

Inside Out

SUMMER 2022

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 (NIV)



A LOOK AT THE PRAIRIES

Prairie dwellers are a hardy bunch! Not only have we weathered over two years of COVID, but in Winnipeg and across Saskatchewan, we had record snowfalls and cold temperatures. Add to that a late Spring with excessive rain and flooding, and we are all quite ready for Summer!

But there is good news! The days are longer, prisons are opening up to volunteers again, and summer camps are operating in 2022.

We extend our gratitude to those who have provided support this season. Many fielded calls from prisoners on our Prison Fellowship Canada (PFC) by Phone line, providing encouragement, prayers, and a listening ear. This has been a lifeline to those dealing with extended lockdowns and visitor restrictions. Others have contributed financially, allowing us to, among other things, continue volunteer training and program development and help us launch our Angel Tree Camping program in a timely fashion. In the Prairie Region, we have thirty children registered in summer camp. We trust that God will use these summer camp experiences to impact the Angel Tree families. Many of you continue to lift up in prayer our staff, volunteers, prisoners and their families, and those working in Corrections. We are grateful for your faithfulness.

COVID restrictions lifted in time for us to travel through Saskatchewan, meeting volunteers, chaplains, and faith communities. We also hosted a booth at MissionFest Manitoba in April. It was a joy to reconnect with people and to introduce our work to many others. At the same time, our entire organization was rebranded with a fresh look, an updated curriculum, and a new website (check it out at prisonfellowship.ca).

On June 4th, we were delighted to present our Winnipeg 1Life Event with participants from various backgrounds. This event highlighted the challenges experienced by those being released from prison. It was frustrating (it was supposed to be!) and

enjoyable, as well as informative. The attendance of several ex-prisoners at the event was extremely encouraging - especially their thoughtful perspective and open-mindedness about the system and change and transformation.

A highlight for some of our Bridgecare volunteers this season was witnessing their client's baptism. The need for Bridgecare workers is growing. Could it be you that fills that need?

On September 10, 2022, PFC is hosting our Ride for Hope event. This will be an opportunity to meet other PFC supporters and enjoy biking or walking to raise funds for Angel Tree programs. Please visit prisonfellowship.ca/r4h to sign up or support participants.

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 Prairies PFC volunteer team.

We wish you a healthy and happy summer season, time spent with family and friends and enjoyment of God's creation.

Peace,



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**PRISON
FELLOWSHIP**
CANADA



The PFC By Phone program continues to provide life-changing, spiritual friendships to prisoners in Canada. A volunteer shares a recent experience with a caller saying:

This caller was in segregation. I suggested reading from Psalms. I was thinking about which Psalm, and she said Psalm 30 as her favourite verse is "Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning" (v. 5). As we chatted before reading the Scripture, she mentioned that she was looking forward to getting into her regular prison clothes upon leaving segregation. I opened my Bible and began reading.

We reached the end of the Psalm and came upon these verses (11, 12): "You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy, that I might sing praises to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever!" What a beautiful picture this new clothing gives of true restoration and hope.

This Quarter
(April - June)

 **1044**
prisoners' calls

 **45**
participating institutions

 **107**
church communities engaged

BRIDGECARE

PFC's Bridgecare program continues to offer the support of our volunteers to individuals shortly before or just after release. PFC can provide ideas for practical referrals and/or spiritual support.

A prisoner, who is serving a life sentence, will be released this summer. She has connected to the Bridgecare program and has monthly phone sessions with a Bridgecare staff member. PFC will match her with a team upon arrival at a transition house.

The team is currently writing letters with her. She communicated that she is also a proud graduate of **The Sycamore Tree** curriculum. It had a life-changing impact on her that she will take into a community. Here is how she describes the experience: ***Sycamore Tree was by far the best curriculum I have ever taken in prison. Even though I took it three years ago, it has permanently changed me. The ripple effect of my actions helped me realize the toll my incarceration had taken on my daughter - particularly her unspoken burden to help me financially. In prison, I am more respectful to staff, and I encourage others to do the same.***

This Quarter
(April - June)

 **141**
prisoner calls

 **43**
participating institutions

 **88**
active Bridgecare clients



116

Children enrolled in summer camps

The Angel Tree camping season is well on its way, and we have had much positive feedback from caregivers, children and prisoners. Here's what a prisoner says about how the program has affected him and his family:



Being an incarcerated parent is challenging. When I learned about Angel Tree programs, I signed up my daughter. When she enrolled in Angel Tree Camping, I was anxious at first but later learned that she enjoyed it. I was blessed to be able to bring something positive into her life. She had a great time camping, making new friends, and learning about Jesus. This experience gave us a more profound love for Jesus and the church's support.

PRISON FELLOWSHIP CANADA ... NEW LOOK, SAME MISSION

Pathway to Change

On April 7, 2022, PFC introduced a fresh look along with a new tagline, "Pathway to Change". This pathway can begin as early as the moment of incarceration. PFC walks alongside those who desire change towards renewal – in prison, leaving prison, in community and within our churches – this renewal is a result of transformation in Jesus Christ, and the restoration of dignity.

The new PFC logo shows the three pillars of PFC's ministry – prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. The raggedness of the pillars speaks to the brokenness of those we serve, and while in an imperfect state, can be made to stand straight. With a soft cross peaking

in the middle, one sees the hope, redemption and second chances that are found in Jesus Christ.

This is PFC's mission – to open the door to transformation by mobilizing the Christian Church to respond to the issue of crime – to pave the way for God to take what has fallen over and set it up straight.

We also launched a new website designed to clearly communicate all of PFC's programs, to help people better understand the ministry and learn how to get involved.

PAST



PRESENT



BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE AT PRISONFELLOWSHIP.CA FOR THE NEW LOOK LAUNCH

SCAN TO WATCH PFC'S BRAND STORY VIDEO



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The past few months have been incredible for PFC, we have been in awe of God's blessings over the ministry. We saw closed doors open, and favour for the ministry increase nationally.

In April, we launched an updated PFC brand along with a new tagline that better describes PFC's journey with those who are affected by crime. We thank God for the smooth transition and look forward to what God will do through the new branding.

Last Quarter, we were blessed with a number of opportunities that we want to share with you:

A major component of the Restorative Prison program pilot has been the training of Youth Service Officers. This training began with mental health first aid and trauma-informed care. This Quarter we continued and completed core restorative justice program training with the first cohort of Officers. We are looking forward to see how God will work through this program. As we launch ***The Sycamore Tree*** later this year, we will continue to encourage a restorative approach between residents as well as in their interaction with staff.

Bible printing and shipments were delayed across the globe in the first half of this year. Institutional chaplains have been experiencing the effects of this as they seek to supply prisoners' requests for access to Scripture. PFC was able to procure 600 NIV Bibles and 1,400 NLT Bibles to bridge the gap. This will help us supplement our programs and support chaplains.

We are excited to set up channels for donated clothing to those being released at Vanier's Women's Centre in Ontario. This will help them get back on their feet and build up their confidence.

We thank God and praise Him for paving the road every day for the work of this ministry. We look forward to seeing what He has planned for the rest of the year as we continue to praise Him for His providence and grace. We are grateful for your ongoing partnership and prayers.

Faithfully,



STACEY CAMPBELL
PRESIDENT & C.E.O.

PRISON FELLOWSHIP CANADA

Get Involved

DONATE

Donate online at
[prisonfellowship.ca/
donate-online](https://prisonfellowship.ca/donate-online) or mail a
cheque to the address below

VOLUNTEER

Start a PFC volunteer team in
your church
[prisonfellowship.ca/
get-involved/volunteers](https://prisonfellowship.ca/get-involved/volunteers)

PRAY

Join our national prayer partners.
Subscribe to our monthly prayer
calendar at [prisonfellowship.ca/
get-involved/prayer-partners](https://prisonfellowship.ca/get-involved/prayer-partners)



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