

PRISON FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA ANNUAL REPORT 2021



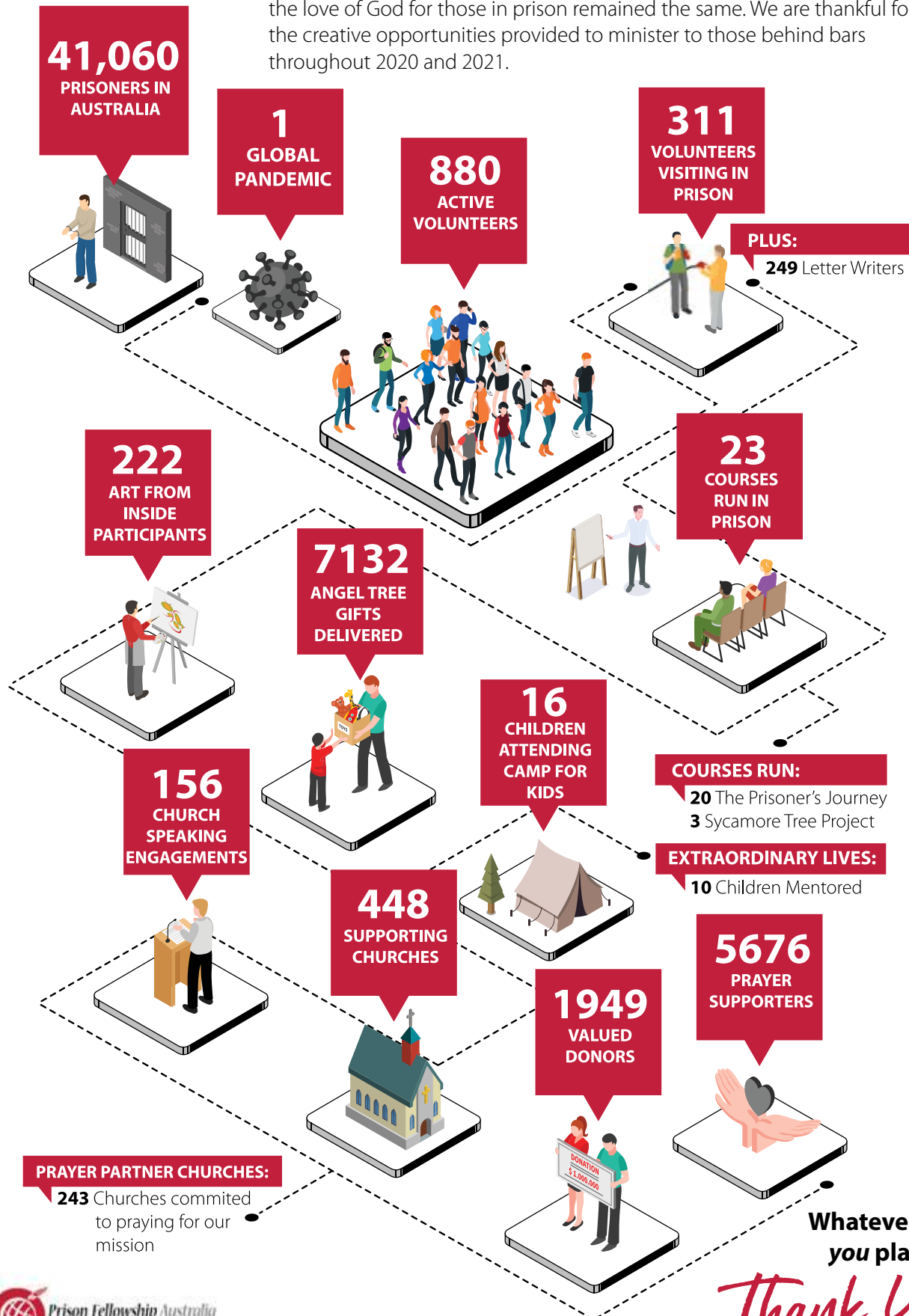
Prison Fellowship Australia
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

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Our Impact

In a year characterised by isolation and lockdown, God was necessarily closer to His people. These days were a mere taste of the experiences of those in prison, who are similarly desperate to know the love of God in a time of crisis. Prison Fellowship Australia had to seek alternative programs and strategies to come alongside those behind bars this year and this is evident in the ministry's statistics. Different teams were affected to different degrees, but the love of God for those in prison remained the same. We are thankful for the creative opportunities provided to minister to those behind bars throughout 2020 and 2021.



Message from The Chairman



Peter Hall
Chairman

PRISON FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA BOARD MEMBERS



Michael Wood
Secretary



David Berry



Gavin Mann



David Maxwell



Ruth McCrindle



Melissa Binks



Derrick Toh



Andrew Baxter

Last year I reflected on the upside down world of COVID and God's faithfulness through it. Little did I know there would still be some aftershocks as 2021 tried to shake off its predecessor!

We thank God again for his leading and provision as Australia comes to grips with a fragmented federation with the various snap lockdowns and various border closures that have challenged a national ministry like ours. Most states have returned to some sense of normalcy in terms of allowing the PFA ministry to proclaim the Gospel to those inside but it has put enormous pressure on our staff and volunteers to manage the volatile environment.

I want to thank all of our staff and volunteers for remaining faithful and committed to the great work of being a light in the darkness of Australia's various correction departments. I appreciate the challenges it has presented and on behalf of the board extend our gratefulness and prayers for your Gospel work.

The work has continued sometimes in innovative ways where restrictions have caused us to think outside the box and in our conventional programs. Our in prison visiting is now operating in all states, Camp for Kids has been running, The Prisoner's Journey continues to be a powerful vehicle for Gospel work and the Sycamore Tree Project has had a successful pilot program in NSW. We continue to experience favour with the various corrections authorities with opportunities being offered to us sometimes unexpectedly.

We thank God for all of this and for the many faithful supporters who work with us through prayer and sacrificial giving. God has provided for us and we wish to acknowledge the support we receive from all those who have joined with us in this ministry.

We have added a new member to our national board in Tony Pisano from WA and we thank you for being willing to serve in this way. David Maxwell has vacated his position as the WA Chairman but remains as a company member. I want to thank David for his contribution to the ministry in governance over many years and his friendship. We also farewell Richard Feeney, he has served with PFA for many years both in NSW and more recently in Victoria. He will still be connected to the ministry but we wish him well as he returns to Sydney and thank him for his tireless efforts and boundless enthusiasm for PFA.

In closing I encourage you to read this report and join with me in thanking God for his faithfulness as he has supplied all our needs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter G. Hall".

PETER HALL

Chairman of the Board

Message from The General Manager

The joy of this ministry is the ability to shine light in dark places - to bring hope.

Many of us have had to cling to hope in recent times, perhaps more than usual. Hope of borders opening, hope of COVID restrictions easing, hope of seeing loved ones again, hope of being able to gather for fellowship, productivity, and worship. Perhaps, ironically, we have all been given a small glimpse into some of the 'hopes' that prisoners and their families have.

Hope has been the core theme of Prison Fellowship Australia this year, and like every year, we have sought to bring that hope to prisoners and their families. In 2020 and 2021 this has meant being more persistent, more creative, and more flexible than perhaps any other time in our history. Increased letter writing and video calls to inmates, phone calls to encourage the children and families of offenders, even in-prison programs delivered via Zoom - all to deliver hope. Many prison doors have been temporarily closed, however hope remains.

Of course, Prison Fellowship Australia is celebrating 40 years of service in 2021. From small groups of passionate men and women in each state and territory welcoming Chuck Colson to our shores in the early 1980s, to Australia's largest national prison ministry, we have seen God faithfully build this organisation over four decades. It is such a privilege to lead our staff and volunteer teams, who are no less passionate than their predecessors, and to work tirelessly together with so many fervent prayer warriors and faithful financial supporters - each playing their part in resourcing this Gospel mission of hope. My thanks to you all!

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." - Romans 15:13



GLEN FAIRWEATHER

General Manager



Glen Fairweather
General Manager

PRISON FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA STATE MANAGERS



Peter Abood
NSW



Graham Hembrow
QLD



Ian Townsend
SA & NT



Richard Feeney
VIC



Steve McKinnon
WA

“ God has blessed me
with an amazing family. ”



FROM PRISON TO THE MISSION FIELD

A STORY OF FREEDOM

Shane grew up in a Christian home and had moments as a boy where he loved God. However, as a teenager, he wandered away.

Circumstances caused Shane to question God and he headed off into the party lifestyle whilst in high school and university, which included taking, producing and selling drugs to support his very expensive habit. From the age of 19 to 24, Shane spent \$1,000 to \$3,000 a day to support his drug habits.

"I always believed that God was real, but I also believed that all you had to do was pray a 'sinner's prayer' before you died and you got to heaven. It didn't actually make any difference before you get to heaven, right? It's not like God was here now to help."

On January 16, 2002, Shane found himself in a jail cell. He thought, "What am I going to say to the judge? I knew that the next day I was going to get sentenced and I also knew that I couldn't get away with it. It didn't matter what I said, I was going to jail for a long time.

"God spoke to me and said, 'How would you like to be standing before me on the judgement day trying to come up with an excuse for hell?'"

"It was then that the reality of eternity hit me. What if I didn't get to say the sinner's prayer before I died? What if, all of a sudden, I was standing before the Creator, and it's too late to go back and change. Fear of the judgement moment came on me; in particular was a fear of God and I did not want to spend eternity in hell, so I surrendered in my heart. I chose to do the 'Christian thing', whatever that looks like."

That year, Shane was saved in prison. His faith was strengthened through his connection with Prison

Fellowship and other ministries holding a Sunday Service and Bible studies.

"I really appreciate ministries like Prison Fellowship. I started getting into that church service, I got a Bible, started reading it day by day. I met love in a jail cell that day because my life started to turn around and all the addictions just broke off me. I spent 20.5 months in prison."

"In the past I've been to 12 different rehab centres trying to break free from addictions; I now have the power to resist temptation."

Now, Shane is married with eight children.

"God has blessed me with an amazing family. I went to university, did a Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering went to work for Boeing Australia for a season and then I went back and was doing my PhD in robotics and automation."

I was about halfway through that when God called me to the mission field, so I didn't actually finish my PhD. I just took a Master's degree for the research I had done, and since 2010 I've been a full-time missionary."

Shane Degen is the founder and CEO of Jesus Loves Australia and now is focused on a Global mission field under "Jesus Loves Nations", soon to be moving to the USA to start "Jesus Loves America".

"I'm really grateful for ministries like Prison Fellowship and the various other Christian organisations that are in prison because even after I'd made that first decision for Jesus, it was because of the chaplains and those Bible studies and the Sunday morning services that I really got off to a good start in those years. There was amazing wisdom the counsellors and chaplains had to help me because my life was still a mess."





CAMP for KIDS

Mike* was angry. His view of manhood was modelled by his incarcerated father, yet he harboured a deep shame for his family situation.

Mike's bitterness infected his relationships. His decidedly macho persona manifested as a cold

disrespect for female camp leaders, and especially his mum, Janine*.

Mike showed some of the most staggering change. "We saw a visible change in his behaviour towards Janine and his younger siblings. From being purposefully disengaged he slowly started joining in with games and activities, developed relationships with other teenagers and became part of the group," said camp leader Stephanie.

"Over the few days he turned into a boy who really just enjoyed having fun playing with others, growing affectionate towards his mum, and actually relating to all other females in acceptable ways," she said. "That was such a turnaround!"

"Camp was the best thing I have done in my life!" says Tracey, mother of six. The pressure of raising her children alone can be crippling for Tracey. She so strongly desires to be the perfect loving mother and role model, while also being the sole breadwinner and head of the household. More often than not, she is disappointed.

In a few days of camp, Tracey was able to "get away from it all", regroup, and spend some quality time

with her children. Camp leader Stephanie said, "They built completely new connections within their family and discovered beautiful character traits about themselves."

Tracey's sons, Dom and Ben, initially stood aloof from the other kids. They wore a tough face and clearly held their guard up. "Over the course of the camp," said Stephanie, "we saw this guard coming down as children emerged who had fun jumping into the pool at a waterfall. Kayaking, rafting down the river in inflated tyre tubes, playing games, learning about printing and mosaics, and learning about a God who loves them."

The freedom to ask open questions was significant to the success of these teaching sessions. "People could be themselves. Kids were engaged with hands on stuff, teenagers were engaged through challenges and practical applications," said Stephanie. Parents were engaged in evening teaching sessions after the kids were asleep, learning about God's forgiveness for them and others.

**Names have been changed*

Thanks to your donations, children and parents were able to experience God's love in a setting removed from the extreme pressure of the outside world. Your gifts this year mean children can take part in this life-changing program. Thank you!



Paul (far right) and the team

"PART OF A BIGGER TEAM"

OUR VOLUNTEERS

"I've done it 21 years now. In the old days when I started, there were just two or three of us who went in every Sunday," says long-term prison visitor, Paul. Paul and his team visit the local remand centre for a few hours every Sunday, coordinating the chapel service and visiting the vast array of inmates awaiting sentence and placement.

Paul and his wife were isolated when they first moved to Queensland. They had both moved to Australia from other countries in the 1990s and knew homesickness firsthand. They decided to redeem their experience of isolation and sought other people who were separated from family at Christmas. A friend suggested they try prison! 21 years later, Paul is still visiting prison regularly. "It's been a real blessing," he says.

"In the old days, we used to go into the cell area and sit on the concrete floor and share with inmates through the grill. Now our team generally speaks in an interview room, one-on-one."

In one of these visits, Paul met Janene*. Janene shared how the influence of drugs came from her own family; she picked up the habit from her father. He later committed suicide, leaving Janene with compounding trauma. Janene longed to be set free from drugs and that she would not hurt her children. Paul shared with her how Jesus had paid the price to set her free. Given the transient nature of remand, Janene was transferred and Paul lost contact with her for twelve months. When they finally crossed paths again, Janene was delighted to report that she had gone through rehab and reconnected with her

children. Her life was coming together.

Even though Paul is unable to walk an inmate's full journey when they are transferred from remand, he knows that faithfulness to God's call is still worthwhile.

"I often have people in the shopping mall come up to me and remember when I saw them in prison," he recalls. "They tell me how they are trying to set their life straight, and that they have been out of prison for X number of years."

Moments like this encourage Paul to continue. "Some days you just don't wanna go, but you pray before you go in and leave saying, 'Wow, God did the most amazing things.' He turns it all around. You have an encounter with a person, you're in tears with them, and have an opportunity to share with them. You've just gotta go with the moment. The things of God are amazing. The mercy of God can cover the most horrifying of sins. We can't understand the depth and breadth of what He can do. That's part of the journey, I guess."

Having volunteered for so many years, Paul is encouraged to see his church engage with prisoner care, "to see younger people step into their journey with the Lord." His church have welcomed many ex-inmates to their community.

He also values the people who give towards prison ministry. "You've gotta have a strong love for the Lord Jesus Christ. There are some big problems in our cities and God can make a big difference in people's lives. It's not for the lone wolf – you are part of a bigger team."

**Names have been changed*

Financial Report

Income statement for the year ended 31st January

REVENUE	2021	2020
Donations	1,322,281	1,212,150
Grants	915,620	536,015
Bequests	39,616	54,586
Sales	40,932	66,224
Interest	5,529	12,235
Other	16,832	16,620
TOTAL	2,340,810	1,897,830
EXPENSES	2021	2020
Program Expenses	206,726	371,295
Staff & Program Support	1,485,225	1,139,944
Administration & Accountability	430,577	440,932
TOTAL	2,122,528	1,952,171
Surplus/(Deficit)	218,282	54,341
ASSETS	2021	2020
CURRENT ASSETS		
▼ Cash & cash equivalents	1,075,495	780,561
Trade & other receivables	13,354	64,241
Inventories	-	-
Other	17,171	7,492
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,106,020	852,294
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
▼ Property, plant & equipment	86,618	72,121
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	86,618	72,121
TOTAL ASSETS	1,192,638	924,415
LIABILITIES	2021	2020
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
▼ Trade & other payables	104,714	102,522
Grants/Income received in advance	75,018	10,417
Provisions	136,493	101,088
Other	41,081	93,338
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	357,306	307,365
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
▼ Other	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	357,306	307,365
NET ASSETS	835,332	617,050
TOTAL EQUITY	835,332	617,050



Prison Fellowship Australia

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