

## 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*

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*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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## GUIDE FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS



# 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.

## 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 The Bridge Ministry and requesting an application, which must be filled out by the candidate. Upon receiving the application, The Bridge Ministry 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 The Bridge Ministry.
- 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 as long as six months.
- **If a student is dismissed** from The Bridge Ministry program, the referring party 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 referring party will be notified as soon as possible.