



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **PRISON FELLOWSHIP ENDS WEEK LONG MINISTRY IN STATE'S PRISON SYSTEM**

Jackson—Operation Starting Line is concluding their week long prison ministry project in Mississippi tomorrow. Operation Starting Line (OSL) a ministry for offenders, is a national faith-based prison outreach project. Former Nixon advisor Chuck Colson, the founder of Prison Fellowship Ministries, is working with more than a dozen other national religious organizations in its outreach to prisoners through OSL. OSL's mission is designed to present a message of change to imprisoned men and women across America and reach every prisoner in every prison in five years. OSL has visited correctional facilities in Mississippi during the past week.

A delegation of over 200 volunteers, including ministers, lay speakers, entertainers, ex-offenders, comedians, sports figures, and body builders, have ministered to prisoners throughout the state. Colson, who served 7 months in prison for obstruction of justice in the Watergate scandal, carried his message of repentance directly to inmates at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Miss., last Friday.

Colson stated, "We came to the Mississippi State Penitentiary to get word of the gospel to every prisoner at Parchman and indeed throughout the state. We are grateful for the wonderful cooperation of the Mississippi Department of Corrections for enabling us to reach every corner of the prison so that prisoners can hear the Good News of Jesus Christ."

"One part of the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) mission is to provide treatment programs for substance abuse as well as educational and job skills opportunities. For many inmates religious opportunities help them in their personal dedication to reformation," said MDOC Commissioner Robert L. Johnson. "Operation Starting Line provides testimony of encouragement and personal struggle through a life of crime from former felons that offenders can relate to and hopefully learn from."

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