



Making a World of Difference

Year in
Review
2020

We're on a Mission to Break the Cycle of Crime

We're on a mission to transform the lives of prisoners, their families, and victims of crime through a global network of ministry partners, because we envision a world where the cycle of crime is broken, and lives are restored through Jesus's love.

For more than 40 years, Prison Fellowship International has built programs in prisons around that world that are proven to restore prisoners, help their families, and integrate them back into the community—for good!

Here's how we're making a difference:



WE OFFER PRISONERS HOPE through in-prison programming that is proven to transform prisoners lives from the inside out.



WE REPAIR BROKEN LIVES through transformational restorative justice programming that repairs the harm caused by crime by emphasizing accountability, forgiveness, and making amends.



WE PROTECT CHILDREN OF PRISONERS from hopeless and dangerous situations by providing physical, emotional, and spiritual support through one-to-one child sponsorship.



WE EQUIP OUR GLOBAL NETWORK of prison ministries to alleviate the suffering of prisoners, their families, and victims of crime through Bible-based, culturally-specific programming.

A Letter from Our CEO Andrew Corley



If you had asked a year ago where I would be right now, I can guarantee I would not have guessed our current reality. I write to you from my home office in London, England, where I've been confined due to pandemic-related travel restrictions. This would typically be my heaviest travel season—a time to meet with ministry supporters, as well as visit our Prison Fellowship National Ministries in 116 countries.

It's quite strange to sit behind my desk—behind a Zoom camera—as the work continues on the ground.

But continue it does—and we're so thankful for that. You see, the COVID-19 global pandemic challenged the 2020 plans and operations of Prison Fellowship International. Like so many other international nonprofits, we faced health and safety concerns, travel restrictions, and an economic downturn that threatened critical donor support. We also faced a challenge unique to PFI: prisons began closing their doors to outside visitors, which meant the lifeblood of work—our 33,000 local National Ministry volunteers across the world—could not get in.

With a clear focus on our vision to break the cycle of crime and restore lives, worldwide, through Jesus's love, we renewed our commitment to the call. We set out to pursue every viable avenue of ministry into the prisons of the world during this unprecedented, ongoing event. And like He always does, God came through in a big way.

He birthed joy and blessing out of a year others labeled with hopelessness and despair.

He brought beauty from ashes, as He promised He would (Isaiah 61:1-3).

The following pages contain highlights from our year. We at Prison Fellowship International recognize God is at work in and through all things. And we are so grateful to be used by God as part of his greater plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Corley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Andrew Corley
President and CEO



We Don't Just Say We Can Change the World. **We Prove it.**

We believe deep and lasting change takes place through spiritual renewal—the real solution to crime. We've witnessed prisoners becoming a powerful force for good. As their hearts transform through Jesus's love, they rebuild connections with their families and make amends with their communities, spreading radical love and transformation throughout some of the darkest, most broken corners of the world.

Our Model for Change

It starts with our 116 autonomous and indigenous prison ministries around the world. Through long-term partnerships, we've earned unprecedented access to more than 2,800 prisons and 1.58 million prisoners. With more than 10.9 million prisoners worldwide, that means we're impacting 14.5 percent of the prison population. This is significant, because experts have discovered it only takes 20 percent of a population to embrace an idea for widespread change to take place. When this happens, it creates a social epidemic that transforms an entire system.

In other words, **if 20 percent of prisoners respond to the Gospel, they have the power to change an entire prison system—for better.**

By engaging 2 million prisoners a year through our signature programs, Prison Fellowship International will break the cycle of crime and restore lives, worldwide, through Jesus's love.

Keep reading to learn how you and our network of prison ministries are helping to offer prisoners hope, repair broken lives, and protect the children of prisoners around the world.

Breaking the Cycle of Crime isn't Just Possible. It's Happening!

Here's our impact so far...

984,427 PRISONERS

invited to learn about Jesus
through The Prisoner's Journey®

9,082 CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

protected through The Child's Journey

30,062 VICTIMS AND PRISONERS

repairing harm through the Sycamore Tree
Project®—Justice and Peace

394,800 CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

helped annually through Angel Tree® programs

24,400 CHURCH MEMBERS


participating in a global Week of Prayer for
prisoners, prison staff, and prison systems

5,200 PRISONERS

benefitting from alternative prisons around
the world

6 MILLION DOLLARS INVESTED

annually to develop impactful programs
for our network of ministries



Offer Prisoners Hope

The COVID-19 pandemic forced many prisons to close their doors to outside visitors and volunteers, threatening to halt the Gospel from reaching hundreds of thousands of prisoners. **But Prison Fellowship International's network of ministries rose to the challenge so prisoners would not be without access to critical programming.**

They found creative ways to support running programs behind prison walls. **Prisoners themselves led courses. And even some prison officials volunteered to lead, demonstrating their belief in the necessity of spiritual programming for prisoners.**

This belief correlates with a study by Baylor University researchers, Sung Joon Jang and Byron R. Johnson. The study shows **religion and faith-based programs in prison**

enhance the emotional well-being among prisoners by providing an answer to whether their lives have meaning and helping them cope with negative emotions they experience as a result of the pains of imprisonment.

Jang and Johnson's findings show that religion and faith-based programs are likely to help both male and female prisoners cope with negative emotions.

One such program is our signature in-prison course, The Prisoner's Journey®. **In 2020, The Prisoner's Journey ran in 40 countries, reaching more than 84,000 prisoners** through an eight-week study on the Gospel of Mark, where they explored who Jesus is, why He came, and what He calls them to do.

The Prisoner's Journey helped Patricia, in Spain, overcome her anger of being in prison. Patricia says when she joined the program, she immediately identified with Jesus's story.

"At first, I thought the lesson was teaching that Jesus was also imprisoned without reason—just like how I thought I was!" says Patricia. "It wasn't until I finished the course that I realized I [got] the lesson wrong. I learned Jesus was reject by society as all prisoners are, which has helped my anger, my anguish, and my fears to shrink."

"Each class about Jesus changed my vision for my life and gave me the desire to become a new person."

RODRIGO, PRISONER IN BRAZIL

When the light of the Gospel illuminates the lives of those inside, the transformation is truly beautiful, igniting a journey toward understanding, wholeness, and healing. ■

Transformation is Happening Around the World

In 2020...

589 prisons in 40 counties ran The Prisoner's Journey

174,572 prisoners were presented with the Gospel message and invited to enroll in the course

84,150 prisoners graduated the program

55,990 graduates chose to deepen their relationship with Jesus

7,486 volunteers facilitated the transformation of prisoners' lives through the program



In Lebanon, government authorities hold the program in such high regard that they consider completion of the course when reviewing a prisoner's case for parole.



Repair Broken Lives

With more than 40 years of experience studying crime and punishment, **Prison Fellowship International knows criminal justice systems in most countries are broken and failing those impacted by crime.**

Many justice systems focus on punishment for wrongdoings, rather than creating rehabilitative environments where prisoners can learn personal responsibility for their behavior. Victims of crime receive little help to recover from their trauma, and families and children of prisoners live in poverty in remote, hard-to-reach communities where they are often ostracized for being related to a prisoner.

Through the pursuit and development of restorative justice programs, we have found a better way that is proven to repair the harm caused by crime.

I decided to take part in Sycamore Tree Project because I was bored in my cell. When I attended the program, I was encouraged to make something of my life and to stay away from crime.” SHEHIK, PRISONER IN THE GAMBIA

The Sycamore Tree Project®: Justice and Peace, our signature restorative justice program, increases prisoners’ awareness of how crime harms victims, and explores how to make amends and live as peacemakers. The program has powerfully impacted both prisoners and victim participants, and **studies have shown that offenders who go through the program have significant changes in attitude that make it less likely they will reoffend once released.**

Carlos, in Chile, experienced a dramatic shift in his thinking after participating in The Sycamore Tree

Project. Guilt and shame weighed on him. Carlos says he felt so irreparably broken that he was afraid to join the program when he was first invited.

“As time passed, I saw how my peers—who participated in the program—were changing. They began to live more joyfully,” says Carlos. “I asked a fellow inmate ‘What do you talk about in class?’ and he told me ‘What happens in class stays in class.’ This was exactly what I needed to hear. I needed to know I could trust [people] when talking about my crimes. **The Sycamore Tree Project changed my life and spirit!** [It] helped heal my heart by removing a great weight that I carried inside.”

In 2020, the Sycamore Tree Project ran in 10 countries and graduated more than 14,400 prisoners.

Using an eight-week curriculum, drawn from the story of Zacchaeus in the Gospel of Luke, each small group session is led by a facilitator. Offenders confront the harm—often for the first time—their actions have caused others and have the opportunity for peaceful dialogues with victims who are unrelated to their crimes. Many victim-participants report receiving a measure of healing from sharing their stories and witnessing the identity transformation of prisoners. ■

Repair is Happening Around the World

In 2020...

131 prisons ran The Sycamore Tree Project: Justice and Peace in **10 countries**

14,148 prisoners graduated the eight-week course, exploring topics of responsibility, repentance, forgiveness, and making amends

6,445 program graduates began to restore relationships with their communities

1,374 victims joined restorative conversations with prisoners

1,630 volunteers facilitated the restoration of program participants

Advancing Restorative Justice

CEO Andy Corley and Prison Fellowship Colombia President Lácides Hernández were featured as guest speakers at the Second Annual Latin American Congress of Restorative Justice.

In coordination with a subject matter expert, Prison Fellowship International developed a comprehensive Restorative Justice Handbook. It includes an exploration of restorative justice concepts, establishes a clear continuum of restorative practices, and identifies key best practices and tools for implementation. **Listen to Prison Fellowship International's Universal Declaration of Human Rights:**





Protect Children of Prisoners

When a parent is sent to prison, a child pays the price for a crime they did not commit. And there are more than 14 million children of prisoners around the world who are suffering. Their pain is amplified by poverty and the stigmatization they receive simply for being related to a criminal.

Children of prisoners are among the most vulnerable groups of people in the world, which puts them at high risk for exploitation, abuse, and neglect. Prison Fellowship International is the only organization in the world with the network and experience to reach these children.

By providing programmatic support to meet their unique needs for nutritional, educational, social, and spiritual care, they're receiving hope for a better future.

The Children of Prisoners Program is our signature

program for children of prisoners. Through the support of one-to-one sponsorships, we pair each child in the program with a dedicated caseworker to ensure they receive support in four key areas: safety, health, education, and spiritual care.

In 2020, the program ran in nine countries and served more than 5,600 children. As part of a planned upgrade, midway through the year **the program was redesigned and rebranded it as The Children's Journey. The enhanced program has a tighter focus on outcomes and is built on 17**

evidence-based best practices. This includes the doubling of caseworkers to increase our overall effectiveness, as well as including trained social workers and mentoring.

Lina, in Colombia, has seen the difference the program has made in her children's lives. Their once stable lives were turned upside the day her husband was arrested. Devasted by the sudden separation from their father, Lina's children, Yefry, Maria Jose, and Larry, began to act out socially and emotionally, as is common for children of prisoners. When Lina learned about Prison Fellowship Colombia's children's program, she found hope.

Her children are now part of a loving and accepting community that understands their pain and their unique needs. They enjoy recreational activities with other children of prisoners and psychological support from trusted professionals.

Care for children of prisoners doesn't stop there. Many countries run their own programs that are specific to their cultural needs, including Angel Tree, which connects children with their incarcerated parent through the delivery of Christmas gifts; Angel Tree Camps, which gives children of prisoners the opportunity to have fun, build relationships with their peers, and learn more about God; and back to school events, which assist children in receiving back-to-school essentials. ■

Protection is Happening Around the World

In 2020...

5,634 children were served by The Children's Journey in **9 countries**

93,000 children outside the United States were served through Angel Tree programs

142,600 children of prisoners were cared for by 94 partner ministries

"I'm so happy to sponsor my child in Cambodia. I feel like I am getting to know him and I am humbled by the reports I receive on him, his family, and his living conditions. In honoring God's call to serve the least of these, God is showing me the greatest of these."

JAN, CHILD SPONSOR IN KANSAS



As COVID-19 levels out in Cambodia, most children are returning to school equipped with masks, school supplies, bookbags, bikes, and the love of learning. But for children of prisoners, going back to school is never guaranteed. Ranata, a child of a prisoner, is grateful to return to school and for the help from her faithful sponsor. "I am so happy to get a school bag and money to pay for my school fees!" says Ranata.

Our Global Impact

Prison Fellowship International's global impact extends to 116 countries through our network of dedicated national ministries.

In 2020, we welcomed four new countries to our global family—**France, Myanmar, New Zealand, and Sweden**—and we look to 2021 with anticipation as 12 additional countries seek membership.

**Prison Fellowship
France**



"I have found the Lord and Savior. I have inner peace that can only come from God."

**MITCHUM, PRISONER,
THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**



"Today, I am free. I have changed my way of thinking. I no longer want to do wrong."

**CRISTIHIAN, PRISONER,
URUGUAY**



"I have seen the hand of God in my life. After hearing the Word of God, I have my life to Christ."

**FLORENCE, PRISONER,
ZAMBIA**



**Prison Fellowship
Sweden**

**Prison Fellowship
Myanmar**



"Our burden has been reduced in our time of need, and our living condition is better."

KANHA, CHILD OF A PRISONER, CAMBODIA



"Knowing someone cares about my life makes my burdens less heavy to carry."

SANDRINE, CHILD OF A PRISONER, RWANDA

**Prison Fellowship
New Zealand**



Building Up **National Ministries**

Prison Fellowship International's network of ministry partners has programs expanding beyond our signature programs to care for the needs of prisoners and their families. Here's a closer look at what else is happening around the world.

ANGEL NETWORK operates four times a year in Romania to impact children of prisoners in practical and fun ways. Enrolled children receive special gifts at Christmas, Easter, and at the start and end of the school year. **Prison Fellowship Romania served nearly 11,000 children through this program.**

BIBLE STORY TELLING aims to build Bulgarian prisoners' knowledge of the Bible by walking them through 50 of its most well-known and engaging Bible stories. **Prison Fellowship Bulgaria served 1,000 prisoners in 15 prisons.**

HARMONY PROGRAM promotes unity and teamwork among prisoners of different ethnic tribes in Sri Lanka. **Prison Fellowship Sri Lanka serves 18,000 prisoners across three prisons through this program.**

KAIROLOGY works with Fijian prisoners to make personal changes related to their values, character, and behavior, giving family, friends, prison officials, and law enforcement greater confidence in the prisoner's ability to successfully integrate back into society. **Prison Fellowship Fiji served 2,000 prisoners in 6 prisons through this program. ■**

To explore more ministry specific programs in our 116 countries, visit pfi.org/global-impact/where-we-work



From HQ

We're Working Together

Our work is not possible without the support of strategic partnerships whose missions align with ours. In 2020, we were grateful to partner with the following organizations to accomplish important Kingdom work.

UBS OPTIMUS FOUNDATION (Zürich, Switzerland) and **HOFFNUNGSTRÄGER** (HopeBearer Foundation, Stuttgart, Germany) **helped fund a variety of critical work for children and families of prisoners**, including sponsorship in four countries; a digital case management system to optimize care of children of prisoners; a new children and family livelihood program; and support for mentoring partnerships and capacity assessments.

BIBLICA, THE INTERNATIONAL BIBLE SOCIETY (Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA) **provided scripture resources for children of prisoners**, which will serve **55,000 children and caregivers in 40 countries** over the next four years.

GRACE AND MERCY FOUNDATION (New York, New York, USA) **provided Public Reading of**

Scripture, a follow-on discipleship course for The Prisoner's Journey in three countries, with **plans to expand to eight countries in 2021.**

BIBLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL (Crete, Illinois, USA) celebrated one year of **Prison Project Philip**, a follow-on discipleship program, currently running in five countries, and the graduation of **2,500 prisoners**. This year, our partnership was expanded to provide **698,000 Bibles translated into 14 languages across 50 countries.**

CURE INTERNATIONAL (Spring Lake, Michigan, USA) **provided 3,000 school kits**, packed with essential school supplies, for children of prisoners.

GLEANNING FOR THE WORLD (Concord, Virginia, USA) committed to **provide 6,900 school kits for children of prisoners in 2021.**



"This shared effort to bring Gospel transform to some of the world's most vulnerable and forgotten kids fits squarely into our highest mission hopes."

GEOF MORIN, BIBLICA PRESIDENT AND CEO

We're Preparing to Grow

Our three signature programs—The Prisoner's Journey, Sycamore Tree Project: Justice and Peace, and The Children's Journey—are built as cost-sharing program partnerships, specifically designed to help **grow the capacity and impact of our 116 autonomous, indigenous, and self-funded network of ministries.**



Currently, more than one-third of the ministries participate in program partnerships. While programmatic impact has been the primary objective, we discovered they produced an important secondary benefit: capacity increase. In fact, **65 percent of our program partners saw a sharp improvement in organizational capacity, especially in the areas of volunteer management, fundraising, governance, and financial stewardship.**

In 2020, the Global Capacity Initiative Advisors

Committee (our inaugural group of mentors composed of the leaders of excelling prison ministries in our network) convened twice. This group is underwriting our mentoring initiative, which will allow us to launch five mentoring partnerships in 2021. The first mentoring partnership was launched in 2020, with Prison Fellowship Colombia mentoring Prison Fellowship El Salvador. Through these structured partnerships, **seasoned Prison Fellowship ministries can pass on their learnings and knowledge to strengthen other organizations.**

This year we also:

- Designed and conducted seven virtual training modules, with participation from 65 ministries. Topics included adaptive leadership, governance, fundraising, mentoring and coaching, and digital communications, among others.
- Conducted two regional forums under a new forum model, designed to bring ministries in a region together to learn from one another and receive critical training. These were held for the Latin America and Anglophone Africa regions.
- Engaged 13 Prison Fellowship ministries in a new Program Partner Coaching program. Through this effort we coach current program partners to increase their capacity at a greater rate to maximize program impact. ■

We are grateful to have **retained all staff during the pandemic** through strategic budget management and relief funding through the U.S. Government CARES Act, Payroll Protection Program.

We **hired several critical roles**, including a systems administrator, talent manager, children's program manager, and restructured our major gifts team.

Digital Acceleration

Despite a challenging year, Prison Fellowship International proactively shifted priorities and accelerated into a digital future, laying vital foundations to seize new opportunities in the years ahead.

One of our highest priorities in our day-to-day activities is seeking God's guidance through daily corporate prayer. As the global pandemic unfolded, we convened our first-ever **GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER**, welcoming over 3,000 participants from 55 countries, who joined us to thank God for his provisions in prisons around the world and seek His wisdom for the future.

Our marketing team **LAUNCHED A NEW WEBSITE** to better demonstrate our global reach, communicate ministry news, and better serve our ministry supporters. **VISIT PFI.ORG.**



Our fundraising team **PIVOTED TO A DIGITAL SPONSORSHIP MODEL FOR CHILDREN OF PRISONERS** when the pandemic halted live events. This strategy, using social media and our web presence, is proving both cost effective and successful and we plan to expand it in 2021 to acquire general donors.

Our technical support **TEAM STREAMLINED PROCESSES** across fundraising, finance, and donor servicing through our new Salesforce Customer Relationship Management software.

Looking Ahead

This year, we focused heavily on research and development as part of our strategic plan to expand our ministry in 2021–2024, resulting in a variety of new and upcoming programs.

NEW CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Our Global Impact team **designed and developed an additional children's program** to serve even more children of prisoners. The new program will focus on education and spiritual care and rely heavily on partnership with the local church. **By 2024, we plan to serve 34,000 children each year across 35 countries.** While we expand to serve more children in additional countries, The Child's Journey will remain as a laboratory of best practices, continuing to serve children of prisoners in several countries.

NEW LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM

We began research to design and develop a livelihood program that will **help families of prisoners build sustainable income to better their futures.**

We continue to pray for those we serve and for you—our friends and ministry partners. **Thank you for your support of our work through prayer, partnership, and giving.** We look ahead with confidence and hope, knowing you continue to walk alongside us to make a world of difference for those who need it the most. ■

COMPLETING SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC STUDY

We're entering our third and final year of a multi-national outcome study of The Prisoner's Journey program to determine its impact on the individual prisoner, the prison culture, and recidivism. The formal, social scientific study—led by Dr. Byron Johnson of Baylor University—compares prisoner behavior and outcomes between prisons with The Prisoner's Journey and prisons without the Prisoner's Journey in two countries. **This is the first multi-national study of a faith-based program on this scale,** and we hope to expand it. To read a preliminary article written by Johnson for Research Outreach Magazine, visit:

bit.ly/Research-Outreach-Johnson

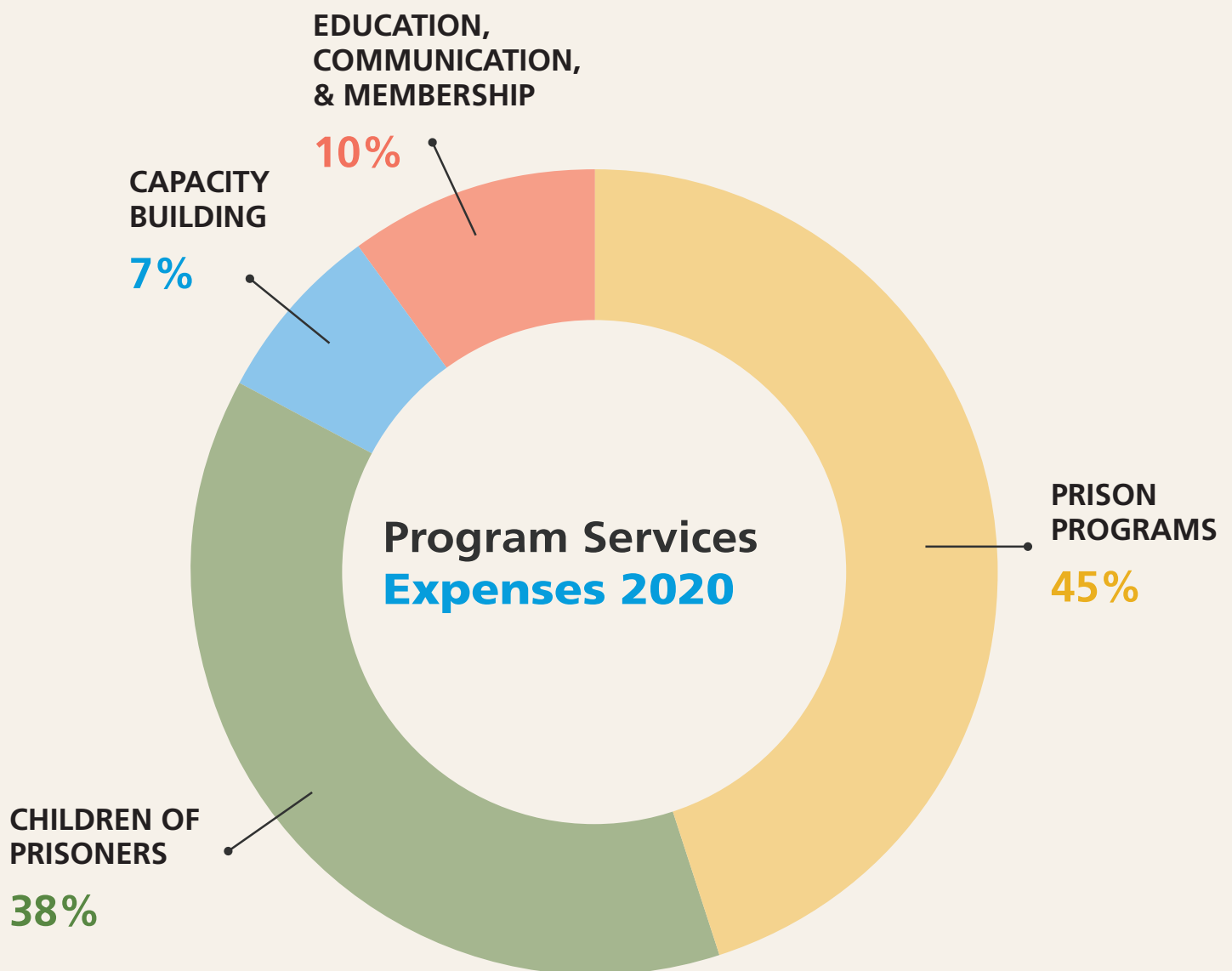


PRISON FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL IS THE PROUD RECIPIENT OF GUIDESTAR'S PLATINUM SEAL OF APPROVAL for the second year in a row. This seal, which demonstrates a nonprofit's commitment to transparency and excellence, is the highest and most difficult to achieve—only earned by about 10,000 nonprofits worldwide.



Financial Review

We know it's important to you that your donation makes the biggest possible impact. It's important to us, too. That's why we work hard to meet the highest available standards for financial accountability and transparency. See for yourself how we're investing the maximum amount of your donation into our programs.



These financial statements present the activity of Prison Fellowship International. They do not include financial information from the 116 Prison Fellowship affiliates, who are members of Prison Fellowship International. All information shown here is extracted from audited financial statements, which can be viewed in their entirety pfi.org/about/financials.



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