

INSIDE OUT



Newsletter of Prison Fellowship New Zealand

Christmas 2009

Christ brings freedom – yes even in NZ Prisons!

Last week a recently released, long term client and Christian brother said to a number of us that the thing that struck him most about being out of prison was the vastness of being in a large building, in this case the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, and of the acceptance that he had received from a large group of Christians as they gathered together to think about the course they had recently run in the faith based unit.

Christmas time is a time of giving and receiving and acknowledging the real reason of Christ's coming. Is 42 v 6 and 7 (NIV) says of His Servant:

"I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;

I will take hold of your hand.
I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. "

These are powerful words that echo what this man had been the recipient of through Prison Fellowship's ministries. Through someone's testimony his eyes had been opened, through the actions of many staff and volunteers alike in the Faith Based Unit at Rimutaka he had been set free from the many things that kept him in captivity, and now he had been released and realised what the real world was now like.



This Christmas, pray for men and women like him as they adjust to a very changed world to the one they knew many years ago. This too is the world that Christ came to radically change through his birth life, death and resurrection.

On behalf of the Board and Staff we wish all our friends, supporters and strategic partners a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Robin Gunston
National Director

Thanks for your gifts

A steady flow of your precious donations is coming in both on-line and in the post to the office. It is keeping Michelle Stone our Finance Manager busy but there are no complaints about this. You will see from the website www.pfnz.org.nz that we have many projects to fund in 2010 and beyond so please continue to remember us, as our need never goes away all the time our prison population is growing !!

A new way to give for employees !

January 7th 2010 marks a landmark date in terms of charitable giving. Through the political work of United Future it will now be possible for you to give to charities of your choice, from your pay and receive an instant tax credit. Ask your employer how you can regularly give to Prison Fellowship New Zealand- our Charity Number is CC22091. See www.ird.govt.nz for more details.

Wanted – a National Prayer Co-ordinator (Volunteer position)

Our work is becoming very much a spiritual battleground and we are feeling the effects of this in some of our dealings with the Government. We believe that we need to engage in spiritual warfare and that this will require someone (maybe a couple) to start to engage a team of intercessors from across to NZ to pray more earnestly.

This does not replace the work of those of you who regularly put together prayer lists and circulate them for many of our supporters to pray- it just moves prayer to a more vital level.

Please contact Robin Gunston- National Director for more details before January 31st 2010 director@pfnz.org.nz

Forward this newsletter to your friends and family using the "forward" tab at the bottom of the email you received from us with the link and you could win a free pass to one of our 2010 volunteer conferences



Angel Tree- all records broken !



This year we set a target of 3600 gifts for prisoner's children. That target has now been broken with some 3671 gifts delivered before Christmas to some 1561 caregivers around NZ and also some in Australia.

This could not have happened without the assistance of our Angel Tree Co-ordinators, Prison Chaplains, Churches and those donors who helped supplement our funds at the last minute when numbers grew.

Recent Visitors

It has been an extremely busy time over the last 2 months with many visitors from overseas. We have been pleased to have :

- **Geoff and Helen Glanville, PF South Australia**
- **Dianne Spicer, PF Victoria**
- **Zoe Sandvig, ex PF USA**
- **Karin Kuehner, PF Germany who was here for 6 weeks as an intern, pictured here outside our office**



Northland PF Committee

National Director, Robin Gunston recently visited Northland and NRCF (Ngawha Prison). Our Prison Care Committee there is headed by Chairman Alan Robinson from Kaeo and kept on track by Major Bill Millar (Salvation Army ret'd). They meet monthly and oversee work related to Sycamore Tree programmes, which are very well received (but they need more community participants), Angel Tree, with over 250 gifts for prisoner's children at NRCF this year, and Sunday services. They are working with a local Trust to provide mentoring services for soon to be released prisoners.

Volunteers come from all over the Northland area- Whangarei, Kaikohe, Doubtless Bay, Kaeo, Cable Bay, Kerikeri etc. Some of their oldest serving volunteers are in their 90's !

The prison is a modern one holding over 350 prisoners currently but with double bunking is going up to 580, necessitating many more staff and volunteer assistance with programmes. They are working on a community based assistance package for released prisoners and programmes for both remand prisoners and those on segregation. One of the most disappointing parts of their situation is that the large prison chapel, with its striking design, is unable to be used at present.

There are lots of needs in this area especially for mentoring prisoners (mainly Maori), younger people to interact with prisoners (perhaps to play team sports on a friendly basis inside the prison on a regular basis) and people who will lead prisoners on one-to-one discovery of the Bible. Contact Bill Millar to know more.

Target Community materials all ready for sale and distribution.

General Manager Barry Timms, aided and abetted by anyone he could corral, have completed the work of assembling a number of Target Community introduction packs, and the full suite of products. Well done Barry.

Your Church can now buy most of these materials at [Target Community website](#)



We recommend that every Church who has volunteers working inside prison obtains a copy of "Getting behind the Wire" DVD and workbook as this is core material for working inside a prison. Also "Men need Brothers" and "Caring for ex-offenders"



Profile of a staff member

Audrey Moonlight is familiar to many of you but you may not know what she does in her work as Reintegration Manager on Operation Jericho. Here is a recent excerpt from a report we regularly make on our work in this vital field:



- During a two month period seven prisoners were released with whom she has had dealings.
- Twenty-five men in the Faith Based Unit had individual interviews covering issues of accommodation, support, and release identification.
- Eight Transition Plans were completed over 2 month period.
- Various items of prisoner property were bought/obtained, involving a visit to PPS Area Office Trust Account Dept to get prisoner funds, then delivery to the Property Office.
- Attendance at FBU Family Day(Sunday), picking up prisoner visitors and dropping off.
- Facilitate and purchase Birth Certificate Applications-for identification purposes on release.
- Liaising with Salvation Army over their Supported Accommodation Service.
- There was a series of 8 meetings to transition one ex-FBU man who had been released some weeks earlier from Salvation Army supported accommodation into a private rental.
- Input into an evening Reintegration hui at the FBU with a long-serving prisoner.

Accompanied same prisoner to urban marae in Wellington to introduce him to kaumatua and assess the potential of the marae as release accommodation.

- A Reintegration meeting was attended at the FBU with Church pastor, the Regional Senior Psychologist and prison staff.
- Identification of vacant property - to enable a former FBU prisoner have a release address to the satisfaction of the NZPB negotiated with the landlord and the prison to allow him to pay a retainer(from his RTW earnings) to keep the flat for his release. This involved clearing out the flat formerly occupied by a person recalled to prison and enlisting an unemployed ex-prisoner to assist in cleaning, hunting for rats (dead) and a trip to the tip with bottles and cans. Yuck!!!
- Identification of ex-prisoners for research purposes- contact and introduction to researcher.
- Seeking accommodation for ex-prisoners, TradeMe and other property listing.
- Contact with mentors, lawyers and ex-prisoners by e-mail, phone and in person.
- Visit to a released prisoner located in the Wairarapa with the objective to re-engage with a mentor from a church in the area.
- Development of networks and promotion of Operation Jericho
- Attended Hutt City Community Awards dinner with Life Impact, Wainuiomata Target Community. Their work with ex-prisoners attracted a Safe City Award.
- A visit to Tauranga to look at availability of prisoner after-care accommodation and resources, visited Breakthrough Family Ministries centre, Booth House and Transit House – Kahu Te Maro.
- Speaking engagement on Target Community and Caring for ex-Offenders at the Transform Church Leadership
- Conference at El Rancho was held on a Saturday
- Attendance at a released FBU man's baptism at a church service.
- Facilitation of the process to get 17 Te Ara Pono team members into the FBU. Specified Visitor Applications and renewal of SV status.

Wow- what a super hero! We asked several people what they thought about her and the work she does- this is what they said : "She is so full of passion for her job, which she does in very difficult circumstances" B.J., Social Worker, Faith Based Unit, Rimutaka Prison

Jay – "she does over and above what is needed."

Lee – "She does what she can to help us restore relationships – e.g. helping transport a prisoner's friend to the prison so that she could get to the recent Family Day."

Louis – "She has a very kind, gentle and loving heart."

Richard – "She is positive and she helps to build relationships for all the guys."

Please pray for the work Audrey does- this is a very difficult area, one where many things conspire against us as this short story illustrates:

No room at the Inn?

Operation Jericho had a person to be released in the last few months and started planning many months ago with this person, Probation and their mentor about where they would be permitted to live. An Anglican Community Priest, living in state housing amongst his parishioners, offered to have him board with him and this was agreed with Probation. Come the time however when the permission of the Housing Corporation was required and it was not given! The priest's Bishop was engaged and wrote supporting this housing arrangement but this still cut no ice with Housing Corp, even at the highest level. Eventually the day of release drew near and the priest decided to move out and take up his own private rental so that the man had somewhere to go when he came out of prison. Do you think this is right and fair? Why not write to your MP or Housing Minister Phil Heatley.

Jesus and his parents will have known this feeling too.