



Love in Action - A Mission for 2012?



Tim Mayo, Regional Coordinator for the North East, considers the Theme of "Love in Action" for the New Year.

I'm delighted to be involved in the latest edition of Voices; and what an edition to be involved in. I hope that you had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and are looking forward to the promises of 2012. If your Christmas has been anything like my own – enjoying the pleasure of visiting family and friends, entering into the festivities of celebrating Jesus' birth and numerous Carol Services and not forgetting the widest reaching Angel Tree with a record number of approximately 5000 presents sent out from 81 prisons - you will be forgiven for feeling that you need a holiday to recover from the Christmas break. Now the New Year is rolling ahead and there are so many exciting things on the horizon, it's easy to get back into the business of life and work; and I would like to take time to consider our Prison Fellowship conference this year.

I'm very much looking forward to the conference in March as it will be my first and I am looking forward to spending time as a fellowship of those involved in the exciting and demanding work of prison ministry. Particularly exciting is the opportunity to be inspired by Ron Nikkel, who is President of Prison Fellowship International and also has responsibilities

with other organisations. Ron is such a thrilling addition to the conference and I hope that for those who were unsure about whether you were going to come to the conference, this should encourage you that it will be such a worthwhile weekend.

One of Ron's commitments is to an organisation called **Love in Action**, whose name sparked me to think about our ministry. It is of the utmost significance that, week by week and month by month, as we enter into the rhythm of prayer and going into prison; we are putting our love into action. This Christmas gave me the opportunity to reflect on God's lengths of love, as he entered into our world in the form of a baby, Jesus; for the purpose of putting into action the love which God has given to us.

The love God gives us results in the kind action that we see in Matthew 25, where we visit the unfortunate in prison as if we were visiting Jesus himself. Without this love, why would we consider something that must seem like foolishness to the world? Without action, could we end up like those goats, cast off on Jesus' left? Perhaps this is an encouragement to you, to continue to love God as you love those on God's behalf. Perhaps for others this is a challenge,

that when we love God actively, our actions are done with love.

Love in action is a calling that we can reflect on day by day in all walks of life. I would encourage you to join with us on the 9th-11th March to grow more in love with God together, in order that we can grow more in love with those we work with in prison.



Prison Fellowship Conference - 9th to 11th March 2012

‘Be strong, be Courageous: making extraordinary things happen.’

This year will hear from many “ordinary” people who are doing extraordinary things to show **Love in Action**. We would love you to join us for a weekend full of inspirational testimonies, encouraging teaching and a variety of workshops. The conference is a way of celebrating the amazing work of the volunteers and staff and a time to meet some of the voices we so often only hear on the phone.

Angela Lovell, Prayer Group Leader for PF Shenstone, shares her experience of the last Prison Fellowship conference:



If you missed the 2010 conference at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, then look ahead to 2012 when you will have another opportunity to spend time with Prison Fellowship volunteers from all over the country.

I was there in 2010 and am so grateful for this chance to tell you what an amazing weekend we had. For me, it was my first opportunity to see and hear from most of those, if not all, who do the job that makes Prison Fellowship the wonderful organisation that it is. Our CEO, Natalie, was an inspiration as she shared her vision of the way forward for Prison Fellowship with her dedicated team, including those familiar names we always see at the end of our emails.

With our own Regional Coordinators, the inspiring lives of Prison Fellowship members, the testimonies of ex-prisoners, Prison Fellowship visitors from abroad, and a wonderfully talented worship band, meant that we were able to meet, listen, and commune in an atmosphere of Christian love and real unity.

And, of course, it must not go without saying that the accommodation, all en-suite and beautifully warm, is lovely and the dining experience is wonderful. Don't miss 2012!

Do you know a particular volunteer who has inspired you, has gone above and beyond or has left a lasting impression on you? Would you like to see them recognised for this special talent? Would you like to see them receive a SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD at the 2012 Conference? We would like to hear from you about this special person.

Please email your suggestions to denisewestmoreland@prisonfellowship.org.uk or post them to Prison Fellowship, PO Box 68226, London, SW1P 9WR for the attention of Denise Westmoreland.

Confirmed Speakers

Ron Nikkel is not only the inspirational President of PFI who oversees over 118 Prison Fellowship Organisations, he is also an author and has served as a chairperson of the United Nations Alliance, and Vice President of the International Association of Volunteers, both dealing with Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Advocates International, The Jericho Road Foundation and Love in Action. Ron joined PFI in 1982 when there were only 5 National Prison Fellowship ministries and has visited over 1,000



Ron Nikkel



Ian Telfer
Governor of
HMP Gartree



Bishop
Humphrey

prisons in 120 countries. Come and hear his stories of transformation that can take place in people's lives when they face up to reality and how the power of God can truly produce miracles. To read more about Ron visit www.pfi.org/about-us/pfi-leadership

Alexander McLean has been quoted as one of today's most influential development leaders under the age of 40 in London. He was only 18 when he founded the African Prisons Project in 2004 and the project has now reached a staggering 25,000 prison inmates and staff. To read more about Alexander and his story from that meager start in 2004 visit www.africanprisons.org/who-we-are/founder/

Love is an act of endless forgiveness; a tender look which becomes a habit.

Peter Ustinov

Love one another and you will be happy. It's as simple and as difficult as that.

Michael Leunig

The art of love... is largely the art of persistence.

Albert Ellis

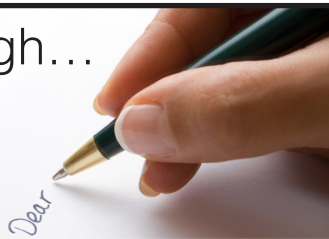
The 2012 Prison Fellowship conference is approaching fast, so do not miss out and book your place now.

For more information or to book your place please contact:

(E) denisewestmoreland@prisonfellowship.org.uk

(T) 020 7799 2500

Show **Love in Action** through... Letter Writing



Training Dates

MIDLANDS – Market Harborough

Thursday 2nd February, 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Methodist Church, Northampton Road, Market Harborough LE16 9HE

Refreshments will be provided, please RSVP to Rosie Binley if you are able to attend:

(T) 020 7799 2500 (E) rosiebinley@prisonfellowship.org.uk

NORTH WEST – Stoke on Trent

Friday 17th February, 2pm – 4pm

United Christian Broadcasters, UCB, Broadcast Centre, Hanchurch Lane, Stoke on Trent, ST4 8RY

Refreshments will be provided, please RSVP to Stephen Hawkins if you are able to attend and to book your place:

(T) 020 7799 2500 (E) stephenhawkins@prisonfellowship.org.uk

LONDON – PF Office 77 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2EZ

Friday 24th February, 2pm – 4pm

Tuesday 28th February, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Please RSVP to Denise Westmoreland if you are able to attend and to book your place:

(T) 020 7799 2500 (E) denisewestmoreland@prisonfellowship.org.uk

NOTICE

We are sorry if you have been experiencing problems with the volunteer application section of the website. This has been temporarily adapted so new volunteers can download the application forms. We are in the process of streamlining this process and look forward to expanding the volunteer team more efficiently in the future.

Staff notices

We have had a number of changes to the staff in the office. We are sad to have said goodbye to **Nicola Davey**, **Sasha Chipperfield** and **Gail Butler**, but delighted to welcome **Denise Westmoreland**, our new communications administrator and **Valenka Navea**, our volunteers administrator.

Please give thanks to God for bringing new people to the team and please pray for those who have moved on from Prison Fellowship recently. We wish them every success and good health in their future.

Prison Fellowship England and Wales, PO Box 68226, London, SW1P 9WR
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