



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**People for People Institute Sponsors Community Symposium:
*Faith, Reason and Justice: A Conversation on the Prison Industrial Complex***

Philadelphia – Eastern University's *People for People Institute* sponsored a symposium entitled, *Faith Reason and Justice: A Three-Tiered Conversation on the Prison Industrial Complex*, on Friday and Saturday, April 3rd and 4th, 2009 at *The View*, atop the People for People Building in Center City Philadelphia.

The symposium explored the issues surrounding mass incarceration in Philadelphia and the nation, including discussion regarding national policies, cultural attitudes, and organizations that are working to create change.

Topics included, "The Power and Importance of Change, Creating a New Mindset on Manhood"; "Is God in Prison, Holistic Ministry to Prisoners and the Prison System"; "The Role of Arts in Restoration and Redemption"; and "Beyond the Rap, Is There a Message in the Music?" In addition there was a screening of the documentary, *Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes*, followed by a panel discussion exploring if and how hip hop impacts the decisions of its listeners and the possible connections this has to the current over-incarceration rate among young, adult, black males.

The opening address featured Mr. William Dimascio of the Pennsylvania Prison Society, and the keynote address featured Reverend Lin Crowe, former head of the Philadelphia Leadership Foundation, currently with The Navigators.

The People for People Institute was created through a partnership between Eastern University and People for People, Inc., to offer contextualized academic degree programs to constituents of People for People, Inc. and the Philadelphia community it serves.

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