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FINAL REPORT ON YEAR ONE
PRISON FELLOWSHIP RESEARCH PROJECT
INSTITUTE FOR RELIGIOUS RESEARCH
LOYOLA COLLEGE IN MARYLAND

Submitted to:

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SECTION ONE

OVERVIEW OF PHASE ONE

PRISON FELLOWSHIP RESEARCH STUDIES

OVERVIEW: PHASE ONE
PRISON FELLOWSHIP RESEARCH STUDIES

Introduction

This is the final report of year one of Prison Fellowship's three year research project. The report details the findings of the work carried out between Mr. Burt Rosen, National Director, Programs and Human Resource Development, Prison Fellowship Ministries and the research team of John Gartner, Ph.D.; Tom O'Connor, Solr., M.Div., M.S.; David Larson, M.D., M.S.P.H.; Kevin Wright, Ph.D.; and Rev. Mark Young, M.Div., M.S., from July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990. The purpose of this first year of research was threefold:

- 1) to evaluate the degree to which religious commitment and prison ministry are studied in the criminal justice research field;
- 2) to evaluate the long-term outcome of the Washington, DC. Discipleship program which took place between November, 1975 and November, 1979; and
- 3) to design a new program evaluation study of the In-Prison Seminar/Bible Study and Mentor Programs.

There is hardly a prison in America where a chaplain or spiritually committed volunteers cannot be found. Prison ministry has always played an important part in the prison system and in the lives of many prisoners. Prison Fellowship alone has approximately 22,000 active volunteers in 550 federal and state prisons around the nation. It is ironic then that religious factors, and more specifically the effects of prison ministry, have been largely ignored in the thousands of studies which have been done on the factors which might affect a prisoner's chances at successful rehabilitation.

Criminal Justice research on rehabilitation has shown that while no rehabilitation program works for all prisoners all of the time, some programs do work for some prisoners some of the time. Past systematic reviews of clinical research has shown that the study of religious commitment has been a generally neglected area of study. This state of affairs is true despite recurrent findings of the beneficial and potentially cost-reducing effects of religious commitment.

By studying the neglected relationship between prison ministry and prisoners, this Prison Fellowship research project has put Prison Fellowship in the forefront of academic research. The three studies which form the basis of this research project have begun to

deal with the long neglected interface between criminal justice and religious research.

Here, in section one of this report, an overview of the findings of the three studies is provided. Then sections two, three, and four of this report, give a detailed description of each of the three studies. Finally, section five is the financial report for year one of the research project.

Study One: Systematic Literature Review

Introduction

A series of studies by members of the research team has shown that religion is a neglected variable in clinical research. For example, in psychiatry only 3.5% of the studies included religion as a variable. In the vast majority of those cases the religious variable was only denomination. Only three of the 2,348 studies reviewed actually made religion the focus of the study.

The "malign neglect" of religion by social science has unfortunately, been aided by religious researchers. In a similar systematic review of all articles published in the four major pastoral counseling journals in the last decade, we found that less

than 5% of the studies included empirical research, and those were of inferior methodological quality. The message is clear. Social scientists have avoided religion and religious researchers have avoided social science.

Description

The first study in the Prison Fellowship research project was a systematic review of criminal rehabilitation and recidivism studies, found in scientific journals in the sociological, psychological and criminal justice literatures. This study tested the prediction that studies of religion generally, and more specifically prison ministry, would be absent from the scientific literature on criminal recidivism.

Findings

The findings of the present study were in line with the findings of previous systematic reviews of religious variables. The findings of the study are as follows:

- 1) Religious commitment variables are infrequently studied in criminal justice research.
- 2) Even when religious variables are studied, they are studied in a peripheral way and not as the central focus of the research.

No studies of prison ministry were found; indeed, the only study which centrally focused on religion was a study of Transcendental Meditation).

- 3) The methods used to measure religious commitment were not the best ones to most accurately account for the complexity of religious commitment.
- 4) Since very few studies examined religious variables, it is not possible at this stage to say much conclusively about the effects of religious commitment on criminal rehabilitation and recidivism.

Discussion

These findings are important. They serve to emphasize the neglect by the criminal justice field of this needed research area. They also serve as a foundation to the second and third studies in the Prison Fellowship Research Project. The findings demonstrate that the potentially beneficial relationship between religious involvement and criminal rehabilitation and recidivism is an under-researched relationship which is in need of further study. The findings also provide the research team with a guiding knowledge of the scientific methods which have already been used to study religious involvement in the criminal justice field.

Study Two: Long Term Evaluation Study:
Washington, DC., Discipleship Seminars

Introduction

An original study of Prison Fellowship's Washington, DC. Discipleship Seminars was carried out by Diane Baker-Ames in 1982. This study found that participation in the Discipleship Seminars was associated with lower rates of recidivism. This was a most important research finding. However, because of the limitations of this study, further research of a more sophisticated nature was necessary both to confirm this initial pioneering finding and to see if it was sustained on a long-term basis. Thus, Study Two was designed to address several of the methodological limitations of the original Baker-Ames study and to provide a longer-term follow-up on the Prison Fellowship subjects.

Study Two provided an eight to fourteen year follow-up on the recidivism rates of prisoners who had taken part in the Prison Fellowship Washington, DC., Discipleship Seminars between November, 1975 and November, 1979. The research team predicted that Prison Fellowship prisoner's would recidivate less often than a matched control group of non-Prison Fellowship Federal prisoners.

From an organizational perspective, this study allows Prison Fellowship Ministries to:

- 1) objectively evaluate its work and demonstrate the beneficial impact of its work;
- 2) demonstrate in an objective way, some of the concrete research findings concerning Prison Fellowship's ministry; and
- 3) begin evaluating the relative effectiveness, both in terms of outcome and cost, of its different programs and work with varying inmate populations.

From a scientific point of view, the study opens up a previously unexplored area of research: the role of religious involvement in criminal rehabilitation and recidivism.

Description

Between November, 1975 and November, 1979, two hundred and thirty Prison Fellowship prisoners, were selected to be furloughed to Washington, DC. for two weeks of intensive Christian discipleship training. One hundred and ninety of these Prison Fellowship prisoners were compared to a matched control/comparison group of federal prisoners. The two groups were matched on factors that might individually contribute to the research outcomes: race, gender, age at release, and Salient Factor Score.

The Salient Factor Score (SFS) is computed by the U.S. Parole Commission on the basis of a prisoner's criminal, drug and employment history. The score is scaled from 0 - 11 and is used to predict risk of recidivism at the time of release from prison. An SFS score of 1 - 5 was used in this study to place a prisoner in the high risk category. An SFS score of 6 - 11 was used to place a prisoner in the low risk category.

Both groups of prisoners had been released from prison between eight and fourteen years prior to the study analyses. The two groups were compared on four relevant criminal justice outcomes including:

- 1) the rate of recidivism;
- 2) the length of crime-free period after prison release;
- 3) crime severity for arrest offense, after prison release;
- 4) change in severity of crime from original offense to recidivating offense.

Findings

The major points of the analyses showed that Prison Fellowship subjects, compared to the control subjects:

- 1) had a lower rate of recidivism;
- 2) had a longer crime-free period following release; and
- 3) had a decrease in crime-severity when they did recidivate, while the control group had an increase in crime-severity.

A closer look at these findings demonstrated that:

- 1) the lower rate of recidivism for the Prison Fellowship prisoners was almost entirely concentrated in the lower risk prisoners (SFS score 6 - 11);
- 2) women who participated in Prison Fellowship Discipleship Seminars had much lower rates of recidivism than women who did not;
- 3) the program did not have much impact on black males.

Comment

These findings show a substantial difference in outcome between the Prison Fellowship and non-Prison Fellowship subjects on all three measures of recidivism. They also suggest that the Washington, DC., Discipleship Program worked better for white males, women and low risk prisoners. From both an organizational and a research perspective, these findings are very significant. They have several implications and they raise some further questions.

Organizational Implications and Questions

From an organizational perspective, the overall differences in recidivism between Prison Fellowship and non-Prison Fellowship subjects, suggests that Prison Fellowship is indeed fulfilling its mission statement by helping a significant number of prisoners become productive members of society. Compared to the relative cost and effectiveness of other rehabilitation efforts, financial support for prison ministry programs such as Prison Fellowship's programs, and for research concerning these programs, may be an excellent investment.

The discovery that the program was associated with better outcome for some groups is consistent with the literature on

rehabilitation. Almost every program works better for some groups than others.

One clear implication of the findings is that Prison Fellowship might want to increase its use of seminars for women. It was ironic that while women made up a small proportion of the sample, they were the group who showed the most positive outcomes after participating in the Prison Fellowship program.

Similarly, Prison Fellowship might want to increase its use of seminars to low risk prisoners. The Washington Discipleship Seminars were particularly associated with a beneficial impact on the low risk prisoners.

The research also showed there is a need for a more intensive or specialized type of service to higher risk prisoners. These prisoners have different needs than the low risk prisoners and may need to be served by prison ministry in a more direct and intense way.

Some thought might go into how to more effectively reach black males. Current Prison Fellowship programs are already more effective with black males. Both the nature of Prison Fellowship programs, and the racial makeup of Prison Fellowship staff, have changed since the time of the Washington, DC., Discipleship

Program. Only research into more current Prison Fellowship programs could assess this possibility.

Indeed, today, Prison Fellowship offers a much wider variety of programs. What is the relative effectiveness of these different programs? Which programs work best for which groups of prisoners? What factors most affect success or failure? What can be added to the programs to enhance their effectiveness?

All of these implications and questions which arise from Study Two need to be considered in a systematic fashion if Prison Fellowship is to derive optimum benefit from its research project. Thus it is the recommendation of this report that a seminar be convened between field and organizational members of Prison Fellowship along with members of the research team.

The purpose of the seminar would be to consider the meaning, relevance and use of the findings of the research project for the current situation of Prison Fellowship.

Beyond, or beginning with, such a seminar, it is recommended that an ongoing dialogue take place between Prison Fellowship and the Research Team concerning the research needs and goals of Prison Fellowship in general.

Research Implications and Questions

From a research perspective, some questions remain about the equivalence of the two groups in the study. The matching procedure worked well, analyses showed there was no difference between the two groups on the factors which were used to match. However, from a strict research perspective, there were two areas in which parity of groups could not be assumed to have been fully attained. This raises two questions about the equality of the Prison Fellowship and the control groups:

- 1) Motivation/Self Selection - perhaps the Prison Fellowship subjects were more likely to succeed because they, unlike the control group, were a self-motivated group of people who freely choose to take part in the Prison Fellowship program?

- 2) Program Selection Criteria - perhaps the Prison Fellowship subjects were more likely to succeed than the control group because prior to program acceptance they went through a arduous selection review which picked those prisoners who might have been more likely to succeed.

These differences between the Prison Fellowship and the control groups could be interpreted to mean that part of the effect which was found for the Prison Fellowship prisoners, could have been because of either or both of these selection factors. This

research limitation points to the need for ongoing research which will control for these two factors, in an effort to reduce their possible contribution to the outcome effect.

It is important to remember that research conclusions are not determined by one particular study. This is especially so when a new area of research is opening up, within an established field of research. Indeed, the findings of almost every social scientific research study are affected by some research limitations.

Research is not a single event or study. Rather, it is an ongoing process, in which new studies add to our understanding, either by widening the scope of and correcting for methodological flaws in previous studies, or by showing the importance of variables previously neglected. Thus, in this instance, Study two has prepared the research team with knowledge of the questions which need to be explored and the factors which need to be incorporated into the research design of Study Three.

Study Three: Evaluation of the
In-Prison Seminar/Bible Study and Mentor Programs.

Introduction

Study Three has been fully designed and some of the tasks of the study have either been started or completed. The study is being carried out in the State of New York with the cooperation of the relevant Criminal Justice State Departments in New York. Study Three has a broader and more controlled research design than was possible in Study Two.

The Study is broader because a greater number of variables will be examined, and personal interviews with Prison Fellowship inmates and staff will be used to give more meaning and interpretative depth to the findings of the study. The Study is more controlled with reference to the sample selection factors that were part of Study Two. The study has been designed to use what has been learned from Study Two and to break new ground in the evaluation of Prison Fellowship programs.

To date, the research project has used three different measures of recidivism (rate of recidivism, seriousness of recidivating offense and time to recidivism) as a way of addressing the research questions. In addition to these recidivism measures, the research team now plans to add a measure of in-prison behavior as a way of

examining the effect of the Prison Fellowship programs. In-prison behavior will be measured by analyzing the prison disciplinary records for the subjects of Study Three.

Furthermore, focus groups will be run for a sample of the Prison Fellowship prisoners in order to obtain interpretative data for the research project. These focus groups will be run for both Study Two and Study Three. The Research Team also plans to interview individual staff and volunteer members of Prison Fellowship, who are involved in the programs being studied in New York. These personal interviews will provide a rich context for understanding and interpreting the findings of the Study.

This kind of data will also enable the research team to write theologically about the living faith experience of Prison Fellowship's ministry, and present this to Prison Fellowship as part of the final report on the research project.

Description

Study Three is a comparative Program Evaluation Study of Two complementary Prison Fellowship programs; the two programs are an in-prison program and an after-prison program. The first kind of program is an in-prison program that will include the In-Prison Seminar Program and the Bible Study Program. The second kind is an

after-prison program known to Prison Fellowship as the Mentor Program.

In contrast to the two week pre-release Washington, DC. Program assessed in Study Two, these programs are more comprehensive, of longer duration and greater intensity. Thus, the study will expand the range of knowledge about Prison Fellowship's ministry, and enable a comparative analysis of the different Prison Fellowship programs to be undertaken.

Of particular interest to Prison Fellowship in this study is the evaluation of the Mentor Program since it offers support during the crucial post-prison period when prisoners are most prone to recidivate.

Goals

Study Three is an evaluation of the comparative effectiveness of two different Prison Fellowship programs: 1) The In-Prison Seminar and Bible Study programs; and 2) The Mentor program. The goals of the study are as follows:

- 1) compare the relative effectiveness of the In-Prison Seminar/Bible Study and Mentor programs;

- 2) evaluate the effect of the Prison Fellowship In-Prison Seminar/Bible Study on both the in-prison and post-prison behavior of Prison Fellowship prisoners;
- 3) evaluate the effect of the Mentor Program on post-prison behavior;
- 4) introduce an important new dimension of study, by evaluating the effects of a post-prison program on post-prison behavior;
- 5) run focus groups and conduct interviews in order to obtain interpretive data that will assist in understanding the context, the findings, and the implications of the Study;
- 6) reduce the potential outcome impact of the two selection factors that were part of Study Two;
- 7) explore the way in which factors like race, ethnicity, gender, criminal history and length of incarceration are associated with the impact of the Prison Fellowship programs;
- 8) attempt to discover what factors concerning the provision of programs might explain any varying effects of the program.

Conclusion

With this research project, the impact of prison ministry is finally being studied in an objective and scientific fashion. Indeed, as predicted, results have been found which suggest that it may be a powerful, and until now neglected, method of rehabilitation. The importance of these findings needs to be emphasized. Given the present state of criminal justice research on the rehabilitative effect of prison programs, these results are very encouraging.

The work on Studies One, Two and Three has given the research team a good understanding of Prison Fellowship's Christian ministry, and of the intricacies involved in carrying out quality research into the relationship between this ministry and criminal involvement. The research team looks forward to continuing with Prison Fellowship in this important work.

SECTION TWO

STUDY ONE

REHABILITATION, RECIDIVISM AND RELIGION:

A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

Abstract

A systematic quantitative review of the criminological, psychological, sociological empirical literatures on rehabilitation and recidivism was performed to test the following hypotheses:

- 1) religious factors are studied less frequently than other variables in studies of recidivism and rehabilitation;
- 2) most studies which do include religious variables study denomination only;
- 3) religious factors are more often significant in their relationship to recidivism than other variables which are studied more frequently; and
- 4) denomination will have a much weaker relationship to recidivism than attitudinal and behavioral measures of religiosity and religious participation.

One hundred and eleven empirical studies of recidivism, obtained through a computer search of the psychology, sociology and criminology literatures, were coded according to what variables were studied and what variables were found to have a significant relationship to recidivism. The main finding was that few studies include religious variables and only one study focused on religion.

There were so few religious studies that findings with respect to the other three hypotheses were inconclusive. The implication is that religion has been under-researched in the literature on criminal recidivism.

Introduction:

At this point, it has become cliché to say that crime is a "national crisis". One Crime Index offense occurred every two seconds in 1988 and the number of offenses has been rising over time (F.B.I. Annual Report, 1989). In 1988, the Federal Government spent 1,059 million dollars for federal correctional activities alone (Jamieson and Flanagan, 1989). Clearly, anything which could help to significantly reduce crime is a matter of national importance.

Yet the literature is skeptical about the ability to successfully rehabilitate prisoners, and since the 1970's the "nothing works" doctrine has had much support. Most often quoted is Martinson who wrote in 1974: "With few and isolated exceptions, the rehabilitative efforts that have been reported so far have had no appreciable effect on recidivism."

Since Martinson wrote these words, a somewhat more optimistic and nuanced atmosphere has developed concerning the potential value of rehabilitative efforts. Even Martinson reversed himself, "contrary to my previous position, some treatment programs do have an appreciable effect on recidivism. Some programs are indeed beneficial; of equal or greater significance, some programs are harmful" (1979). In the 1980's, rehabilitation seems to have made a modest comeback. "In particular, a growing number of scholars

and practitioners now agree with what was always the starting point of the Gluecks (1950), the Grants (1959), Glaser (1974) and Palmer (1975): The effectiveness of correctional treatment is dependent upon what is delivered to whom in particular settings." (Andrews, 1989). Yet despite this more nuanced doctrine on the possibilities of effective rehabilitation programs, there remains much to learn about which programs work best, when, and for whom. "The pattern of results, from the earliest to the latest reviews of the literature, strongly supports exploration of the idea that some service programs are working with at least some offenders under some circumstances." (Andrews 1989)

There is almost no prison in the United States which does not have some form of prison ministry. Most prisons reflect the religious diversity of the larger culture. Typically, there will be clergy and worshipping communities from various Protestant, Catholic, Jewish and Muslim denominations.

How do the religious behaviors of prisoners and the involvement of prisoners in religious services, bible classes, and other religious rehabilitation/ministry programs relate to rehabilitation and the reduction of criminal recidivism? What do we know of the role and meaning of religion in our prison system and its relationship to rehabilitation and recidivism? Do these religious programs in any of their various expressions constitute a service program that works with at least some prisoners in certain circumstances? What

do the studies which have reviewed the research on rehabilitation and recidivism have to say on the role of such religious programs?

In Martinson's original review of 231 rehabilitation studies from 1945 to 1967, no mention was made of religion as a rehabilitative intervention (1974). Nor was any mention made of religion in a review of 100 rehabilitation studies by Bailey (1966). Furthermore, in a review of seventy one studies on the relationship between twenty three potential biographical predictors and recidivism, religion as an independent variable was not included, (Prichard 1979). Thus, there seems to be a significant gap in knowledge about the role and effect of religion in the prison system.

This is particularly surprising given that there is evidence of a negative relationship between religion and criminality (Stark, 1983). For example, there is a negative correlation between the number of churches in a community and the number of reported crimes. More generally, a negative relationship has been found between religion and various forms of social deviance (Gartner, et al, in press).

If it is true that the prison literature has neglected to assess religious variables, such neglect would match the neglect of religious variables in the larger social science literatures. Previous systematic analysis of quantitative research in psychiatry

found that only 2.5% of the studies reported in that literature included a religious variable (Larson et al 1986). Typically the religious variable was simply denomination alone, rather than more dynamic or multi-dimensional measures of religious commitment (i.e., religiosity measures). Of the total 2,348 research studies reviewed, only three featured religion as a major focus of the study.

Similar reviews of the sociology (Buehler et al, 1973) and family practice (Craigie et al., accepted for publication) literatures revealed that 3.5% and 3.4% of their empirical literatures, respectively, included a religious variable. Psychology (Capps et al., 1976) fared somewhat better, including religious variables in 16.5% of its research.

The present study undertakes a systematic literature review of the place of religion in the literature on criminal rehabilitation and recidivism. Consistent with the findings of past systematic reviews cited above, this systematic literature review was guided by the following four hypotheses :

1. Religious factors are studied less frequently than other variables in studies of recidivism and rehabilitation.

2. Most studies which do include religious variables study denomination only.
3. Religious factors are more often significant in their relationship to recidivism than other variables which are studied more frequently.
4. Denomination will have a much weaker relationship to recidivism than attitudinal and measures of religiosity and behavioral religious participation.

Method

The overall strategy was to:

- 1) amass as many published empirical articles on criminal recidivism and rehabilitation as we could find;
- 2) count how often religious variables were included in these studies as compared to other variables.
- 3) Count how often religious variables had a significant relationship to recidivism as compared to other variables.

Sampling Frame

A computerized search was made of the psychological (Psychlit Data Base, 1976-1989), sociological (Sociofile Data Base, 1974-1989), and criminal justice (National Criminal Justice Reference System Data Base) literatures. The index terms used for these searches were "((rehabilitation or recidivism) and (criminals or prisons))". Psychlit had 420 references, Sociofile had 301 references. Two searches were done on the NCJRS data base: 1) Recidivism in Corrections, 1976-1989 and 2) Recidivism and Rehabilitation, 1969-1989. These searches were limited to adult corrections and between them, these two NCJRS searches had approx. 400 references.

All articles which were either non-empirical, unpublished or which did not study adult populations were eliminated, leaving 111 articles which were photocopied and included in the study.

These articles were subdivided into two types. The first were general studies linking a variety of independent variables to recidivism. The second group were studies of rehabilitation programs and their impact on recidivism. Those articles which included both types of analyses were included in both groups. There were 77 general studies and 88 rehabilitation studies.

Procedure

A random sample of 20% of these studies was taken to inductively build two codes. The first code listed every independent variable which had been studied in relation to recidivism. The second code listed every type of rehabilitation intervention which had been studied in connection with recidivism. The code was made as exhaustive as possible, knowing that the individual categories could be collapsed into more inclusive categories at a later stage. In all there were 135 independent variables listed and 19 different types of rehabilitation interventions. For the analysis the independent variables were collapsed into 18 categories and the rehabilitation variables were collapsed into 11 categories.

Each article was coded three times for each possible variable:

- 1) Was the variable included in the study;
- 2) If included, was it found to have a significant relationship to recidivism;
- 3) If measured, was it found to be a significant predictor of recidivism?

A liberal standard was used to assess significance in that any significant relationship between the variable and recidivism

"counted" even if there were more nonsignificant findings or the results were later washed out in multivariate analyses.

Results

Every effort was made to obtain the entire population of studies on this topic. Descriptive statistics were judged to be more appropriate than inferential statistics because we were not attempting to make inferences about a population from a sample, but rather describing a population.

Hypothesis 1: Religious factors are studied less frequently than other variables in studies of recidivism and rehabilitation.

As with the systematic literature reviews of religion in other fields, religion proved to be an infrequently studied variable. Religion was studied as an independent variable in relationship to recidivism only 8%* (7/88) of the time (See table 1). Religion was next to last compared to other 18 variables in the frequency with which it was studied. Only one other category, medical variables were studied less. Perhaps most significant of all, religion was not the primary focus of any of the studies.

*Results rounded to the nearest percent

In the rehabilitation literature religion was the least frequently studied variable (See Table 2). Only one study out of 77 (1%) included religious rehabilitation programs or services among the interventions they were studying (See Table 2). That was a study of the effects of Transcendental Meditation. Whether Transcendental Meditation is religious intervention at all or merely a relaxation technique is itself the subject of debate. Of greatest interest to us is the fact there were no studies of the effect of prison ministry or any other religious programming.

Hypothesis 2: Most studies which do include religious variables study denomination only.

As predicted denomination was the most frequently studied religious variable (See Table 5). As one study used multiple religious variables, there were a total of nine religious variables in seven studies. Six of the nine (67%) religious variables were denomination and three (33%) of the religious variables were behavioral measures of participation. Thus, denomination was studied twice as often. However, the overall number of religious variables is so small that a meaningful test of this hypothesis was not possible. There were no attitudinal measures of religiosity included in any of the studies. No multi-dimensional measures of religiosity were included in any of the studies.

Hypothesis 3: Religious factors are more often significant in their relationship to recidivism than other variables which are studied more frequently.

Religious independent variables were found to have a significant relationship to recidivism 43% (3/7) of the time they were studied (see Table 3). In comparison to the other independent variables, religious variables were ranked 14 out of 17.

Religion was found to be a significant predictor of recidivism in one of the three studies (33%) which tested religion's predictive power (see table 4). Compared to other variables religion ranked 12 out of 16 as a predictor.

Since there was only one religious study in the rehabilitation literature, it was not possible to compare religion's rate of significant findings as to other variables. The one religious rehabilitation study found Transcendental Meditation to be both significant and a predictor in relationship to recidivism.

Thus, though religion was the most infrequently studied variable, it also was among the least frequently significant variables. Therefore no support was found for hypothesis 3. However, once again, the overall number of religious studies was so small that a meaningful comparison was not possible. The results of even one religious study dramatically effected religion's rank.

Hypothesis 4: Denomination will have a much weaker relationship to recidivism than attitudinal measures of religiosity and behavioral measures of religious participation.

Contrary to prediction, there were no differences between religious participation and denomination in their frequency of association with recidivism (see table 5). Each were significant 33% (1/3) of the time they were tested. Once again, the overall number of religious studies was simply too small to make a meaningful comparison.

Discussion

As predicted, religion was one of the least frequently studied variables in criminal recidivism and rehabilitation research. More importantly, no study in the recidivism literature focused on religion as the topic of investigation. The one rehabilitation study that included a religious variable focused on the effects of Transcendental Meditation. There is debate as to whether this is a religious practice or a relaxation technique. There were no rehabilitation studies which examined the effect of prison ministry, or any other religious intervention. Therefore, we can well understand why no mention was made of religion in the past reviews of this literature by Martinson (1974), Bailey (1966) and Pritchard (1979). Our findings suggest that social scientists studying criminal rehabilitation and recidivism have neglected

religion and religious interventions. One limitation of our study is that despite our efforts to be comprehensive, there are published articles that were not picked up by our computer searches, and some religious studies may be among them. So that the overall situation may not be as bleak as our review would suggest. Nonetheless, it is clear that there is nothing which could be called a body of literature on this topic.

One might ask why that should matter to anyone other than those with a religious axe to grind or scholars of the scientific study of religion. Religion may represent a potentially inexpensive and readily available rehabilitation force for criminals. Religion and prison ministry are in almost every prison in America. Yet, we have no data on whether it impacts those who participate in it.

Unfortunately, because the number of studies on religion were so small, it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions about hypotheses 2 through 4. There were so few studies (7) that the results of one study often changed the direction of the results. Consistent with our predictions, denomination was studied twice as often as behavioral measures of religious participation. There were no attitudinal measures of religiosity, nor were there any multidimensional measures of religion. Multi-dimensional measures represent the "state of the art" in the scientific study of religion (Yinger, 1977). The complete absence of these more sophisticated measures is perhaps the most important finding.

Thus, even when religion is studied, it is not studied in the most valid or in-depth fashion

We failed to show that religion was more often significant than other variables which were studied more often, though there was a weak trend in that direction. When there is more data to examine, a future study might employ a meta-analysis, to quantify more precisely the relative power of religious variables.

We failed to find any differences between denomination and participation in how often they had a significant relationship to recidivism. However, the comparison was based on so few studies that the findings are difficult to interpret.

In conclusion, there is almost a complete absence of research on the relationship between religion and religious rehabilitation programs with recidivism. Such research would help advance the scientific study of religion, as the relationship between religion and social deviance has been a continuing question (Stark, 1983). More importantly, if religious interventions did indeed work for some prisoners, it would also hold some clues for solving one of our most pressing social problems.

TABLE 1

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

PERCENTAGE OF TIME VARIABLE STUDIED

<u>VARIABLE</u>	<u>No/ Total</u>	<u>% STUDIED</u>	<u>RANK</u>
Criminal History	55/ 86	64%	1
Age	53/ 86	62%	2
Employment	38/ 86	44%	3
Psychological Tests	32/ 86	37%	4
Marital Status	31/ 86	36%	5
Education	28/ 86	33%	6
Family	27/ 86	31%	7
Race	24/ 86	28%	8
Social	22/ 86	26%	9
Drugs	20/ 86	23%	10
Prison Behavior	16/ 86	19%	11
Gender	15/ 86	17%	12
Psychological Disorders	14/ 86	16%	13
Alcohol	14/ 86	16%	13
Economic	14/ 86	16%	13
Military	10/ 86	12%	14
Religion	7/ 86	8%	15
Medical	3/ 86	3%	16

Table 2

REHABILITATION VARIABLES

PERCENTAGE OF TIME VARIABLE STUDIED

<u>VARIABLE</u>	<u>No/ Total</u>	<u>% Studied</u>	<u>RANK</u>
Sentencing	30/ 76	39 %	1
Therapeutic Communities	19/ 76	25 %	2
Work/Home Release	17/ 76	22 %	3
Counseling	15/ 76	20 %	4
Prison	15/ 76	20 %	4
Vocational	13/ 76	17 %	5
Education	9/ 76	12 %	6
Probation	8/ 76	11 %	7
Parole	6/ 76	8 %	8
Economic	2/ 76	3 %	9
Religion	1/ 76	1%	10

TABLE 3

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

PERCENTAGE OF TIME VARIABLE HAS
SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIP TO RECIDIVISM

<u>VARIABLE</u>	<u>No/ Total</u>	<u>% SIGNIFICANT</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Criminal History	51/ 55	93%	1
Economic	10/ 14	77%	2
Psychological Tests	23/ 32	72%	3
Age	35/ 53	66%	4
Employment	25/ 38	66%	4
Alcohol	9/ 14	64%	5
Military	6/ 10	60%	6
Marital Status	18/ 31	58%	7
Drugs	11/ 20	55%	8
Family	14/ 27	52%	9
Social	11/ 22	50%	10
Gender	7/ 15	47%	11
Education	13/ 28	46%	12
Prison Behavior	7/ 16	44%	13
Religion	3/ 7	43%	14
Race	10/ 24	42%	15
Psychological Disorders	5/ 14	36%	16
Medical	1/ 3	19%	17

TABLE 4

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

PERCENTAGE OF TIME VARIABLE IS PREDICTOR OF RECIDIVISM

<u>VARIABLE</u>	<u>No/Total</u>	<u>% PREDICTOR</u>	<u>RANK</u>
Criminal History	26/31	84%	1
Age	19/27	70%	2
Psychological Test	9/13	69%	3
Military	3/ 5	60%	4
Marital Status	8/15	53%	5
Employment	7/26	44%	6
Economic	3/ 7	43%	7
Social	5/12	42%	8
Education	6/15	40%	9
Drugs	3/ 8	38%	10
Family	5/14	36%	11
Religion	1/ 3	33%	12
Alcohol	2/ 7	29%	13
Race	4/15	27%	14
Prison Behavior	2/ 8	25%	15
Psychological Disorders	2/ 8	25%	15
Gender	2/ 8	25%	15
Medical	0/ 1	0%	16

TABLE 5

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION COMPARED TO RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATION

PERCENTAGE OF TIME VARIABLE IS STUDIED,

SIGNIFICANT AND A PREDICTOR

<u>VARIABLE</u>	<u>% STUDIED</u>	<u>% SIGNIFICANT</u>	<u>% PREDICTOR</u>
DENOMINATION	7% (6/86)	33% (2/6)	33% (1/3)
RELIGIOUS PARTICIPATION	3% (3/86)	33% (1/3)	not studied

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SECTION THREE

STUDY TWO

LONG TERM EVALUATION STUDY OF
WASHINGTON, DC. DISCIPLESHIP SEMINARS

STUDY TWO:
LONG TERM EVALUATION STUDY OF
WASHINGTON, DC. DISCIPLESHIP SEMINARS

Introduction

Religion and its effect on persons has been neglected in social and behavioral sciences research. Reviews of the literature indicate that religion has been neglected in such fields as psychiatry (Larson et al., 1986), sociology (Buehler et al., 1973), geriatrics (Larson et al., 1988), and family practice (Craigie et al., in publication). Most germane to this study is the neglect of the religious variables in criminal justice research as reported in Study One (Gartner et al., 1990). This is especially germane with respect to research concerning criminal rehabilitation, where we failed to find any published studies examining the effect of prison ministry on recidivism.

Recent decades have witnessed a very real and, at times, heated debate over the legitimacy of the goal of criminal rehabilitation (see Martinson, 1974, 1979; Palmer, 1975; Adams, 1976). The controversy has not so much revolved around the philosophical ideal of rehabilitation, as on the functional issue of whether or not it can be carried out effectively. After reviewing the rehabilitative literature such persons as Adams (1976), Martinson (1974, 1976) and Palmer (1975) have argued the gamut from "nothing seems to work" to the conventional wisdom of the day which asserts that "some things

work for some people under certain conditions".

In an unpublished pilot study, Diane Ames (1979) found lower rates of recidivism among participants in Prison Fellowship's Washington Discipleship Program (see Table 1). This promising preliminary finding suggested the need for further research. First, it was necessary to control for other factors associated with recidivism, to minimize the possibility that the findings were due to some factor other than the effect of the ministry. Secondly, it was important to discover if the association between participation in prison fellowship and lower recidivism rates maintained over a long period of time. Finally, it was desirable to see if the ministry was associated with better results for some groups as compared to others.

The study was guided by four hypotheses:

- 1) A smaller percentage of the Prison Fellowship Group will recidivate as compared to the Control Group.
- 2) Those in the Prison Fellowship Group will survive crime free for a longer period of time following release from prison than those in the Control Group.
- 3) Those participating in Prison Fellowship will not recidivate

or commit less serious crimes than those in the Control Group.

- 4) The difference between severity of original offense and severity of any subsequent offense (or lack of offense) following release from prison will be less for those in the Prison Fellowship Group than for those in the Control Group.

Additionally, the study was interested in exploring the interaction effects between group membership and four control variables: race, gender, age at release, and Salient Factor Score. The latter variable is a predictive device utilized by the United States Parole Commission to estimate risk of recidivation at the time of release from prison.

Methodology

This study compares two groups of ex-prisoners from the Federal Prison System released through sentence expiration, mandatory release, or parole. The groups are analyzed and compared on four issues:

- 1) the rate of recidivism for the group;
- 2) the time to recidivation;
- 3) crime severity for arrest following release from prison; and

- 4) the change in severity of crime from original offense to recidivating offense.

Subjects

Between November, 1975 and November, 1986, Prison Fellowship, a nation-wide Christian ministry to convicted and incarcerated prisoners, conducted fifty-nine Washington, D.C. Discipleship Seminars. During these seminars, small groups (n = 8-15) Federal prison inmates from across the United States were furloughed to Washington, D.C. for two weeks to participate in an intensive ministry program. The program was aimed at deepening the prisoners' Christian faith and preparing them for religious leadership within their respective prisons. The prisoners participated in devotional sharing, worship, Bible study, training workshops, and Christian fellowship.

Subjects for the experimental group were participants in any of the first twenty-one seminars conducted between November, 1975 and November, 1979 (N = 230). Prison Fellowship provided a listing of these two-hundred-and-thirty persons along with whatever demographic information existed in Prison Fellowship records. The demographic information included dates of birth, dates of release from prison, race, gender, and Salient Factor Score. This information was cross-referenced with records of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Parole Commission, or the Federal Bureau of

Investigation. Forty persons were eliminated either because of insufficient data or because they were released after the cutoff date of December 31, 1980 as established for the study. This left one hundred and ninety persons (N = 190) in the experimental group, all of whom had participated in a Washington, D.C. Discipleship Seminar and had been released from federal prison between January 1, 1976 and December 31, 1980.

The control group was selected from a cohort of 2,289 federal prisoners representing a fifty percent sample of all prisoners receiving committed sentences of more than one year and one day who were released to the community during the first six months of 1978. The listing of these prisoners and demographic information was provided through the U.S. Parole Commission. The matching procedure selected control subjects using a Stratified Proportional Probability Sampling Method that replicated the characteristics of the experimental group with respect to race, gender, age at release, and Salient Factor Score. Proportional random selection from each permutation of the sample design variable was employed.

Instruments

The major instrument utilized for this study was the Record of Arrest (RAP Sheet) provided for each subject by the Identification Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Crime Information Center's record system. Names, F.B.I.

Identification Numbers, and dates of birth were matched between the archival data and the RAP Sheets to ensure accuracy. Of the 190 subjects in each group, 180 RAP Sheets were obtained for the experimental group and 185 RAP Sheets were obtained for the control group. Those persons for whom no RAP Sheet was obtained were subsequently eliminated from the study.

Once the RAP Sheets were obtained, the following items were coded:

- 1) the crime type of the arrest offense that originally incarcerated the subject;
- 2) the severity rating of the original offense;
- 3) date of first arrest following release from prison;
- 4) date of arrest for the most severe offense following release from prison;
- 5) the crime type of the most severe offense;
- 6) the severity rating of the most severe offense; and
- 7) the date of the RAP Sheet.

.....
Recidivism was defined for the study as any new arrest following

release from prison. Offense severity was determined by using the rules utilized by the U.S. Parole Commission in determining crime severity for risk prediction at the time of parole. Severity could range from the least severe score of one to the most severe score of eight in whole integers. The one exception not covered in these rules were arrests for parole violation. For this study the severity of parole violations was an average score determined by dividing the total severity of both groups by the total number of severity scores (parole violation severity = 3).

Method of Analysis

As noted earlier, four different dependent variables were analyzed to study the hypotheses of the project. Descriptive statistics and appropriate univariate analyses were administered for all four variables. Additionally, a logistical regression method was used to test the recidivism variable. Survival analyses were performed to test the time to recidivation variable. Multiple regression analyses were utilized for testing the severity variables.

Analysis of Sample

The matching procedure was successful in producing a control group which was very closely matched to the prison fellowship group in race, gender, age and SFS score (see table 2). Chi Square Analysis confirmed no differences between the groups on race & gender. T-

Test Analysis confirmed no differences on Age and SFS.

Percentage of Recidivism.

Chi square analysis of recidivism by group demonstrated statistically significant differences between Prison Fellowship and the Control Group (see Table 3). Forty percent of the Prison Fellowship subjects recidivated in comparison to 51 percent of the control group. When we distinguished subjects by gender and group, Prison Fellowship women had the lowest rate of recidivism (19%). Indeed, the association between participation in Prison Fellowship and lower recidivism rates seemed to be strongest in women (see Table 4). The rate of recidivism in Prison Fellowship men (45%) was 7% lower than that in control men. Whereas, the rate of recidivism in Prison Fellowship women (19%) was 28% lower than the rate in control women (47%).

When results were broken down by gender and race, there was very little difference in rates of recidivism among black males between Prison Fellowship (60%) and the control group (56%) (see Table 5). In fact, Prison Fellowship black males recidivated slightly more often than the control group. Thus, participation in Prison Fellowship was not associated with reductions in recidivism for black male participants.

Because several variables effect recidivism in the two groups, we

utilized a logistical regression method to further analyze the parameters involved. Logit is a multivariate regression technique designed for use with categorical variables. It builds a model to test the frequency distribution of recidivation as it is broken down into the possible parameters in a contingency table. Ultimately, Logit produces a probability statement which allows us to predict the odds of a prisoner recidivating, and the influence the variables we are studying have on those odds.

The most powerful predictor of recidivism was SFS score (see Table 5). If a prisoner was in the low risk category (SFS score 6-11) as compared to the high risk category (SFS score 1-5). His odds of recidivating were .5 to 1.

The next most powerful predictor was participation in prison fellowship. If a prisoner participated in Prison Fellowship, their odds of recidivating were 1 to 1.5 as compared to the control group.

If a prisoner was female or if they were over 35 there was a reduced probability of recidivating. In both cases, the odds of recidivating were .7 to 1.

A significant interaction was found between gender and group membership. If one were both female and a participant in Prison Fellowship the odds of recidivating were lower than one would predict by adding together the effects of group and gender. As

mentioned before Prison Fellowship women showed the most dramatic drop in recidivism. Being both a woman and in Prison Fellowship reduced the probability of recidivating by an additional factor of .7 to 1.

Finally, the significant interaction between race, gender and group was accounted for the most part by the fact that membership in Prison Fellowship did not reduce the probability of recidivism for black males.

Time Until Recidivism

Survival Analysis was used to determine if there were any difference between the groups in how quickly they recidivated. Overall, the control group recidivated more quickly than the Prison Fellowship participants (see Figure 1).

When the subjects were divided into high and low risk on the basis of SFS score, the high risk Prison Fellowship subjects recidivated just as quickly as the high risk control group (see Figure 2). The low risk Prison Fellowship participants, however, took a significantly longer period of time to recidivate than the low risk control subjects (see Figure 3). Thus, participation in Prison Fellowship was associated with slower rates of recidivism for low risk prisoners only.

When subjects were divided by race and gender, it was found that participation in Prison Fellowship did not slow the rate of recidivism for black males (See figure 4), but did for white males (See Figure 5). (There were insufficient numbers of women to compare black and white women.) Thus, white men in Prison Fellowship took longer to recidivate than white male controls, but black men in Prison Fellowship recidivated as quickly as the black male controls.

Seriousness of Recidivism

T-test and multiple regression Analysis indicated that there was no difference between Prison Fellowship Prisoners and the control group of the severity of recidivating offense. Thus, we were unable to accept our third hypothesis.

T-test and multiple regression analysis did indicate a difference however between the two groups on a change in severity score. This change score was calculated by subtracting the most severe recidivating offense severity score from the original offense severity score. Essentially, it indicated whether the prisoner who did recidivate after release committed a more or less serious crime the next time around. The control group increased in severity (mean = $-.11$, S.D. = 2.26), but the Prison Fellowship group decreased in severity (mean = $.70$, S.D. = 2.3). Thus, as a group

the Prison Fellowship recidivists showed improvement while the control group recidivists evidenced deterioration ($t = 2.22$, D.F. = 1,159, $p \leq .05$).

A multiple regression model revealed that the above mentioned effect, the reduction in severity in Prison Fellowship recidivists, was true only for low risk prisoners. When the interaction between risk and group was entered into the multiple regression equation, the effect of group dropped out. In addition, women and prisoners who had been out of prison for less time showed reductions in severity. Age and race and time since release did not have an association with severity. Overall, we were able to account for 14 percent of the variance in change of severity.

Discussion

The results supported three of four hypotheses. A significantly smaller percentage of the participants in Prison Fellowship's Washington Discipleship Seminar recidivated than did the control group. Prison Fellowship prisoners also recidivated at a slower rate, so that they survived crime free for longer periods of time. Finally, when Prison Fellowship prisoners did recidivate, they decreased in crime severity while the control group increased in crime severity. These last two findings are particularly interesting in that they suggest that even the Prison Fellowship

"failures" who recidivate did as a group get better. They still took longer to recidivate and recidivated less seriously.

The overall empirical literature on rehabilitation strongly indicates that no program works for everyone. Rather the conventional wisdom is that some programs work for some people. The findings of this study suggest that some groups showed more positive changes in association with participation in the Prison Fellowship Washington Discipleship Seminar program than others.

High risk Prison Fellowship prisoners evidenced relatively little change. They recidivated as quickly and increased in severity as much as the control subjects. This is not surprising in that high risk prisoners are by definition more difficult to rehabilitate. They have evidenced a more chronic and severe pattern of criminal behavior which is more resistant to change.

Black males also did not appear to evidence any positive changes associated with participation in the program. Prison Fellowship black males recidivated slightly more often than black males in the control group. They also recidivated as quickly. This finding was more surprising, but perhaps understandable, in that compared to today, there were relatively few black staff in Prison Fellowship ten years ago when the Washington Discipleship Seminar program was run. Thus, blacks may have found the program harder to identify with. It would be important to see if this finding is replicated in

our next study of current Prison Fellowship programs. It may also be that other factors associated with race may account for this finding. For example, if black males are more likely to return to communities with limited socio-economic opportunity and increased exposure to drugs the possible effect of Prison Fellowship may be competing with stronger forces. For this reason, it will be important to examine in the next study the effect of the mentor program, which aims to alter the post-prison environment, on both black and white prisoners.

Finally, perhaps the greatest surprise was the large difference between men and women. Women who participated in Prison Fellowship showed a drop in recidivism four times greater than that evidenced by Prison Fellowship men. Given the relatively small number of women in the sample this finding must be interpreted with some caution. If it is true that the Prison Fellowship program is more effective with women than men, it would seem logical to concentrate more effort on ministry to women. Women are generally both more religious and less prone to criminal behavior. Thus, they may be more amenable to rehabilitation generally, and a religious rehabilitation program in particular.

The major limitation of this study is that the groups are not randomly assigned. Rather Prison Fellowship is a group of self-selected individuals. Thus we cannot rule out the possibility that there is some systematic difference between the groups that

accounts for these differences other than the effect of the ministry. This is, of course, never possible in religious research. We cannot randomly convert half the subjects as we might randomly administer some other treatment. In addition, there were some relatively strict criteria for selection into the Washington Discipleship Seminar program. So that it is possible that those who participated were better risks than the average prisoner because they were the "cream of the crop" before participating in the program. We were, however, unlike the previous study (Ames, 1979) able to control for the effect of race, age, gender and recidivism risk through our matching procedure.

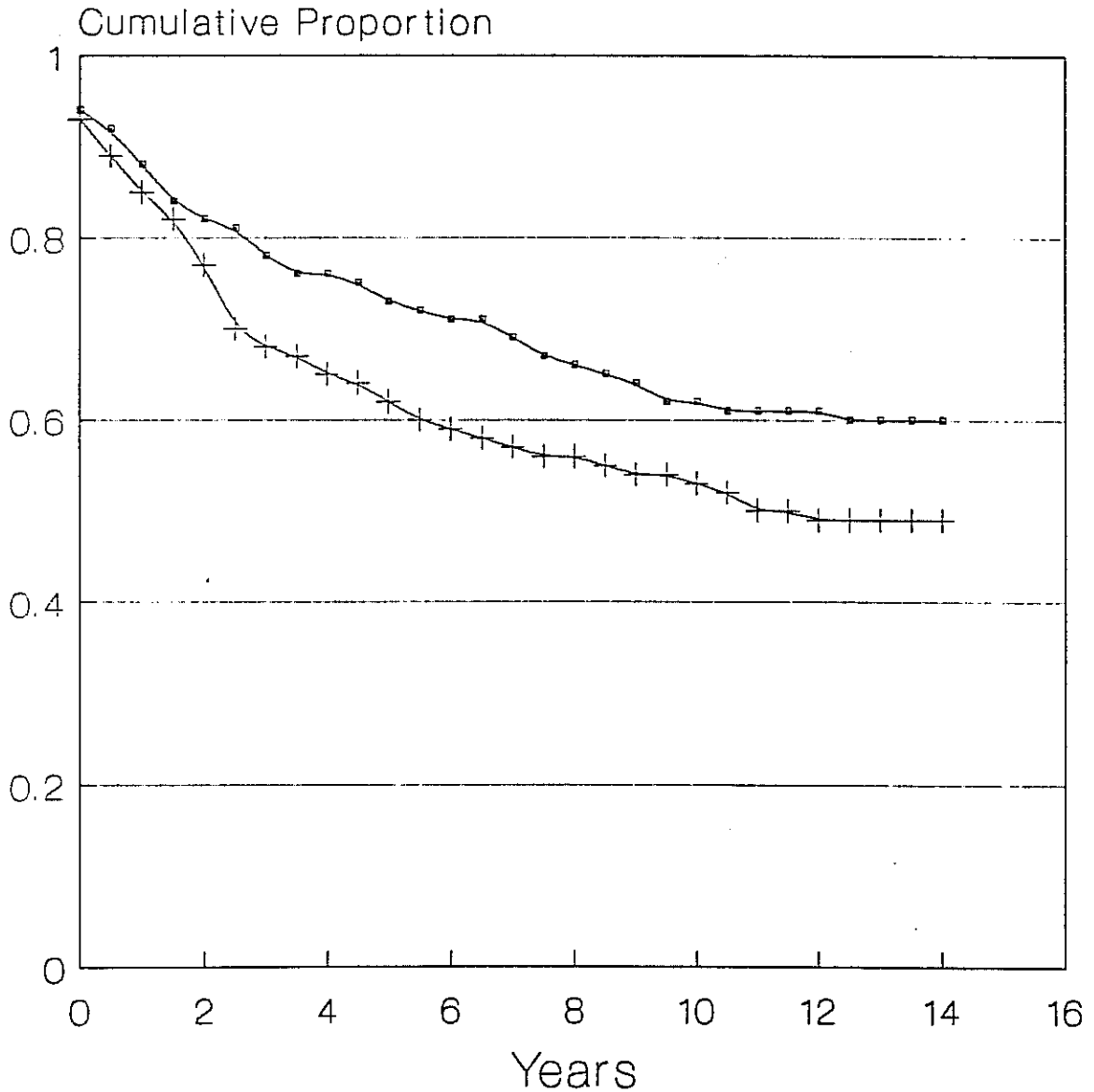
This study provided the first opportunity to conduct a long-term follow-up. One frequent criticism of the effect of religious conversion on behavior is that it does not last. These findings suggest that the reductions in recidivism associated with the participation in the Prison Fellowship program are sustained over long periods of time.

Future research is needed which compares the relative effectiveness of different current Prison Fellowship programs for various populations. This will both help to isolate what factors most contribute to success for whom, and which programs are most successful.

These findings have several important implications. They underscore the need for more research on religious variables. Clearly, there is something here worth investigating. This further supports the growing evidence that religious participation is associated with behavioral measures of mental health (Gartner, et al., in press). More specifically, there are important practical implications. Prison ministry may offer a cost effective approach to help alleviate one of Americas most serious social problems.

FIGURE ONE

GRAPH OF SURVIVAL FUNCTION Time to Arrest by Group

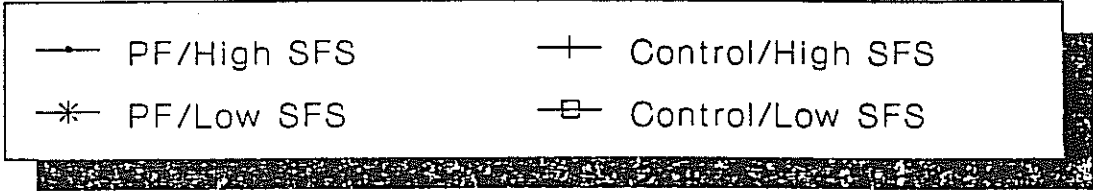
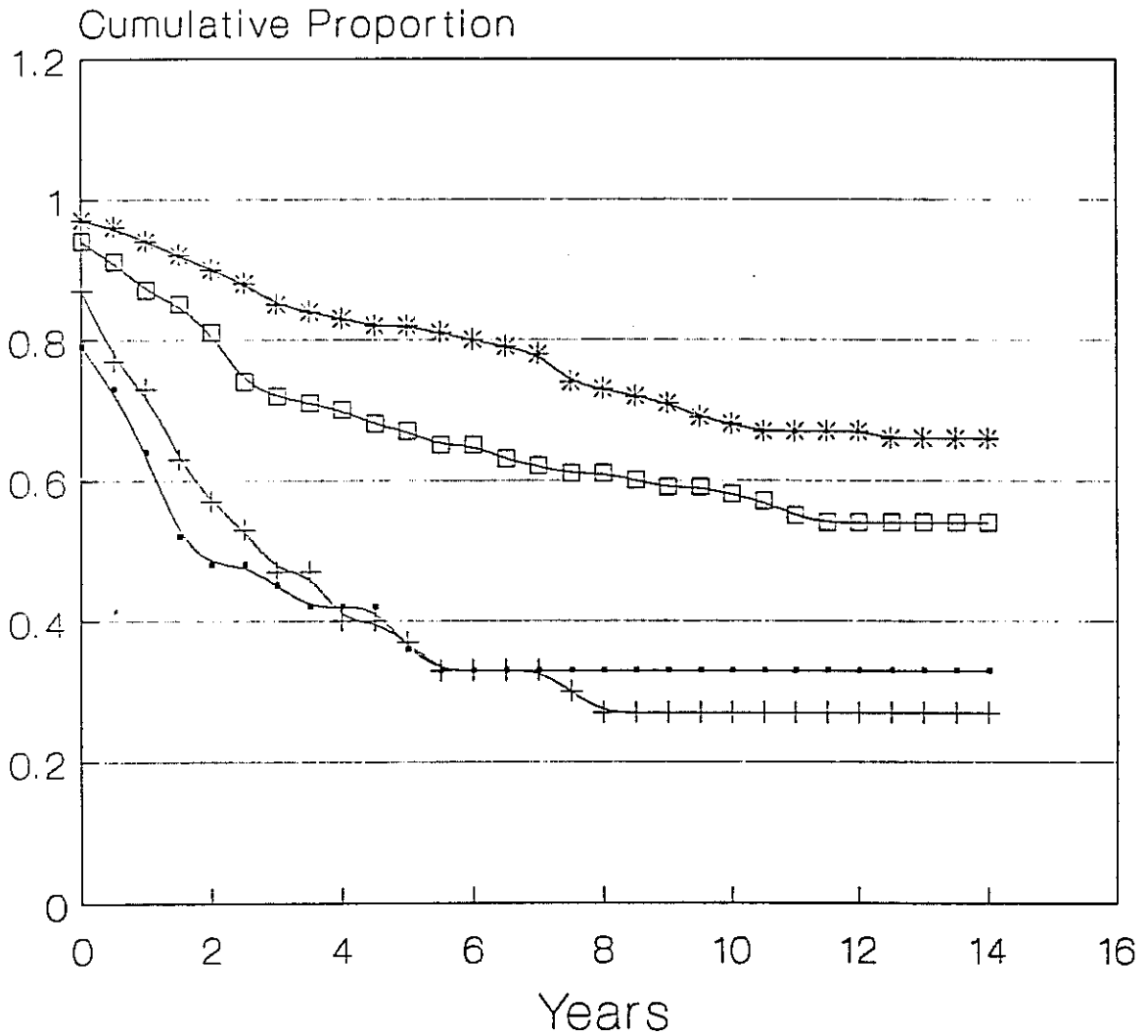


—■— Prison Fellowship —+— Control

D=4.799, Prob.=0.0285

FIGURE TWO

GRAPH OF SURVIVAL FUNCTION Time to Arrest By Group By SFS

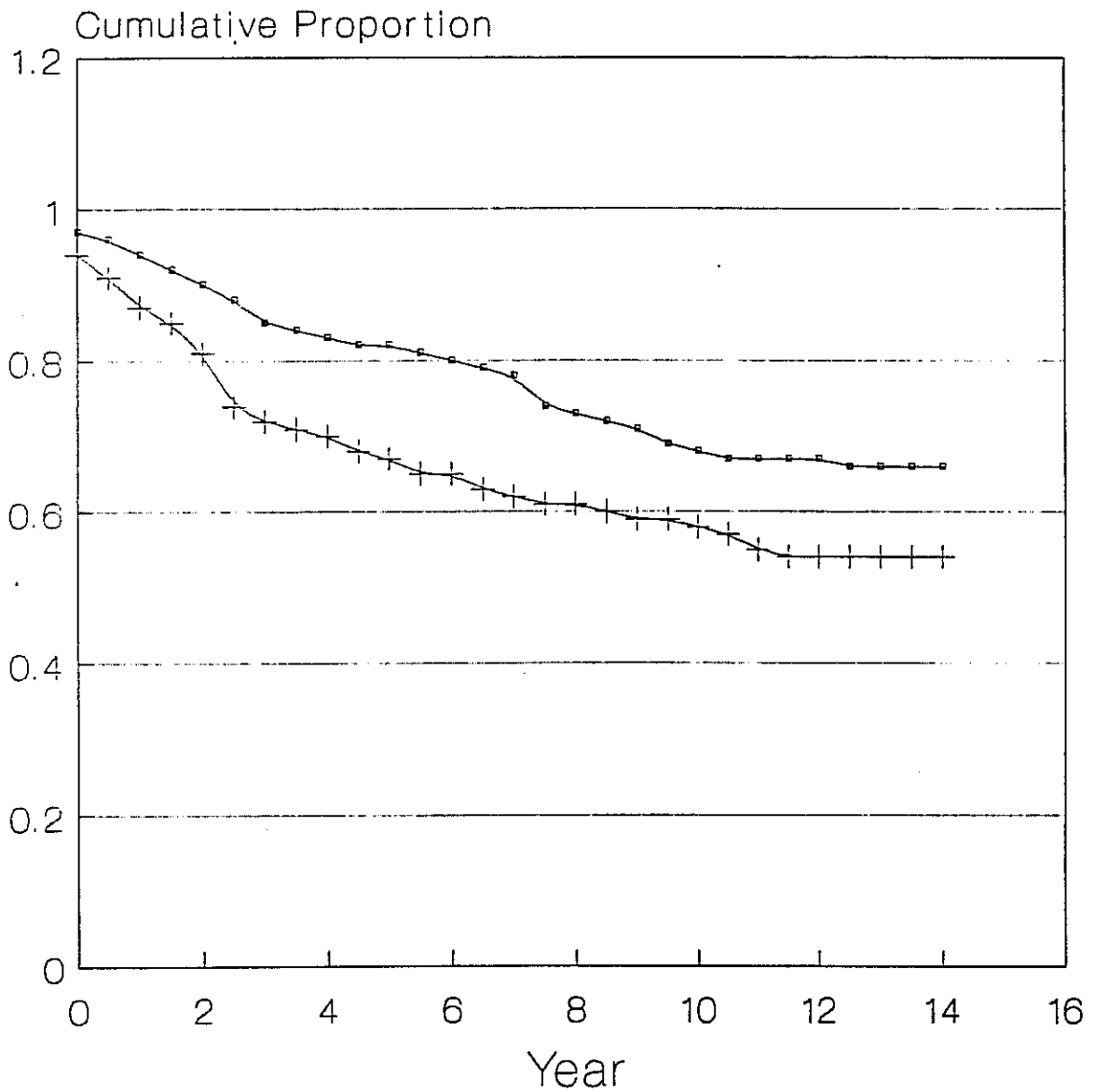


D=0.112, Prob.=0.738 for High SFS
D=6.963, Prob.=0.008 for Low SFS

FIGURE THREE

GRAPH OF SURVIVAL FUNCTION

Time to Arrest by Group for Low SFS



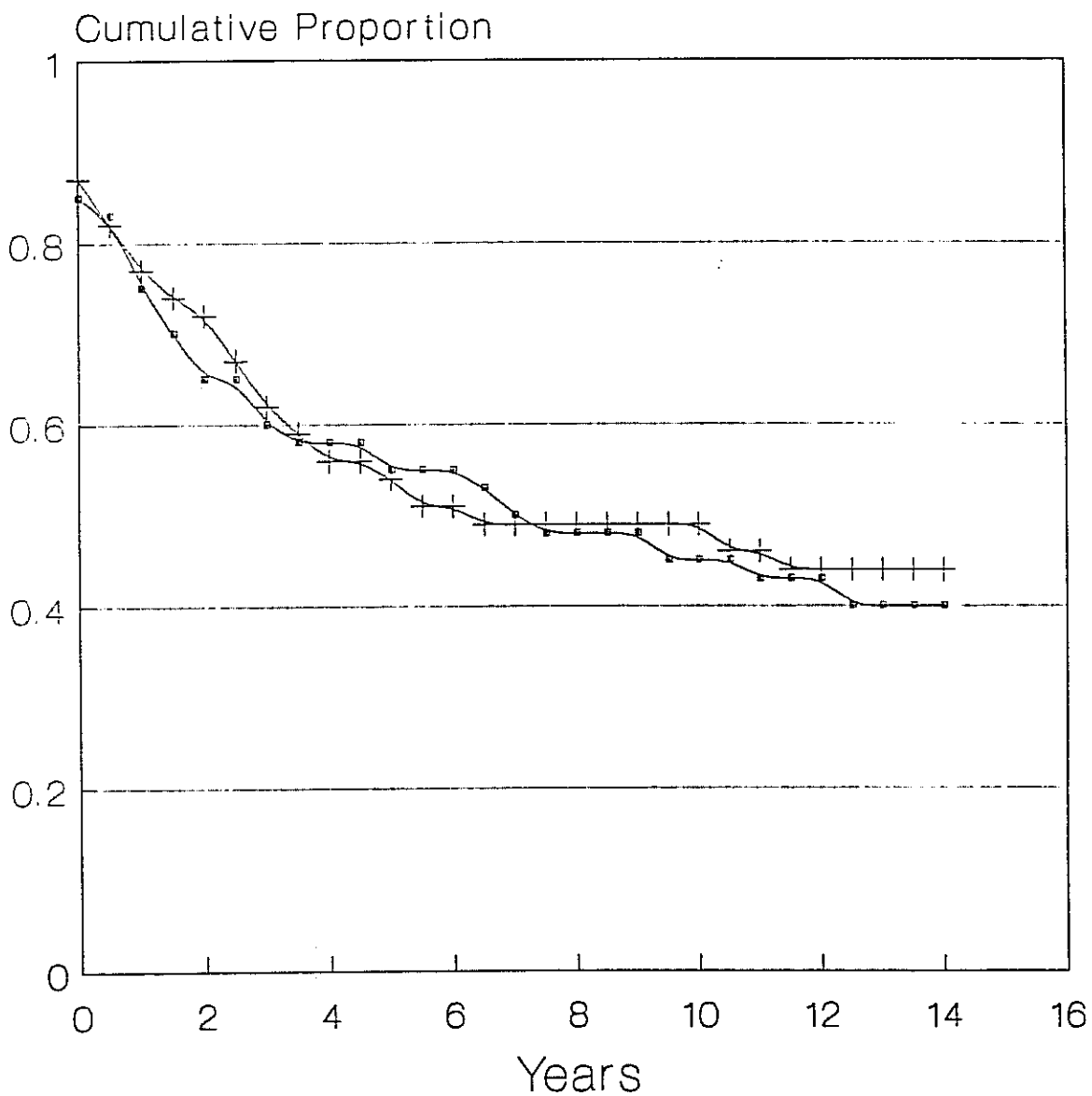
—■— Prison Fellowship —+— Control

D=6.963, Prob.=.0083

FIGURE FOUR

GRAPH OF SURVIVAL FUNCTION

Time to Arrest by Group For Blacks



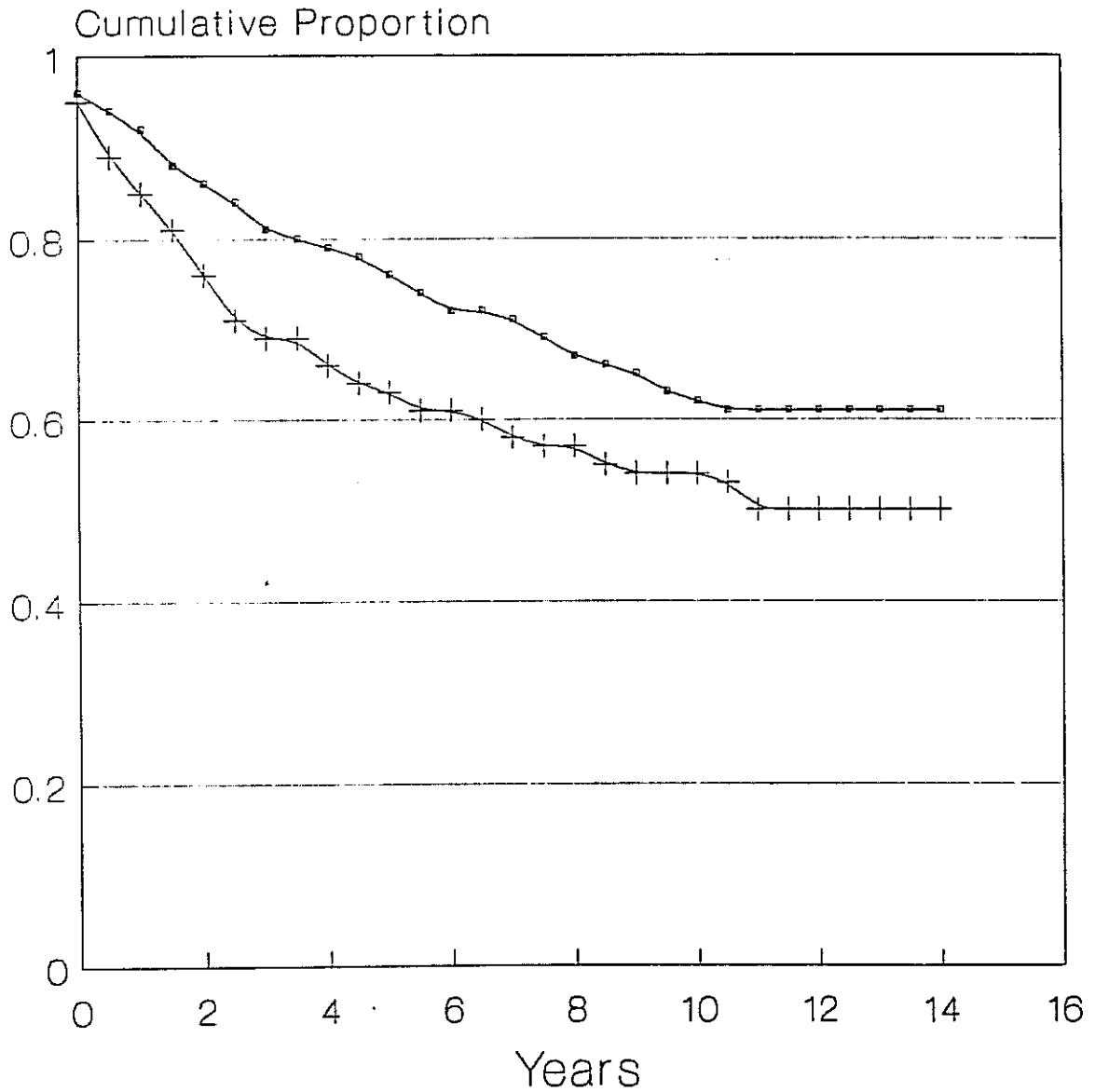
—●— Prison Fellowship —+— Control

D=0.018, Prob.=.8947

FIGURE FIVE

GRAPH OF SURVIVAL FUNCTION

Time to Arrest by Group For Whites



—■— Prison Fellowship —+— Control

D=3.919, Prob.=.0477

TABLE 1

ORIGINAL STUDY BY DIANE AMES:

RESULTS OF THE PRISON FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

BY SALIENT FACTOR CATEGORY

<u>SFS CATEGORY</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>PREDICTED * X</u>	<u>LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE</u>	
VERY GOOD (9-11)	96	96%	90%	3.377	--
GOOD (6-8)	51	92%	73%	8.885	< .02
FAIR (4-5)	19	84%	64%	2.771	--
POOR (0-3)	8 **	38%	48%	-	--

POOLED X = 15.033, df = 3, p < .01

* This predicted success rate is adjusted for the distribution of SFS within the category.

** Sample too small to be included in analysis.

TABLE 2

DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF SUBJECTS BY GROUP

	Prison Fellowship		Control Subjects
	Subjects		
Total	180		185
White Subjects	126		132
Black Subjects	54		53
Male Subjects	148		151
Female Subjects	32		34
Mean Age at Release	35.3		36.2
	S.D.	9.7	10.6
Salient Factor Score	mean =	8.18	8.21
	S.D.	2.58	2.53

TABLE 3

RECIDIVISM

RECIDIVISM PERCENTAGE BY GROUP

PRISON FELLOWSHIP GROUP 40% RECIDIVATED (72/180)
CONTROL GROUP 51% RECIDIVATED (94/185)

CHI SQUARE = 4.3 D.F.= 1 SIGNIF = .038 (BEFORE YATES) CHI SQUARE = 3.9
D.F.= 1 SIGNIF = .049 (WITH YATES)

TABLE 4

RECIDIVISM PERCENTAGE BY GROUP BY GENDER

PRISON FELLOWSHIP MEN	45%	RECIDIVATED	(66/148)
CONTROL GROUP MEN	52%	RECIDIVATED	(78/151)
PRISON FELLOWSHIP WOMEN	19%	RECIDIVATED	(6/32)
CONTROL GROUP WOMEN	47%	RECIDIVATED	(16/34)

TABLE 5

RECIDIVISM PERCENTAGE BY GROUP BY RACE BY GENDER

PRISON FELLOWSHIP BLACK MEN . . 60% RECIDIVATED (24/40)
CONTROL GROUP BLACK MEN 56% RECIDIVATED (22/39)

PRISON FELLOWSHIP WHITE MEN . . 39% RECIDIVATED (42/108)
CONTROL GROUP WHITE MEN 50% RECIDIVATED (56/112)

PRISON FELLOWSHIP BLACK WOMEN . 22% RECIDIVATED (4/18)
CONTROL GROUP BLACK WOMEN . . . 35% RECIDIVATED (7/20)

PRISON FELLOWSHIP WHITE WOMEN . 14% RECIDIVATED (2/14)
CONTROL GROUP WHITE WOMEN . . . 64% RECIDIVATED (9/14)

TABLE 6

LOGISTICAL REGRESSION OF PERCENTAGE OF RECIDIVISM
(LOGIT ANALYSIS OF RECIDIVISM)

PARAMETER	COEFFICIENT	Z-VALUE	ANTI-LOG
RECID (CONSTANT)	.041	.42	1.1
RECID BY SALIENT FACTOR SCORE	-.306	-3.97	.5
RECID BY GROUP	.205	2.59	1.5
RECID BY GENDER	-.181	-2.27	.7
RECID BY AGE AT RELEASE	-.147	-2.57	.7
RECID BY GENDER BY GROUP	-.169	-2.08	.7
RECID BY RACE BY GENDER BY GROUP	.107	1.74	1.2

GOODNESS-OF-FIT TEST STATISTICS:

LIKELIHOOD RATIO CHI SQUARE = 16.550 DF = 23 P = .831
PEARSON CHI SQUARE = 15.044 DF = 23 P = .893

TABLE 7

MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS ON CHANGE OF CRIME SEVERITY

INDEPENDENT VARIABLE	BETA	T SCORE	SIGNIF T
SFS-GROUP INTERACTION	.24	2.93	.004
GENDER	-.16	-2.12	.035
TIME OUT OF PRISON	.18	2.29	.023
AGE AT RELEASE	.00	.03	.975
RACE	.03	.42	.673
WINDOW	.01	.15	.884

R SQUARE = .14

F SCORE = 4.09

SIGNIF F = .0008

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SECTION FOUR

STUDY THREE

IN-PRISON SEMINAR/BIBLE STUDY AND MENTOR PROGRAMS:

PROGRAM EVALUATION STUDY

STUDY THREE

IN-PRISON SEMINAR/BIBLE STUDY AND MENTOR PROGRAMS:

PROGRAM EVALUATION STUDY

RESEARCH DESIGN

A. Experimental and Control Subjects:

Three groups, two experimental groups (groups A and B) and one matched control group (group C), will be used in the design:

- 1) Group A - In-Prison Seminar/Bible Study group
- 2) Group B - Mentor Program Group
- 3) Group C - Control Group

B. Hypotheses:

The three group design will be used to test the following hypotheses:

- 1) Prison Fellowship prisoners (groups A and B) will have a lower rate of disciplinary infractions within prison than non-Prison Fellowship prisoners (group C);

- 2) Prison Fellowship prisoners (groups A and B) will have a lower rate of recidivism than non-Prison Fellowship prisoners (group C);
- 3) Prison Fellowship prisoners (groups A and B) will survive crime free for a longer period of time following release from prison than non-Prison Fellowship prisoners (group C);
- 4) Prison Fellowship prisoners (groups A and B) who recidivate will commit less serious crimes than non-Prison Fellowship prisoners (group C) who recidivate;
- 5) Mentored prisoners (group B) will have a lower rate of recidivism than In-Prison Seminar/Bible Study prisoners (group A).
- 6) Mentored prisoners (group B) will have a longer crime free period than In-Prison Seminar/Bible Study prisoners (group A).
- 7) Mentored prisoners (group B) will have less serious re-offense crimes than In-Prison Seminar/Bible Study prisoners (group A).

C. Source of and Selection Criteria for Subjects:

The source for the experimental subjects in groups A and B will be Prison Fellowship Ministries. The only criteria for selection of

subjects is participation in either the in-prison programs (experimental group A) or in the in-prison and post-prison programs (experimental group B).

The source for the control subjects (group C) will be the computerized data base of the New York State Department of Correctional Services. From this data base, a randomly selected control group (group C), matched with the experimental subjects (groups A and B) on demographic and criminal history variables, will be selected. The subjects in the control group (group C) will be chosen from the cohort of prisoners who were released from New York State prisons, in the same period as the Prison Fellowship prisoners.

D. Contact with Subjects:

With regard to contacting the subjects, a distinction needs to be made between the experimental and control subjects. The control group (group C) will not be contacted at any time during the research project. All of the data on the control group will come from official records.

Ten members from group A and ten members from group B (experimental groups), who will form two focus groups, will however be contacted. In addition to using data from official records for the experimental groups (groups A and B), data will also be collected

from two focus group meetings. Because it will be necessary to have contact with some of the subjects in the experimental groups (groups A and B), a group of prisoners will be approached when they take part in the in-prison and post-prison religious rehabilitation programs and asked to give their informed consent to be part of the study.

E. Dependant Variables:

1. The three groups will be compared on the frequency, type and seriousness of prison disciplinary reports.
2. The three groups will be compared on three measures of recidivism for a period of one year from the date of release:
 - a. ever returned to prison;
 - b. time till return to prison; and
 - c. seriousness of rearrest offence.

F. Analysis:

1. The appropriate inferential statistics (e.g. ANOVA, chi-square) will be used to compare the three groups on the above measures.

2. The length of time involved in recidivating will be examined through the use of survival analysis.
3. Finally a multivariate approach will be used to build an overall model to predict in-prison behavior and recidivism.