601) 359-5689  
Fax: (601) 359-5738

## Literacy Storybook Project Plans Spring Taping Session

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Maggie Wade was the guest speaker at a special event to kick off the Spring taping session of the Literacy Storybook Project at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF) in Pearl, Miss., Friday, April 20. The Storybook Project, funded by the Lutheran Social Ministry of Miss., Inc., allows female inmates to record themselves reading books to their children. At CMCF, the Storybook Project is in its third year of operation.

Wade offered encouraging words to the female inmates. Wade started off by quoting the scripture "The joy of the Lord is my strength." Wade told the inmates that she always had people in her life along the way that were her safety net who provided encouraging words and that so many people don't get that today. Wade said, "In my position I can be that safety net, that hug, or that smile for others."

In addition, Mary Thompson and Diane McLauren from the Central Miss. Regional Library System, offered tips to the inmates about how to read to their children. McLauren said that inflection, tone of voice and animation were all important factors to keep in mind when reading to children.

The taping sessions are held four times a year and usually involve about 25 volunteers. Inmates are allowed to select the book they would like to read one week before the taping session. With the help of volunteers and CMCF staff, inmates are then recorded reading the book for their child. The tape, along with the book, is mailed to the inmate's child. 135 inmates at CMCF will record their tapes at the Spring taping session on Saturday, April 28.

The Lutheran Social Ministry of Miss., Inc., funds the entire project, but does heavily rely on book donations from the public. For more information on volunteering to help with the Storybook Project or to donate books, please contact Mary Atchley, Lutheran Social Ministry of Miss., P.O. Box 12246, Jackson, MS 39225 or call 601. 977.9948.

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**MEDIA NOTE:** If you are interested in receiving digital photos from this event, please contact Claire Papizan at (601) 359.5689 or send an e-mail request to [cpapizan@mdoc.state.ms.us](mailto:cpapizan@mdoc.state.ms.us).