

In memoriam

Craig Carter – transformed prisoner, helper of many. (abridged from his internment service on February 19th 2010)

Craig would best be described by many as being a trophy of God's grace for his life was turned around in an amazing way when he encountered God and discovered the forgiveness of Jesus in his life. Having lived a life of crime for 30 years he was focussed on what mattered for him, but during a spell of community service for the Salvation Army he saw in the lives of those he rubbed

shoulders with what a better way of life could look like. Thus during his last spell of imprisonment he requested to be placed in the Faith Based Unit. It was here he learned the importance of grace, faith and forgiveness thus leading him to turn his life wholeheartedly over to God.

This transformation led Craig on an incredible journey which saw him again in the court room and prison but in this case to support and care for others. He openly shared his faith wanting to see others changed like him. He was full on in his desire to make that difference. His name is remembered on the prayer wall at the Booth College of Mission

in Upper Hutt for those who minister in prison and his epitaph could be from Philippians 3:14

"Forgetting what is behind and straining to what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus."

This is the work to which we are called...

**to transform
to reconcile
to restore**

Payroll Giving

Would you like to donate regularly from your pay to the work of Prison Fellowship- it means you get the tax back straightaway, so if you gave us \$20 a month it would only cost you \$13.33 per month, the taxman pays the rest! Tell your employer that you would like to do this- we are a registered charity, number CC22091

Michelle Stone
Finance Manager



Complete form and mail to:



Freepost Prison Fellowship New Zealand, Prison Fellowship New Zealand, PO Box 40657, Upper Hutt 5140

Regular donation

I would like to donate:

monthly 3 monthly Annually
(tick one)

The sum of: \$_____ commencing ___/___/2009 by...

(a) Direct Credit to: Prison Fellowship New Zealand
Account number 01 0242 0138571 00

I will set this up myself through my bank
 Please send me an automatic payment form (tick one)

(b) Direct debit my credit card

Credit Card: _____

Expiry: ___/___

Signature: _____

Visa MasterCard (tick one)

One time donation

Yes, I'd like to help by giving \$_____ right now.

Online: I will do this online at www.pfnz.org.nz

Cheque: I enclose my cheque

Credit Card: _____

Expiry: ___/___

Name on card _____ Signature: _____

Visa MasterCard (tick one)

Important: Please include: name, address, email, postcode and phone number details.

I am not currently in a position to donate but I'd like to be kept in touch with what Prison Fellowship NZ is doing.

INSIDEOUT



Newsletter of Prison Fellowship New Zealand

March 2010

Our Vision unfolding....Part 1

Over the last six months the Board of PFNZ have been evaluating the changing environment within NZ's social and Government scene and posing our response to the needs of our core constituency- prisoners, victims and their families.

In 2009 those of our volunteers who went to the Rotorua Volunteer Conference coined this part of our Vision:

"That every prisoner has the opportunity to embrace the Christian Faith, to be mentored holistically and to join a supportive community upon release".

This is a noble Vision but how are we to translate this into Mission i.e. what we are going to do about it? We are looking at some 10,600 prisoners being behind the wire by 2016, according to Government projections, with a possible 12,500 by 2020 unless we find ways of getting these numbers down!

We will therefore have to present the core aspects of the Good News we have to some 14-16,000 people per annum, given the turnover in the system. To do this means the number of Church volunteers we recruit and train will have to rapidly expand, be better trained and much more focused on what they do when they go into our prisons. We will be working with the Prison Chaplains to see how we could do this better in the years to come and we will strive for excellence in all we do inside our prisons.

Holistic mentoring means taking our work a lot further, it means walking alongside prisoners in their needs both inside and outside prison, often for quite some time. This calls for even more imagination and purposeful activity- something that will require a step change in how the Churches view this work in the future. Our current estimate is that only some 3-400 Churches are involved in some aspects of prison work across the country so what about the other 8,600? Don't they care or don't they know of the need? Our current public meetings and Volunteer Conferences are taking this message out to our publics but a "sea change" is required- this is a Backyard Mission that all churches and caring communities need to embrace.

Joining a supportive community upon release is how we see the Target Communities programme fulfilling this part of our Vision. With its objective of some 800 Communities supporting some 1000 prisoners per year by 2020, we aim to start really making a dent in the number of people going back through the "revolving door".

In addition the Board has commissioned us to examine a network of aftercare communities, based on our therapeutic reintegration model within the faith based unit at Rimutaka Prison, but located outside the wire. This model offers much more opportunity to really assist men and women with their various needs, some of which will take a long time to work out after they come out on parole or are released.

All of this is potentially exciting work, transforming people's lives and at the same time reducing crime and the impacts on victims in our community. Why is it then that so far few people want to support this kind of work by their time, financial gifts and prayer?



Robin Gunston
National Director

Our Key Goal is to reduce the prison population by some 10,000 people in 10 years time, leaving a residual population of some 2,500 people that can be given the help they need, in secure environments, to hopefully reform their life.

Our Mission sees us having some 4,000 regular Volunteers, 80-90 paid staff and an annual income of \$10million per annum by 2010 to meet the translation of this Vision into meaningful action. We have started on this journey already – we now need you, your friends, your churches and local communities to join us. Sign up on our website to volunteer and to regularly donate to this vital ministry- you will be making a vital difference!



Another great year which built upon our previous years efforts, so a huge amount of thanks to the team of volunteers and chaplains who made an incredible difference to 3,645 children on Christmas Day. Many letters of thanks have been received and each tells a special story.

Here are a few examples:

I would like to thank you very much for your kind gesture and wishes. My partner was elated with these gifts for our lovely daughter. It has humbled me, to just know that there are people like yourselves and the Chaplain exist in this unforgiving world. I hope and pray that someday I may be able to return this gift to someone less fortunate than myself.

I would like to take this moment and say thank you for all the presents you provided for my tamarileis (Children). You guys made myself so happy and grateful for all of your support and for all the fathers around the country that are in prison. You guys made every father so happy.

I am very grateful for your kind generosity in providing presents for Christmas during our time of need, which is way much more than I could ever do. Even though I am a bad parent, person and father and have lost them due to my offending and abusive ways and I have ruined my chances with them - but it gives me joy and pride in doing something positive and loving and bring a smile to the little one's faces.

I am writing this letter to thank everyone who is involved in this organisation and to express my deepest thanks for allowing me to send my children some Christmas presents - It was the most precious thing for me. It was the best thing that has happened to me since I have been incarcerated.

My daughter received a watch and some dolls and my son received some miniature car models. In my current situation I wasn't able to send anything to my children, You have made me feel wonderful after hearing about how much my children liked their presents. You saved me from feeling like a failure at Christmas time and I can never find any words to say thank you enough. It also helped making my first Christmas in prison some what easier.

We still could do with some more volunteers in some places and also need more supporting churches. Please contact your local PF Care Group Co-ordinator or National Office if you would like to be involved for 2010. The planning starts in April. As the recent PILLARS research has indicated there may be some 23,000 children of prisoners so the need is truly great out there.

Barry Timms
General Manager

Note: Regional Angel Tree figures are available on our website www.pfnz.org.nz

Michaelangelos at work at National Office !!

The New Year was a time for some redecorating at National Office. Audrey (pictured below), Robin and Michelle, assisted by Phil



Bowring (pictured below) and Tonto Tuho (OJ clients) turned chocolate coloured walls into something more soothing and the finishing touches were made with



some modern signage. Phil and Tonto both got their painting skills whilst in prison and we appreciated their contribution. We hope they enjoyed their time at the New Wine Conference after this where they were wonderful advocates for our reintegration work.

Meet our man from Dunedin....



Our man in Dunedin is Bruce Duthie seen here outside Otago Correctional Facility last month. Bruce is a telecommunications engineer and even helps keep OCF's phones online from time to time. As co-ordinator of the Dunedin Prison Care Group he has an important role in ensuring that we support the work of the Chaplains within the prison, as well as ensuring that Sycamore Tree programmes run well and Angel Tree services deliver

the goods at Christmas time. In addition Bruce is working personally with a long term prisoner and helping him prepare for eventual release. This is key work that many of our volunteers perform and can involve attending Parole Board hearings, working with prison reintegration staff and even having the person stay on overnight release.



.....and meet the lady behind the man !

Maureen Duthie's passion is writing, lots of writing to prisoners both in NZ and overseas. Seen here at her correspondence desk Maureen gets a number of letters, cards and other gifts

from prisoners. She has a special affinity with prisoners in the USA who have extended sentences, some as long as 35 years! Over time she has got to know about their families, their crimes and their various legal appeals. Sometimes this activity can get her into spots of bother too when her passion to help prisoners is mistaken- that's when Bruce gets involved we're told.

(Letters to prisoners are well received, as many get little mail at all. Contact our local PF Care Group co-ordinators if you would like to know how you can help

in this way)



Staff Changes

Chris Chevalier is now working for PF and is splitting his time between Restorative Justice work and promoting Target Communities. Chris is an accomplished chef (flambé prawns is a speciality) but he has been working in the RJ area with Jackie Katounas for some 4 years.

Chris is an enthusiastic presenter on both these programmes and is currently facilitating a new ST programme at New Plymouth Prison whilst drumming up support with potential Target Community groups and churches from around New Zealand.

If Chris can help your Prison Care Groups or local communities to get involved in Target Communities email him at targetcommunities@pfnz.org.nz.

Te Ara Pono Ministries

Out of Darkness – Light
Out of Despair – Hope

"I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of Christ"
John 8:12 NIV

Te Ara Pono, translated as 'The Way of Faith', is a prison ministry under the governance and guidance of Wellington Diocese Anglican Cursillo and delivered in partnership with Prison Fellowship NZ and the Corrections Department.

This Te Ara Pono Ministry is based around an intensive four day in-prison course which has been adapted and modified from the standard resident Cursillo course and Kairos, a similar short course run in high security prisons in American and Australia. Conducted in November each year the TAP course has been gifted into Unit 7 the 'Faith Based Unit' at the Rimutaka Prison in Upper Hutt, Wellington by dedicated teams of Cursillista's with a special calling to Prison Ministry. The foundation course was carried out in November 2007.



The ministry is about taking the light of Christ, and the saving message of Jesus, into the place Satan considers his own. As Paul said to the Colossians, "For he has rescued us out of the domination of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of Sins". Col 1:13-14. The image at the top of the page shows the Light of Christ coming into the prison cell and banishing the darkness.

Te Ara Pono is essentially seen as a 4th Day ministry. It's all about what you will do after the course to change your life. This ministry continues to gain wide interest and even wider prayer support from within the Wellington Cursillo community. Te Ara Pono has grown from one course a year, to numerous teams of Cursillistas carrying out 'standing alongside' visits back into the unit about every six weeks in order to support the growing community of TAP graduates along with other Christian inmates inside the Unit.

Te Ara Pono also sees a vital need to support TAP inmates upon release. One of the ways we can help is by engaging with the whole Cursillo community with their local churches to mentor these ex prisoners once they are out. The future of Te Ara Pono is in the hands of our God – wherever He wishes to take it; perhaps we will be in other units within Rimutaka or a local woman's prison, or gifting this ministry to the wider Cursillo family within New Zealand to also take up the challenge and blessing of changing lives through the power and saving knowledge of Jesus.



Mark Wing

Te Ara Pono Director
February 2010

Dates for your diary

Napier Volunteer Conference
April 16th and 17th 2010

Christchurch Volunteer Conference
May 7th and 8th 2010

PFNZ Board meeting, Wellington
May 29th 2010

Angel Tree Planning Conference, Wellington
31st July 2010

"Getting the prison numbers down- alternatives that work"
Prison NGOs National Conference, Silverstream, Wellington, October 6th – 10th 2010.

More details at www.pfnz.org.nz

Farewell to NZPARS

At the time of writing the NZPARS national office in Wellington is closing, and we have lost a highly valued set of colleagues who were also trying to do their best for prisoners, victims and their families. This has

