

*For freedom,
Christ
has set us free!*


GALATIANS 5:1



*Prison Fellowship
Canada*

2020

**A N N U A L
R E P O R T**



*The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display His glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.*

ISAIAH 61:1-4 NRSV

Liberty to the captives

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO & BOARD CHAIR

During a year dominated by a global pandemic, we have seen our worlds get smaller and our freedoms curtailed. As safety requirements increase, we have felt the isolation, fear, lack of control and restraints which come with masks, restricted mobility and too much time spent alone. With great uncertainty for the future, we see depression, addiction and other mental health problems on the rise in Canada.

Yet there is hope.

Prisoners face isolation, loneliness and helplessness, which often stems from the turmoil leading up to their arrest, and definitely impacts their stay in jail or prison. Restrained by handcuffs, and barred windows and doors, they are weighed down with uncertainties, as well as guilt, anger, and shame. During this pandemic year, they have had few to no family visits, reduced group programming and minimal benefit of community.

Yet there is freedom.

As followers of Jesus, we boldly proclaim the message of freedom. This freedom is generously given and accessible, whether in or out of prison,

or in a pandemic. It is the freedom that comes from being unconditionally loved, redeemed, restored and forgiven. It is a freedom that brings contentment in present circumstances, peace unexplainable and hope for the future.

In John 16:31-33, even as He looks toward His imminent crucifixion, Jesus says, "Do you now believe? The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"

Our hope is in Christ, alone.


STACEY CAMPBELL
PRESIDENT & CEO




DAVID HUTCHINSON
BOARD CHAIR



“ *The best is yet to come! I long to see those incarcerated set free in ways nobody ever imagined! To God's praise and glory!*

PF BY PHONE VOLUNTEER

OUR VISION

To be a national community of reconciliation and restoration to offenders, ex-offenders, their families and victims using a faith-based approach to transformation based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

OUR MISSION

To prepare and mobilize the Canadian Christian community in response to the issue of crime and the restoration of offenders.

OUR VALUES

PRAYER
RESPECT FOR ALL
INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
GROWTH
CLARITY
ENCOURAGEMENT

Prison Fellowship by Phone



RAYMOND MOWLA
PF BY PHONE
& BRIDGECARE
COORDINATOR

The PF by Phone program embodies a team of volunteers from across Canada, taking turns to sit by the phone, in the quietness of their homes, and receive calls from prisons and jails in all participating provinces. With a listening ear, encouragement from Scripture, and an offer of prayer, each volunteer is so much more than just a voice at the other end of the line.

A SIMPLE PHONE CALL

A powerful way to show Jesus's love.

For when we gather in Jesus's name, He has promised to be among us (Matthew 18:20).

“ *You are just a phone call away, brightening my day. Thank you, Jesus, for my friend.*

PRISONER CALLING THE LINE

In the summer of 2020, PFC began a pilot program at Maplehurst Correctional Complex in Milton, Ontario. The PF by Phone lines were made known to prisoners through poster advertising

and chaplain referrals. Gradually, calls started trickling in and our PFC volunteers were ready. With God's favour, during the July pilot program, we connected with 34 prisoners.

“ *I highly recommend this program because it provides spiritual, emotional and relational support to prisoners who would otherwise remain isolated and who have limited access to programs – especially during the pandemic.*

INSTITUTIONAL CHAPLAIN

The program is now fully active in 35 institutions and counting. PFC has 55 active volunteers on the line answering a growing number of calls each month. In December we had over 300 callers.

We are introducing lines exclusively for women and a bilingual line with 10 French-speaking volunteers. On the PF by Phone lines, we are moving towards 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. coverage in all time zones.

“ *Thank you so much for your fellowship in Christ. You have inspired my life. I love the chats we have and the times we laugh and pray.*

FROM A PRISONER ON THE PF BY PHONE LINE





“ *The prisoner was being discharged in just a few hours but wanted to call and ask for prayer before he went.*

PF BY PHONE VOLUNTEER

“ *The prisoner was really gracious now that he was in a clear frame of mind to think about his faith, his life and his purpose. He's beginning to see the importance of seeking healthy community upon release, and to understand his own desire for the community from a new vantage point.*

PF BY PHONE VOLUNTEER

BRIDGECARE

Sowing, Growing and Taking Root

PFC continues to sow the seeds in the community for transformative aftercare, despite obstacles presented by the pandemic. This summer, after much in-field research, we have published an enhanced program and training kit including a new in-prison interview program, a field guide for staff, a manual for program leaders in-community and guidelines for Bridgecare phone calls. Much of our focus revolves around what it really means to provide spiritual mentorship, accountability and support; and how to do this safely, with healthy boundaries.

Throughout the year, PFC has been training volunteers across the country using a video conferencing platform. Volunteers are continuing to step up to be matched with Bridgecare clients. Clients are identifying themselves through the in-prison Bridgecare toll-free line. They call to discuss their plans for release and related cares and concerns. PFC is building church connections, employment networks, job skills training and solid housing options to supplement the work of our volunteers as they journey alongside each newly released participant. PFC is equipping volunteers for the various phases of reintegration, for sustaining longer and ongoing relationships, and for the higher potential of mental health and recurring substance use problems.



comfort all who mourn

This year, PFC received certification to train in Mental Health First Aid and Trauma awareness - this includes both in-person and virtual training as a response to the pandemic.

In 2020, PFC has built working relationships with parole, probation, social workers and discharge planners, government-side. We have presented the program to institutional chaplains nationwide, and continue to present the program to churches in an effort to bridge the gap between prisoners and church communities, facilitating lifelong positive community reintegration. With the support of institutional chaplains, we are referring ex-prisoners to faith-based treatment and rehabilitation programs, restorative housing, and actively researching faith-based organizations that will support and nurture through the love of Jesus.

PFC has focused on both the practical and spiritual inputs that are required to help an earnest prisoner seek the transformation that is fully available to them in Jesus Christ. Through it all, PFC staff and volunteers alike, have wrapped this vital program in prayer - and will continue to do so.

God is a miracle-worker. The same month that the pandemic hit, we were given ownership of the in-prison Bridgecare toll-free line.

A year in the life of Bridgecare



56 new program leaders trained



40 clients in community



200 prisoner calls



18 participating institutions

“ *I had a great conversation with the client. I believe he wants to change his life and live for God. I was able to encourage him in the word of God and prayer.*

BRIDGECARE VOLUNTEER

“ *Our Bridgecare client is at a point where he wants to share with others, what God has done for him.*

BRIDGECARE VOLUNTEER

A government-recognized essential service



MELISSA TABET
PFC INTERN

Recognizing the importance of healthy community integration (especially during COVID when more prisoners were released quickly to reduce prison populations), PFC's Bridgecare work was deemed an essential service by the Federal government for the purposes of grant funding. Through the youth employment program, PFC was able to hire Melissa Tabet – a tireless worker with a heart for the marginalized and a specific interest in restorative justice. In the fall of 2020, Mel worked on both Bridgecare directories and Angel Tree coordination, and many volunteers experienced her love, grace and passion. PFC is able to keep Mel working full-time, moving into 2021.

A garland instead

Bridgcare offers hope for newly released prisoners seeking church communities

BRIDGECARE VOLUNTEERS

Faith-based friendship and accountability partners

PAROLE/PROBATION

Seeing the value of faith-based programming to support reintegration

BRIDGECARE DIRECTORIES

Community resources & referrals

At the outset of the pandemic lockdown, our staff and a few amazing student volunteers got to work updating our Bridgecare key city directories. We researched, called and identified community resources, particularly appropriate for typical needs. We included referrals on shelters from ex-prisoners, agency partners providing recommendations, students confirming public transportation schedules and offerings...and anything else we could think of to curate and include. We estimate that we spent upwards of 742 person-hours, launching directories in 53 key cities so that we could provide this information to prisoners calling the Bridgecare line. The first month of the pandemic proved very fruitful at the launch of our new Bridgecare program.

BRIDGECARE HOUSING LEADS

Housing possibilities for candidates making positive life choices

EMPLOYER NETWORK

Job connections and job-readiness training

TREATMENT & ADDICTION

Referrals for an effective, faith-based approach



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE HOUSING ONTARIO

works with PFC to provide housing to ex-prisoners in the GTA, Ontario.



BETHEL HOUSE, in Kingston, Ontario, has a formal agreement with PFC to provide housing and mentorship to eligible Bridgecare ex-prisoners.



EXODUS, in Regina, Saskatchewan, provides many spiritual and practical supports through Bridgecare for prisoners.



Referrals to CELEBRATE RECOVERY

for addressing hurts, habits, and hang-ups.

Our new Bridgecare video is available to churches to build awareness around the program.



"We are privileged to help this client as she navigates through transitioning into a new life with Christ as her guide. Last week was powerful as we listened to her share her story. It is so awesome and necessary to have PFC prayer support."

BRIDGECARE VOLUNTEER

"I'm in a good place. Since being released, I have now found a job, a place to live, and I'm connected to a local church. I have had a meaningful connection with Bridgecare and now I'm ready to take the next step forward on my own."

BRIDGECARE CLIENT

PFC IN-PRISON PROGRAMS



SHIRLEY BUCHANAN
NATIONAL PROGRAM
DIRECTOR

The Lord is faithful. From January to early March, we were able to run 66 in-prison programs including, The Prisoner's Journey, The Forgiveness Journey and The Re-Entry Journey. Prior to COVID disruptions, we had

190 in-prison volunteers with over 500 prisoners participating in programs.



190 in-prison volunteers
Prior to COVID



500 prisoners participating
Prior to COVID



PRE-COVID IN-PERSON TRAINING OF "THE FORGIVENESS JOURNEY" PROGRAM

Although from mid-March onward, the pandemic interrupted volunteer programming across all Canadian institutions, our volunteers have stayed connected, finding many ways to support prison ministry.

This includes signing up for the phone lines or Bridgecare, catching up on missed training or additional training for when jails and prisons re-open; reaching out to us in support and prayer, holding chapter meetings and prayer evenings by video conference, letter-writing and correspondence mentoring.



CHECKING IN WITH PFC VOLUNTEERS VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

PFC ramped up training opportunities, offering current volunteers a chance to learn new curriculums and fill in gaps. For 2020, this training has included PFC orientation, Journey Series curriculum, Sycamore Tree Project, Bridgecare community volunteering, Relational Ministry, Bridgecare interview assessment, and PF by

Phone. All told, PFC ran 12 onboarding orientation sessions, and 16 ongoing volunteer training sessions. Our strong and dedicated team of active in-prison volunteers (on stand-by) is 172 people nationwide, and our overall active and approved volunteer base for all programs is 2,148.



12 onboarding sessions

Orienting new volunteers



16 volunteer training sessions

Ongoing throughout 2020



172 in-prison volunteers

On stand-by throughout Canada



2,148 active volunteers

For all programs throughout Canada

“ *I am overwhelmed by this Journey Series program; it is so cool to see all that is being done!! Thank you and praise God!*

CORRECTIONS OFFICER AND PFC VOLUNTEER

We are seeing the amazing effects of in-prison mentorship from those who are being released.

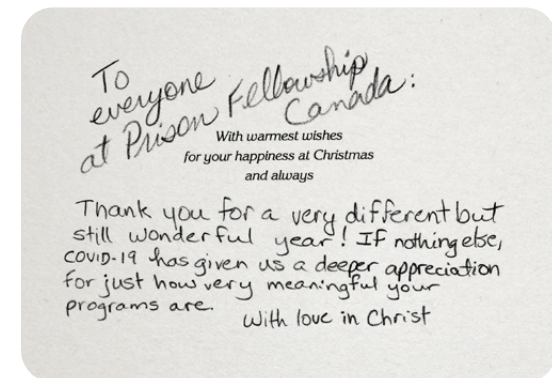
“ *Your organization, Prison Fellowship Canada, did so much for me and other inmates while I was incarcerated at Stony Mountain. I was extremely happy to have the Sycamore Tree and other PFC programs come to Stony. The amazing biblical depth and spiritual truths that came out in the programs, along with the facilitators in charge and the in-depth vulnerability led to some very deep healing in a lot of men. We were extremely humbled, thankful and blessed by all that was offered to us through your organization, and the invaluable spiritual connection we all gained through these times of fellowship.*

FORMER PRISONER

SPOTLIGHT

Vanier Centre for Women, Milton, Ontario

Vanier Women's Centre was one of the very few Canadian institutions that opened its doors to volunteer programming in between pandemic waves this Fall. With strict institutional rules around COVID safety, PFC volunteers resumed 4 programs including two Forgiveness Journey programs in different units, one Re-Entry Journey program and Devotionals. The women were so grateful.



“ *Our sincerest appreciation for all your hard work and dedication. Together we make our community stronger. We look forward to seeing you back soon.*

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, VANIER

The oil of gladness

ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS

Bringing it Home

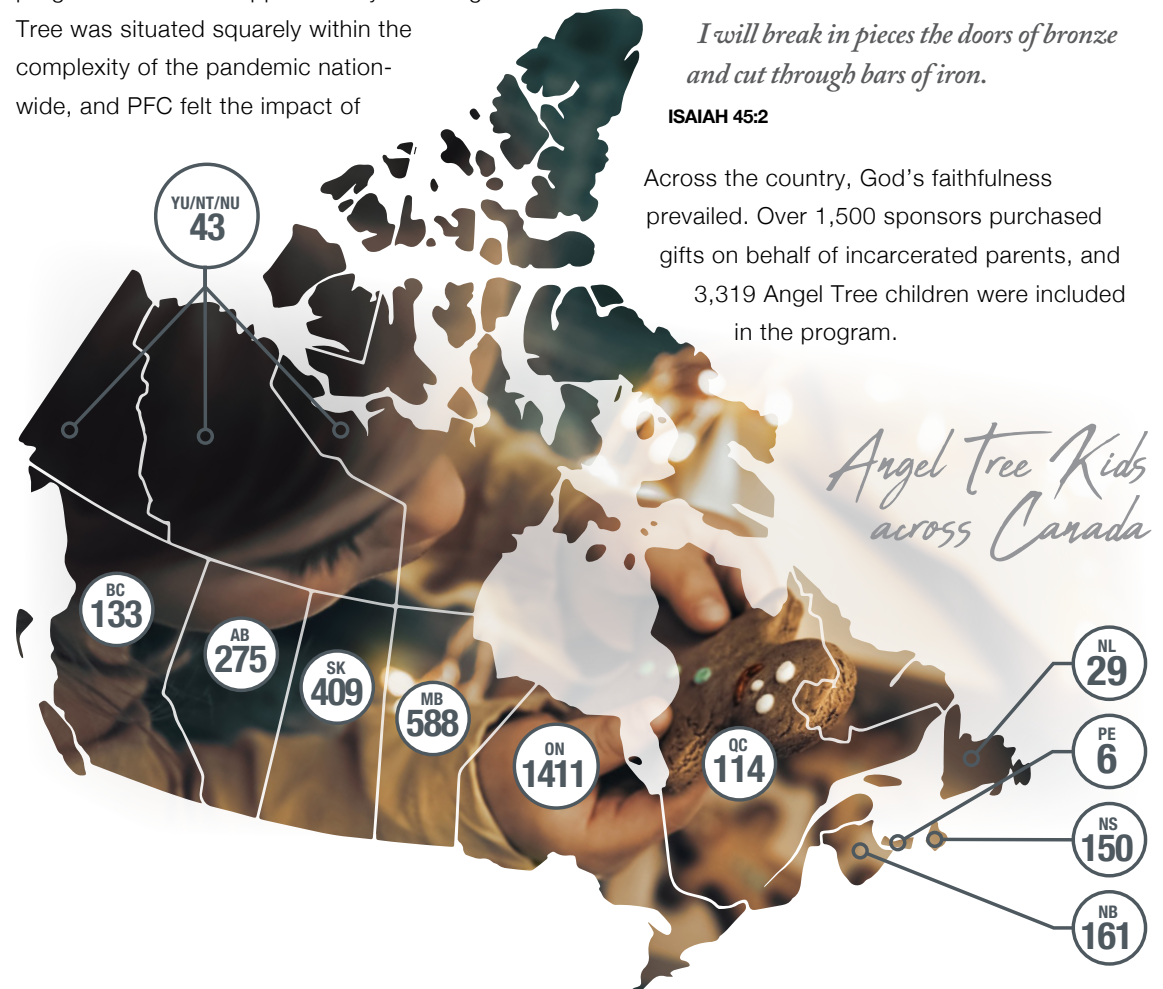
This year, we anticipated a smaller-scale program... It didn't happen! This year's Angel Tree was situated squarely within the complexity of the pandemic nation-wide, and PFC felt the impact of

this at every program touchpoint. The chaplains were restricted in their ability to distribute and collect applications; institutional clearances were backlogged due to staffing shortages; sponsors were impeded in their ability to shop; and deliveries were made with social distance and masking requirements, or sent through the mail. Yet nothing could stop the love expressed for Angel Tree kids!

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through bars of iron.

ISAIAH 45:2

Across the country, God's faithfulness prevailed. Over 1,500 sponsors purchased gifts on behalf of incarcerated parents, and 3,319 Angel Tree children were included in the program.



ANGEL TREE
christmas

Over 134 institutions participated, and out of that number, twenty were brand new partners to Angel Tree.



3,319 Angel Tree children



1,506 sponsors purchased gifts



113 institutions participated



20 new institutions
enrolled in Angel Tree in 2020

“ *The comments on our prisoner applications were amazing: ‘Thank you so much, it’s really appreciated’, ‘I love my daughter so much and I’ve been able to utilize this fantastic program for the last 8 years...’ One prisoner used pink pencil crayon around the gift tag for his daughter and coloured the Christmas tree, put a star on the top, and coloured the present underneath the tree. It was beautiful.*



INSTITUTIONAL CHAPLAIN

“ *When I called my children tonight, the first thing they said to me was ‘Daddy, we love and miss you and we love the gifts that you got us.’ I broke down and cried tears of joy.*

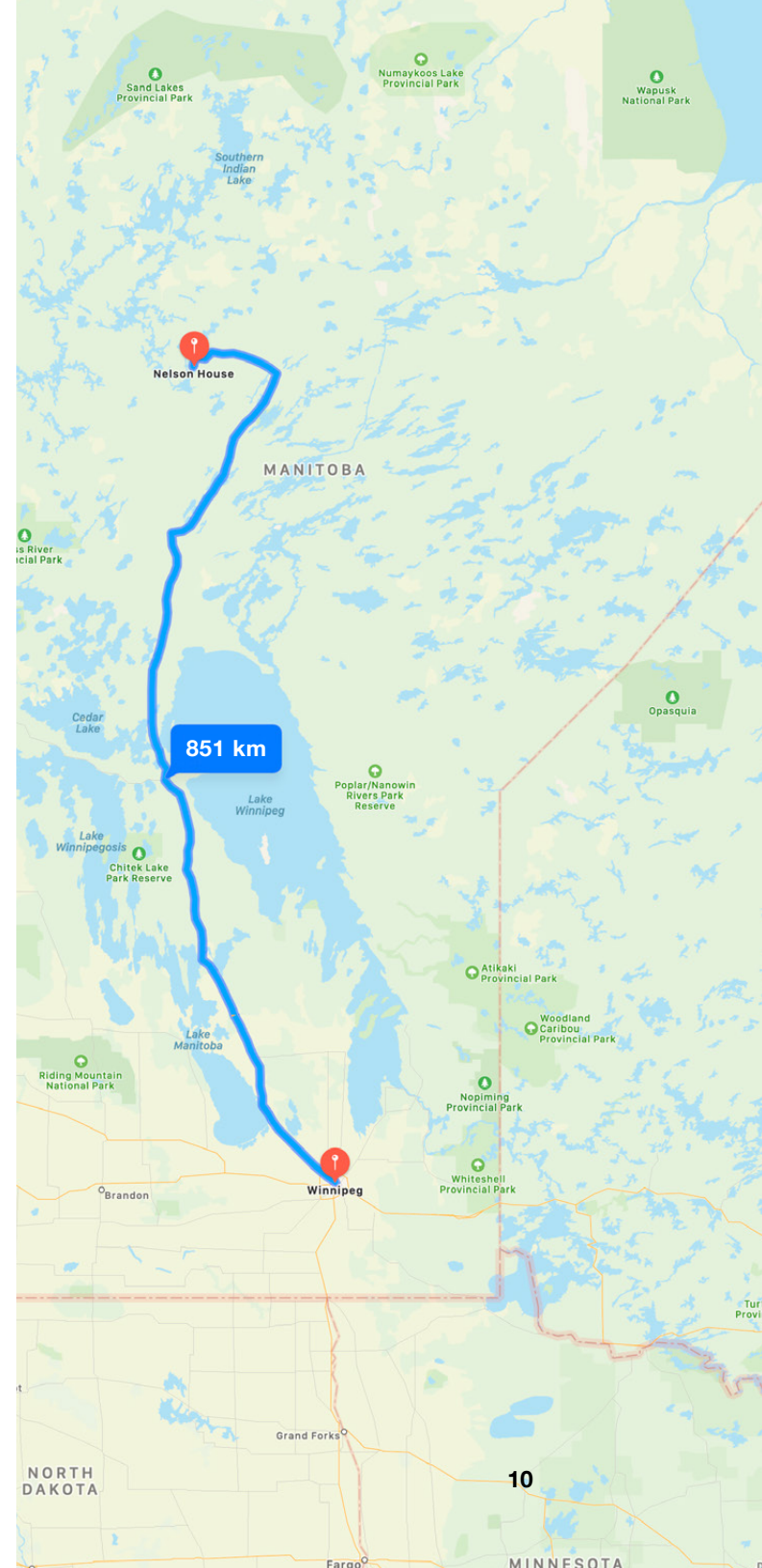
PRISONER PARENT

This year, there was more teamwork required than ever before, from one province to another.

PFC was so encouraged to have the help of the RCMP to hand-deliver gifts to Angel Tree kids in Onion Lake, Saskatchewan. PFC also had the support of seven church communities working together “relay-race baton-style” passing a 17-gift shipment from one to another! These gifts travelled from Winnipeg, all the way to Nelson House First Nation, and arrived in time for Christmas.



ANGEL TREE SPONSORS DELIVERING GIFTS FOR A CHILD WHO LOVES THE MOVIE “FROZEN”.





“ When we rang the doorbell wearing elf ears and a Santa hat, the little girl inside the house yelled, 'There's an elf at the door!' Her mom received us graciously...she said, 'You won't believe this! Their dad just called and he's on the phone right now!' We thought that was so amazing! He was able to 'be there' when his kids received their gifts from him!

ANGEL TREE SPONSOR

“ Just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate this gift! This is the second Christmas in a row that my girls won't be able to spend with their dad and they were so happy to have a gift from him!

ANGEL TREE CAREGIVER

“ [The kids] were so excited and very appreciative. This was an excellent surprise from their mom. Please pass our gratitude to all the sponsors and tell them how grateful the children are.

SOCIAL WORKER AND ANGEL TREE CAREGIVER

“ Even though I wasn't there, my daughters still got a gift from me. Next year, I'm giving back to Angel Tree.

PRISONER PARENT



ANGEL TREE *Camping*

What is camp to an Angel Tree child? PFC has asked this question over the years and we wanted to share some answers kids have provided: Being a kid, enjoying activities, learning about the Bible, feeling loved and valued, enjoying God's creation, and leaving cares and worries behind.



Although PFC hoped for the traditional camp experience, this COVID year presented something very different. As PFC continued to wait and work with our treasured camp partners, we were required to rework the offering on a province-by-province basis. In New Brunswick, Alberta and Manitoba, Lori Knappe and Brenda Hilling (our PFC support staff) coordinated an offering of live camps and virtual camp experiences. In all other provinces, PFC provided listings for virtual camps run by camp partners and churches.

For any kids, who did not have a real-life camp experience, PFC captured the spirit of Christian

camp with a jam-packed “camp-in-a-box” package delivery, complete with tuck candy, craft kits, sports equipment, a Bible and activity sheets.



THIS ANGEL TREE CONTEST WINNER MADE “NOAH’S ARK” WITH RICE KRISPIES.

“Thank you so much for Angel Tree! You have really affected the lives of many children who have been going through rough times, and brought smiles to their faces as you have my two.

ANGEL TREE CAREGIVER

“It was our first time participating in this amazing program and I was so surprised at how thoughtful and meaningful these boxes were. It was so sweet that the items and activities were picked based on their interests. My daughter’s favourite thing was the art kit. It kept her busy for so long and brought out her creativity.

ANGEL TREE CAREGIVER



Over 60 participants and volunteers, from infants to 70+ years took part, and approximately \$15,000 was raised for Angel Tree.

PFC hosted its first Angel Tree Ride for Hope in Winnipeg, Manitoba on September 19.



◀ ELIZABETH GREER (📍 RIGHT), PFC REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MANITOBA, ENSURED THE DAY WENT SMOOTHLY.

SPOTLIGHT ON QUÉBEC

With the dedicated work of our Québec Regional Representative, in translating the Angel Tree program fully into French, PFC connected five new Québec institutions to Angel Tree and opened up the ministry to a whole new set of families.

“I don't know how to thank you for the work you do. It is so appreciated! This year I was a little discouraged and I did not know how I could do it alone with my four boys. Now, I can't wait for Christmas and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

ANGEL TREE CAREGIVER

Please pray that these new chaplaincy connections will result in program launches once the institutions re-open to volunteers. In anticipation of growth, PFC continues to train new Québec volunteers. Furthermore, many of these volunteers are bilingual and are able to serve our French-speaking prisoners in both New Brunswick and Québec in the PF by Phone program.

“In a busy year with new challenges brought on by the pandemic, we were able to see that we serve a great God and his plans do not fail. We are very encouraged to see that some new Québec volunteers will be part of our national PF by Phone team! We are looking into 2021 with enthusiasm, gratitude and hope.”

LORRAINE DUBOIS, REGIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE IN QUÉBEC

A NEW REGIONAL REP IN 2020



LORRAINE DUBOIS
REPRESENTANTE
REGIONALE, QUÉBEC

Shortly before the pandemic hit, PFC hired Lorraine Dubois, to support and grow the ministry in Québec. Unwavering in her passion for prison ministry, and notwithstanding many COVID restrictions in the Montreal

area and beyond, Lorraine has begun growing our volunteer base in Québec as well as making connections to institutional chaplains. She has also been meticulously translating as much PFC material as possible for the French-speaking people.



JONATHAN MILLER
CHIEF OPERATING
OFFICER

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Ministering coast to coast

PFC is celebrating many developments across Canada from 2020. Here are a few:

With no institutional chaplains in Newfoundland, access to prisoners is difficult even without COVID. PFC was delighted that Jill Milley took on Angel Tree Christmas for the province, working with institutions and sponsors to ensure the delivery of every application submitted.

In PEI, Brad Bootsma, PFC's Regional Rep and a seminary student, has been building connections and working primarily alongside the ministry at Provincial Correctional Centre in Charlottetown.

New Brunswick was the first province to have every provincial institution embrace our PF by Phone program, enrolling five institutions once the pilot project was completed. Thanks to these institutions, PFC began developing both a women's only and a bilingual dedicated phone line that is now in place, nationally.



ROBERT LOGAN
REGIONAL REP
EASTERN ONTARIO

In Kingston, Ontario, the Bethel House partnership was finalized, giving residence space to men who are interested in continuing their faith-based journey in community. Many thanks to Robert

Logan, PFC Regional Rep, for his perseverance in seeing this through.

In Saskatchewan, despite perpetual COVID lockdowns, the teams led by Al Ferrera and Bill Tarr, PFC Chapter Directors, continue to connect through Bridgecare relationships in community.

In Alberta, the chaplains and volunteers at the Edmonton Institute for Women received training on PFC's Restorative Justice (RJ) program. The group programs will begin when institutions re-open, but discussions on RJ help everyone immediately.

In BC, the planted seeds are growing. As of December 2020, PFC has projected capacity to build this region even more intentionally, with the prospect of hiring a regional representative, and expressed interest by a growing number of volunteers and institutions. PF by Phone as well as Bridgecare are active in BC.

ACROSS CANADA IN 2020



134 institutions served
compared to 119 in 2019



508 church partners
compared to 492 in 2019

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30.
↑/↓ 2019-20 YEAR COMPARISON

REVENUES	2020	2019
Contributions	\$ 1,015,636 ↓	\$ 1,147,813
Investment Income	1,429 ↓	1,942
	\$ 1,017,065 ↓	\$ 1,149,755

EXPENSES		
Program Expenses	\$ 754,015 ↑	\$ 747,435
Ministry Development	5,517 ↓	10,900
Total Ministry Programs	\$ 759,532 ↑	\$ 758,335
Administration and Overhead	121,765 ↓	179,279
Fundraising	74,357 ↓	128,542
Public Ministry	57,506 ↓	84,576
	\$ 1,013,160 ↓	\$ 1,150,732

EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE THE FOLLOWING		
Original Excess of Revenues	\$ 3,905 ↑	\$ (977)
Gain (loss) on Foreign Exchange	24 ↓	1,138
	\$ 3,929 ↑	\$ 161
NET ASSETS – Beginning	257,289 ↑	257,128
NET ASSETS – Ending	\$ 261,218 ↑	\$ 257,289

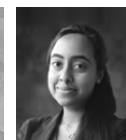
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BOARD
DIRECTOR



SALLY PETERS
BOARD
DIRECTOR



DIANE RUNDLE
BOARD
DIRECTOR



JONATHAN LEWIS
BOARD
DIRECTOR

*So if
the Son
makes you
free, you
will be free
indeed.*

JOHN 8:36



Prison Fellowship Canada

5945 AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE 144 | MISSISSAUGA, ON L4V 1R9

TEL: 844.618.5867 | EMAIL: INFO@PRISONFELLOWSHIP.CA



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