



PRISON
FELLOWSHIP
AUSTRALIA
**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2020



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.



Our army of volunteers

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Message From The Chairman



PRISON FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA BOARD MEMBERS



Peter Hall
Chairman



Michael Wood
Secretary



David Maxwell
Finance & Vice Chair



David Berry



Daryl Myatt
(Outgoing)



Steven Nicholson
(Outgoing)

What a strange year!

From prisons open to gospel opportunities, then the abrupt “shut down” of not only access to the prison system but the whole nation. In the midst of all this change there is one thing that remains, forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ, our theme for the year. The unchangeable truth that salvation and forgiveness is found in Him is something we at Prison Fellowship Australia have at the centre of our mission and this period has made us keenly aware of how our trust in all things can be placed in his hands. This report gives us an opportunity to reflect and give thanks for God’s continuing work inside Australia’s various corrections institutions.

As the world is in contortions, God goes about his mission. This has been the case this year. Many doors have opened for the gospel in programs such as The Prisoner’s Journey, and Sycamore Tree Project. The Northern Territory is continuing to be an ever-increasing opportunity and our ever-faithful staff and prison visitors continue to have hundreds of gospel interactions every week with those needing the forgiveness and restoration only Jesus brings. Serving in prisons, writing letters, baking biscuits, leading studies, and a myriad of behind the scenes activities, we thank God for all you do.

As a board we are especially appreciative for the continued financial support we have received at a time when people are anxious about the future. People’s faithful giving has astounded us!

Our National board is blessed with people willing to give their time in serving. This year has been a time of renewal for our board, I personally want to thank retiring members, Daryl Myatt, John Peberdy and Steven Nicholson for their friendship and service over many years. All of them have been a source of inspiration and encouragement to me. To our new board members Melissa Binks, Ruth McCrindle, Derrick Toh, and Andrew Baxter welcome and thank you for serving alongside us.

This year we have made the decision to support an outreach initiative of PFI. Many national prison ministries around the world operate in the most difficult of circumstances and we along with a number of other national ministries have joined together to help and resource others in need. Please pray for wisdom as we think how best to help people ministering in the darkest of places.

As I close, can I thank all of you for working with us, enjoy reading the story of what God has been doing this last year inside Australia’s prisons.

PETER HALL

Chairman of the Board

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on the past 12 months, I have appreciated more and more that we are truly a fellowship; a place where each person contributes as they are able, in God's plan, to lift up those who are less able. To that end, I want to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers, staff, donors, partner churches and other organisations for your significant partnership in the work of Prison Fellowship.

Our mission to prisoners and their families is not a glamorous pursuit, but one of sitting with broken people, seeing their pain, hearing their stories, and sometimes even enduring their abuse.

Our army of volunteers serves these men, women and children faithfully and passionately; obedient to the call of our King and willing to go into the dark to share His magnificent light. Our staff work diligently to ensure that more Gospel opportunities are created each day and that our volunteers are fully equipped with excellent training and life-changing programs.

All of this activity requires resourcing through financial and prayerful support. A special thank you to our donors who help to bring hope to thousands of prisoners and their families across Australia. You share the gospel with a young person attending Camp for Kids who is longing for a father they can trust. You share the gospel with a prisoner, sitting in a prison classroom grappling with forgiveness and restoration. You share the gospel with a recently released offender who is determined to walk the right path this time. Your sacrificial support is crucial and it is powerful.

We are also very grateful for the support of a number of philanthropic trusts and foundations, namely:

- Pierce Armstrong Trust
- St Andrew's Foundation
- Commonwealth Bank Foundation

Thank you also to our Government partners in all States and Territories:

- Corrections Victoria
- Corrective Services NSW
- ACT Corrective Services
- Queensland Corrective Services
- Department for Correctional Services - SA
- Department of Justice - WA
- Tasmania Prison Service
- Northern Territory Correctional Services

As you read the stories and information in the following pages, I hope that you will be inspired by the significant work done under the banner of Prison Fellowship Australia. And through God's grace, may we see Him do more and more through us in the year to come!

God Bless,



GLEN FAIRWEATHER

General Manager

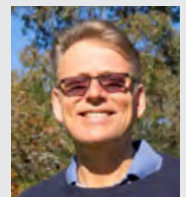
Message From The General Manager



PRISON FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA BOARD MEMBERS *Continued...*



John Peberdy
(Outgoing)



David Cormack



Ruth McCrindle
(Incoming)



Melissa Binks
(Incoming)



Derrick Toh
(Incoming)



Andrew Baxter
(Incoming)



This year, Prison Fellowship Australia launched an exciting new development:

The Prisoner's Journey – Indigenous Edition!

The Prisoner's Journey is an eight-session program that introduces prisoners to a fellow inmate – Jesus. Prisoners explore the Gospel of Mark and find out just how much Jesus loves them.

In 2019-2020, The Prisoner's Journey was run in 25 prisons, with 464 graduates across the country, and 183 prisoners continuing on to further discipleship courses!


While the program is already changing lives, there continues to remain a significant need. Aboriginal people represent 3% of Australia's population, but make up more than 27% of Australian prison populations. To begin to address this devastating disparity, Prison Fellowship Australia have developed the Indigenous Edition of The Prisoner's Journey. It is in a culturally relevant format, with beautiful, specially designed Aboriginal artwork and plain English to explain the story of Jesus.

Mick* is an Aboriginal inmate in maximum security. He was previously a Christian, but had deserted his faith in his descent to alcohol and domestic violence. After completing The Prisoner's Journey, Mick came back to his love for Jesus and now wants to be baptised!

The course is well-placed to meet needs for many more Aboriginal prisoners in this new format. The program is the culmination of 12 months' work in partnership with Bible League and Christianity Explored, as well as Prison Fellowship International.



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The Prisoner's Journey
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of Jesus.

Visiting In Prisons



Billy* spent a lot of time in solitary confinement. Prison Fellowship volunteers would visit him regularly to chat. “When I first met Billy... he was a violent type of person. Selfish,” said volunteer Paul.

Serving a very long sentence was taking its toll on Billy. He has spent more than half of his sentence in solitary confinement, or “the slot”, as it is not-so-affectionately known in prison. Billy garnered a fearsome reputation in the unit.

With the help of Prison Fellowship, two inmates were able to set up a church service in the prison with the blessing of prison authorities. They encouraged Billy to explore his faith and invited him along. The change was gradual, but dramatic. Billy said, “I gave my heart to Jesus and thank him every day for salvation.”

“It’s a true conversion,” said volunteer Paul. “I’ve seen a big change in him. Now he’s a gentle giant. That’s the fruit you see. He’s humbled by the power of God. Before if you looked at him, he’d want to punch you! Now, he is in control of himself, he’s got a good standing with the officers in the unit; he’s polite, gentle, and humble.”

Billy is now heavily involved in his unit’s church service. He reads the Bible and does some of the preaching. “For the Sunday, he would sit and study during the week and then speak on it!” said Paul. Billy’s regular gospel messages in his prison church service testify to God’s power to redeem anyone who comes to him.

**Names have been changed.*





Change On The Inside



Change on the Inside is a ground-breaking 6-week character-based course. Inmates explore themes such as wisdom, responsibility, and forgiveness in an engaging format. The success of the program, according to volunteer Clyde*, is “we are not paid staff. We choose to be there, and we aren’t preaching at the prisoners. The other success is that stories and humour make the more serious points easier to receive. It is an opportunity to put something meaningful before the prisoners.”

Change on the Inside has been running in several states around Australia with tremendous favour among inmates and prison staff.

**Names have been changed.*

Sycamore Tree Project



Restorative justice is the core focus of the *Sycamore Tree Project*. Prisoners meet over 7 weeks with unrelated victims of crime, hearing each other’s stories as the two groups journey towards healing. Sycamore Tree Project has been life-changing for both victims of crime and perpetrators of crime, because it allows an avenue to process pain and come to a place of resolution.

Inmates hear the impacts of crime and learn to make retribution for the things they have done in a safe space to address deep-seated issues.

Is 1% As Small As We Think?

Reducing Recidivism

Prison Fellowship Australia was privileged to take part in the 2019 Actuarial Hackathon, an event sponsored by the Actuarial Institute, Finity Consulting, and Pacific Life Re. We conducted research to discover the economic benefit of reducing recidivism by just 1% (approximately 500 people). It is estimated that 45.6% of all released prisoners reoffend within two years alone.

Returning back to society is much harder than it may seem. There is always a complex array of factors that influence a person's propensity to reoffend. Some of the most significant issues include age, education, employment, aboriginal status, and mental health.

Preventing reoffending is economically beneficial for the Australian community. The national operating expenditure on prisons in Australia was \$3.9 billion in the 2017/2018 financial year (excluding capital costs). This is equivalent to \$94,000/inmate p.a.

With an estimated 44.8% of 47,000 released prisoners returning to prison within two years, this presents a great financial burden on the economy.

The study took into account:

DIRECT COSTS

These are the variable costs associated with operating the prisons borne by the government. A 1% reduction in recidivism would save approximately \$40.6 million p.a.

PRODUCTIVITY COSTS

This is the value lost due to incarceration in the form of salary and payroll tax borne by the inmates and the government.

Prisoners would otherwise be employed, creating approximately \$118-173/day per person on average. (This includes paid and unpaid work). However, prisoners also create value during imprisonment through employment and community work. This offsets the value loss by an estimated \$52-73/day.

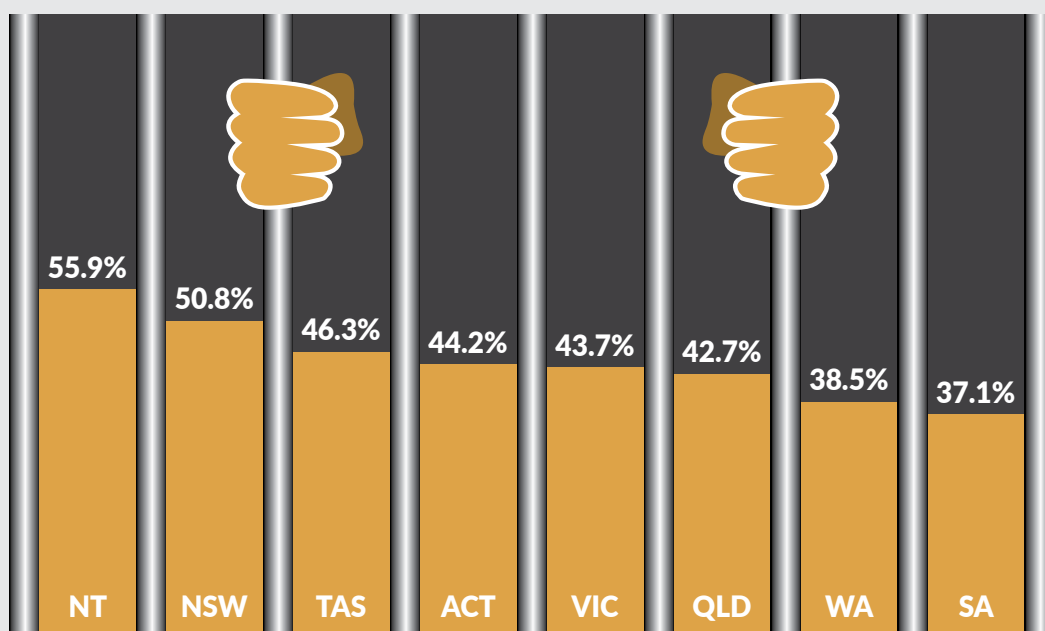
When extrapolated over an average prison sentence, this equates to \$12.1-18.3 million p.a.

NON-FINANCIAL COSTS

Non-financial (economic) costs of crime refer to the time, energy, and resources diverted. While difficult to measure accurately, it is still estimated to be \$96.7 million.

Percentage Of Prisoners Released During 2015-16 Who Returned to Prison Within 2 Years

Source: Australian Productivity Commission, Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, Report on Government Services 2019, Part C, Table CA.4 (2019).



RELEASE COSTS

Certain post-release costs can be considered unproductive if they do not produce the required outcome of preventing recidivism. These include: parole and supervision, housing services, legal services, employment services. (Other release costs have not been included: support groups and counselling, drug and alcohol programs, training and mentoring programs, childcare assistance).

Unproductive release costs equate to a minimum of \$8,500 per inmate.

It is difficult to get an accurate gauge on the non-financial and release costs. However, even if only considering the reduction in direct and productivity costs, reducing recidivism by 1% equates to nearly \$60 million p.a. saving to the Australian economy.



"The first 24 hours are really crucial. Probation wasn't handed to Ken* on a silver platter." As part of the T24 program, Douglas picked Ken up from prison, gave him a backpack of essentials, and took him to appointments. They had meetings with housing workers, powers of attorney, and psychologists. "We got his driver's license; that was the quickest thing, would you believe?!"

The initial transition was hard. Douglas isn't sure how it would be possible to succeed on parole without the help of a car to get to compulsory appointments. It has been encouraging to see Ken find his feet, though. "He has now found a job, a unit, and now his electronic monitoring is a lot less severe. He's very switched on and motivated," Douglas says. "Now he has his 'new' secondhand car, and he can go for a drive for an early morning beach swim. He's embarrassed about his ankle bracelet, so he swims before dawn then drives up the coast on his days off. He is appreciating every good thing."

Douglas is impressed by how Ken fights for his faith. Since his parole restrictions make it difficult to get to church, Ken listens to the local Christian radio station from 8am on Sunday, followed by church programs on TV. "But he's looking forward to the day he can actually be at church," says Douglas. "He's managing in this way, and through the stress he is getting closer to God."

Douglas isn't alone in supporting Ken. The chaplains from the prison still call Ken regularly as well, and Douglas appreciates the unique privilege to work together.

"All this wasted time in incarceration is a small percentage of eternity. He has a new perspective," says Douglas.

**Names have been changed.*

What now?

Prison Fellowship remains committed to working with Corrections Departments, chaplaincy services, and faithful volunteers in order to engage meaningfully with prisoners and others affected by crime. Prison visitors and restorative justice programs offer the transformative love of Jesus, targeting the heart behind the crime. We trust in a patient God, who desires that none should perish, but that all might come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)



Celebrating 20 Years of Camp For Kids!

In April 2000, the first Camp for Kids began. A chance for children with a parent in prison to have a break from 'normal' life in the company of caring Christian leaders and other children who understand their situation. Archery, swimming, basketball, BMX bike riding, abseiling and bushwalks were a welcome adventure.

"All the children had experienced rejection. They coped in different ways... Yet... over the four days of camp, we noticed them blossom and change," said one leader at the historic camp.

After the first camp, a grandmother of one of the children sent the following in a letter:

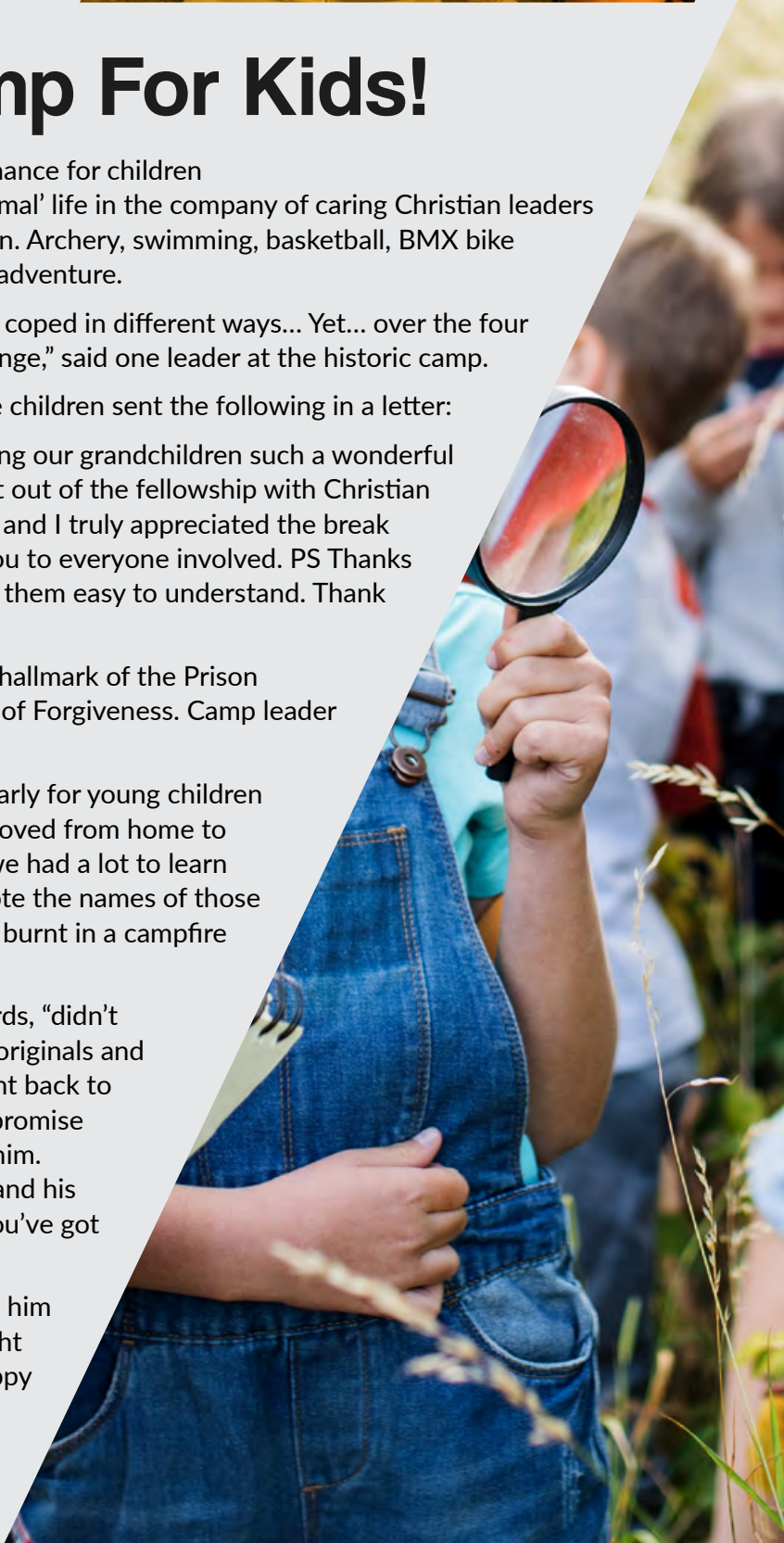
"Many thanks for all the work that went into giving our grandchildren such a wonderful time at camp. They had a great time and got a lot out of the fellowship with Christian leaders and have asked to go again. My husband and I truly appreciated the break with only one child to care for at home. Thank you to everyone involved. PS Thanks for the bibles you gave to the children. They find them easy to understand. Thank you again."

Twenty years later, Camp for Kids has become a hallmark of the Prison Fellowship year. This year's camp had the theme of Forgiveness. Camp leader Claire said:

"Our theme, Forgiveness, was a toughie, particularly for young children who have been hurt, bullied, abused, rejected, moved from home to home and sometimes carer to carer. As leaders we had a lot to learn from the yielding hearts of the campers who wrote the names of those they wanted to forgive on paper which was later burnt in a campfire to symbolise letting go and forgiveness."

Camper Mia* grew up in a family who, in her words, "didn't believe in Jesus or God because they were all aboriginals and believed in the Dreamtime." When Mia's dad went back to prison, she felt hurt and betrayed. He broke his promise to not reoffend, so Mia decided not to speak to him. After coming on camp and learning about Jesus and his forgiveness, Mia decided "you can't hold hate; you've got to just forgive people no matter what they do."

As a result, Mia visited her father in prison to tell him she forgives him. A daughter's forgiveness brought Mia's father to tears. Mia says she "felt really happy and free".





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



Gifts Provided in 2019



8081 In Total

Financial Report Breakdown

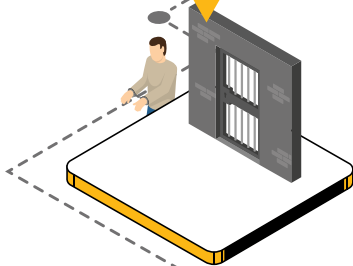
Income Statement For The Year Ended 31ST January 2020

REVENUE	2020	2019
Donations	1,212,150	1,356,066
Grants	536,015	706,276
Bequests	54,586	19,991
Sales	66,224	63,739
Interest	12,235	14,770
Other	16,620	53,464
TOTAL	1,897,830	2,214,306
EXPENSES	2020	2019
Program Expenses	371,295	392,197
Staff & Program Support	1,139,944	995,468
Administration & Accountability	440,932	452,301
TOTAL	1,952,171	1,839,966
Surplus/(Deficit)	54,341	374,340
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS	2020	2019
▼ Cash & cash equivalents	780,561	831,999
Trade & other receivables	64,241	12,359
Inventories	-	-
Other	7,492	4,796
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	852,294	849,154
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
▼ Property, plant & equipment	72,121	94,867
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	72,121	94,867
TOTAL ASSETS	924,415	944,021
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
▼ Trade & other payables	102,522	68,777
Grants/Income received in advance	10,417	49,583
Provisions	101,088	92,692
Other	93,338	51,161
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	307,365	262,213
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
▼ Other	-	10,417
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	10,417
TOTAL LIABILITIES	307,365	272,630
NET ASSETS	617,050	671,391
TOTAL EQUITY	617,050	671,391

OUR IMPACT

43,028

PRISONERS IN
AUSTRALIA



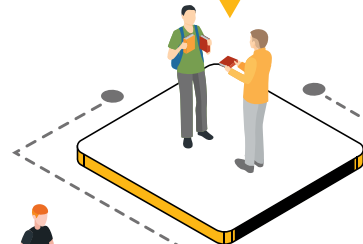
934

ACTIVE
VOLUNTEERS



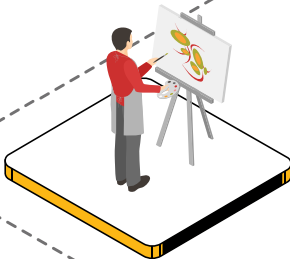
803

VOLUNTEERS
VISITING IN
PRISON



179

ART FROM
INSIDE
PARTICIPANTS



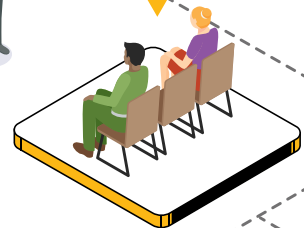
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ANGEL TREE
GIFTS
DELIVERED



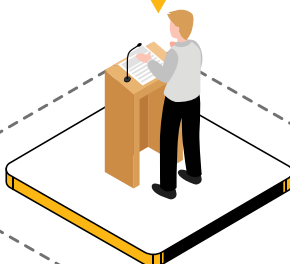
69

COURSES
RUN IN
PRISON



135

CHURCH
SPEAKING
ENGAGEMENTS



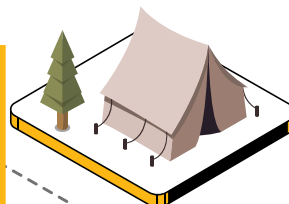
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ANGEL TREE
GIFTS
DELIVERED



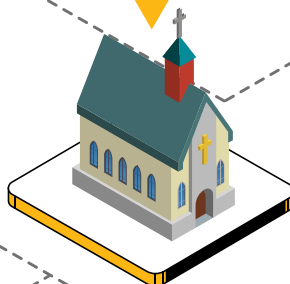
136

CHILDREN
ATTENDING
CAMP FOR
KIDS



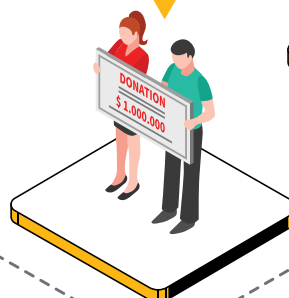
467

SUPPORTING
CHURCHES



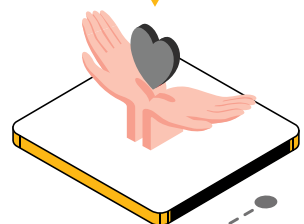
1924

VALUED
DONORS



4396

PRAYER
SUPPORTERS



COURSES RUN:

- 48 The Prisoner's Journey
- 10 Sycamore Tree Project
- 6 Change on the Inside
- 5 SLAM Teams

PRAYER PARTNER CHURCHES:

219 Churches committed
to praying for our
mission

Whatever part you played ...

Thank You



Prison Fellowship Australia
WE GET THROUGH.

"The yellow icon represents God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in the middle with his grace and power flowing out to the world represented by the dotted lines.

People from all over have walked to be with Him and are in community together - the shapes are face to face which represents friendship.

The small ellipse shapes are message sticks which can represent a message or even the bible.

Peace is what happens when we dwell with God, read his Word, and love one another."

- Artwork by Paul Davies



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

