

# PASTORS INFORMATION SHEET

## A Lenten project of prayer and almsgiving for those affected by crime and justice in Chattanooga.

### Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday

- + February 14 - March 25, 2018
- + Daily Lenten Reflections
- + For Churches of Any Size
- + Religious Groups and Program
- + And Unaffiliated Individuals
- + All Materials Provided
- + Free to Host
- + Donations Welcome
- + Benefiting Chattanooga Endeavors

Chattanooga Endeavors creates second chances for men, women, and their loved ones to overcome the stigma of incarceration, to recover purpose in their lives, and to build a better tomorrow for all.

### Registrations due by January 26, 2018

### For More Information

Chattanooga Endeavors  
Post Office Box 3351  
Chattanooga, TN 37404

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info@lentenross.org

www.LentenCross.org



LENTEN CROSS  
*project*

### INTRODUCTION

Christians have long been associated with acts of charity on behalf of prisoners. And Easter has long been associated with their (often miraculous) release. In fact, many classical writers chronicle incidences of "chains and shackles of prisoners burst[ing] asunder and ly[ing] broken on the ground," and "locks springing open, chains falling off and prisons opening themselves" on the anniversary of Christ's resurrection. Neither was it uncommon for constitutions of that period to provide clemency to prisoners on Easter, "lay[ing] aside the chains and properly abolish[ing] the occasion for prison that is dark with filth."

The symbolism of these extraordinary events animated early prison ministry as Christians prayed that inmates were protected from despair while they collected alms as ransom for their freedom. Continuing in this tradition of prayer and almsgiving, Chattanooga Endeavors invites area churches to participate in its Lenten Cross Project as a way to prepare for the great Feast of Easter.

### DESIGN

The centerpiece of this project is the Lenten Cross. Made from the trunk of a Christmas tree, the Lenten Cross reminds us of the eternal love for man shared in the birth of Christ. And in the form of a cross, it represents His passion and death and the glory of His resurrection.

Participants select a prisoner to pray for by taking up a stone from the Lenten Cross of a Host Church. The name of a prison is written on the stone. Participants pray for the prisoner while follow along with a series of daily reflections. At the end of Lent, they return a donation to Chattanooga Endeavors, ranging from a nickel a day to a dollar a day for the 40 days of Lent. The suggested amounts are modest so anyone, including youth, can to participate fully.

This design can be easily customized. For example, one church takes a moment during their Sunday services to pray together for the prisoners they have selected. They then take up a collection, preferring to give as one body than as individual members.

### HOSTING REQUIREMENTS

In sponsoring the Lenten Cross Project, host churches:

- Complete the participation form (attached or at [www.lentenross.org](http://www.lentenross.org))
- Designate a primary contact for the project
- Provide the setting (usually in a vestibule) for the display
- Distribute information to members encouraging participation

### SUPPLIES

To support host churches, we provide all of the materials needed, including:

- Lenten Cross and remembrance stones
- Participation instructions and literature
- Daily reflections booklets
- Promotional material such bulletin inserts, suggested announcements, and posters

### PRESENTATIONS

As the opportunity arises, a qualified member of the staff or board will be available to speak to groups about the work of Chattanooga Endeavors, the world of crime and corrections, and the role of the faith community in establishing a just society.