



## INSIDER'S ISSUES

**“Insiders” often fall into these categories. This is some of what they are dealing with:**

**Dysfunctional Families:** The majority of “insiders” come from dysfunctional families. Physical or sexual abuse during childhood is common. Abandonment and issues with low self-esteem are prevalent. Lack of education may cause a turn to crime. Drug and/or alcohol addiction is major problem.

**Gangs:** Many are affiliated with gangs either before or while in prison. Violence is often a part of gang affiliation. Your “Insider” may be dealing with this issue. There are many ethnic groups so it is important to treat each with respect. If you feel this may be an issue, contact Debbie Baird ([EncourageWord444@gmail.com](mailto:EncourageWord444@gmail.com)) and an Encouraging Word advisor will be in contact with you.

**Institutionalized “Insider:”** Prison becomes a comfort zone. Some are in for life. All their necessities are met and there is no need to make decisions; they are resigned and hesitant to leave the prison environment.

**Same Sex:** Extreme caution needs to be used regarding this topic. “Insiders” are sometimes exposed to lesbianism or homosexuality. Lesbian or homosexual assaults impact some. Some Christian inmates who stand up for Biblical standards have been attacked and end up in segregation. This is a delicate issue, so seek advice from an Encouraging Word advisor ([EncourageWord444@gmail.com](mailto:EncourageWord444@gmail.com)) if you are brought into this. Pray for protection, discernment and courage for your “Insider.”

**If any topic comes up that makes you uncertain how best to respond,** contact Debbie Baird ([EncourageWord444@gmail.com](mailto:EncourageWord444@gmail.com)) and an Encouraging Word advisor or Pastoral advisor will contact you. You will receive assistance with your response, or in some cases, they will respond for you. They are a resource for Encouraging Word! Do not hesitate to engage with them.