

July 2011

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VOICES



Seeing lives transformed

PRISON FELLOWSHIP

Message from Natalie

This edition of Voices is about asking for your help. For 2011-12 we need to raise £200k more than we did last year. This is in order to fund our strategy to reach more prisoners, and to compensate for a drop in income from both prisons and voluntary donations. To achieve this requires all our efforts, not just the paid team.

Paul, our fundraiser, is concentrating on raising income from trusts, and on inviting churches to play their part with a church resource pack. Over the summer, we will also be sending you leaflets to distribute as widely as possible to enable people to support our work. In all of this we need your help, through talking to other volunteers, churches and any contacts you have with grant makers.

We will also be encouraging local groups to put their income into central funds and will be working hard to increase our income from prisons by growing our programmes. Until our financial situation is more stable, my priority will be raising money for PF and the Trustees are organising fundraising events over the next few months. This edition of Voices includes amazing examples of what you have been doing to raise funds. I hope they will encourage you and inspire you to think of how you might play your part.

The seriousness and urgency of this requires us all to get involved. PF is OUR organisation and its survival through this financial crisis is OUR responsibility.



So I invite you to join me in doing the following:

- Give thanks to God for His provision for the last 30 years and ask for His provision at this time
- Ask ourselves what it is that each of us can do to raise money for PF
- Be open and clear with everyone about our current financial situation and our dependence on donations to survive

This is a change of culture for us. We are not used to asking for donations, and asking for money can be a bit embarrassing. But then why should it? We are so excited about our work and we have great plans. We see God transform the lives of prisoners all the time, why wouldn't we want everyone to have a chance to be part of that work, and bless it by giving? So we should be bold and proud about our need for donations.

Continued...

During our Roadshows we have had an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response from you. Together we are a fantastic team, and I know that each of us is deeply committed to the work of PF and that our plans to reach more prisoners are blessed. This is PF's greatest treasure, but we do need to concentrate on finances right now

with all we have. We are all part of the solution and we each need to play our unique role. So, time for us to assemble our loaves and fishes and pray with faith for multiplication.

Thank you,
Natalie

National Volunteers' Week reception

On the 1st of June 2011 members of Prison Fellowship took the opportunity to celebrate together.

It was wonderful to see so many of our volunteers, as well as members of the prison service, representatives from other charities and beneficiaries of Prison Fellowship's work. William Noblett, The Chaplain General to H.M. Prisons, noted in his address that, "One of the greatest characteristics about PF is the irresistible law of kindness that they offer as an organisation and this is manifested nowhere more than in their volunteers." Another speaker was Shane Richardson, a previous Sycamore Tree learner, who said, "I never thought I would be stood here speaking to you all, but I am doing this in my victim's honour. I have made some mistakes and I am ready to change."



Rev William Noblett

The event was a great success and we would like to take this chance to thank all our volunteers, whether they were able to attend or not. We would also like to say a big thank you to the European Commission for kindly offering their venue free of charge and to Media 33 for donating the refreshments.

Legacy

In April 2011 we received the sum of £11,000 from the estate of a generous supporter, Marjorie Welham. Prison Fellowship was one of twenty Christian charities that recently benefited from her estate but, unfortunately, we have no record of her as a member of a PF group or as a previous donor.

If anyone knows more about Marjorie please let us know so that we can honour her generosity. This donation will go towards the expansion of our programmes and will allow us to reach more prisoners and their families.

Remembering Prison Fellowship in your Will is a wonderful way to bless this ministry, for more information on how you can do this please contact Paul Fitzpatrick, Head of Supporter Relations: (T) 020 7799 2500 (E) paulfitzpatrick@prisonfellowship.org.uk

Fun ways to fundraise!



Freda Sumner has been on a mission to raise money for Angel Tree at HMP Birmingham. For Easter 2011, Freda and her friends knitted these cute chicks that contained a Cadbury Cream Egg and sold them on at £2.50 each. The eggs were kindly donated by Cadbury and Morrisons and this effort raised a wonderful £396 for the children of prisoners. Freda also has plans to put her knitting skills to good use a second time by creating Christmas puddings which will each contain a chocolate.

As well as getting creative, Freda recently held a coffee morning at her church which raised £90 and she also received another donation for £100 after speaking to some friends (who happened to belong to the

Lion's Club) about the programme. Not quite finished with raising money for Angel Tree, Freda already has plans to hold a cream tea event in her garden this summer. I'm sure you'll agree that her efforts have been a real encouragement and shows that the sky is the limit when it comes to creative fundraising!

If knitting or holding an event isn't your kind of thing, then there are plenty of other ways to contribute to PF funds. We often receive donations as a result of PF volunteers giving a talk/handing out literature at their local church, or simply by them showing a PF PowerPoint presentation.

If you would like any resources to help you with this please contact: sashachipperfield@prisonfellowship.org.uk

Notices

- The PFI Convocation will be taking place between 28th June – 2nd July 2011. Please pray for safe travel for the team representing PF England and Wales and that Natalie's plenary session and workshop will be well received.
- Our next PF conference will be taking place between **9th – 11th March 2012** at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. The theme for the weekend will be 'Ordinary people doing extraordinary things' and we would love for you to join us. More details will be coming shortly.
- In July we are running Sycamore Tree in HMP Exeter and HMP Haverigg, prisons where we have not seen Sycamore Tree for two years! Haverigg prison has asked for 8 courses and Exeter 1, our hope is that Exeter will be able to fund further courses in the future. Please keep the Tutors, Group Facilitators and learners of these courses in your prayers.
- We are auditioning for volunteer writers! If you are interested in putting your writing skills to good use, please contact the office to discuss how you may be able to help.

Training

Letter Writing training will be taking place in Birmingham for anyone looking to get involved in this ministry:

Birmingham – 14th July 2011, 7pm – 9pm, Deeper Life Bible Church,
86-95 Bacchus Road, Winson Green, Birmingham, B18 4QY

If you are able to attend or would like us to arrange training in your area, please contact Nicola Davey: **(T) 01621 843232 (E) info@prisonfellowship.org.uk**

On the move

Our new London office will officially open on the 11th July 2011. As of this date, all communication should be directed to this office as the Maldon office will be closed. The new office details are:

PO Box 68226, London, SW1P 9WR (T) 020 7799 2500

We look forward to hearing from you!

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