

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, and to provide the mentoring, skills, and relationships they need to “bridge” the gap from bondage to productive community and family life.

OUR HISTORY

Bridge founder William Washington is a former addict and drug dealer who was serving a long-



William & Joyce Washington

term sentence in the Orange County Regional Jail.

Through the faithful outreach of local clergy at that facility, William found the motivation and ability to change his life

through Christian faith. 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 the bondages they are in. His wife, Joyce, has been an integral part of the ministry since its beginning.

Bridge Ministry Board of Directors

Diego Anderson—*Ntelos*

Rick Arllen—*Captain, U.S. Navy (retired)*

Maj. Roland Beauford—
Albemarle Charlottesville Nelson Regional Jail

Michael Cernik—*Alexander-Nicholson*

Todd Cooke—
Carriage Cleaners, The Black Tie

John Dezio, Esq.—*Martin and Raynor, P.C.*

Gary Greene—*Cribb & Associates*

Chauncey F. Hutter—*PROTAX*

David Pettit, Esq.—*Feil, Pettit & Williams PLC*

William Porter—*CAO, Shiloh Baptist Church*

Richard Rubenoff—*Financial Consultant*

Robert Smith III, Ph.D.—*UVA Medical Center*

William W. Washington, Jr.—
Founder, Executive Director

Dean J. Wentz—*Fannie Mae (retired)*

Cindy P. Zug—*Alexander-Nicholson*

The Bridge Ministry provides its services to troubled, incarcerated, and newly-released men free of charge. Our work is supported by a combination of private donations from individuals and churches, and by public grants. As a 501(c)(3) organization, all contributions to The Bridge Ministry are tax-deductible. If you would like to help support The Bridge Ministry, please contact us.



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TELL ME ABOUT THE BRIDGE MINISTRY



Giving men an alternative to prison, and a second chance at life.

THE BRIDGE MINISTRY PROGRAM

Phase 1:

Alternative Block

Although the Bridge receives men from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, those who are incarcerated in the Albemarle-Charlottesville-Nelson Regional Jail have the



Charles Cutchin, a former inmate, has served on The Bridge Ministry's staff for five years.

opportunity to apply to the Bridge Ministry's Alternative Block.

Through a structured program, men in the Alternative Block are taught essential principles that will enable them to either

transition back into the community, or move into the next phase of The Bridge Ministry's program.

Phase 2:

Buckingham Campground

A secluded, former retreat center in Buckingham County, Virginia, accommodates up to 45 men who have struggled with life-controlling issues. While here for the



eighteen-month program, men receive character instruction, work training, drug counseling, financial management skills, applied Bible applications, and educational opportunities. 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:

Charlottesville Intern House

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 are available through supportive contractors around Charlottesville, including a for-profit landscaping company, Bridge Services, LLC, which got underway in the Spring of 2005.

Serving Families

The Bridge Ministry also serves the families of men in the Bridge program, providing support, friendship and ministry. By participating in the process of their husbands' and fathers' changed lives, families can become a positive reinforcement for the men when they leave the Bridge program. Family support and participation is a key factor in determining whether or not we will accept a man to the Buckingham facility.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Acceptable candidates for the Bridge Ministry are men who are struggling with life-controlling issues and are seeking answers to help them live a productive life. The candidate must understand he is coming into a Christian faith-based program.

The referral process is begun by calling The Bridge Ministry and requesting an application, which must be filled out by the candidate. Upon receiving the completed application, we will contact the applicant and interview him to determine whether or not we think he will benefit from the program. The time from application to admission can be from one to two weeks.