



Prison Fellowship Canada

January 2022

INSIDE OUT

I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the LORD Most High.
Psalm 7:17 (NIV)



A LOOK AT THE FALL OF 2021

AN UPDATE ON SOUTH WESTERN ONTARIO

In the final months of 2021, Prison Fellowship Canada (PFC) continued to see God's hand in all aspects of the ministry. Through the persistent generosity of churches, small groups, and individual sponsors; and the dedication of institutional chaplains, 427 prisoners enrolled in the Angel Tree Christmas program, with 1,127 children receiving gifts with a parent's handwritten messages.

Since September, we have provided training to twenty-eight volunteers adding to our volunteer base of 228 people in Southwestern Ontario. Our training program extends from orientation to specific training modules in our various programs. Currently, we are placing volunteers on PFC's National PF By Phone team and in Bridgecare teams for in-community mentorship. We also provide curriculum training for those waiting for the jails and prisons to re-open to volunteers.

The Bridgecare program has been growing with more chaplain identification of candidates in prison who are eager to continue a faith-based approach to living. We have forty-five active clients in Southwestern Ontario walking alongside teams of two PFC volunteers for spiritual care.

PFC had a wonderful time joining the chaplains at Vanier Centre for Women to contribute to and help collate 300 Christmas bags for those incarcerated over the holiday period. It was encouraging to share community with the Vanier chaplains and other partner agencies involved in the ministry.

In Brampton's Roy McMurtry Youth Centre, we launched a Corrections Officer training program that focuses on Restorative Justice training. The training consists of Mental Health First Aid, Trauma-Informed Care, and the Sycamore Tree – a Biblically-based restorative justice program that, while it names the harm, seeks the restoration and healing that Jesus can provide to the offender.

If you or anyone you know would like to learn more about prison ministry, please contact me, or visit our website for information. PFC provides step-by-step instructions on getting started, a comprehensive training program, and resources to minister to prisoners. We would love to have you on our Southwestern Ontario PFC team.

May you be blessed in this year ahead.

Blessings,

Shirley Buchanan

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Prison Fellowship by Phone



UPDATE!

The National PF By Phone program continues to highlight the prisoners' desire for connection and spiritual care. A meaningful pattern we are seeing among the thousands of callers is how many callers call often and regularly, setting aside the time for prayer, Scripture, and an uplifting conversation. We are also grateful that chaplains from forty-five institutions across Canada have embraced the program as an extension of their care.

152



2021 CHURCHES

45



PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

BRIDGECARE

UPDATE!

In September 2021, PFC launched a National Bridgecare directory on the PFC website. With the click of a button, individuals can find their way to over 1800 organizations across Canada offering practical support as they integrate back into the community. Meanwhile, the number of potential clients for the Bridgecare program continues to increase steadily.

128



TRAINED PROGRAM LEADERS

66



CURRENT CLIENTS IN COMMUNITY

40



PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16



ANGEL TREE

Christmas

UPDATE!

Maintaining the connection between an incarcerated parent and their children will continue to impact the pathway of change for many families and for years to come. One family knows this firsthand, with sibling Angel Tree children first benefitting from the program for many years and now paying it forward as sponsors in the program for other families. Notable highlights included the exponential growth of the sponsor base in Saskatchewan and Quebec, more parents participating in PEI, and the rest of the country maintaining its strong performance. In 2021, we saw a three percent overall increase from 2020.



3,424

Children



1,363

Prisoners



102

Institutions



1,437

Sponsors

“

The mom and her young son met us at the door. When we handed him his gift, we told him that his Dad asked us to deliver his gift to him. A broad smile came across his face. I could tell his mom really appreciated a gift on behalf of his Dad.

- Angel Tree Christmas Sponsor

"not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." Philippians 2:4

“

A Bridgecare client recently released from prison has experienced God's provision as he secured full-time employment. Overall, the transformation experienced in his life through the grace of God shows the reassurance of renewal that any prisoner can gain.

- PFC Staff

“

It has been beautiful to watch the transition of the caller over the past eight months. He has moved from a place of desperation to one of hope and confidence. The prayers and support of our PF By Phone volunteers have sustained him.

- PFC Staff

LOOK FOR EXCITING NEWS!

IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS

In 2021 we underwent a strategic exercise to strengthen the PFC brand. This process and the resulting work and expense were gifted to PFC by a national Brand Strategy company. We examined our position in the market, looking at the prison landscape in Canada to ensure that we are positioning ourselves and our brand in a way that remains loyal to our mission. As a result of this exercise, PFC will be launching a new look to the brand in early 2022.

STAY TUNED FOR THE NEW BRAND REVEAL SOON.

This change will serve to communicate better the work done by PFC. We remain committed to our mission to prepare and mobilize the Canadian Christian community in response to the issue of crime and the restoration of offenders based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

*"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him." Psalm 28:7*

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

During the most challenging seasons, we often strongly see God's sovereignty. While 2021 began with a hope that the global and domestic upheaval would subside and that in-prison ministry would resume, soon, it was clear that things were not going to be as hoped.

Yet we see many examples of God's blessings in Scripture when circumstances seem bleak for those who trust in Him. At times we may be discouraged, but God's sovereignty will fulfill His promises for us, and His name will be glorified. This year was an example of God's providence in a challenging year. Through your partnership, we completed 2021 with all our commitments to the programs met.

Some celebrations from this Fall include the commission of the Gospel of John curriculum, ***Walking the Good Path***. This curriculum is sensitive in nature towards the First Nation community. This is particularly tremendous because research has shown that the Indigenous population is significantly overrepresented in Canadian prisons and jails. Current statistics show as high as forty percent of our institutional system is Indigenous. Indigenous women now represent fifty percent of the female prison population in Canada. Many

are keen to know and follow Jesus. May God continue to work through this curriculum and the hearts of all Indigenous Canadians in our care.

December finished strong, with 3,424 children served through the Angel Tree Christmas program. Praise God for all the work He has done. Praise God for allowing us to begin the process of Federal Prison clearance for our volunteers. This clearance will enable volunteers to serve on PF By Phone and in-prison for the next ten years. This clearance prepares volunteers for in-prison ministry as soon as institutions are open again.

While the past few months may have been challenging for us all, we praise God for His providence and grace. We also thank you for your faithful partnership and prayers throughout the year. May you experience God's love and blessings this year and always.



Stacey Campbell

President & CEO
Prison Fellowship Canada

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