

“QUERIDO HERMANO” / “Dear Brother” Letters

WHO ARE YOU WRITING TO? You are writing to immigrant men in Plymouth Detention Center who gather in the evenings for worship, prayer, and the preaching of God's Word. Your letter is an opportunity to encourage a brother in Christ during a season of profound uncertainty.

Many of these men are experiencing the realities of incarceration: separation from family, the loss of daily freedom and personal agency, and the physical, mental, and spiritual challenges that accompany imprisonment.

We have consistently heard that these letters are a source of great encouragement to detainees. For many, especially those who are newly detained, the wait for a letter can feel long. A thoughtful, Christ-centered letter can remind them that they are seen, remembered, and prayed for.

HOW TO SEND A LETTER TO PLYMOUTH DETENTION CENTER:

1. Address all letters to: Jorge Luis Zambrano (90584) OR Sergio Gaviria (90687)
Jorge and Sergio are leaders in the detainment church in two separate units. They will distribute the letters to newly detained men who are in need of encouragement. Through the financial support we send for this ministry, they are often able to include a small care gift (such as ramen, soap, or toothpaste) and, whenever possible, a Bible along with each letter.
2. IMPORTANT DETAILS TO SEND MAIL:
 - All mail will be digitally scanned (aka not private) and delivered to the detainee.
 - Mail CAN include drawings, pictures. *Kids can include drawings!*
 - Cards are fine on normal sized paper (8.5x11) but not bigger.
 - **Address the envelopes carefully**
Jorge Luis Zambrano (90584) OR Sergio Gaviria (90687)
Plymouth County, MA Jail
C/O Securus Digital Mail Center
PO Box 21567 Tampa Florida, 33622
 - **MUST have a return address or it will not be delivered!**
You are welcome to use “50 Bennington Street, Boston MA 02128” as a return address instead of your personal address.
3. WHAT TO WRITE: Address each letter, “Querido hermano” (“Dear Brother”).
You don’t need to have the perfect words. These are real people, created in God’s image, walking through a season where sorrow runs deep. Your note is a small but meaningful reminder that they are not forgotten. Here are a few simple ideas to guide you:

- Be human and kind. Write as you would to someone you care about.
- Remind them of what is true of God - His nearness, faithfulness, mercy, and love.
- Remind them of what is true of them - they are seen, valued, loved, and not alone.
- Offer prayer. You can say you're praying for them, or write a prayer in the card.
- Keep it hopeful, not heavy. You don't need to explain their situation or offer solutions - encouragement matters most.
- If you're stuck, you can start with - "You are not forgotten. God is near to you, even here. I'm praying for you today."
- **TRANSLATION: *English-speakers, please write your message on your phone or scrap paper first and then use Google translate to write.*** Some (to those from Brazil) will need to be in Portuguese.

A NOTE: This is a great communal activity because it's rare for us to slow down and write letters (so it helps to do it together), and also because it gives us space to pray for those we're writing to. It takes about 30mins together, and you need envelopes, stamps, paper and pens, and phones with google translate.