



# ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23



*Prison Fellowship Australia*  
RESTORING LIVES INSIDE OUT



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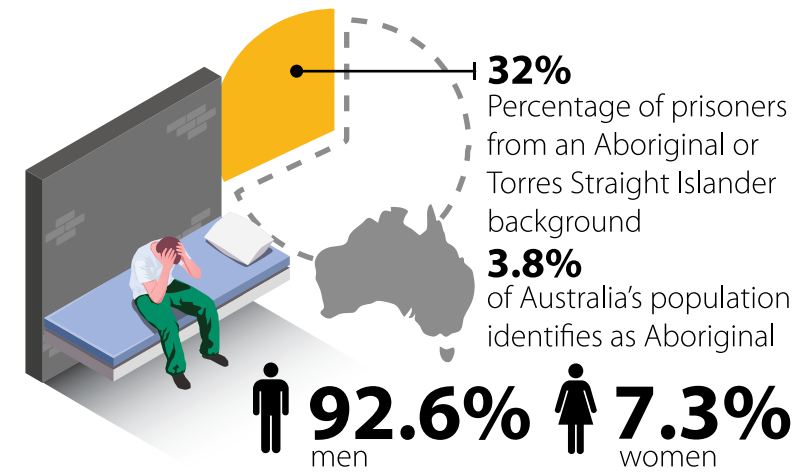
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## Your Impact

INSIDE PRISON

40,591

PEOPLE IN FULL TIME CUSTODY IN AUSTRALIA  
DOWN 6% FROM THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS



approx 12%

OF INMATES SUPPORTED BY PFA VOLUNTEERS

4806 People receiving in-prison support from PFA

For over 40 years, PFA has ministered to prisoners. During this time more than 200,000 prisoners have been reached



6

CHILDREN OF INMATES

CHILDREN WITH A PARENT IN PRISON

are six times more likely to end up in prison than their peers later in life

Extraordinary Lives enables children to build a stronger platform for future success.



43,000\*

CHILDREN WITH A PARENT IN PRISON

\*Estimated by Dr Catherine Flynn - Monash University



4508 Children interacting with the Extraordinary Lives program

Extraordinary Lives comprises mentoring, Camp for Kids, Angel Tree, school support, and prison visit support.

approx 10%  
OF INMATES' CHILDREN REACHED BY PFA

POST-RELEASE SUPPORT

288

PEOPLE RECEIVING POST-RELEASE SUPPORT from Prison Fellowship Australia

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

45.2%

OF OFFENDERS WILL BE BACK IN PRISON... within 2 years

PFA volunteers help ex-inmates get their life back on track and flourish in the community.

## Our Vision

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



JESUS - Matthew 25

Prison Fellowship Australia  
RESTORING LIVES INSIDE OUT



## From The CHAIRMAN

Greetings to you all!

It's time again to give thanks as we reflect on what God has been doing inside Australian prisons.

With ministry opportunities returning to a mostly normal level and access to prisons approaching similar to pre-COVID times, 2022 gave us a chance to regain stalled opportunities.

Thanks to our many volunteers, staff, and ministry partners who have faithfully and patiently waited for ministry programs to emerge again.

Volunteers are at the core of what Prison Fellowship Australia does. We see ourselves as an organisation that has a mission to release and empower volunteers to go into all of Australia's prisons and share the only message that can bring lasting change to those who find themselves behind prison doors. It was Jesus' parting message "to go into all the world" that compels us. This includes the darkest of places where people's lives have been so broken by sin and need of the hope that only comes from restoration found in Jesus.

I was reminded of the enduring power of the Gospel when we met together in November 2022 to celebrate 40 years of ministry in Australia. Whilst slightly delayed, we finally had an opportunity to stop and reflect on all God has been doing since PFA began in 1981. We shared stories of how God restores and redeems, met up with old friends who share a passion for taking the Gospel into our prisons, and listened to some very generous speakers who gave of their time to help us celebrate God's work.

In particular we were blessed to have Andy Corley, CEO and President of Prison Fellowship International, to both share with us at the weekend event and also spend two weeks travelling around Australia, ministering in prisons and attending public meetings. It was an incredibly uplifting and encouraging time for all who had the opportunity to attend.

Can I encourage you all again this year? God is at work in our prisons, lives are being changed, and no barrier is too great for the Gospel to do its work. Let's be prayerful and faithful as we go about this work.

I want to say a special thank you to all who serve on the National Board and on the State Councils throughout Australia. I appreciate the support you have given me and the example of service that inspires me to serve. Prison Fellowship Australia, as a part of God's great family, has much to be thankful for. Let's strive to live out our calling to reach those who have found themselves inside prison walls with the Gospel.

**Peter Hall**

*Chairman of the Board*



## From The CEO

Dear Friends,

If there is one thing we have learnt over the past three years, it is this: Prison Fellowship is a highly relational ministry, and there is no substitute for sitting in the same room and sharing your life with another.

As 'normality' is restored and our activity level increases in prisons across Australia, I am incredibly grateful for both our relationship with Corrective Service Departments and the incredible, faithful service of our volunteers. I am continually encouraged as I see and hear stories of life transformation, brought about - at least in part - by Prison Fellowship volunteers entering prison gates, providing a listening ear, and offering hope.

I am also incredibly thankful for your ongoing support of Prison Fellowship this year. Together we have seen a significant increase in post-release support for prisoners, more children attending Camp for Kids, and more in-prison courses and visits from volunteers.

My thanks to our staff team who diligently serve in God's mission to inmates and their families. They enhance our long-standing relationships with Corrective Service Departments across the country, and they support our army of volunteers at the 'coal face'. My particular thanks to Graham Hembrow, Craig Mellican, Paul Hutchinson, and Faye Butler, whom we farewelled in the last 12 months.

Our theme this year is Amazing Grace. Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." In the last year of his life, Chuck Colson, the founder of Prison Fellowship, re-visited Maxwell Federal Prison Camp near Montgomery, Alabama, where he served time in the 1970s. While he was there, he gave a message to the men in the chapel. At the end, they all formed a circle around the edges of the room and joined hands. Chuck asked if they would sing 'Amazing Grace' with him. He said that famous hymn was like the prisoners' national anthem. Every time Chuck went behind bars, the incarcerated men or women he visited knew all the words.

God's amazing grace is for everyone. It applied to Chuck Colson, who, as President Nixon's 'hatchet man', had the reputation for being willing to "run over his own grandmother" to gain re-election. It applies to those who are in prison today for committing crime, and it applies to us all. Jesus said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners." (Mark 2:17).

God's amazing grace is indeed evident through Prison Fellowship as an organisation. We are excited by the green shoots of new activity as new volunteers are recruited and trained, new prison doors are opened, and more camps and mentoring opportunities open up for the children of prisoners. But most importantly, His grace is evident in the lives of the men, women and children we serve.

**Glen Fairweather**

*CEO*

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# OUR PROGRAMS

**For many children of prisoners, having a safe space to be seen, heard, and encouraged is rare. But Prison Fellowship's Camp for Kids is one such space. This free week-long camp is designed to be a time of encouragement and fun, where children of inmates spend time with other kids in similar situations, hear about Jesus, and have a lot of fun. For Holly Nicholls, Camp for Kids was so much more than just a fun week away from home. It was a life-changing experience.**

"Prison Fellowship actually changed the trajectory of my life. They showed me what normal looked like. I've had a lot of social work interaction, counsellors, and psychologists as a young person, and none of them was as effective as the volunteers from Prison Fellowship."

## A Broken Home

"Growing up, I had a lot of trauma. My dad was a substance user, and he was in and out of jail. Every three years, he'd go in for crimes relating to poverty - he would do robberies or whatever, just to get his drugs. It led me to feel a bit abandoned. I literally came from a broken home, in every sense of the word. There were heaps of holes in our walls and nothing worked. It was just horrible to live there, and I never really felt safe, ever. I was always hypervigilant from all the trauma and watching my mum get really badly beaten all the time, so I had insomnia when I was little. And when I first came into contact with Prison Fellowship I was very antisocial and very aggressive because that was my safety mechanism."

"I was an angry young person because I was going through these social issues that my friends couldn't really relate to. It was hard because Dad was in and out all the time. That was really frustrating for me. I had low self-esteem because I thought, why can't he just

stay out? Why can't we be a family? What's wrong with me?"

"That made me angry, and I was hypervigilant because of the trauma that came from observing

family violence and just dealing with the police a lot, that would come to our house and kick our door in, and stuff like that. I was really hostile towards any authority figures, including my teachers at school. It was pretty hard. I couldn't make sense of what was happening, so it just led to anger, always angry."

"We were really poor. All the money my dad got just went straight up his arm. That's what my mum always used to say. I was 10, and I didn't really understand what she meant. Mum used to go to the pokies a lot. She was pretty good at making sure we had food, even if we just had bread for dinner, which we did a lot, we always got fed. At least we always had dinner and breakfast."

## A Life-Changing Camp

It was only when Holly was invited to attend Camp for Kids when she was 13, that she experienced positive affirmation for the first time.

"We played a game called shooting stars - it's a confidence-building exercise where we get positive affirmations from our peers. We'd sit in a circle, and then we'd say, 'I'd like to send a shooting star to...' and then we'd pick someone in the group, and thank them for something, or say something positive about them. I just remember feeling something I had never felt before. It was unusual for me to hear positive things about myself. I really, really loved it."

"I feel like the whole cohort at camp did not really have self-esteem, because when your parent keeps going to jail the lens becomes inward-focused, and





you think, 'Why don't you love me enough to be good, to not go to jail?'"

The other activities at camp also boosted Holly's confidence and social skills. "We did a lot of physical activity, but then we did some games that helped us with our social skills and relationship building. That was a skill I really needed at the time as well - [at school] I didn't really have the social skills to make friends. I was kind of a bully actually because I didn't want to get bullied myself. It was just that power and control thing, I think."

"The self-esteem that I got from the activities at Camp was huge. The games focused not just on physical activity, but they targeted our emotional well-being. That was a very new concept to me and it was really cool to hear young people saying nice things about me because in school that didn't happen. It helped me build my sense of self-worth that got torn away from me by my dad because he wouldn't stay out of jail."

"Camp was the first place I really experienced healthy love. I would display a lot of positive behaviours post-camp, as well. For a good six months, I'd be super good. For that six months, I wouldn't be out shoplifting or hurting people, attacking people in the community. I used to fight,

fight all day, every day. Just used to fight anyone, everyone. After Camp, I didn't feel like I needed to do that anymore because I felt in control of my own life after spending a week away with these amazing people that just lift you up. I just think that's paramount to young people's well-being, to be able to connect with kids that are like-minded and in the same situation because every kid has that allyship. We seek out who's similar to us and being in mainstream school, it's not many. To be able to form those connections is really important."

### The Impact of Mentors

"The mentorship from the leaders on camp was really impactful. We'd go for bush walks and have chats - they were really helpful. It was nice to talk to an adult who wasn't substance-affected because that was the norm for me, for my dad to be so stoned. He would be nodding off when I spoke to him. So when I spoke to a male that was not substance-affected, it was really nice. I didn't have any male role models at all, so it was helpful."

Two leaders, in particular, were influential for Holly. "I had a lot of people, like Dean and Abel, just put time into me, checked on me, and drummed into my head, 'You have so much potential. You need to go to university. The way you think and the way

you speak, you're really smart. You just have to do something with yourself."

"Abel's got a really caring and compassionate nature, the way he responded to me when I was angry as well, was just really calm. He wouldn't get angry with me. He used music as well. He used music to connect with me and other young people and it was really therapeutic. It worked well."

"Dean would tell me, 'You're a really bright young person, you have a lot of potential. If you ever need a job reference anything, I've got you.' I never had that male mentorship before, so I guess it gave me a sense of what normal looks like. These are young men, they're functioning, they have jobs, they're kind, they don't lose their mind if you do the wrong thing or step out of line. You're not going to get beat up. You're not going to get screamed at. It was just really different for me. It just opened up a different element of society I had never seen before because my dad was a drug user, so therefore all his friends were also drug users too. I'd never met a man with a job."

"My education definitely helped me to break the cycle of crime because I broke away from my old friendship groups and started to make better friends at university. I have a whole host of friends who are employed and they make positive contributions to the community. I still have friends that use drugs and are in prison right now, people from my childhood that I grew up with. But my education changed my trajectory and that's partly thanks to Prison Fellowship for their leadership and mentorship - the things that they showed me and taught me on camp."

"Those positive connections that I made with caring adults who actually cared and held our well-being as important - it was really important and something very new to me and I know it was new to a lot of other young people too."

Angel Tree also had a big impact on Holly as a kid. As she explains, "We were dirt poor and I was given a designer bag through Angel Tree. I felt amazing. Like the shooting stars game, it just lifted my self-esteem immensely. I was so grateful for that."

### Paying it Forward

Holly, now 29, is a social worker, working with kids in temporary housing and foster care. "I did a

diploma in community service work at TAFE and a social work honours degree at RMIT. I now work at Anglicare Victoria as a therapeutic youth worker. I work with young people in out-of-home care in a residential setting and act as a pseudo-parent, just making sure they're okay. I help build their life skills, enhance their well-being, and keep them safe."

"I guess the connections that I made with the adults on Camp made me want to become a social worker. I guess I'm paying it forward because I know they had a big impact on my life. They really did. It's just hard to find the words. They did change the trajectory of my life because they showed me how to be a normal member of society. I want to help people as well. They made a difference for me and it'd be beautiful if I could do that for another young person."

"The leaders on camp definitely influenced my own leadership style. I try to lead with compassion and seek to understand because that's how they operated. When you take kids away on camp, there are going to be rules, but they would always lead with compassion and care, and always seek to understand, instead of just being punitive straight off the bat. Camp for Kids is really important because it gives kids insight into a new normal and what a functioning person in society looks like. That's important."

"I think we need to destigmatise having a parent in prison. It is not very talked about. I made the mistake of telling someone in primary school and I did get bullied for it, and I did not really understand why. We need to start having conversations about it, because I do not really understand where the stigma comes from."

"It's really important to keep Prison Fellowship going because they have a really good model of care. It is crazy - I am practising as a social worker, and I do not think I have ever met anyone that has the skill base and compassion that the volunteers on those camps have. No one can match it; it is crazy. So just making sure that they stay up and running and keep extending and extending to help kids like us is really important, because they are changing lives. We need them."





# OUR VOLUNTEERS



*Kevin Maddock*

Volunteer

**The line between good and bad doesn't run around the top of the prison wall - it runs right through the middle of each of our hearts. This is one of many things prison ministry has taught me.**

When I first started to visit Victorian prisons regularly in 1979, one of the issues I needed to deal with was, 'Are there any prisoners that I didn't want to spend time with?'

If I met a person who was convicted of a crime when I knew the victim or their family, how would I react? How would others outside the prison react if they knew that I was spending time with some of these people on the inside?

## A Leopard Can Change Its Spots

I am always aware that when I share at public gatherings about prison ministry there are likely to be victims of crime in the audience. I always point out that the bottom line in what we do is, "No more victims." It's not about condoning crime or criminal behaviour. It's about stopping the cycle of crime.

One day when I had shared about the ministry of Prison Fellowship in Victoria, a lady came up to me and told me that it was useless trying to help or support those who were in prison because, "A leopard can't change his spots."

Ron Nikkel, the former President of Prison Fellowship International once said, "When I say that I have never met a monster in prison, I am not saying that I haven't met people who aren't capable of and culpable for their evil deeds. What I am saying is that, while I have met offenders who are guilty of the vilest and most violent offences imaginable, and while their actions are repulsive, I can only meet them on the level ground of our common humanity. God's gift of life to each of

us. That does not mean those offenders are not responsible for their deeds or that they should not be punished. What I do mean is that as long as they are alive, they are a person whose life story is not finished, and because God gave them life and God loves them, their life story remains open to all of the possibilities of grace and redemption – transformation, reconciliation, and restoration."

I am a witness to such stories of redemption and transformation, for among the "incorrigible" offenders who have done monstrous evil are many who have been completely transformed by the grace of God and the love of people who did not diminish them or write them off as monsters.

## Two Huge Lies

I have found this quote by Rick Warren to be true, "Our culture has accepted two huge lies; the first is that if you disagree with someone's lifestyle, you must fear them or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don't have to compromise convictions to be compassionate."

There is always the question, "Does this man deserve support and help?" Often the response is "No," especially when you know the lives that have been destroyed by their choices, decisions, and actions.

But does accepting people, showing them respect, and treating them with humanity mean that I condone their actions and crime?

It can be hard to sit with a person who has had a different life from you, perhaps been rejected by family, who has poor health, maybe experienced great trauma, perhaps struggled with mental illness, who can't hold down a job.

In their search for grace and peace, they may have turned to different types of addictions, to gambling, drugs or alcohol. They may be angry, have a short fuse, and may have lost any respect for themselves, and so have no respect for other people. They may lash out at any person who offers care, especially the "do-gooders" who they expect to be self-righteous and judgemental.

It is sometimes a slow process to win friendship and build trust, especially for someone who has had their trust betrayed many times. But it is enormously rewarding to witness the light appear in the eyes of a person as they start to discover that they are cared for and respected and ultimately loved by God, and as they discover God's goodness and grace.

We come to understand that there is no human being that is so far away, that God's love cannot reach them.

Even in our brokenness and failures, the fingerprints of a gracious creator are still on each of us. And because of that, we have the potential to be healed of the wounds that we carry, and our future can be different from our past.

Carl Jung, the great Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, said, "But what if I should discover that the least among them all, the poorest of all the beggars, the most impudent of all the offenders, the very enemy himself – that these are within me, and that I myself stand in need of the alms of my own kindness – that I myself am the enemy who must be loved. What then?" Grace always seems unfair until I find myself in need of it.

## Everybody Needs a Friend

I remember not long after I started to visit prisons, I was sitting with an elderly man who asked me what my role was in the prison. I told him that I was a visitor offering friendship to those who needed a friend. I remember his eyes filled with tears, and he said, "I have never had a friend." Some inmates are rejected and isolated, and treated badly by other prisoners as well as their families.

One man that I was chatting with, referred to his "waxer." He explained that it was an old sailing term referring to a friend who was trusted, the sort of friend who would watch your back while in prison.

He explained that in times past, sailors on the big sailing ships worked in pairs when they were making or repairing the sails. One sailor would sew the canvas sail while the other one would rub wax onto the stitching to protect it from the weather. The person who did the heavy work of sewing the sails would swap with his mate when he needed a rest, and the person who had been waxing the stitching would then continue with the sewing. Many prisoners don't have a "waxer."

A good friendship makes the person understand that the "best self" is the "real self." Sometimes I have sought to plant seeds of hope and meaning in their life. I have told many inmates, "After this is over, you could be the type of bloke who could make your little kids so proud of you."

## Encouraging them to Grow

We must always have more sympathy, empathy and offerings of support for the victims of crime than for the person who has committed the crime. Yet, at the same time, we must see and connect with another's humanity, no matter how damaged it seems. We cannot afford to dehumanise anyone.

Recently I read about an elderly pastor who was known to help men turn their lives around. From heading toward prison to becoming strong stable people who could help others with the issues of life.

He was asked how he was able to bring change to these men. He said, "I hold a crown over their heads and encourage them to grow into it."

May the Good Lord help us as we seek to reflect accurately God's love, forgiveness and grace to those who need it the most.





# OUR MINISTRY

## For Stuart, three words from a chaplain started him down a new path in life.

My name is Stuart\* and I have been in jail now for just a bit over 5 years. I was arrested in 2017 and I will serve a total of 8 years.

Before coming to jail I had let sin take over my life completely. Drugs, alcohol, lust, and greed were my downfall. I had broken just about every rule in the book - even worse, I had broken almost every one of God's commandments.

In my eyes, and everyone else's eyes I was a complete failure. My life was a disaster and I had let my family, friends, and community down in a huge way. I hung my head in shame, and lived a life of regret. I was disowned by everyone I had ever loved, everyone except my older sister and her husband who still cared for me, God bless them.

Early on, I remember sitting in my jail cell, thinking bad thoughts. At that point I denied everything I had done and I was going to fight the charges. I was angry, wild, scared, worried, broken-hearted, and sorry, and another thousand emotions. Thoughts ran through my head - I knew no one, had no one, I wished my life would just end there and then. So, I withdrew into myself, put on a brave face and stayed out of trouble when I could. But the tension kept rising and I felt that I was soon going to snap.

Then one day a man came to our sector and into our pod. A lot of the other guys seemed to like him and showed him respect. I asked one of my fellow inmates, "Who's that?" He replied, "He's the chaplain."

I watched on with interest as he spoke to a few of the guys and they had a word of prayer. I couldn't hear anything as they were in the interview room, but I could see their facial expressions as they poured out their hearts. They smiled, they laughed, they had a deep connection with this chaplain.

I turned away to look outside through the window,

lost in my own thoughts. I didn't hear him at first. Then one of the guys yelled, "Oi! Stuart, you're wanted!" I looked up to see the door open at the interview room and the chaplain waiting to see me. I was confused. I felt nervous, thinking, "What's this about, what have I done?" But he smiled at me and said, "Hello, I was just wondering if we could have a word - come in please."

I walked in and sat down. The door closed, and he introduced himself. He mentioned that he always tries to connect with the new inmates, when time allows. He also said if I needed to talk about anything I could fill out a request form and he would come back when he could. He also said I could request a Bible if I wanted.

Then he asked if I would like him to pray for my family and friends. I thought to myself, "I suppose it couldn't hurt," so I agreed.

When he had finished I thanked him and turned to leave. Just as I got to the door he said, "Stuart, God loves you." I was taken back for a second. I didn't know what to do. I gave an awkward smile and walked out.

I returned to my seat lost in thought again, thinking about what he had said. I wondered how anybody could love me, let alone God. I was the lowest of the low!

Strangely, over the next few weeks I kept thinking about my meeting with the chaplain and what he said to me. "Stuart, God loves you."

About a month later, I had the worst week ever. I had been copping torment, ridicule, and threats of violence and hate from some inmates, which led to mental stress and anxiety. Then one week it was so hot and humid that you slept in your own sweat. There was no breeze and to top it off my fan had broken and the TV had also packed it in too. I was so bored I was going out of my mind! With mixed feelings and thoughts going through my head I was doing it hard, and it didn't help that one of the

guys was getting out soon. I felt trapped in endless torment with no fan, no TV, and no hope!

The next day I filled out a request form to the chaplain asking for a Bible, just so I had something to read! That night was the first time in a long time that I had prayed to God. I asked for help, even if it was only a working fan. I pleaded for something to change in my life, then I went to bed hot and irritated. Later that night it began to rain, and I fell asleep in the cool night air.

Strangely, the next day, one of the other inmates asked me if I wanted to change cells and double up with him, as his old cellie had just gotten out. He said he preferred to have someone he knew than someone he didn't. He had a working TV and fan in the cell, so it didn't take me much convincing to move.

There was one rule, however - he watched church on TV every Sunday morning. Everything else was negotiable. That night I was watching TV as the fan blew cold air around the cell and I felt that things had definitely changed.

The next morning I was called to the guard post, I had mail. It was a Bible from the chaplain!

During the day you are locked out of your sleeping cell into the common room with everybody else. I laid down on the floor near the vents under the fan and I opened the Bible for the first time in over 30 years. The last time I remember opening a Bible was at Sunday school back when I was just a kid.

I flicked through the Bible and ended up in the New Testament in the book of Matthew. I started to read about Jesus and his followers. Then I got to Mathew 5:21-26, which is titled, Jesus Teaches About Anger. Verse 25 said, "And the judge will hand you over to a guard, who will throw you into jail. I assure you that you will not leave there until you have paid everything you owe." This hit home.

I got down to Matthew 5:43-48 where Jesus teaches about loving your enemies. By now I was confused, shook up, and worried, but I couldn't put it down! Before I knew it I was reading about repenting, confessing, Jesus dying on the cross for my sin, and how they crucified Him on the cross. Then I read about how He rose again. I remember thinking there was so much more in the Bible than

I remembered as a kid - I didn't remember half of what I was reading!

But I could remember all the stuff I had done wrong in my life, all the sin and crime, all the pain and hurt I had caused - and it cut me to the bone! I felt pain so deep in my chest I thought I was having an anxiety attack, possibly even a heart attack. I couldn't blame this feeling on alcohol or drugs as I hadn't had anything for over 8 months now, and I was thinking clearly for the first time in a long while.

I asked myself why I felt so empty. I knew then that there was something missing in my life. It wasn't freedom, or family, or friends - this ran deeper and it cut me to the bone. At that moment I realized I was lost. But then those words that the chaplain said came back to me "Stuart, God loves you!"

I think that was the first time I was convicted by the Holy Spirit, I knew right then that I had to confess and repent to Jesus for all my sins, and ask Him to come into my heart.

So as I lay on the floor, I placed the Bible on my chest and closed my eyes. I silently prayed to Jesus and asked Him to forgive me of all my sins and to save me. To anyone else looking at me, they would have thought I had fallen asleep with a book on my chest, they had no idea I was in deep prayer with Jesus.

I pleaded to be saved and asked forgiveness while forgiving all those who had hurt me. I prayed for my family, that they would forgive me, and asked that Jesus would protect them and watch over them. I asked for God's help in asking for forgiveness from all those I had hurt.

I had lost everything I loved, but in doing so, I found the one who loves me unconditionally. I prayed for Jesus to come into my heart, to lead me forevermore and to change me, heart and mind. So now I follow Jesus, He is my saviour.

Jesus has changed me in so many ways, I am no longer the angry man I was. My fear and worry has all but gone, and I am growing in strength, belief, and faith daily.

In Romans 4:7-8 it says, "It is a great blessing when people are forgiven for the wrongs they have done, when their sins are erased! It's a blessing when the



Lord accepts people as if they are without sin.” Also in Romans 5:1 it says, “We have been made right with God because of our faith, so we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

I pleaded guilty to my crime and got 8 years or 6 and a half years with parole. I have now given my life over to Christ and I am on a journey with Jesus leading the way. My prayer life has exploded! I pray to the Lord everyday and I now do Bible study courses and go to church meetings in my sector each week.

I recently got invited to do a program called The Prisoner’s Journey. It’s a study on the Gospel of Mark and it explains how Mark wrote this Good News about Jesus and his life. It gave me a much deeper understanding about Jesus and what he has done for me, for all those willing to listen.

Jesus came to save humanity and to pay the price for sin, to make us able to pray to God directly through Him. Through The Prisoner’s Journey, I learnt about Jesus, why he came to Earth, what I must do now I’ve heard the good news. I learnt about grace, faith, love, and forgiveness. I also learnt about His resurrection and how Jesus will come again soon. I now understand about God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



I am not sure what will happen tomorrow or the next day, I just take one day at a time, with Jesus in my heart. I trust my future to Him and accept what may come my way.

I have put my past behind me as I know I can’t change it, but with Jesus’ help I will change my

future. In Philippians 3:13-14 it says, “Brother and sisters, I know that I still have a long way to go, but there is one thing I do: I forget what is in the past and try as hard as I can to reach the goal before me - I keep on running hard towards the finish line to get the prize that is mine, because God has called me through Jesus Christ to life up there in Heaven.”

In the Gospel of Mark I learnt that only Jesus could heal the sick and forgive sin and remove evil from people’s lives. I learnt about the Sabbath day (God’s holy day of rest) and how Jesus has changed people’s way of thinking including mine. It now also has changed the way I act - I have left my old self behind. I have accepted Christ as my Lord and Saviour, and my belief and knowledge has been strengthened by what I learnt by in The Prisoner’s Journey.

My faith has grown through scriptural revelation, I now have a strong conviction that the bible is indeed the word of God. I am so grateful that “jail-time” gave me the opportunity to learn from God’s truth. I now place my trust and faith in Jesus Christ my Saviour.

My rehabilitation started with Jesus as he placed a new heart in me. The word of God strengthens me and gives me a positive attitude for the future. Whatever may come my way I know that Jesus is with me, on my journey to everlasting life. The forgiveness of my sins and the salvation I now have comes from God - it is a free gift of grace. Through the work Jesus has done on the cross, I now know he died for all of us, so we could be forgiven of our sins, and through Him be made right with God!

Through God’s word, I learnt that eternal life is more than living forever - it’s being with God so we can praise and worship Him first-hand. I am now experiencing God’s love and fellowship first-hand. I feel joy and happiness, and most of each time I pray I feel God’s presence through His Holy Spirit.

I am so happy that Jesus came into my life to save a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I am found, was blind but now I see. God has given me His amazing grace, and I now sing about it whenever I can. All glory and praise belongs to God!

Amen. Thank you, Jesus.

Stuart\*

*\*Name has been changed.*

# Financial Report

## INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY

	2023	2022
<strong>REVENUE</strong>		
Donations	1,710,668	1,621,272
Grants	501,188	382,322
Bequests	65,871	89,506
Sales	60,424	41,687
Interest	7,771	2,262
Other	10,642	21,317
Total	2,356,564	2,158,366
<strong>EXPENSES</strong>		
Program Expenses	298,726	277,153
Staff & program support	1,528,697	1,542,217
Administration and Accontability	692,662	500,873
Total	2,520,085	2,320,243
Surplus/(Deficit)	(163,521)	(161,877)

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 JANUARY

	2023	2022
<strong>ASSETS</strong>		
<strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong>		
Cash & cash equivalents	900,533	1,041,434
Trade & other recievables	49,028	10,976
Inventories	-	-
Other	27,803	1,000
Total Current Assets	977,364	1,053,410
<strong>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong>		
Property, plant & equipment	79,173	63,374
Total non-current assets	79,173	63,374
Total assets	1,056,537	1,116,784
<strong>LIABILITIES</strong>		
<strong>CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong>		
Trade & other payables	179,300	99,928
Grants/Income recieved in advance	142,608	146,770
Provisions	172,252	135,152
Other	52,443	61,479
Total Current Liabilities	546,603	443,329
<strong>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</strong>		
Other	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	-	-
Total liabilities	546,603	443,329
<strong>NET ASSETS</strong>	<strong>509,934</strong>	<strong>673,455</strong>
<strong>TOTAL EQUITY</strong>	<strong>509,934</strong>	<strong>673,455</strong>





**Prison Fellowship Australia**  
**RESTORING LIVES INSIDE OUT**

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