

PRISON FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL REPORT - 2019



VISION

To share the gospel of Jesus Christ with prisoners and their families.



MISSION

To build relationships with those who do not know Jesus Christ, so that we can share His gospel with them, and to disciple those who know Him.



VALUES

Unity, integrity & service.





PRISON FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA

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PRISON FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA

MESSAGE FROM
THE CHAIRMAN

Thankfulness has been the recurring theme for Prison Fellowship this past year. From a turnaround in our financial position, new opportunities to share the Good News and the steady growth in the exciting program *The Prisoner's Journey (TPJ)*, we as a community of believers are thankful for God's provision and leading. We are a volunteer driven ministry and seek to share the good news about Jesus Christ to those in prison without being reliant on either a large management structure or on government funds. This makes us dependent on contributions from those who share our passion for reaching those inside prison walls and dependent on God supplying our needs. He has been faithful!

In last year's report we outlined challenges to our resource base. The financial difficulties came at a time when many doors were opening for the Gospel. This gave us cause to get on our knees! As you read through this report you will see how God has been at work through faithful people giving for this work to expand. In the Northern Territory our ministry has been given great opportunity to serve the community and help prisoners find hope in Jesus. From modest beginnings *TPJ* has gradually grown in its acceptance by state corrections departments and the number of graduates has steadily increased. As we have consolidated our new National structure, we have sought to implement our core programs in all states and territories and I am pleased to see this occurring. God is at work.

I want to thank all those in the Prison Fellowship family: volunteers, staff, donors and those who faithfully pray for God to work in the lives of those inside. It is a truly special ministry that God is using to fill all the earth, even prison cells, with His Glory and I am thankful for the many people who work together with us to share the Good News in the darkest of places.

May this report encourage you to be thankful with me, for what God is doing. I feel privileged to be a part of seeing the Gospel transform the lives of those inside.

PETER HALL

Chairman of the Board

PRISON FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA BOARD MEMBERS



John Peberdy
Finance Officer



Michael Wood
Secretary



David Berry



David Cormack



David Maxwell



Daryl Myatt



Steven Nicholson

PRISON FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



"I was in prison, and you visited me..." (Matthew 25)

These well-known words of Jesus issue the same challenge to our quest for personal comfort as they did when they were first spoken two millennia ago. A challenge, which is echoed in the letter to the Hebrews, that we are to "treat those in prison as if we were their fellow prisoner". A call to step away from self-interest, and to follow the way of Jesus by serving those who have been deemed unfit to live or partake in our community.

This is a challenge that 1052 volunteers, 1158 donors, 688 churches and 4306 prayer supporters across Australia have taken seriously. They have given of themselves so that prisoners, ex-offenders and their families might have the opportunity to see and hear of God's love for them.

As a result, the past 12 months has seen incredible growth for Prison Fellowship. Our ministry in each State and Territory continues to be blessed with increased opportunities to support men, women and children affected by crime. Our South Australia and Northern Territory ministries have built steadily, increasing their impact inside prison walls. The number of Prison Fellowship chaplains in Queensland has doubled from 23 to 46. *The Prisoner's Journey* course ran 44 times across multiple States, we supported hundreds of ex-offenders exiting the prison system and we supplied and distributed a record 7789 *Angel Tree* Christmas gifts to the children of prisoners in partnership with hundreds of local churches. These are just a few select highlights, representative of thousands upon thousands of meaningful interactions across the year.

Thank you to our faithful financial donors, to government departments, and to trusts and foundations who have supported this work. Thank you to those who continue to pray and thank you to the men and women, obedient to God's call, who give their time to "visit their fellow prisoner."

Finally, thank you to our hard-working staff, who often go above and beyond their regular duties, especially our State Managers:

Peter Abood – NSW/ACT
Richard Feeney – VIC
Graham Hembrow – QLD
Sue Oliver – WA
Ian Townsend – SA/NT

GLEN FAIRWEATHER

General Manager

THE PRISONER'S JOURNEY

A PROGRAM OF PRISON FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL



2018 2015-2018

Prisons running TPJ

22

30

Courses run

44

85

Graduates

376

702

Prisoners continuing on with a discipleship course

111

366

"There's a lot of people you meet in jail who are praying a lot, but it's like a bargaining system."

Monty was born in Colombia, and while he had a religious environment, he had no relationship with God. His involvement in a drug cartel led to his incarceration. Imprisonment rekindled his faith, and Monty now runs *The Prisoner's Journey (TPJ)* amongst his peers.

"You know 'normal religion' is complicated with big words, but TPJ is like story-telling. It makes the gospel simple. Who is Jesus, why did he come, what does it mean for me. We have a heart problem, so grace is a gift you can receive or not.

"The session I love is about grace. I love it when you give the guys a list of people who you think is going to

heaven. When you come to the answer that none are going, they all drop their jaw to the floor! There is nothing you can do to save yourself, only grace.

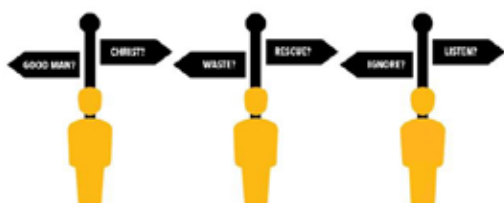
"Some people can't believe someone loves them enough to die for them. Many of these people have been betrayed or let down, so to hear someone loves them changes their life. In the last two months, I've known three people in here who have committed suicide, so when you talk about life and death, we are talking real business. This is the pinnacle.

"To tell somebody we love them enough to meet with them and talk about Jesus. If you are donating you have faith, but you can't even imagine how life-changing it is for people to receive what you are supporting. God is good, I'm telling you!"



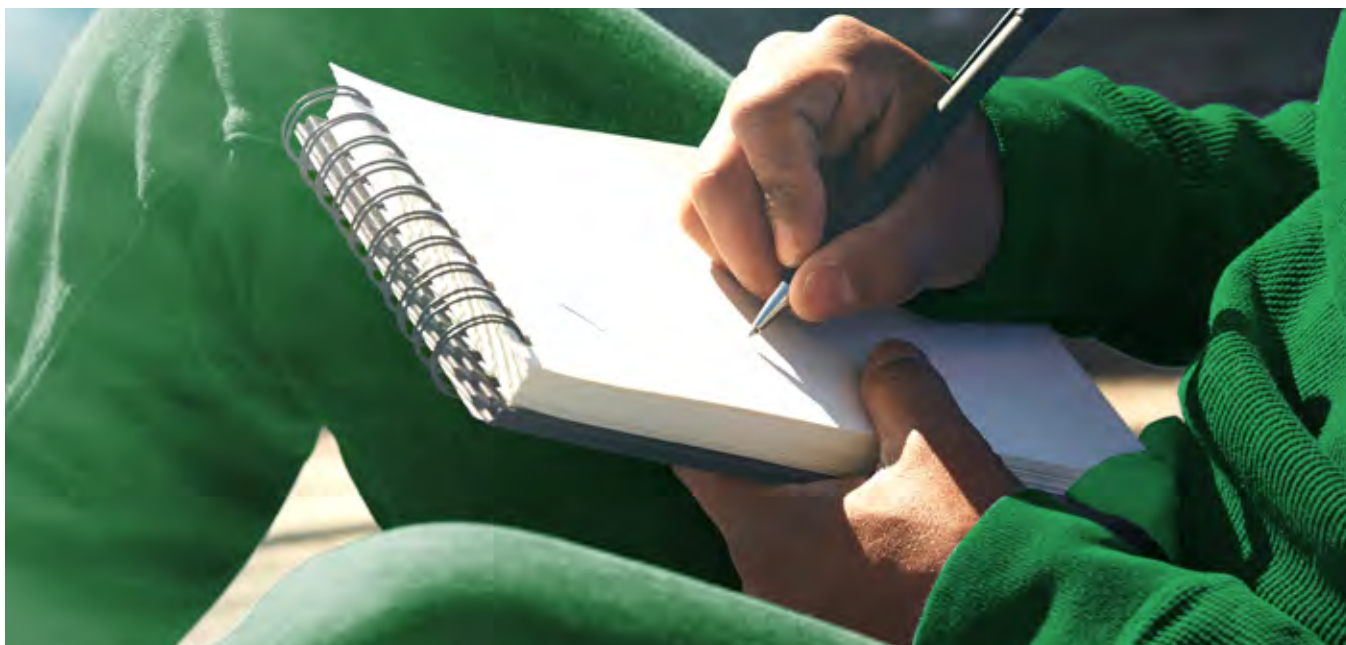
Monty

The Prisoner's Journey is a highly interactive program based on the Gospel of Mark and focuses on three simple questions:



- Who is Jesus?
- Why did he come?
- What is he calling me to do?

The program is supported by video testimonies of many prisoners who have been transformed by the love of God through hearing the gospel.



CHANGE ON THE INSIDE



20 CHANGE ON THE INSIDE
COURSES RUN



For Jonno this was a tough course because he knew he had to forgive someone on the outside. He was separated from his children and other family members and had no idea when this was going to change.

Jonno was a participant in the Change on the Inside program that was being delivered in South Australia. Understandably, Jonno was apprehensive when he discovered that week four of the program works through the subject of forgiveness. Jonno had a good perspective on life and understood that he needed to accept responsibility for his

actions, but like most in the room, he struggled with offering forgiveness. The week passed by, and Jonno seemed to show no signs of drastic change.

In the final week, each participant had the opportunity to give a two-minute speech on "The

"He was able to be honest with himself and then to be vulnerable with the group. In his speech, Jonno confessed that he knew he had to forgive..."

type of man I want to be." When Jonno spoke, he read a two-page document that he had written beforehand. We were blown away that he had taken time in his cell



Chris - Prison Fellowship Volunteer

to write his thoughts down. He was able to be honest with himself and then to be vulnerable with the group. In his speech, Jonno confessed that he knew he had to forgive, for the sake of himself, his future relationships, and to move forward in life. It was a very

powerful statement, and showed a profound impact as a result of his involvement.

**Names have been changed*



180
CHILDREN ATTENDING
CAMP FOR KIDS

Zac was not like most children he knew. After school, he came home to be the man of the house – cooking, cleaning, and helping look after his five younger siblings. Zac’s father had been in and out of prison since he was seven years old.

CAMP FOR KIDS **A ROAD REMODELED**



“I don’t reckon things were going in a good direction... things were pretty bad at home,” he says.

It was at this point that Zac’s father signed the kids up for Camp for Kids.

At camp, Zac made a meaningful connection with his cabin leader, Aaron. The two quickly became friends, but Aaron could see that Zac was battling a lot of personal struggles.

For the next three years after camp, Aaron and Zac met fortnightly. Zac and his new “older brother” spent time talking together, eating dinner, and going bowling.

“He’s a good bloke to talk to – he’s always there and knows what to say,” says Zac.

Zac attended every camp since. At his third camp, Zac accepted Jesus into his life for the first time.

Over the long term, Aaron watched as Zac slowly took control over his life, focus on his future, and begin to remove himself from friends who were headed down a bad path.

Today, Aaron describes Zac as “a real responsible young man”. Zac has plans for his future to involve hands-on work. “As long as I’m with God, nothing much can go wrong!” he says.



Aaron & Zac





7789
ANGEL TREE
GIFTS DELIVERED

ANGEL TREE

Angel Tree seeks to maintain family connection by providing Christmas gifts to children on behalf of their incarcerated parent.



Zac also now volunteers as a junior leader at Camp for Kids, and loves mixing with the other volunteer leaders. Seeing the positive influence of volunteer leaders in his own life, Zac now volunteers his time to do the same for other kids who have a parent in prison. He loves reading the Bible to kids on camp and has a special love for the story of David and Goliath – the first story Aaron ever read to him.

Zac is especially thankful to those who donated towards Camp for Kids over the years. "It has impacted my life and my family's life heaps. I just love this camp!"



GIFTS PER STATE



T24 POST-RELEASE MENTORING



88 T24
PARTICIPANTS



Transition 24 (T24) offers support to a released person by forming restorative relationships with members of the community, overcoming the challenges of change, and enabling a positive way forward to life in the community.

Jonathon* was only in his twenties when he went to prison. Throughout his sentence, he worked hard and attended countless rehabilitation programs, skills training opportunities, and pursued one of his passions – IT and web design.

In late 2017, with the likelihood of parole in the air and contact by a mutual friend, Jonathon agreed to meet with Prison Fellowship to discuss aspects of the program that could assist Jonathon, and some of the restrictions and practical issues he would need to consider. Jonathon was eager to pursue IT with his local church.

The church also runs a Men's Shed: a group of a dozen mostly-retired men who do a range of tasks which include lawn mowing, gardening at the community garden, plumbing, painting, cleaning, collecting metal rubbish, along with community



projects such as cleaning up the yards of older members of the community.

At first Jonathon wasn't eager for this, as after many years in prison he was more comfortable alone, and the thought of these 'messy' jobs did not appeal greatly. But he agreed, as he wanted more than anything to start to participate in community.

Six months later, Men's Shed day is the highlight of Jonathon's week and he is a valued and loved member of the team. Jonathon has learnt much from the older members of the group, who value him for his patience and willingness to learn and help.

Jonathon also worked with the administration team at his local church, updated their website, and continues to maintain this and other church-related websites on a weekly basis.

**Names have been changed*



Working as a garbage truck driver and a barman, Brian had not been seeking the Lord. However, at 37 years of age, Brian heard the voice of God. "God got hold of me," Brian says, recounting the miraculous ways God changed his life.

Now Brian is a pastor nearly 72 years of age, "but I don't look it or feel it!" he exclaims. He recounts his journey to become a prison visitor.

"I've been doing it now for fifteen years and I said to God, 'If this is what you want me to do, I'll do it.'"

"Prison ministry has changed me – it has given me an insight into people. I believe today that good can come out of prison."

Pastor Brian tells the story of John*, a 'lifer'. John was convicted of a serious crime. While he understood that God could forgive him, he was still unable to forgive himself. "I knew he was remorseful," Pastor Brian says. They met together weekly for a year, until John was transferred to a different prison, much further away.



905
VOLUNTEERS
VISITING IN
PRISON

VISITING IN PRISON (VIP)



"After that year, he sent me a Christmas card," Brian recalls. Inside this card John excitedly reported that he had become a Christian. Not only that, but the people he had wronged had

watch the TV and someone does something real bad, I think, 'I'm probably going to have to talk to that person.' I have to think how I am going to talk to them. But God sees further than I see, so

"Prison ministry has changed me – it has given me an insight into people. I believe today that good can come out of prison."

come back and forgiven him, after nearly a decade of silence.

Brian is not unrealistic about the pain of prison ministry. "When I

I just have to speak with people when he tells me to."

**Names have been changed*

SYCAMORE TREE PROJECT



12 SYCAMORE TREE PROJECT
COURSES RUN

In select prisons around Australia, Prison Fellowship has been seeing prisoners' and victims lives impacted by the Sycamore Tree Project. Through this 8-week course inmates hear the impact that crime has had on people's lives.

Inmates encounter the effect criminal behaviours have had on a group of victims, whose lives have been impacted in varying ways – from victims of robberies and assault, to family members whose loved one has been murdered. The Sycamore Tree Project (STP) establishes a safe, caring community where the consequences of crime, accountability for those consequences, and appropriate responses can be acknowledged – endeavouring to



bring a degree of healing to all program participants.

Through the Sycamore Tree Project, prisoners learn about:

- **Taking responsibility for their crimes**
- **Confession and repentance for their actions**
- **Asking forgiveness**
- **Making restitution and reconciliation where possible.**

An inmate participant in one of our STP courses said of his experience: "Seeing the victims and the pain they have carried gave me a chance to review some of the pain I have caused my victims. It was like looking



in a mirror but instead of seeing my pain, I saw only the pain of others."

Another inmate described his experience in STP this way: "You have given me the greatest gift ... a deep and real understanding and insight into what my words and actions have done. I hope with this new insight, to go on to affect others' lives in a positive and healing way."

Prison Fellowship ran 12 courses of the Sycamore Tree Project in various states of Australia over the past year. Through STP we continue to see inmates dramatically transformed when they see the true consequences of their actions, while bringing healing to victims in a protected and safe environment.



Prison Fellowship teams pray all year for prisoners and their families.

To get regular prayer updates, go to prisonfellowship.org.au or call your local state office.

If you would like to serve as a volunteer or give financially, more information can be found on our website, or via your local office.

WA: 08 9228 4649

SA/NT: 08 8261 1844

QLD: 07 3161 8446

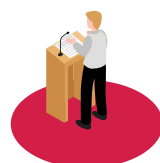
NSW/ACT: 02 9896 1255

VIC: 03 9848 1224

TAS: 0419 120 231



CHURCH **PARTNERSHIP**



139
CHURCH
SPEAKING
ENGAGEMENTS



519 SUPPORTING
CHURCHES

"When Prison Fellowship mobilises volunteers, we help congregations get closer to Jesus. Jesus says in Matthew 25, when you visit a prisoner you visit me. So not only are Christians bringing the hope of Jesus into prisons, they are drawing close to Him." Richard, State Manager

Across Australia, Prison Fellowship is creating stronger partnerships with churches to bring the gospel to prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. Churches play an important part in carrying the gospel message through Prison Fellowship programs.

By partnering with Prison Fellowship, churches can visit those in prison and support prisoners after they are released. They purchase and deliver Angel Tree gifts, join visiting teams, and run gospel programs.

In 2018, over 150 churches partnered with Prison Fellowship financially, and many more supported practically. Without their support we could not provide our programs. We are thankful that they have heard Jesus' call to visit those in prison. 128 churches also invited Prison Fellowship to share about our work. These speaking opportunities enable church members to connect with the impact that fellow Christians are having in prisons across Australia, and provide congregations the opportunity to understand God's heart for the prisoner more deeply.

We are truly thankful for the churches and church leaders who continue to champion and support God's love for prisoners.



If you would like to have someone speak in your church about Prison Fellowship's ministry, contact your State Manager, or Nathan Flannery - 0431 916 814, nathan.flannery@prisonfellowship.org.au.

FINANCIAL REPORT **BREAKDOWN**

Income Statement For The Year Ended 31st January 2019

| REVENUE | 2019 | 2018 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Donations | 1356066 | 985750 |
| Grants | 706276 | 394787 |
| Bequests | 19991 | 9069 |
| Sales | 63739 | 76945 |
| Interest | 14770 | 8635 |
| Other | 53464 | 38439 |
| TOTAL | 2214306 | 1513625 |
| EXPENSES | 2019 | 2018 |
| Program Expenses | 392197 | 438121 |
| Staff & Program Support | 995468 | 911223 |
| Administration & Accountability | 452301 | 398953 |
| TOTAL | 1839966 | 1748297 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | 374340 | (234672) |
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | 2019 | 2018 |
| ▼ Cash & cash equivalents | 831999 | 551037 |
| Trade & other receivables | 12359 | 52978 |
| Inventories | - | - |
| Other | 4796 | 5908 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | 849154 | 609923 |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| ▼ Property, plant & equipment | 94867 | 73351 |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS | 94867 | 73351 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 944021 | 683274 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| ▼ Trade & other payables | 68777 | 112671 |
| Grants/Income received in advance | 49583 | 90127 |
| Provisions | 92692 | 57542 |
| Other | 51161 | 51935 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | 262213 | 312275 |
| NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| ▼ Other | 10417 | 73948 |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | 10417 | 73948 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 272630 | 386223 |
| NET ASSETS | 671391 | 297051 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | 671391 | 297051 |

*God's love
for everyone
affected by
crime.*



PRISON FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA

Unit 2/9-11 Highview Drive,
Doncaster, VIC 3108
PO Box 280, Doncaster Heights,
VIC 3109

Phone

03 9848 1224

Email

aus.office@prisonfellowship.org.au

Website

www.prisonfellowship.org.au

ABN

85 005 883 161

