

June 2011
www.prisonfellowship.org.uk

VOICES



Seeing lives transformed

PRISON FELLOWSHIP

National Volunteers Week

Volunteers' Week is an annual event which runs between **1st – 7th June**. Each year the week long campaign promotes the fantastic work that volunteers do across the UK and aims to inspire many more people into volunteering (**www.volunteersweek.org.uk**).



vital work they carry out in prisons throughout England and Wales.

Our campaign is entitled 'strengthening our presence in prisons' and this is what we hope to achieve by encouraging others to get involved in helping prisoners and their families.

The theme is 'European Year of Volunteering 2011' and organisations throughout Europe are invited to join together in celebration of voluntary work.

Prison Fellowship will be taking this opportunity to thank our volunteers and to raise awareness among church communities and the media about the

We see National Volunteers' Week as a great chance to promote the work of Prison Fellowship volunteers and we will need your help to do this. People are more likely to get involved in voluntary work by following the example of others, and the inspiring work you do will be a great encouragement to them. There are many other ways that you can help:

Why not:

- Put a poster up in your local church?
- Give some leaflets to your local churches?
- Include a Prison Fellowship article in your church newsletter?
- Give a talk on the work of Prison Fellowship to local church groups?
- Hold an event to raise awareness or fundraise for the work of Prison Fellowship?

If you would like to get involved in sharing our vision of 'seeing lives transformed,' please order resources by contacting:

(E) sashachipperfield@prisonfellowship.org.uk

(T) 01621 843232

Continued...

National Volunteers' Week Drinks Reception

We would love for you to join us at our drinks reception at the European Commission's Headquarters in London. We will be thanking our volunteers and supporters for their hard work, and presenting video clips where some of our volunteers share their own experiences of volunteering in prisons. The event will take place on **1st June 2011**, 5pm -7pm at Europe House, 32 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3EU. Speakers will include The Venerable William Noblett, Chaplain General for National Offender Management Service, and Shane Richardson, a previous Sycamore Tree learner.

Why not visit our new office at:

77 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 2EZ beforehand?

Natalie and the team will welcome you from 2.30pm.

RSVP:

(E) gailbutler@prisonfellowship.org.uk

(T) 01621 843232



An amazing event!

Angela, Prayer Group Leader for PF Shenstone, shares some exciting developments that are occurring within the prison where they volunteer.

We recently witnessed an amazing event at Swinfen Hall YO1 - the Bishop of Lichfield officiated at the confirmation and baptism of 16 inmates! For those who were being baptised the Chaplaincy had been fortunate enough to borrow a baptistry from a local church so, for the first time ever, we witnessed 8 full immersion baptisms! It was a most wonderful occasion with great whoops of joy, much applauding, and boisterous praise.

In addition to this momentous event, two of the young men have been running prayer and Bible study groups on their wing (mentored by the Chaplaincy). They have also established a set of rules and



regulations for acceptable behaviour which they are enforcing on the wing. The staff are reporting noticeable changes for the good – in particular increased consideration and tolerance of each other and improved attitudes towards Prison Officers.

These same two young men are shortly to be released and are anxious that what they have started stays in place. They have been praying over who will be most suited to take on the mantle and have been inviting others

to take over some sessions in which have been planted some deliberate 'misbehaviour' to see how they cope in situations which test leadership skills. The Governor of the prison has been so impressed that he has said he wants to set in place an inmate Chaplain figure on every wing!

WOW - Praise the Lord!

Angela Lovell

A good use of my time

Mary is a perfect example of how volunteering through Letter Writing can make a difference to those without a family.

I first thought about prison ministry about twenty years ago when my father passed away. He was a URC minister and, whilst sorting through his things, I found a book of prayers. Within this book was a prayer on forgiveness and it mentioned how prisoners needed this as much as anybody else; for some reason this got me thinking.

The next step I took was to get in touch with a friend of mine, a Probation Officer, and he was able to take me into a prison. This had a huge impact on me and I made the decision to join Prison Fellowship as a supporter only.

However, some years later, a couple came to speak to my church about the work that they did for Prison Fellowship through a prayer group they belonged to, this sparked my interest further and I went along to their monthly prayer meeting. Well, I found the experience so moving that I became a regular member of the group.

I had been attending the group for some time when the Group Leaders brought up the Letter Writing scheme. This appealed

to me as I have always enjoyed writing letters and it is something I am quite good at. I felt that this



was a perfect way for me to minister to prisoners. I have now been a Letter Writer for five years and the prisoner I write to is always really pleased to receive my letters as he has no contact with his family. I enjoy Letter Writing and I find that I am always making a note of little things that I can include in my next letter. I believe that my letters open the prison doors a bit to make him feel like there is something happening on the outside and I do feel that helping him in this way is a good use of my time.

Mary – Letter Writer

We currently have 22 unmatched prisoners and desperately need more Letter Writers to meet this need. In particular, we are in need of male Letter Writers. If you feel you could give your time to this ministry please contact Nicola Davey:

(E) nicoladavey@prisonfellowship.org.uk
(T) 01621 843232

Roadshows

The Roadshows have been a great success so far, with volunteers from all regions coming together to discuss how we continue to grow and develop PF together. There are three more Roadshows coming up and we would love for all local Prayer Groups to be represented at these events.

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Dates:

Huntingdon – 2nd June 2011

Woking – 3rd June 2011

Norwich – 6th June 2011

If you are able to join us please contact:

(T) 01621 843232 (E) sashachipperfield@prisonfellowship.org.uk

For venue information please visit: www.prisonfellowship.org.uk/regional-pages.html

sandwiches and drinks will be provided at each event

Get Involved Unpaid opportunities

New Media/Website Intern: Showcase and develop your web design skills by working on the PF website and increasing our presence on social networking sites

For more information on this position please visit: www.prisonfellowship.org.uk

NewWine

Local churches changing nations

In 2010 we received feedback that you would like to see Prison Fellowship represented at more Christian events. As a result, we are pleased to say that Prison Fellowship will be holding a stand at New Wine which will be taking place between **23rd July - 6th August 2011 in Shepton Mallet.**

We will be in need of a helping hand to man the stall for both the London/South East event and the Central/South West event. If you are already attending New Wine and feel you could help us between the times: 10.30am to 6.00pm and 8.30pm – 10.30pm we would love to hear from you: **(T) 01621 843232 (E) sashachipperfield@prisonfellowship.org.uk** We would be very grateful for any time you can give.

Staff changes

We are pleased to welcome to the Prison Fellowship paid team:

- **Bill Lovett**, as he takes on the role of Financial Controller
- **Tim Mayo**, on his recent appointment as Regional Coordinator for the North East
- We also say goodbye to **Tim Diaper**, Operations Manager, **Claire Springett**, Volunteers' Coordinator, and **Lorna Robb**, Finance Officer, who will be moving on in July

Please give thanks to God for bringing new people to the team and please pray for those who are moving on from Prison Fellowship: that they will be greatly blessed in all that they do.

Prison Fellowship England & Wales, PO Box 945, Maldon, Essex, CM9 4EW
Tel: **01621 843232** www.prisonfellowship.org.uk