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PHOTOS Included

Date: July 24, 2024
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Symposium to bring officials together to address ways to reduce number of people returning to prison

JACKSON, MISS. – Correctional leaders, other state agency representatives, and business people will join the Mississippi Department of Corrections on Thursday, August 8, at the Brandon Civic Center to share ideas and best practices supporting re-entry needs for current and formerly incarcerated individuals.

"I am delighted to see that the state of Mississippi is devoted to giving second chances to the individuals leaving our correctional facilities. This symposium promotes discussion on how we can come together to help justice-impacted individuals and communities move forward by enhancing our re-entry efforts within our communities," Commissioner Burl Cain said.

"Since this is the first re-entry symposium since COVID, I am excited about the possibilities that will come out of this year's event. The MDOC is pleased that our community wants to be a part of the discussion designed to ultimately build upon efforts to reduce the number of people returning to prison."

Panelists in four different groups throughout the day will share ideas about overcoming barriers to employment and the benefits of collaboration. The discussions will be based on the theme "Success Beyond Incarceration," highlighting a view from our returning citizens, reducing recidivism, and the road to re-entry.

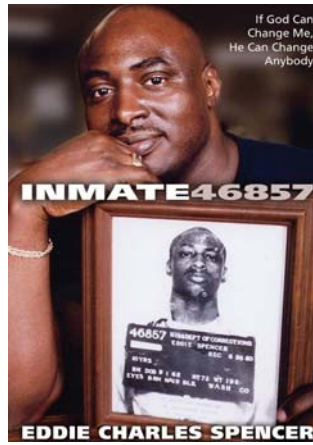
The Rev. Eddie Spencer of Mount Salem United Methodist Church in Terry, Mississippi, will be the keynote speaker. Spencer devoted his life to Christ before his release from Parchman in 1988. He has traveled extensively, speaking to thousands at conferences, including for the Mississippi Reading Association, Domestic Violence Conference, Juvenile Justice Conference, and the Mississippi Department of Education. Rev. Spencer also leads Alta Woods United Methodist Church in Jackson.

The Brandon Civic Center is located at 1000 Municipal Drive in Brandon. Registration deadline is Aug. 2, 2024. To register, go to [2024 Re-Entry Symposium Tickets, Thursday, Aug 8, 2024 at 8:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

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MDOC Commissioner Burl Cain



MDOC Commissioner Burl Cain, left, listens to Rev. Eddie Spencer during a recent meeting of the Corrections and Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force where they are members.