



**PRISON
FELLOWSHIP**
CANADA

Pathway to Change

Impact Report

FY 2022-2023



April 8, 2024

“And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”
- 2 Corinthians 9:8 (New Living Translation)

Dear Supporters of the Ministry,

At PFC, we know that it takes a wide variety of supporters – volunteers, community partners, prayer warriors and financial partners – to bring about restoration and reconciliation to those who are involved in our criminal justice system along with their families. Ultimately, our desire is to see lives transformed as individuals encounter Jesus. Everything we do is centered around this goal and we are grateful for your partnership in this.

The goal of this Impact Report is to provide you with a sense of what took place across Canada during our **2022-2023 Fiscal Year**. Though this report will not include every last detail of what you helped to accomplish, it will paint a picture of the good work that has happened in each region. In other words, this is not a list of what we did – it is a report of the impact you made happen nationwide, the effects of which continue to unfold.

May the Lord bless you for your continued partnership with us as we walk with those we serve, on their pathway to change.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stacey', is positioned below the word 'Faithfully,'.

STACEY CAMPBELL
President & CEO



Throughout the year, we've celebrated milestones that reflect the dedication and passion of our volunteers, staff and supporters. From the expansion of our Bridgecare program to the piloting of new curriculums in prison facilities, each achievement has been a testament to the collective effort and commitment of our entire community. The National PFC Volunteer Appreciation Event was a highlight, where we came together to honour both longstanding and newer volunteers.

Other Highlights Nationwide Include:

- **The launch of the updated Canadian version of *The Sycamore Tree Program* at a federal women's prison.** PFC has added new tools and conversations to the core content as well as sessions on fear, shame and identity. With God's favour, we journey into deeply personal and transformative places of forgiveness and restoration where both offenders and surrogate victims come to know their own heartfelt truths and find healing.
- **Distribution of PFC-produced *The Forgiveness Journey Videos* to supplement the core curriculum.** Through these videos, thousands of Canadian prisoners are experiencing testimonies of forgiveness through Jesus – and the life changing hope that so many attest to and claim.
- **The national PFC by Phone line served an unprecedented 4,164 callers this year.** Many callers have demonstrated and let us know that this service is truly a lifeline in the darkest places. 119 volunteers serve on the line from 93 church communities across Canada.
- **A new Bridgecare workshop has been created by PFC** to raise program awareness amongst prisoners who are interested in Jesus and preparing for release into the community through transitional (halfway) houses. This workshop multiplies our access to prisoners hearing about the program.
- **The introduction of *Walking the Good Path* curriculum in English and French, and the *Father to the Fatherless* program** reflects our focus on holistic rehabilitation and spiritual growth.
- **PFC's VP of Programs & Mission was asked to join the Board of Burning Stone Ministries** – a charity that focuses on northern Ontario indigenous communities and specifically the Brave Girls support and education program. This partnership reflects PFC's commitment to understanding indigenous needs and contexts as we seek to care for the overrepresented indigenous population in jails and prisons. PFC is particularly interested in expanding our Angel Tree program to benefit these communities. Please pray for other opportunities across Canada to partner, learn and support healing.
- **PFC reconnected with "Athletes in Action" this fiscal year** to resume our partnership from pre-Covid years. Christian athletes are eager to fellowship and share with incarcerated individuals and, Lord-willing, we anticipate events at institutions across Canada for years to come.



Angel Tree Christmas (2022)

We are deeply encouraged to see the Angel Tree Christmas program growing year over year. In 2022 we saw a massive increase (102%) in Quebec sponsorships, an increase of 18% in sponsorships across the nation and continued community partnerships in busy Angel Tree neighbourhoods.

The goal of Angel Tree Christmas goes beyond simply delivering presents to children; it is about fostering connection in the strained relationships between children and their incarcerated parent. The report of one caregiver testifies that the Angel Tree Christmas program is having this positive effect:

Both of my daughters have had very little contact with their father over the past few years. I oftentimes worry if they will ever have any kind of relationship with their dad. And we usually don't talk about it too much as it brings up a lot of emotional pain. When they both found out the gifts were from their dad they started tearing up. It was the first time in a long time that I overheard them speak about their dad.

The program also makes a significant impact in the lives of those who help to facilitate the purchase and delivery of gifts. One of our 2022 sponsors reported:

We were able to involve a number of people in purchasing and delivering presents while keeping the personal information with me (I was part of every delivery, so I had all the addresses, etc). It was fun to shop for the kids and to try and find something they would truly love from their parent. The caregivers truly seemed grateful for the gifts, and I appreciated being able to share some of God's love to people who often are marginalized, overlooked, or experience discrimination because of their connection to the prison system.

Angel Tree Christmas Outcomes by Region for 2022

Region 2022	Total Kids	Total Institutions	Total Sponsors
AB	239	9	141
BC	215	13	127
SK	570	12	135
MB	599	14	250
ON	1055	24	638
E-ON	136	9	134
QC	194	14	105
NB	98	8	75
NS	105	5	120
PEI	10	1	8
NF	65	4	50
YU/NWT/NU	0/8/12	1/1/0	0
TOTAL	3,306	115	1783

***Note:** The 2023 Angel Tree Christmas program had a record-breaking 3,635 kids participate! This will be reported in our next Q1/Q2 report.



REGIONAL NEWS

British Columbia

In British Columbia, we've seen growth in volunteer engagement, with 18 individuals progressing through the onboarding process as of year-end, representing 15 church program partners.

Please pray for those who have joined prison ministry and this province's deepening commitment to serving those in need.

Collaborations with local chaplains and institutions are strengthening our efforts. Please pray that institutional clearances will be processed in a timely manner. PFC volunteers are poised to commence *The Forgiveness Journey* at Fraser Valley Institute and fill an ongoing program slot with the women there. Matsqui, Mountain, Kent, and Alouette are among other institutions interested in our programs. Please pray for more volunteers to come forward who are in proximity to these places.

The third quarter brought exciting changes with the appointment of Brenda Hilling as our full-time regional coordinator. Through Brenda's leadership, volunteers are moving forward in our onboarding process – we have in-prison program opportunities, Bridgecare teams coming together and regular regional prayer meetings.

Five PFC by Phone volunteers from BC continue to faithfully serve on the line each week as part of the national team and Brenda provides oversight and support for them.

Here is one example of the meaningful conversations that are happening on our phonelines:

The caller requested prayer for his court date in April and sought prayer for release. He hadn't called for a while and said he would call more often and he wants to connect with Bridgecare. He expressed how he wants to change his life and be healed of all his addictions. He also mentioned that he has wanted to give up at times in his life. These are the main areas I focused on in prayer. Also, he wanted a Scripture reading so I read Joshua to be strong and courageous.

Angel Tree Camping supported 15 children who enjoyed a week at camp, with seven camp partners (four new ones) stepping up for the program. Here are some camper responses to the question, "What did you learn at camp?":

- I learned that God is kind, helpful and loves everyone
- I learned how to hold a bow and have to shoot; and that God doesn't care what we look like; and that It was ok to be away from home for a night



Alberta

In Alberta, our ministry is thriving through our shared commitment to glorifying God and serving those in need. Every quarter, 13 participants come together to lift up PFC's mission in prayer. Across the province we have 82 volunteers and the support of 38 church program partners.

In Alberta, our Faith & Justice In-Prison program is very active, with 24 volunteers leading five regular Bible studies at Calgary Young Offender Centre and Women's Centre, Red Deer Remand, Edmonton Remand, Edmonton Institution, and Edmonton Institute for Women. From orientation sessions to *The Forgiveness Journey* training, our volunteers have embraced transformative ministry opportunities that testify to the power of faith and community within correctional facilities.

Praise God that during this Fiscal Year we launched the PFC by Phone program in all 8 provincial institutions and two youth centres in Alberta. Once the ministry activated the lines, we waited and slowly received our first five calls. Then as posters went up and word spread, we began seeing regular participation from prisoners across the province. 16 dedicated volunteers from Alberta are part of the national team, answering calls from 9am to 9pm, seven days a week. Here is a testimonial from a volunteer following a call:

The caller loves the Lord very much and is worried about his young children who are in the care of family members. We prayed for their provision and that they know the love of Jesus and that their Dad wants to be with them. We had a great conversation about the First Nations Bible version and how he is trying to bridge the gap with his community and show them the love that Jesus has for them.

In Alberta, the provincial Angel Tree program is temporarily on hold pending a Ministry of Justice assessment of all programs, including PFC's. Please pray for the future of Angel Tree. In the meantime, we had 13 Angel Tree kids (whose parents are in the federal system) enjoy camp this summer at our six partner camps. One camper shared these highlights:

Thank you for making this camp happen. It was so fun. I enjoyed tubing, beach, campfires, making friends, cabin counsellors, and chapel. I learned new drama skills. I learned more about God at chapel time.

The Bridgecare focus this year was on building partnerships in community and addressing specific ex-prisoner needs as they presented themselves. At the end of this fiscal year, we are preparing a 1Life Event at Edmonton Institute for Women that raises awareness around the challenges of release and will ignite more activity for Bridgecare moving forward.



Manitoba & Saskatchewan

Thanks to 22 church program partners represented by 43 volunteers, much activity is happening in Manitoba and Saskatchewan for prisoners and ex-prisoners. Praise the Lord!

In Manitoba, one or more of the Faith & Justice Bible Studies, (*Walking the Good Path*, *The Forgiveness Journey*, and *The Re-Entry Journey*) are running at Brandon Correctional, Stony Mountain, North Battleford Hospital and Saskatoon Correctional Centre. Pray for more volunteers for in-prison ministry as the institutions are very grateful and open to our volunteers.

The PFC by Phone program stands as a lifeline for many, offering solace to those navigating the complexities of the prison context. 10 volunteers on the national team of 119 are from Manitoba/Saskatchewan and all 13 provincial institutions participate in the program. Their testimonials echo the profound impact of their work, reminding us of the power of compassion and connection, even in the most challenging of circumstances. Here is an inspiring example of many of the phone conversations:

This new Christian is on fire for the Lord. He says he will be released in the next few weeks and is excited to find a church that he can connect with. We prayed for his spiritual journey. He is concerned that he doesn't know how to pray so we talked about that. He will be reaching out to Bridgecare soon to connect with a church and find mentors in his community.

Through Angel Tree Camping, 19 registered kids enjoyed a full week of potentially life-changing Christian camp. Here is a testimonial from a happy caregiver:

Sending "J" to camp was an absolute game-changer, a true answer to our prayers. He returned home with a pocketful of adventure stories, newfound self-reliance, and a huge grin, evidence of God's grace in his life.

Ontario

In Ontario, we have 342 volunteer program leaders at various stages of the onboarding process. These volunteers represent 136 church program partners.

Our Faith & Justice In-Prison ministry has continued to thrive. At year end we have 22 regular Bible Study programs run by 56 active volunteers in Ontario correctional facilities. Our facilitators focus on God's unconditional love and encourage participants to deeply reflect on this. Discussions are prompted with open ended questions and a welcoming warmth. We encourage prisoners to study the Bible between sessions and come back with insights and questions. Hearts are stirring.



All 27 Ontario provincial institutions and one Federal Institution (Bath) participate in the PFC by Phone program. Please pray that the full Federal program will roll out according to the Lord's timing. At the end of this year, approximately 120 Ontario volunteers have been trained to serve on the line alongside 89 other volunteers from across Canada.

The increase in call volumes this year is a testament to the profound impact of hope and encouragement offered to individuals impacted by incarceration. Examples like this encourage our hearts as well:

I've spoken to this caller before, and he wanted to know what I've been reading in Scripture, so I shared with him from Romans 4 and 5. We spent time on Romans 5:3-5, discussing how hard it can be to walk through suffering, but the hope of God's love and presence is with us. The caller shared about his struggles with loneliness in prison and how the PFC phone line is his one opportunity for connection and encouragement. I prayed for him at the end of our call.

This year PFC was one of nine recipients of the Ontario Ministry of Labour Skills Development Fund. This funding provides Bridgecare clients with access to skills training, upskilling, and wrap-around supports, aiming to remove obstacles to gainful employment. With our focus on transformative living and spiritual mentorship, Bridgecare and the Skills Development Fund have proven to be a powerful combination in our mission to serve those affected by incarceration. Please pray that newly released prisoners will find and keep employment.

Meanwhile, our Bridgecare program has expanded its reach with approximately 90 new clients enrolled in the program, each of whom walk alongside two PFC volunteers in the community. This expansion was in part due to an invitation PFC received to attend the in-prison Pre-Release Fair at seven federal institutions including Collins Bay, Joyceville, Bath and Millhaven in the Kingston area. This was an opportunity to connect directly with prisoners at these institutions, hand out Angel Tree applications as well as build awareness around Bridgecare. PFC's Regional Manager and Angel Tree Coordinator attended and met directly with chaplains whenever possible. It was a great time of networking with like-minded partner organizations as well as praying with the incarcerated men who attended.

Here is feedback from two of our Bridgecare volunteers:

"D" is willing to read the Bible - she does not have much understanding where to find Bible verses to comfort her when the anxiety hits hard. We discussed how to find the reference by going through the Bible app.

The client has made many leaps forward in his journey since being released 2-3 weeks ago. He has acquired a phone through PFC, got connected to his Bridgecare mentorship team, got registered for the CLAC Skilled Trades Bootcamp [for pre-apprenticeship training], and received wraparound supports for work clothing. He seems very determined to change and will have an opportunity to connect with his mother while in Cambridge for Bootcamp.



In Ontario, 50 children were registered for overnight or day camp this year in PFC's Angel Tree Camping program. Please pray that more prisoners will have confidence to enroll their children for camp in the coming years.

The Connect Ottawa Conference was a highlight of the year, providing us with the opportunity to connect with over 33 organizations and 45+ churches. The sense of unity and collaboration that permeated the conference reinforced the importance of our partnerships in achieving our shared goals. On a related note, we are grateful for our Ottawa partner, Whitestone Canada who continues to run *The Re-Entry Journey* program for releasing prisoners they are serving.

In September, we began a second year-long placement with one of the Wycliffe Seminary student learners from the University of Toronto. Seminary partnerships that give prison access to pastoral learners is something we would love to do on a larger scale, Lord-willing, as it reinforces our mission's focus on equipping the local church for prison ministry.

Finally, we are thankful for Robert Logan's commitment and service to PFC over the years. Bob retired from his post as Eastern Ontario Regional Manager in June 2023.

Quebec

Quebec has seen remarkable growth this fiscal year. Praise God! In one year, we have grown from 28 to 52 volunteers (at all stages of the onboarding process). This includes 24 fully trained volunteers ready to serve or already serving.

Our Faith & Justice volunteers participated regularly at both Joliette Institution for Women and Drummondville Institution for men. At Joliette, we ran both *The Forgiveness Journey* and *The Re-Entry Journey* - the latter with 13 participants. Witnessing three participants accept the Lord as their Saviour was a powerful testament to the life-changing power of God's love. Many of these participants went on to express an interest in the Bridgecare program upon release. At Drummondville, 22 participants in *The Forgiveness Journey* program were described as "ready, involved and respectful" by the volunteer facilitator. At the Institut national de psychiatrie légale Philippe-Pinel (a psychiatric hospital located in Montreal), PFC provided curriculum to the chaplain to run our programs there.

A couple from a supportive church in Drummondville volunteered to do the French translation of PFC's 122-page newly written English curriculum *Walking the Good Path* as well as French dubbing for the newly produced *The Forgiveness Journey* videos. Praise God!

Mid-Fiscal Year, PFC held an open house in Montreal at the Association des services de réhabilitation sociale du Québec (ASRSQ). We had a meaningful discussion with chaplains, partner organizations and the ASRSQ Liaison Officer, discussing how we can work together to make Bridgecare support accessible to more released prisoners in Quebec. We had the opportunity to announce the grant and endorsement from the Union of Safety and Justice Employees (USJE) for funding for 15 new clients to enter the Bridgecare program.



PFC's continued affiliation with the ASRSQ includes their promotion of Bridgecare and all our services to parole and other local partners. Their updated directory now includes information on our reintegration services for possible referrals.

Following the open house, the chaplain at Bordeaux has continued connecting with us and as of fiscal year end has suggested an opening for PFC by Phone in the future. Please pray. We currently have 4 PFC by Phone volunteers in Quebec, who serve on the national team.

This year, PFC established a partnership with Ermi-Source Hermitage. This property, near Gaspé, has seven or eight cabins available to newly-released prisoners. The plan is to run both *The Forgiveness Journey* and *The Re-entry Journey* programs on-site in the Bridgecare context while helping the men with practical assistance and support for reintegration. Please pray that clients who need Bridgecare will continue to find their way to us, and that we will be available in the right places to find them.

Angel Tree Camping grew to include 9 accredited Christian camp partners to support 14 registered children of incarcerated parents from 4 institutions. Please pray that more parents and kids will come forward. As one of the caregivers describes, *"This is a unique chance to live an extraordinary experience and an amazing life memory. I am very grateful."*

Atlantic Canada

The heartbeat of our ministry lies in the collective efforts of our church partners, with 29 congregations across the Atlantic Canada region actively engaged in prison ministry. Our volunteer family continues to grow, with 80 individuals generously contributing their time and talents across Newfoundland & Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and PEI.

The launch of *The Forgiveness Journey* in Clarendville, Newfoundland, has been met with enthusiasm, as participants eagerly delve into Bible study sessions, while inmates at Her Majesty's Penitentiary express a deep yearning for personal transformation and reconciliation.

Angel Tree Camping has provided 11 children with life-changing experiences this year, fostering resilience, confidence, and spiritual growth. The heartfelt testimonials from caregivers serve as poignant reminders of the profound impact of these camping adventures. One caregiver in the Atlantic region shared with us how camp affected their child:

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the remarkable impact your camp had on our teenage son. He has always been an active young man, but his time at camp took his confidence and sense of adventure to a whole new level, reinforcing our faith in God's plans for him. He returned home with stories of outdoor challenges, newfound friendships reminding us of God's blessings. The camp's supportive atmosphere and dedicated counselors played a pivotal role in his personal growth, and we're so appreciative of the positive influence it had on him.



Our 11 PFC by Phone volunteers in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia have been steadfast in their support of individuals across Canada in crisis, offering comfort, guidance, and prayer to callers in their moments of need. While Clarenville institution in Newfoundland participates in the program, we rarely receive calls. Please pray about this.

Here are testimonials from two volunteers in the Atlantic region on the phone lines:

The caller has court on Wednesday and is very fearful. We talked about what to do with fear and anxiety. I read some verses from Psalm 91 and we talked about the Serenity Prayer and how that can help. He talked about wanting a relationship with his daughter but not her mother. I prayed for him.

This caller calls regularly during this time slot so we have some rapport already established. We had a good conversation about anger and the hurts that often lie beneath the outward expression of anger. I shared with him Proverbs 15:1, that gentle anger turns away wrath and we agreed this is difficult but often has positive results. The caller seems to want to memorize scripture and we talked about one verse he is working on right now (Psalm 92:15). This was a positive conversation and an opportunity to talk about scripture and to pray.

In Closing

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue going deeper with our programs and reaching more individuals with our relational ministry. With continued prayers, support and the steady engagement of our volunteer base, we are prayerfully confident that we will make a lasting impact in the lives of prisoners through Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 tells us that *“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.”*

These verses summarize the posture of our hearts towards all of what PFC does. We know that it takes a diverse group of individuals united around a single cause to make a lasting impact. God has graciously been assembling a strong team of volunteers, partners, donors and the like to continue moving us forward in our commitment to help those who are justice involved on their pathway to change,

We believe that the Lord is at work around us, calling and equipping us to use our many gifts and talents to serve those who are justice involved for His glory!