

STELLA MARIS MINISTRIES

Women's Prison Ministry

"For I was...in prison and you visited Me" [Mt 25:35-36]. Guided by this scripture, in the year 2000, a group of parishioners, under the guidance of then Pastor, Monsignor Richard Albert, took the decision to follow the teachings of Christ, to visit the female prisoners at the Fort Augusta Adult Correctional Centre, in St. Catherine.

These dedicated individuals under the guidance of the then convenor for the ministry, the late Mrs. Maureen Jones, have spent hours with the inmates bringing the good news of the gospel, teaching forgiveness and love, and the hope for a brighter tomorrow. Care packages and sewing materials were also provided. A Home Economics Centre was established in the form of a forty-foot container, equipped with industrial stoves, refrigerators, and a host of baking utensils. There the incarcerated ladies are taught baking and cake decorating skills. We facilitate ongoing communication between the inmates and their families overseas.

Recently, we expanded our assistance to include the preparation of inmates to sit the local CXC Examinations, by providing workbooks and other teaching material in seven different disciplines.

Sincerest thanks to the many stalwarts who continue to serve our ministry, and to those members of our church community who continue to support us with their time, talent and treasure.