



MIKE BARBER MINISTRIES
FIRST-TIME VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

We are so thankful for the desire God has placed in you to join with Mike Barber Ministries in reaching the lost, giving inmates hope through the message of salvation in Christ Jesus! We know this will be a life-changing experience for you, too! Whether you are an ex-offender or have never seen the inside of a prison cell, He can and will use you to minister into the lives of those who so desperately need Him.

We want to share a few things about what you can typically expect leading up to and during your first cell-to-cell ministry at a Mike Barber Ministries *Weekend of Excitement*. Please note that your experience may be a bit different than what is outlined below since each Unit does things a little differently, but the process is basically the same.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

After completing your online registration to participate in a Mike Barber Ministries *Weekend of Excitement*, you will receive an emailed confirmation of registration. If any additional information is needed, we will reach out to you.

FOLLOW-UP DETAILS

Once registration closes, you will receive another email providing details about where to meet on the day of the event. This email will come from registrations@mikebarber.org, so be sure to add this email address to your Contacts to prevent it from going to your spam folder.

The email will include an attached list of “**Do’s and Don’ts**” outlining important information such as dress code policy, what you can and cannot bring with you into the Unit, and how to conduct yourself while on the inside. You will also receive a “Volunteer Agenda” detailing the events of the day. Please note that **ALL VOLUNTEERS** must attend the Mandatory Do’s and Don’ts Meeting scheduled for that morning.

VOLUNTEER CHECK-IN / DO’S AND DON’TS MEETING

Check-In usually begins around 8:30 AM. If you have trouble getting to the location indicated on the Volunteer Agenda, please call (713) 449-4503 and we will help direct you to the location.

When you arrive at check-in, you will present your Driver’s License or other government-issued ID (which must be the same one you provided when registering for the event). You will also be asked to sign our Volunteer Waiver and will receive your Volunteer Packet containing Bible tracts, a prayer/salvation card, a pen, a copy of our Do’s and Don’ts, and a



lanyard to be worn inside the Unit. We will check your ID to ensure it hasn't expired and that it matches the information provided during online registration, since that is the information added to the Clearance List and provided to the Unit a couple of weeks prior to the event. Breakfast is provided during check-in.

At around 10:00 am, there will be a short mandatory meeting to go over the Do's and Don'ts, followed by prayer, and then Volunteers will be divided into teams of 8 to 12 for cell-to-cell ministry inside the inmate living areas. You will stay with your assigned team while moving about inside the Unit.

Prescription medications are allowed to be taken into the Unit, if necessary, which must be only enough for that day and must be in original packaging with pharmacy label.

UNIT ARRIVAL

Check-in and the mandatory Volunteer Meeting are normally held at the Unit Gym or Chapel on the morning of the event, but if there is no space available inside the Unit, then we will meet at a nearby church or other venue and provide those details to you.

If we meet at an offsite location, once check-in and the Volunteer meeting have concluded, we will form a procession of cars, with headlights turned on, and caravan together to the Unit. We will ask the driver of each vehicle to place an MBM parking placard (provided during check-in) on the dashboard of their vehicle where it can be easily seen. Each vehicle occupant should be prepared to show their ID at the highway gate, if requested.

Upon arrival at the Unit, ***empty your pockets before you leave the vehicle***. You will line up at the gate in alphabetical order with only (1) your driver's license or government-issued ID, (2) a Bible, (3) the Volunteer Packet w/contents that you received during check-in, (4) vehicle keys, (5) any needed prescription medications (only enough for that day and in original packaging with pharmacy label), and (6) individual-sized power bars or snacks (in original packaging and unopened). Per TDCJ rules, you may NOT bring any liquids or items containing liquid into the Units – this includes bottled water, cough drops, lip balm, etc. Water will be provided by the Unit.

You will be asked to present your ID and may be asked to remove your shoes, belt, jacket, hat, watch, eyeglasses, and anything in your pockets, and place them in a tray to pass through a metal detector. The officer will ask you to walk through the metal detector. If it beeps, you may be asked to repeat the process, so please inform them ahead of time about any medical devices or implants that you have. After clearing the metal detector, a "pat" search may be conducted.

Once you have cleared entry into the Unit, each team will proceed to their assigned building/dormitory for ministry.



INMATE VISITATION

Visitation with inmates may be conducted in the Day Room or dorms, or through the cells. Share your testimony and the love of Christ, listen to them, and pray with them.

The **ONLY** thing you are allowed to give an inmate is a tract from your Volunteer Packet, which has been pre-approved by the Unit. You **cannot** give them anything else. Inmates know they are not permitted to give anything to you.

Never give an inmate your personal physical address or phone number. If you want an inmate to write to you, provide a PO Box or the address of your church, written on the back of a tract from your packet.

You may be asked by your team leader to move from one area to another, so please follow their direction. If the inmates go to chow (evening meal), if it has been pre-approved by the Unit, your team may go eat with them or in the ODR (Officer's Dining Room). Information about the evening meal will be provided on the Volunteer Agenda.

You are not there to promote your own ministry or the agenda of other ministries, so please refrain from doing so.

LEAVING THE UNIT

Your team leader will advise when it is time to depart the cell area and return to the program area. You may be asked if you would like to stay for the program or leave the Unit. If you stay for the program, please understand that there could be limited seating and you may have to stand.

Unit rules and MBM Do's and Don'ts are for your safety and the safety of officers and inmates. They must be strictly followed **at all times** or you could be asked to leave the Unit.

We cannot wait to see you at your first MBM *Weekend of Excitement!* It will be an amazing experience as the Lord leads you and uses you to bring hope to the hopeless!

GOD BLESS YOU!!