



From the pen and heart of our  
National Director—Robin Gunston

## Looking back to the future

What a year it has all been for different parts of our country but also for the work of Prison Fellowship.

These are some of the events in no particular order:

- Loss of key staff- Jackie, Michelle and Chris through a combination of factors
- New national staff-Pip Wells joined us to take over Administration, Sue Croad for Wiri and Springhill Prison Care Groups, Roger Mittens for Angel Tree
- Introduction of new Board members: Hamish Baxter, Gillian Guptill, Ian Williams
- Big drops in funding, very little response in our appeals to churches
- Dealing with a new prison operator who now operates the biggest prison in NZ
- Fighting against a new Wiri men's prison
- Drop in prison numbers and the impacts on our strategy for future
- Suspension of our Restorative Justice work
- Threat to close the Faith Based Throughcare scheme and development of a brand new rehabilitation programme
- Intense interest in Target Communities
- An extended Angel Tree scheme now embracing Camps for prisoners' children and family care here in Wellington
- Forming strategic relationships with Christian Leader's Network, Prison Chaplaincy and Scripture Union
- Adjusting to the rollout of RRS in Corrections
- Assisting the PFI family with development of "Wantok"- the village aftercare scheme
- Launch of Inside TV
- Increasing number of men and women coming into our aftercare schemes who are doing well

Quite frankly it has been an "annus horribilis" in many respects but we can see that God is shaking us all down to a point where He can raise us up in faith to do His work in the years to come.

### So how do I see 2012 ?

Well it is impossible to make concrete plans as so much is unknown at this point but I want to lay out our vision, long term goal and our new mission statement for you to pray about, so you can get a sense of your part in this Kingdom building work.

#### 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, so that they may live crime free

That New Zealand has a sustainable, well funded correctional system with end-to-end, transforming, reconciling and restoring programmes, processes and people, that reduces recidivism and the overall prison population.

#### OUR KEY LONG TERM GOAL

By 2020 –only 2500 people in prisons, all receiving full rehabilitative and re-integrative services

#### OUR MISSION

“Transforming people, by faith, to live crime free”

## OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE 2012-2014 PERIOD TO ACHIEVE OUR MISSION AND GOAL MAY INCLUDE

- Co-ordinating in-prison volunteer ministry, by the local churches, in all NZ prisons and correctional institutions, to assist chaplains and run transformational rehabilitative and faith discipleship programmes eg 'Alpha in prisons', 'Manhood', 'Headstart' etc..
- Establishing a global network of faith based throughcare programmes that model a restorative, faith based lifestyle, within a therapeutic community, that develops social cognitive skills for offenders which will enable them to live crime free .
- Establishing and maintaining a total of 200 Target Communities which work with a prisoner from pre-release through to the point they are fully restored to NZ society, living crime free
- Providing Restorative Justice services in prisons and the community to all who need them, so that reconciliation and restoration can occur in prisoners' and victims' lives
- Providing services to prisoners' families that will demonstrate Christian love and care for their situation as victims
- Developing and resourcing a number of sustainable, Community-based, aftercare institutions that will assist the re-entry of prisoners to society
- Developing entrepreneurial activities that either provide resources for offenders and/or correctional institutions, employment for ex-offenders and/or create income to sustain our ministries
- Engaging a force of compassionate people who work collaboratively to reform NZ's criminal justice system, to one based primarily on Restorative Justice principles

*As the prayer backbone of our ministry together I would like to encourage you to be excited about the possibilities that lie ahead of us, and to write and tell us how God is speaking to you about these matters. We also need human stories from around NZ of how everything we do in PFNZ is helping people live crime free, however small you may think that move has been.*

*Thank you for your encouragement to us here in National Office - may God bless this special season to you and your families- please remember those still incarcerated at this time and their families awaiting their return.*



Angel Tree  
Wrapping Day 2011

As you see our prayer diary has a different look— but it is important that we hear from our leadership, so we can continue to pray informed prayers.

Please use the December diary as a document of [thanksgiving and prayer](#)

Thank you again for your prayer during the year. As you have read, it has been appreciated and is so necessary.

There will be no prayer diary for January—but as you are able to, continue to pray over the Christmas break for the men and their families who will appreciate it greatly.