



Ann R. Lippert/The New York Times

Dr. George Webber, in tie, founder of a theological curriculum at Sing Sing prison, leading inmates taking a course in prayer. With him were, from left, Julio Medina, Larry Pilgrim and Ben Monroe.

Serving Time, Saving Souls

Sing Sing Inmates Pursue Master's Degrees in Ministry

By DAVID GONZALEZ

In the beginning was the word, or in Larry Pilgrim's particular spiritual quest, the sentence.

Twenty-five years in life.

Two decades ago Mr. Pilgrim was convicted of murdering

blind bars and a discussion of how churches on the outside can relate better to inmates and their families.

In the last 12 years, 145 inmates serving long-term sentences have received master's degrees in ministry from New York Theological Seminary, a New York City institution that specializes in preparing students for work in inner cities. Dr. George



You can reapply when you have a different past



Ex-cons help ex-cons ease into life on outside

Alexandra Marks Staff writer of **The Christian Science Monitor**

HARLEM, N.Y. - The optimistic glint in Julio Medina's dark brown eyes suddenly shifts to concern. He's just learned that one of his ex-offenders spent the night in jail after jumping a subway turnstile. "What were you thinking?" he asks, incredulously.

"I had to get to a job interview. I didn't have any money," explains a shaken Thomas "Kaseen" Johnson. "This lady, she gave me 45 cents, then says, 'Why don't you just push through with me?' So I did. Then I looked up and there was a cop."

It was a setback for Mr. Johnson, who is out on parole after serving 19 years in prison on a murder rap. For Mr. Medina, himself a convicted drug dealer, it was another crisis to juggle that day as the head of an unusual program that tries to help criminals adjust to life back on the streets.

Called the Exodus Transitional Community, the group was launched by Medina with help from several churches. It helps ex-offenders with everything from drug treatment

EXODUS
TRANSITIONAL COMMUNITY

THE EXODUS CONTRACT: SETTING GOALS IN 6 LIFE AREAS

Family/Relationships

Community Involvement

Employment

Health/Fitness

Education

Spirituality

Whose been to prison?

2 Masters Degrees

Non Profit Executive Director



No GED



Whose been to prison?

SERVED 16 YEARS



No GED





= \$11 per hour



Waste of Human Capital



EXODUS
TRANSITIONAL COMMUNITY

**People can vastly change
between the age of 18 and 40**



**YOU CAN GET HIGHLY
SKILLED EMPLOYEES**

EXODUS
TRANSITIONAL COMMUNITY



**YOU CAN GET HIGHLY
SKILLED EMPLOYEES**

AT A LOW STARTING SALARY



30 DAY ORGANIZER

2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Handwritten notes on the calendar include "March 10" and "Theresa's Birthday" with a drawing of a person.

Office desk area containing a computer monitor, keyboard, mouse, and various papers.



A document pinned to the wall, partially obscured by a shadow.

