Celebrate Recovery® Inside is the prison and jail expression of Celebrate Recovery, a program of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Lake Forest, California, that encourages fellowship and celebrates Christ’s healing power in the lives of people as they work their way along the road to recovery. Lives are changed as experiences, strengths, and hopes are shared with one another. In addition, individuals become willing to accept God’s grace and forgiveness in solving life’s problems.

Many anonymous programs provide help for a single issue; alcoholism, drug addiction, gambling, overeating, etc. Celebrate Recovery deals with the whole person, every kind of issue that keeps people from being who God created them to be. One may have an alcohol and drug addiction as well as struggle with sexual addiction, difficulty in overcoming a history of physical or sexual abuse, or anger and co-dependency issues, all at the same time.

By working though the principles, participants grow spiritually, and are freed from their hurts, hang-ups, and addictive habits. This freedom creates peace, serenity, joy, and most importantly, a stronger personal relationship with others and the personal, loving and forgiving Higher Power, Jesus Christ.

Since 1991 Celebrate Recovery has grown from one group at Saddleback Church to thousands of churches world-wide. In 1998 a faith-based prison program in New Mexico, Crossings, began to use Celebrate Recovery at the Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility in Las Cruces and quickly grew to five prisons. Since then many prisons and jails in the United States and other countries use CR.

Celebrate Recovery provides a natural transition back to the community from the institution since there are churches that have Celebrate Recovery in many communities. Additionally, there is an opportunity for the family of the incarcerated person to receive help as they become involved in Celebrate Recovery at the local level during their loved one’s incarceration.
STARTING CELEBRATE RECOVERY IN A JAIL/PRISON

A CR Inside ministry consists of introducing a weekly step-study session for 1½-2 hours to those incarcerated. Increasingly, prisons and jails are adopting Celebrate Recovery. There are individual institutions and entire corrections departments that want the program and have implemented it. Offenders are often open to Christ-centered recovery to help them overcome issues resulting in their incarceration.

Also, those who direct recovery programming have utilized Celebrate Recovery as one of various treatment curriculums offered in their substance abuse programs, activation of faith-based housing units or simply use CR as part of a prison chapel ministry program. Chaplains may be open to starting CR Inside, but are often reluctant to initiate CR Inside due to their existing workload.

Prison/jail officials who consider CR Inside as a viable program are encouraged to attend a well-established CR in their community to assess the program’s effectiveness first-hand. Also, it provides a means to meet potential CR volunteers who can facilitate the program. To find a CR group near you go to the “Find A Group” button on the www.celebraterecovery.com website and click your state, then the directory.

SHORT-TERM INCARCERATION MODEL:

This model provides a basic introduction of Celebrate Recovery to participants based on their short-term period of incarceration. This model is based on a 120-day average length of incarceration. Typically, county/city jails or prison detention/reception centers fall into this category, which makes it impossible to complete a full step-study curriculum.

Therefore, facilitating the 6-lesson Participant Guide #1 (Stepping Out Of Denial And Into God’s Grace) repeatedly has become the most common curriculum approach around the country. The 8-week Life’s Healing Choices small group video by Pastor Rick Warren is likewise an effective tool in introducing CR to short-term offenders.

Also, the introduction of a General Meeting/Large Group format every 2-3 weeks, utilizing live testimonies from local CR’s or “Testimonies to Go” DVD series offer offenders a solid idea of how CR’s operate on the outside.

Regardless of the approach taken above, volunteers are encouraged to provide a listing of all CR’s located in the surrounding counties as well as local clothing closets, food banks, shelters and other social service agencies on the reverse side of every lesson hand-out.
LONG-TERM INCARCERATION MODEL:

This model allows participants to complete the entire step-study process. This model is based on an average length of stay well beyond the 120-day period of incarceration and is utilized in regional, state or federal prisons.

Local CR volunteers typically facilitate the first step-study in this setting and apply the accountability partner approach to the inventory process since there is an absence of qualified sponsors.

Upon completion of the first step-study it is common, where permitted, for select offenders to become sponsors and/or step study Peer Facilitators (group leaders). Also, offenders have taken on roles as Training Coach, Encourager Coach, After-Care Coach and even Co-Ministry Leader along with the local CR volunteer.

The approved curriculum consists of the CR Inside Participant Guide. Distribution of the guide is recommended following a participant’s 3rd or 4th consecutive meeting attendance to ensure there is a commitment to both the group and their own recovery.

TRANSITION TO THE COMMUNITY:

Irrefutable evidence has proven that an effective transition from incarceration to release has been the primary failure of our penal systems world-wide for alcohol and substance abusing individuals. Therefore, Celebrate Recovery Inside must include an effective community transition to ensure the participant’s success.

One of the greatest benefits for local CR Volunteers is seeing the impact Christ, our Higher Power has made on each participant. However, an inmate's changed life inside a well structured environment is severely challenged upon their release to an unstructured community environment. The reality of life on the outside introduces new challenges related to routine activities they have not experienced for some time. These challenges include, but are not limited to, housing, clothing, finances and relationships, and compounded by reporting and testing requirements of parole or probation officials. This is where our Celebrate Recovery should shine like a light:

You are the light of the world—like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. Don’t hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all. (Matthew 5:14-15, NLT)
HELPFUL RULES OF ENGAGEMENT
WITH NEWLY RELEASED CR PARTICIPANTS

CELEBRATE RECOVERY CHURCHES SHOULD:

✓ Show Christ’s love
✓ Treat the person as you would all others
✓ Select mature sponsors of the same sex to assist the person
✓ Integrate them accordingly into a group, encouraging involvement in CR*
✓ Utilize other churches or community agencies to help with unmet needs
✓ Display both grace and accountability as equally
✓ Be aware that the person has come from an environment of manipulation
✓ Assess their background in CR to develop both strengths and weaknesses.*
✓ Check with probation/parole staff regarding restrictions or special conditions
✓ Keep on loving the person even when they are unlovable

CELEBRATE RECOVERY CHURCHES SHOULD NOT:

✓ Give personal money, goods or services unless you are equipped to do so
✓ Offer to take them home with you
✓ Openly announce that the person is an ex-offender
✓ Deal, bargain or conduct business agreements with ex-offenders
✓ Allow inappropriate behavior to go unchecked
✓ Don’t appoint place them in leadership for at least 1 year.*
✓ Volunteer any information to others about their reason for incarceration
✓ Inquire why he/she was in prison/jail
✓ Conduct your own investigation of wrongdoing, contact the appropriate authority
✓ Encourage the inmate to talk against authorities (parole officer, judges, etc.)

*Indicates areas of leadership or possible leadership

PARTICIPANT COVENANT:

The primary purpose of CR and CR Inside is to provide Christ-centered recovery in a safe and secure environment. A participant covenant ensures volunteers and staff that recovery will be taken seriously and require more than simple attendance.

Please feel free to revise the attached Participant Covenant as needed.
CR & CR INSIDE PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

I, __________________________, # _____________, as a participant of CR and/or CR Inside agree to:

1. Immediately stop using any alcohol and controlled substances.
2. Submit to any requests for random drug and alcohol testing.
3. Comply with all regulations and remain disciplinary free of rule violations.
4. Complete all Participant Guide lessons prior to each step-study group.
5. Strictly comply with CR’s Small Group Guidelines, no exceptions.

I recognize that my participation in CR & CR Inside is a privilege, therefore agree to the above.

________________________________________  __________________________  ____________
NAME NUMBER DATE