

OUR PURPOSE

The Bridge Ministry works in Central Virginia to transform the lives of troubled men and their families through a faith-based program grounded on the tenets of historic Christianity. We help provide the mentoring, skills, and relationships these men need to “bridge” the gap from bondage to productive community and family life.

OUR HISTORY

The Bridge Ministry began informally some seventeen years ago in the home of William Washington, Jr. William, who had been caught in the grip of a serious drug addiction, found



William Washington

the motivation and ability to change his life through Christian faith. As a result, he began reaching out with a helping hand to those in his neighborhood. Since 1996, under the guidance of a Board of Directors comprised of local community leaders, The Bridge Ministry has been providing a second chance for men who are committed to breaking free from life-controlling issues and patterns that have held them in bondage.

By the grace of God, The Bridge Ministry has seen many men and their families reach a place of stability, confidence, and freedom.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elbert Brown

Buck Bryant

Tim Evans

Jay James, *Chair*

Troy Schrank

William W. Washington, Jr.

Founder, Executive Director

GUIDE FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

The Bridge Ministry is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides services to troubled, incarcerated, and newly released men. Our work is supported by a combination of donations from individuals, churches, and foundations. Contributions to The Bridge Ministry are tax deductible. If you would like to help support the work being accomplished here, please contact us.



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Believe me: if there was a “way in,” there is a “way out.”

A Three-Phase Program

Many men and their families suffer from “life-controlling issues,” problems and behaviors that often help support a lifestyle of addiction. Unless they find an answer, they stand to



lose much of what they once valued: their marriages, their families, even their future. The Bridge Ministry offers an eighteen-month residential program for these men, to help them address their most basic challenges.

Phase 1: Jail Ministry

The Bridge Ministry has working relationship with several correctional facilities across the country, and also works with judges as an alternative to incarceration. We have the opportunity to go into these facilities and prepare the men to enter into our program.

Phase 2: Buckingham Campground

A secluded, retreat center in Buckingham County, Virginia, accommodates up to forty-five men who have experienced significant difficulties as a result of life-controlling issues. While there, men receive character instruction, work training, drug counseling, and practical Bible applications. The schedule is intense and highly structured, and men are given opportunities to grow in responsibility and rewards through the course of their stay.

Phase 3: Intern Houses

A select few students from the Buckingham Facility are offered the privilege of finishing the last six months of the program in one of our Intern Houses. There the men develop greater ties with the local community, attend a church, find employment, and receive further training in specific life skills. Work experience and employment have been made available through supportive local businesses.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

- **Acceptable candidates** for The Bridge Ministry are men who are incarcerated for, or are facing, charges that are non-sexual and non-violent. In some cases, specific charges and mitigating circumstances can be discussed. The candidate must understand he is coming into a Christian faith-based program.
- The **referral process** is begun by calling our admissions office at (434) 969-2991 and requesting an application, which must be filled out by the candidate. Upon receiving a completed application, we will contact the applicant and arrange for an interview to determine whether or not we think he will benefit from the program.
- If we accept the applicant, we will send the referring party an acceptance notice, with a date indicating when we would be available to take the student into the program. Arrangements for pick up can be made by calling our admissions office.
- Barring any legal issues, the expected **time frame** from referral to admission is about one month. At the judge's direction, however, the process may take longer.
- If a student is dismissed from The Bridge Ministry program, the necessary authorities will be notified by mail or phone call prior to the student's release so that alternative arrangements can be made.
- If a student leaves the program without permission from the Executive Director, the necessary authorities will be notified as soon as possible.