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## Message from our CEO

It is exciting to connect with you and provide an update on the impact you are having within our community. We are pleased to be part of these stories of people across the country who are desiring change, wholeness, and reconciliation with God, themselves, and their own families and communities. Thank you for being on this journey with us.

Every blessing,  
Stacey Campbell  
CEO & Executive Director



## In Prison Program

### Youth Curriculum - Straight UP

We are proud to announce that we have published "Straight UP: Restoring Justice Youth Study and Discussion Guide," a Bible study curriculum focused on reconciliation to be used with youth affected by crime.

We are praying that God would open doors for partnership with volunteers and youth service organizations that would be willing to work hand in hand with PFC to bring the Straight UP curriculum inside youth institutions and also provide continued support in the re-entry process.

### Federal Curriculum

"Stay tuned for news about the curriculum we have developed for inmates in Federal Institutions in our next newsletter!"

*In 2010, nearly 153,000 youths were accused of committing a crime, this represents approximately 6% of the Canadian youth population aged 12-17 years of age. (Source: Statistics Canada)*

# Angel Tree Program



## 2016 Angel Tree Camping

Prison Fellowship Canada's Angel Tree Camping provides children and caregivers a week of respite by giving them a chance to spend time at a Christian summer camp. For people who grew up having the chance to go to a summer Christian camp, it is easy to recall how such experiences can make a lasting positive impact in a young person's life. For children faced with multiple adversities, a Christian camp experience offers incredible impact. We delight in the children being able to experience the love of Jesus through caring leaders and positive peers, and a chance to dream of something different.

The average cost to send a child to camp ranges from \$200 to \$300, depending on the area of the camp across Canada. Please join us in giving children an opportunity to participate in a life changing experience this summer! Donate online [www.prisonfellowship.ca](http://www.prisonfellowship.ca)



## 2015 Angel Tree Christmas Campaign

We want to thank all our Angel Tree Christmas sponsors who provided the gift of Christmas to over 2,200 children! Inmates from 55 institutions across Canada signed up for the program, wrote a personalized handwritten note to their children, and a gift was purchased and delivered on their behalf by a volunteer sponsor in time for children to experience a connection at Christmas.

An inmate in New Brunswick recently shared with us how her pain of being separated from her child was eased by the Angel Tree Christmas initiative. She shares,

*"I just want to say thank PFC and for Angel Tree Christmas existing. As a mother unable to spend Christmas with my son, I deeply appreciate what you do for us who are in prison. No child deserves to suffer for our mistakes or circumstances. I've spent three Christmases, going on four now without seeing or being with my son. I cannot even express the feelings of pain which abide in my heart. I've never been away from my son ever before."*

Please help us keep the connection between children and their parents and allow them to grow closer at Christmas. Enroll to be a sponsor for our 2016 Angel Tree Campaign today! Registration is open online.

# Aftercare Program

It is our desire at PFC to develop our Aftercare Program across Canada. This year we began our pilot site in Brockville. In partnership with New Life Prison Ministries, we provided a training for individuals and church communities in the Ottawa/Kingston area on Jan 16, 2016. This training provided an opportunity to learn about the multifaceted challenges inmates face in their transition back into community life.

After their release from prison, ex-inmates face a difficult transition in the community. During this time, former offenders encounter immediate challenges; reconnecting with family, finding a place to live, finding job opportunities and building a safe community. In the absence of these material, psychological, and social supports, ex-inmates have a high probability of reoffending within 30 days of release.

Tim Horne, Director of Aftercare at New Life Prison Ministries has been serving in prison ministry since 1984 and he shared about the vital role of church communities in the restoration of ex-inmates. Not only does the ex-inmate need the church to create positive social and spiritual support systems, but

equally important, the church needs to be involved in the ministry to ex-inmates. He exhorted, "The Church has so much to learn from their stories of resilience and can be reinvigorated through stories of triumph and hope."

In the afternoon, the participants played a game called ONElife that was developed by Prison Fellowship Canada to simulate the plight of ex-inmates within thirty days of their release from prison. The purpose of the game is to engage communities in understanding how the pillars of stability (housing, relationships and employment) affect the successfulness of an inmate's re-entry process. It is a known fact that keeping inmates isolated in prison and from community will continue the cycle of crime, increase the risk of mental illness and anti-social behaviour. We encourage the Canadian Church to enter into a relationship with, "the least of these" and share the spiritual journey together.

*Forty percent of released prisoners re-offend within 30 days of release because they can not get their pillars of stability in place.*



To find out how you can be involved or get your church community involved in Aftercare Programming or learning about the plight of ex-inmates through the ONElife game, contact Jon Miller at [jmiller@prisonfellowship.ca](mailto:jmiller@prisonfellowship.ca)

# Thank you!

We are grateful for the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with inmates and their families at Prison Fellowship Canada. We know it is only possible because of your faithful prayer and financial support. Thank you for all that you do to sustain PFC's ministry!

## Please Pray With Us

- Pray that the message of Jesus' death and resurrection will touch the hearts of men and women inmates this Easter season.
- Please pray for God to open new opportunities to bring PFC in-prison ministry and new chapters of volunteers within federal correctional facilities in Canada in 2016.
- Pray for the national network of volunteers, chaplains, and PFC staff to grow in unity and spiritual strengthening.

## Looking Ahead

- New Brunswick Partnership Banquet June 4, 2016. For tickets contact Jonathan and Sue Ellen English at [nbregion@prisonfellowship.ca](mailto:nbregion@prisonfellowship.ca) or call 506-478-0582
- CEO Day in Ottawa on April 11, 2016.
- Stacey Campbell, PFC's CEO will be speaking at the ideacity conference on June 16, 2016. Details posted at <http://www.ideacity.ca/>



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