Justice For All

Prison Fellowship International

Annual Report 2011

Art & Design: Stilson Greene Graphic Design & Illustration

A message from the Chairman and CEO

Mike Timmis Ron Nikkel

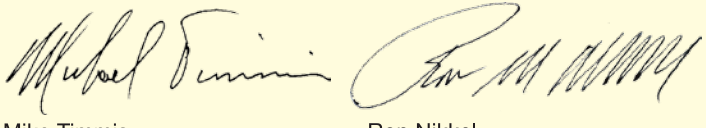
The prison gates slam shut. Another person put behind bars. And so justice is done.

At least that is what many would like to believe. But is it justice? What if that new prisoner has not been convicted and will wait another two years before his trial is even scheduled? What if he completes his sentence but he remains incarcerated because his paperwork is lost amidst the country's overwhelmed and crumbling justice system? What if that new prisoner is the mother of young children who will now either be abandoned to the streets or forced to live behind bars with their mother? What if the inmate is locked in a prison so overcrowded that disease is inescapable? What if he receives so little food that his health is seriously jeopardized? These scenarios are far too common in countries all over the world.

The sad truth is that prisons contribute more to injustice than to justice. In the following pages, you'll read about Prison Fellowship organisations around the world that are fighting injustice for all those affected by crime and punishment. Beyond these stories are many more stories of how dedicated staff and volunteers in more than 120 countries are coming to the aid of prisoners, ex-prisoners, families and victims of crime with the love of Jesus Christ. They respond to the voiceless. They remember the forgotten.

We believe in the God-given dignity and worth of every individual and we believe that justice should be available to all. If it isn't justice for all, it isn't justice.

Thank you for your partnership and support in our mission to seek justice for all.



Mike Timmis
Chairman of the Board

Ron Nikkel
President and CEO

Justice for Prisoners

"Here I am suffering," a prisoner called out to a film crew in a Benin prison. "We are sick. [We have] no food, no water, no job—nothing." His pleas are echoed throughout Africa and elsewhere in poverty-stricken countries that simply don't have the financial resources to house prisoners humanely. A prison sentence there, originally intended as just punishment, has now become a cruel injustice.

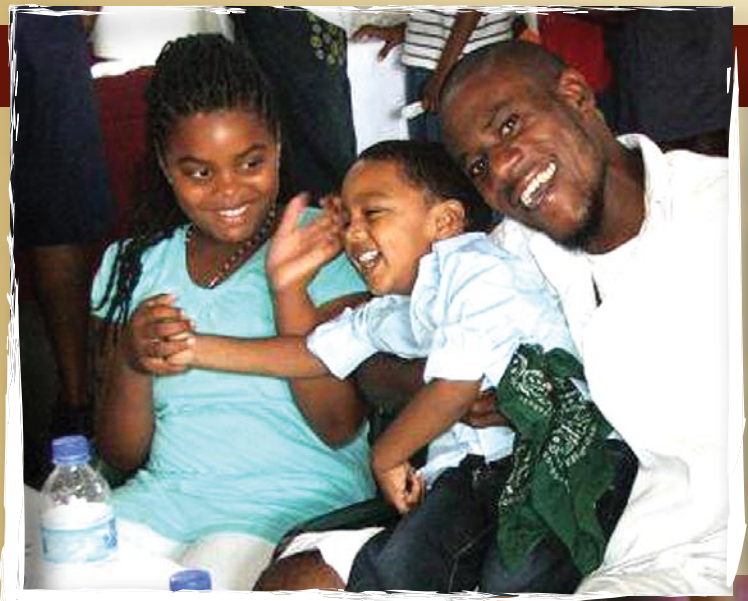
Prison Fellowship (PF) brings aid to these suffering prisoners in a variety of ways. Many PF ministries, for example, provide supplemental food to inmates. In 2011, PF Niger rebuilt a broken water main in the prison of Niamey, bringing lifesaving drinking water to prisoners suffering from diarrheal diseases due to a lack of safe water.

In other locations, where crowded and unhygienic prison conditions likewise result in serious diseases, PFI provides

mobile medical clinics with volunteer doctors and nurses. In 2011, PFI mobilized medical clinics in Madagascar and Sudan, treating more than 3,800 prisoners. PF Niger partnered with Operation Blessing International (OBI) to bring medical aid to inmates, including supplying medicine to all the country's prisons.

When PF Lithuania staff noticed that several inmates with poor eyesight could therefore not fully participate in PF's education and rehabilitation programmes, they brought in local optometrists to examine the prisoners and partnered with Vision Aid Overseas (VAO) to provide the prisoners with eyeglasses.

In August, PF El Salvador began a 15-week workshop on human rights and prison law, which included 160 inmates and resulted in the formation of several human rights committees comprised of inmates and administrative staff. PF El Salvador also conducted a workshop with the Association of Former Prison Inmates that included the Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Health, and the Attorney General of Human Rights to study the topic of human rights and prison law.



Justice for Families

It isn't just the one imprisoned who is affected by incarceration.

Imprisonment disrupts parent-child relationships, changes the caregiver status for millions of children, and fractures the financial stability of the family left behind. The children and spouses may be innocent, but they too have to suffer, along with the prisoner.

PF programmes for children of prisoners aim to rebuild their fragmented family relationships and provide them with shelter and a safe environment. In 2011, PF Solomon Islands launched a new programme called "Dinner with Dad" that allowed children to enjoy a special meal with their incarcerated fathers.

In Cambodia, 5-year-old Doeun watched his father kill his 18-month-old brother in a drunken fury. When his father went to prison, Doeun had nowhere to live, and he would not speak at all as a result of the trauma he experienced. Thanks to PF Cambodia's "Freedom Project," Doeun received the help he needed. PF staff brought him to its emergency care centre, provided counselling services and eventually placed him with a foster family. They even visited his father who, now sober, is distraught over his actions. Doeun is just one of many children

Justice for Families

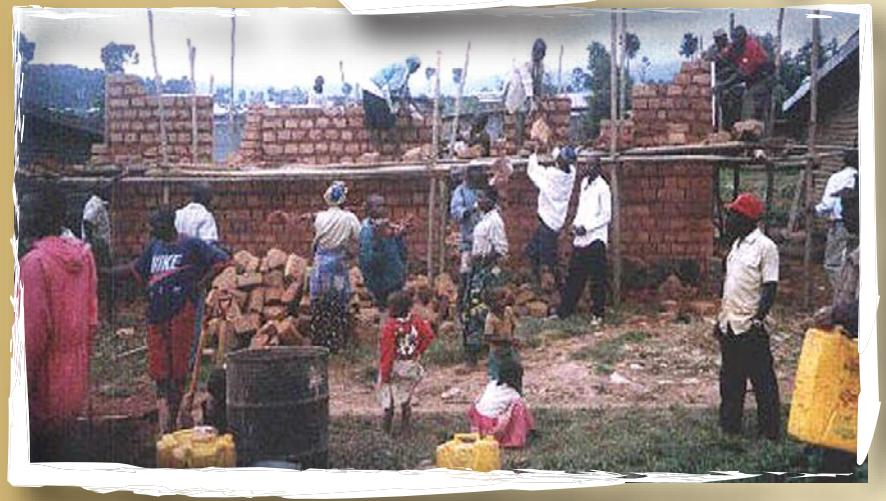
who have been saved by PF Cambodia's Freedom Project, which rescues children from immediate exploitation or neglect, arranges for long-term care and works to maintain relationships between children and their incarcerated parents when appropriate.

PF Ethiopia has partnered with Greenstones Christian Trust to protect and care for children living in prison with their parents. Their "Twinkle of Hope" project ensures the children receive a balanced diet, health care, and education. They estimate that, in 2011, 600 children were living with their mothers in prison.

More than 100 Prison Fellowship ministries around the world participate in PFI's Angel Tree® campaign, which includes remembering prisoners' children at Christmas with gifts from their incarcerated parents, camping programmes, sports activities, and back-to-school events, all to bring support and care to these often forgotten victims of crime.

Above: Lyn Conally, Sycamore Tree Project® participant

Right: Boniface Barigera, resident of PF Rwanda's reconciliation village



Justice for Victims

The criminal justice systems in most countries focus on punishing offenders, usually with little regard for the victims.

Studies show that many victims are just as interested in being a part of the process as they are in seeing the offender punished.

Many victims have found healing and support through PFI's Sycamore Tree Project®, which brings victims and offenders together for 8-12 week sessions. Lyn Conally, the mother of a murder victim, continues to participate in PF England and Wales' programme because of the strong connection she has made with the inmates there. "Not many people want to listen to your pain, but I found these people did," she says. Karen began participating in PF Australia's Sycamore Tree Project® after her daughter was stabbed by a jealous teenager. "I only wish that other secondary victims of crime could experience what I have and see that we don't need to be prisoners of pain, hate and fear," she relates.

PF Rwanda has found a way to shelter displaced victims of the Rwandan genocide while providing offenders with an

opportunity to reconcile with the community. PF Rwanda Board Chairperson Bishop John Rucyahana says that genocide perpetrators were asking for the chance to express their regret over their actions. “We cannot restore human beings,” they told him, “but we at least want to express our remorse.” Through PF Rwanda, these ex-prisoners are building homes for victims in what is known as “reconciliation villages.” Boniface Barigera, a victim of the genocide who had been living on the streets with his family, expressed his relief at having a house in this village. “Now my family has a home,” he says, “and I live with others in peace. My life will never be the same.”

Thanks to Prison Fellowship’s reconciliation efforts with prisoners, many victims benefit from the involvement, and often compensation, that they don’t receive in the traditional justice system. PF Zimbabwe, for example, encourages prisoners to apologize and offer restitution to their victims. After studying the Bible with PF during his three-year prison sentence, Victor approached PF staff following his release and admitted his guilt. He had stolen a motorbike and wanted to return it. Accompanied by a PF counsellor, Victor returned the motorcycle to its grateful owner. “A true victim-offender reconciliation story,” proclaimed Peter Mandianike, PF Zimbabwe Executive Director.

Tomasi made a career out of crime.

He began stealing when he was still in elementary school and dropped out of high school, so crime was all he knew. Were it not for the intervention of PF Fiji, he would most likely have returned to his life of crime as soon as he completed his prison sentence. However, he learned the art of screen printing in prison and, once released, started his own business with PF Fiji's assistance. PF Fiji recently formed a company called "Least of These Investments" that creates employment and fundraising opportunities for ex-prisoners like Tomasi, as well as current prisoners.

Ex-prisoners have paid the penalty for their crimes by completing their sentences, yet their punishment often continues long after their release. The unemployment rate for former prisoners is often double what it is for others in their communities. Employers are hesitant to hire ex-prisoners, severely limiting their chances of reintegration, and often leading them into recidivism. In many countries, former prisoners are denied access to public housing, social programmes, education assistance and political rights like voting.

Many ex-prisoners, like Tomasi, have few marketable skills and

Justice for Released Prisoners

little education, making an already difficult job search even more challenging. PF Nepal is combating the problem by training released prisoners in organic vegetable farming. The one-month training programme teaches them about soil nutrients, compost, nursery management and pest control. Released women inmates can also learn tailoring skills from PF Nepal. It is a "golden opportunity," praised one former student. "I am a totally rejected woman from my family after my imprisonment," she explained, "I was always in tension thinking for my future." Now she has the skills to be a professional tailor. "I do not need to depend on others to live," she says.

Support from the community is essential to the successful re-entry of prisoners to life on the outside. Knowing this, PF Singapore works with several local churches to ensure that recently released prisoners will feel welcomed and connected in their local churches. PF Singapore provides names of soon-to-be-released prisoners to the churches so congregants can meet them and invite them to join small groups. As a result, ex-prisoners have become active members of their churches, even serving as ushers. "We are locked in our own prisons of ignorance and prejudice," explains church pastor Lai Kai Ming. "By loving ex-offenders like these, we free ourselves from materialism and bias."

Justice for the Accused

Justice delayed is justice denied.

Of the 10 million prisoners around the world, an estimated 3 million are awaiting trial, and many will be waiting for years.

Such is the case in Liberia, where 80 percent of the country's prisoners have not been convicted of a crime and are simply waiting for their trials. With only 300 lawyers in a population of 3.5 million people, it is a long and tortuous wait. In Liberia, nearly all disputes are taken to the police, which results in detention, no matter how small the accusation. Many of the disputes are civil, such as non-payment of debts, and the minimally functioning justice system is ill-equipped to handle so many cases, making the prisons severely overcrowded, and the conditions unjust.

With the aid of volunteer lawyers and other trained volunteers, PF Liberia is advocating for and securing the release of detainees awaiting trial. PF volunteers identify prisoners in need of assistance and collect data, evidence and witnesses for court proceedings. They also practice mediation when possible, bringing the accuser and accused together to resolve the matter out of court. PF Liberia has aided nearly 1,500 pre-trial detainees and secured the release of over 615 prisoners. They have resolved more than 750 community mediation cases as well.

Justice for the Accused

PF Guinea-Conakry also aids detainees through its successful mediation programme. In a country where nearly half of the prison population has not been tried, PF volunteers meet with detainees of minor offenses, connect them with their victims and negotiate a resolution when possible. In the majority of these cases, the parties settle the dispute, the victims feel compensated and drop the charges, and the offenders avoid a lengthy and unproductive prison stay. In one such case, a car salesman, in prison for the misappropriation of funds, met with his victim through PF Guinea-Conakry. The victim agreed to settle if he would return the money she lost. They agreed that his parents would provide a partial payment and he would pay the rest once he could resume earning a salary. He and his victim both benefitted from the mediation and his freedom.

PFI Convocation

Nearly 900 representatives from more than 130 countries gathered in Toronto for the Prison Fellowship World Convocation in June 2011. Prisoners' children and their caretakers – mostly grandparents – carried flags from every participating nation at the opening ceremony.

The Convocation featured topical and practical workshops and plenary speakers including author Philip Yancey, human rights activist Theary C. Seng, and prison chaplain Pierre Allard. Throughout the Convocation, more than 100 paintings, sketches and sculptures were on display as part of PFI's International Prisoner Art Exhibit.

"The World Convocation is a celebration of our unity in Jesus Christ," said PFI President Ron Nikkel, "and a witness to the world that through Him, transformation, reconciliation and restoration are possible in the depths of human criminality, injustice and failure."

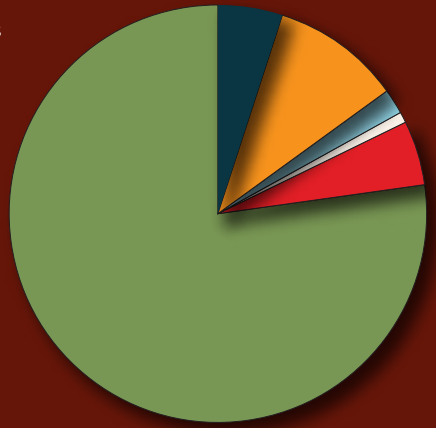
The PFI network of prison ministries welcomed four additional ministries at the World Convocation with the chartering of PF Czech Republic, PF Lebanon, PF Tanzania, and PF Uzbekistan, bringing the total number of affiliates to 124.

PFI's International Prisoner Art Exhibit

Operating Expenses*

- Relief & Development Projects
- Communications
- Regional Ministry Services
- Programme Services
- Justice and Reconciliation
- Leadership Training
- Finance and Administration
- Ministry Support
- Board

Revenues



- Unrestricted Contributions
- Restricted Contributions
- Investment Income
- Other Income
- Non-Cash Contributions
- National Charter Fees and Contributions

* Does not include expenses for the Quadrennial Convocation held in Toronto which were paid out of designated funds set aside in prior years for that purpose.

PFI Worldwide

Albania
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Armenia
Australia
Bahamas
Barbados
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belize
Benin
Bermuda
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
British Virgin Islands
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Cayman Islands
Central African Republic
Chile
Colombia
Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan)
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Curacao
Czech Republic
Dem. Rep. of the Congo
Ecuador
El Salvador
England and Wales
Estonia
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Guam
Guernsey
Guinea-Conakry
Guyana
Honduras
Hong Kong
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Korea
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Lithuania
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Mali
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Moldova
Mongolia
Mozambique
Namibia
Nepal
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Northern Ireland
Norway
Pakistan
Palau
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Puerto Rico
Romania
Russia
Rwanda
Scotland
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Solomon Islands
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Suriname
Swaziland
Switzerland
The Gambia
The Netherlands
Tanzania
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
U.S. Virgin Islands
Uganda
Ukraine
United States of America
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Venezuela
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Prison Fellowship International

PO Box 17434
Washington, DC 20041
info@pfi.org
www.pfi.org