PEP in Correctional Facilities

In September 2013, over 13,000 people attended PEP workshops in 28 countries in 55 correctional facilities and 61 other organizations. In North America, PEP is in 11 correctional facilities and 12 other programs.

News flashes about PEP in North America:

The Atlanta Men's Transitional Center offers felons nearing release the opportunity to prepare by getting a job and for certain "lifers" to do community service. When five PEP facilitators introduced the program to the residents of the Center, the course was welcomed, but neither the PEP team nor the participants knew what to expect. At the end of the last class, silence reigned. Then, as described by facilitator Jeff Camp, "The room literally exploded into an overwhelmingly heartfelt expression of openness, joy, and gratitude for the class. None of us can imagine what they have been through, and yet here we all were sharing in a moment filled with the presence of joy, acceptance, laughter, cake, and hope."

The first PEP class in a federal prison began in September 2013. PEP facilitator Mindy Gilmore mentioned the program to a friend, Becky, who works in the education department at the federal penitentiary in Englewood, Colorado. Becky was interested enough to attend an event with Prem Rawat, see the video introducing PEP, and open doors for presenting the possibility at the penitentiary. But delay after delay ensued. It was only when Mindy thought of asking Becky if she would like to facilitate the program herself that the action began. As of October 2013, PEP is well underway with Becky at the helm. Participants report that they appreciate the significance of looking within themselves to discover their own inner resources.

Boot Camp at Lowell Correctional Institute, a women's prison in Gainesville, is a physically rigorous training program for offenders aged 18-25. Those who complete it are released with their criminal records expunged. In June 2013 the warden of the prison approved a PEP course for these determined young women. "As the sessions went on," reports facilitator Patricia Kromer, "more and more participants began to share their reflections on what they'd heard and learned. One related her issues with addiction and said she enjoyed Prem Rawat's metaphor of the seeds we plant and the trees that grow from our efforts. She said she was going to get rid of the tree of addiction. It was the seeds of understanding she needed to plant."

Federal penitentiary in Englewood, Colorado

PEP graduates receive their certificates