

BARS & STRIPES

A Publication of
PRISONERS FOR CHRIST OUTREACH MINISTRIES

2014 Issue

PRISONERS FOR CHRIST

25

anniversary

2014

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TUMI

The Urban Ministry Institute

The Academy at Washington State Reformatory

For most in urban ministry, the idea of attending Bible College or seminary is virtually impossible. It is too expensive, offered far from their homes, and often does not relate to urban life and ministry. They cannot leave their jobs or their churches to take off four years for ministry training. This is the case with offenders as well.

Many inmates want to go into ministry once their time has been served, but this can be difficult when most churches and other ministries require some kind of degree for those they employ in full-time ministry. It can be hard for a newly released person to try and enroll in school along with dealing with all the other challenges that go along with release.

The answer? A program has been developed that allows inmates to earn a Christian Ministry Certificate while they serve out their time.

Prisoners For Christ, in partnership with The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI),

has launched The Academy at Washington State Reformatory (WSR). This is a 3-year course of study that provides seminary-level classes through a module-based curriculum with courses in Biblical Studies, Theology and Ethics, Christian Ministry, and Urban Mission.

There are so many benefits to the inmates including:



TUMI Students and Donors
Ironwood Prison, CA

Affordable - There are 16 modules of study over the course of 3 years. The cost to students outside of prison is approximately \$70 per module. The costs to the inmate is only \$10 per module.

Urban - Every course is geared toward effective urban ministry focusing on the challenges and opportunities of serving Christ in the city.

Personal - Students will take



courses at WSR in small group classes of 10-20 students.

Practical - All classes are designed to equip students for urban ministry, and can be taken for credit towards a Certificate program.

The goal is to train up both Christian leaders who serve in the inmate church and want to grow their Christian leadership skills as well as to have former inmates ready for Christian service in their communities upon their release.

Our first class started at the beginning of September with 10 students who are eager to learn, grow, and become the servant-leaders they have been called to be by God. We are hoping to expand the program to Twin

TUMI Capstone Curriculum

Rivers Correctional Center by September of 2015.

It will be exciting to watch how God uses this program to train up the next generation of urban leaders who will impact their communities for His Kingdom.

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TUMI Graduates and Mentors
Brooks Correctional Facility, MI

Thank you to Cathy Allsman, TUMI Incarceration Ministries Specialist, for providing the images for this article.

PLAYING THE BIG HOUSE

by: Mike North

“Prison crowds are the best to play for. They’re energetic - eager to feel the warmth and meaning and empathy that you deliver.” - Johnny Cash

During the 23 years that I have been playing guitar, I have played many different venues ranging from church conventions to biker bars. None were so intimidating as the first time I played inside a prison.

Looking at the faces of what I assumed to be hardened criminals, there was a noticeable lump in my throat and intense palpitations in my chest. I was certain that these men would not only be disinterested in the music and message I was bringing to them, but that they would either riot or shank me. That’s what inmates do, right?

I held my guitar tight, stepped up to the microphone, took a deep breath, closed my eyes, and started singing: *“Why me, Lord?”*

What have I ever done to deserve even one of the blessings I’ve known?” I opened my eyes a little to make sure no one was rushing toward me. No one was rioting. No one was forging shanks from ink pens. In fact, they were very attentive. So I settled into the song and sang the chorus with the passion of my own testimony: *“Lord help me Jesus, I’ve wasted it so help me Jesus, I know what I am. Now that I know that I needed You so help me Jesus, my soul’s in Your hands.”*

When I looked up again, the men were standing, arms high in the air, tears on their cheeks. They were moved. They were worshiping. They were sincere.

I have played for many groups of believers in my life. None have come close to the depth of worship that I feel from inmates. Inmates know they once were lost. They know Who set them free - even within the confines of prison. Their relationship with Christ is a personal one. It’s not grandfathered in by their parents

or gained by a smooth-talking preacher. It’s gained by going through hell and having no one else around except Christ Himself. A fierce loyalty develops in the inmate who has been saved by Jesus, for when no one else would forgive him, or love him, or accept him, Jesus did.

When Christian creative artists go into the prisons to minister to the inmates, the artists bring Christ with them. When the inmates recognize the same love and compassion in the artists that they experienced from Christ, there’s an instant bond. The believing inmates are rejuvenated by the love of God - and for the unbelieving inmates, it’s a chance to get out of their cells and hear a live concert. Music is a powerful tool, especially when reaching those who are hurting or seeking answers.

This is why PFC started monthly outreach concerts in all of the Western WA prisons, some jails, and five juvenile facilities. PFC has almost 30 artists who



PFC Creative Artists MESSENGER
Serving with PFC since 1990

faithfully go to these facilities every month and bring the Good News to men, women, and juveniles through music and drama. Although these artists started out with a heart to bless the inmates, they soon learned that the inmates were blessing them with their sincere worship and genuine love of Christ.

If you have artistic ability (or know others who do), and you’ve been praying about more ways to serve the Lord with your talent, I invite you to play the “big house.” It’s an experience you’ll not soon forget.

For more information, email me at mike@pcom.org.

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PFC-UNIVERSITY

by: Dr. Robert F. Jordan, PFC Board Chairman



PRISONERS FOR CHRIST
UNIVERSITY

Since its founding in 1989, PFC has been training and equipping its volunteers for works of service behind prison bars. Our initial courses were *Basic Adult Training* and *Basic Juvenile Training*. Today we offer some 20 different courses on a rotating basis, twice annually through what today is called Prisoners For Christ University.

We use the Biblical model of training according to 1 Timothy 2:2 - And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Also, we read in Ephesians 4:11-12 - And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Of course, many more Bible verses describe the value of teaching. We are committed to training and equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry, and to be able to teach and train others.

The words taught and teach appear well over two hundred times in the New Testament. No

one is born with knowledge of how the Kingdom of Heaven works - it all has to be learned. Layer on top of that the special locations to which we go, prisons, jails, and juvenile institutions, and one quickly sees the need for specialized training. Here are some of the courses that we offer:

- Basic Adult Training
- Basic Juvenile Training
- Group Leader Training
- International Missions
- Understanding Different Doctrines
- Understanding Addictions
- The Holy Spirit
- Spiritual Warfare
- Speakers Workshop
- Goal Setting and Time Management
- Music and Drama Ministry
- Bible Study Correspondence Course Reviewers
- Conducting an Altar Call
- Preaching and Teaching Workshop
- Assimilating Sex Offenders into the Church
- Understanding Gangs
- Advanced Leadership
- Becoming a PFC Missionary

More courses are being developed, including *Ministering Healing* and *Understanding the Call of God in Christian Service*. Over the years, Prisoners For Christ has sought to bring relevant



PFC-University
A chance to learn, connect, & network.



William Bentley
Teaching the "Spiritual Warfare" Class

and useful course subjects to the volunteer community. Our courses are free of charge and open to anyone, not just those associated with Prisoners For Christ. All courses are taught by people well-accomplished in their subjects. All courses come in a color-printed, comb-bound notebook that are for the students to keep.

Courses run in the Spring and the Fall, typically in April and September. Classes are held on a Saturday and have either all day (6 hours), half day (3 hours), or Lunch and Learn (1 hour) formats. Many students attend all day. A lunch can be purchased for a nominal charge or the student may bring his or her own.

PFC-University can also go on the road. We have held courses for large church groups at a distance across the state many times. Some of our courses are recorded and some are available as a podcast and other media.

Would you like to be a student?
Would you like to be a teacher?
Come join us at the next PFC-

University. We open at 8:30 am as a full group with songs of praise. We have a continental breakfast, snacks, coffee, bottled water, and a literature table to allow you to know more completely the full ministry of Prisoners For Christ. The full day is done at 4:30 pm. Drop us a note at PFC and we'll put you on the mailing list to receive a brochure for our next PFC-University.

Whether you go behind bars or not, there is a place for you at Prisoners For Christ to use your God-given gifts to advance the kingdom of God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

B&S

The next PFC-University will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at Cedar Park High School in Bothell.

You can register online at www.pfcom.org & click on "Get Equipped".



**SPREAD
the
WORD!**

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

\$3.00 That's what it costs to purchase a paperback Bible in the United States.

\$3.00 That's what it costs to purchase a paperback New Testament abroad.

Providing Bibles to prisoners is one of the most vital ministries at Prisoners For Christ. How else can the prisoners continue to grow once the volunteers have left? By giving Bibles and New Testaments to prisoners, we give them the instructions and messages that God has given to His people. It gives them a chance to know God more intimately and begin living life as loving Christians and law-abiding citizens.

For every \$72 donated to the Bible Distribution fund, we can purchase a case of Bibles for U.S. prisoners or a case of New Testaments on one of our international mission trips. Would you pray about what you can do to help us get the Word of God into the hands of prisoners?

TO DONATE TO THE BIBLE DISTRIBUTION FUND, VISIT www.pfcom.org. CLICK ON DONATE NOW AND DESIGNATE YOUR GIFT FOR "BIBLES - U.S. or INTERNATIONAL."

PFC'S INTERNATIONAL

INDIA

Dr. Prem Raj Varma

I am Dr. Prem Raj Varma, and God has called me to work for the welfare of prisoners and their families. I am a former revenue officer in India and retired early from that work to devote myself to the ministry. I have preached the Gospel to thousands of inmates which changed their mindsets and injected compassion and forgiveness into their hearts. Many leave behind the enmity and grudges that were in their hearts. Many who were released from the prisons and jails of India are now living upright and respectful lives. They are now giving due respect to their wives and taking care of their children.

wives and children onto the streets, while they spend sleepless nights in the prisons. There is no peace and no joy in their lives because of their attitudes and bad choices. When we preach the Gospel to them, the Word of God works tremendously. Its conviction flows like gushing waters into their hearts and leads them to repentance for their sins. They come into a new life through our Lord Jesus Christ. This year many thousands of inmates have committed their hearts to Christ. Years ago, during my regular visits to the prisons, an inmate who had been given life in prison came to me and fell at my feet. He was sobbing and, after consoling him, he made a request for me to help send his two young daughters to any good hostel I knew of

the welfare of the children of the poorest prisoners who are undergoing life imprisonment.

The youth hostel was started on May 1st, 2008 with very humble beginnings, but it gave hope to the poorest of prisoners in regard to their children's welfare and future. Today there are two hostels in rented accommodations which also are near schools and facilities providing medical assistance. We have a separate building, which is a duplex house, to accommodate the young and grown up girls for their overall security, as I do not want to keep them with the boys.

Most children in the hostel are from very remote villages. Some no longer have a parent at home because one parent killed the other and then went to prison with a life sentence. Others only had one parent at home and now that parent is also in prison leaving the child with no caretaker. Many of these children have only a small village background with no education or academic training available to them. When they come to the hostel they are enrolled in school, which will give them a chance at a bright future. It is my firm belief that if the children go to school and study in English, they will come out with flying colors and gain respectable places in society. I strive hard to get their admission into 6 private schools and colleges in and around the hostel. I am happy that the children are going regularly and studying well in their classes. I don't want the child of a thief to grow up to be a thief. We give the children Christian training and academic training to set them on a better path.

We also take the children to visit



their parents as a group. Every week we travel in vans and the children may spend a few hours with their parents. The inmates and their children overflow with joy hugging each other and many tears greet them every time.

Recently there was a marriage of one of the girls who had lived in the hostel. She and her two sisters came to us when their father received a life sentence for killing his wife. She and her sisters were fed, housed and schooled and shown the love of God. We worked hard to make the wedding special. I become a father figure to the children and this is what fathers do. We worked to raise donations of money to pay for the ceremony. We also received donations of household items to assist the new household. Even the local police donated some furniture for the cause. This was a milestone for our hostel with our first wedding.

The schools, the hostel rental fee, the workers, the food, the medication, the education, the weekly transportation, the utility bills, etc., all cost money and are very expensive. I am thankful to anyone who helps support this ministry and strengthens our hands for this noble cause. To God be all glory for the mighty works He is doing in the lives of inmates in India and in the lives of the children many leave behind.

B&S



Dr. Prem Raj and children's hostel

I visit prisons and jails weekly to deliver sermons and bring awareness to prisoners of the precious time and moral life which is lost due to their actions and anger. These actions jeopardize the security of their families, often throwing their

in the city because no one was left to care for them. At that very moment God spoke to my heart and called me with great purpose to start a hostel for the children of such inmates. With this inspiration, I started a hostel, the first of its kind in India, for



Pastor Kiza & Family

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International Air Mail

Pastors exercise much faith - laboring tirelessly with no guarantee that they will receive income for their spouses and children who depend on them to provide. When donating to a foreign pastor, your dollars increase in value, making more of an impact for the Kingdom.

Would you consider adopting one of our faithful international missionary pastors listed on page 8? Your donation will go far!

\$25 =
U.S.

\$30.25 Russia +21%

\$33.00 Africa +32%

\$49.25 India +97%

\$52.75 Haiti +111%

Based on cost of living information gathered from www.numbeo.com

2015 INTERNATIONAL PRISON MISSION TRIPS

Ethiopia	Feb 1-14
Nepal	May 1-14
Uganda	Sept 1-14
Kenya	Oct 3-10
Southern India	Nov 1-14
Malawi	Nov 1-14

Reserve your spot on one of these teams today!

volunteer@pfc.com.org

425.483.4151

ONAL OUTREACH

CERTIFIED PRISON WORKER TRAINING

by: Jill Payne-Holman

Over the last several years the Lord has opened numerous doors to Prisoners For Christ in prisons overseas. To date we have PFC field offices in 20 different countries with more poised to launch in the next year or two. These offices are headed by our missionary pastors. Each of these men and women has a heart for the inmate and works diligently under extreme conditions to bring the love of Jesus to the dark prisons in their countries.

Training and resources on prison ministry can be quite limited in third-world countries, unlike in the United States. For this reason, Prisoners For Christ introduced a series of advanced level classes to become a "Certified Prison Worker" to its associates around the world. This is a 6-month to 1-year certification program. The courses are offered as online lessons which are sent via email, returned to the home office once completed by the student, graded and then returned to the student. These classes are intended to provide both

foundation level training, such as *How to Grow a Prison Ministry*, as well as more advanced lessons, such as *Understanding Inmate Manipulation*. The 20 lessons in this course will allow our missionaries to take their prison ministry leadership to the next level.

We require the students to complete the course material in one year. After completion, the

students will receive a Certificate of Completion and will be able to use the title "Certified Prison Worker" on their business cards. In addition to providing solid training this title may give our missionary partners additional clout with the prisons' Department of Corrections in their countries. This is the first of its kind in the world for online international prison ministry training. The training is offered for free,

though students must fill out an application before being accepted into the program.

We started our first class in June of 2014 with 25 students. The feedback we have received has been encouraging and inspiring. Most will graduate with their certificate by the end of this year and a new class will start in January 2015. We are excited to see how the Lord uses these studies to empower His servants in prison ministry around the world. **B&S**

Certified Prison Worker Training Participants



JUDE OGUME - Niger



KIZA MUGOMBAGOMBA - D.R. Congo



PAUL ZAWALO - Liberia



SAMUEL KAWILILA - Zambia



TADELE ASEFA - Ethiopia



YEYE EMILE NIAMEY - Niger

KENYA

Pastor John Maina Kabiru



I have a call on my life and I feel that I have something to give the prisoners. By grace I can fulfill it. *- John Maina*

Born the second of ten children, John Maina Kabiru was brought up in the suburbs of Nairobi. His parents were not believers and at a very young age he was exposed to rough living. "Unfortunately," says John, "I tried bad things." When he turned 19, he had "had enough" and wanted more out of life. He enrolled in a Christian college and began to learn about God during the hour of daily morning devotions that the school required. After studying at the school for six months, one of the



Kibera, Kenya, home to a high percentage of juvenile offenders

pastors spoke about Abraham becoming "a friend of God."

John realized that he wanted to become a friend of God too, but he struggled due to the grip that sin still had on his life. Finally, he surrendered to God and welcomed Jesus into his heart. God then put a fire in John's heart to share his new faith with everyone. He began by leading his parents to the Lord. John became involved in the church and eventually went on to serve in leadership positions.

Several years later, John married a God-loving woman named

Mary Anne. John and Mary Anne went on to have two children, a daughter and a son. When God called John to prison ministry in 2007, Mary Anne prayerfully encouraged her husband and even helped to provide him with financial support.

John first became acquainted with prison ministry when Greg Von Tobel gave a talk at the church he attended in Nairobi. John did not receive his calling, however, until his brother died in a gunfight and he began to come in contact with prisoners. At this time, God touched his heart and showed

him how much prisoners need the encouragement that comes from developing a relationship with the Lord. Ever since that time, he has felt called "to declare and teach the prisoners the Word of God." John's pastor is PFC missionary, Joseph Ngara, and in addition to working with him in prison ministry, John has been serving as Youth Pastor at Pastor Joseph's church. Pastor John is currently working with juveniles at two institutions: one coed and the other for boys. He conducts



Juvenile Inmates

two services each week at both facilities with help from other volunteers. As registered partners with the Open Door Policy through the Kenyan government, Pastor John and PFC have an opportunity to help the children by providing shoes, sweaters, and hygiene products. **B&S**

BIBLE STUDY CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

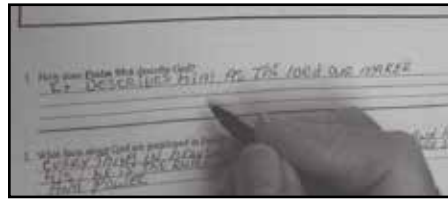
by: Dee Bayes

It was from an overflow of my heart that I was searching for a ministry opportunity that would allow me to serve. I wanted so much to show my gratitude to my Savior for giving me another chance in life. I had not envisioned myself in prison ministry before I came upon the Prisoners For Christ website and I knew I had found where God wanted me to serve. My perceived obstacle was that I had no time! I didn't know how I could serve while working full-time as a single mom. I was not in a financial position to be a donor either. Still, I was determined to find a way to give. When I read about the Bible Study Correspondence School, and that I could contribute my time from home as a Bible lesson reviewer for inmates, I knew I had found an open door.

PFC's Bible Study Correspondence School sends inmates their lessons through the mail. The inmates complete the lessons and send them back to us for reviewing. Once their lessons are reviewed (reviewers provide positive and encouraging feedback) we then send those lessons back to the inmates with new lessons for them to complete. Lessons are divided into units and when each unit is complete, the inmate receives a certificate of completion.

After a few months of reviewing lessons, I recognized the honor of being involved in such a transforming work of Christ and I thought my own church family might want to contribute as well. With the support of my pastor, I brought the PFC Bible study correspondence reviewing opportunity to the attention of my church family and I became a Team

Leader. The team that I lead has recently reached a one-year milestone with 35 reviewers plus a co-leader.



The BSCS ministry as a whole currently has almost 150 graders whose volunteer work for the ministry is solely devoted to grading the hundreds of lessons we receive from inmates through the mail each day.

One new reviewer who joined my team this spring shared with me that he had recently served some minimum security jail time. I sat down with him and asked if he'd be willing to share what caught his attention about the Prisoners For Christ Bible Study School ministry and what it means to those inside the prison walls.

He shared the realities of daily life in jail where one is burdened with a constant feeling of confinement, loss and loneliness as well as depression induced by boredom. He was scoffed at for carrying around a Bible. He wondered if his sin was too big to forgive. In his words "Sending in anything from the outside with God's Word is the most powerful, impactful thing we can do!"

The Word of God must continue to penetrate the prison walls and the volunteer Bible study reviewers must continue the good fight. God's Word is powerful and it transforms lives!

B&S

VAN TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

by: Jean Ishmael

The Van Transportation Ministry is designed to provide transportation for loved ones who are left behind when a person is incarcerated. The ability to maintain relationships through personal visits helps facilitate the necessary connections for family units to continue functioning effectively both during the time of incarceration and after an inmate is released. When a man is incarcerated, his family suffers the consequences of decisions that were not their own and many times life is very hard. Our services provide the opportunity for wives, children, parents and grandparents to spend valuable time with their loved one.



An added benefit is that the recidivism rate is greatly reduced when an inmate has the ability to maintain family relationships while incarcerated. Upon release, the transition is much easier if there has been regular communication. The Van Ministry serves inmates in six institutions and our services are free. We have a great team of volunteer drivers who not only provide safe, reliable transportation, but also make the trip a pleasant experience by treating each rider with respect. Our team of ten regular drivers (two of which have been driving for us for 20 years) and many substitutes, sacrificially give of their time



and are making a huge impact on the ones they serve. Every rider fills out a comment/suggestion card after a trip and more often than not, riders express their thankfulness for our wonderful drivers who are committed to treating each rider with respect and dignity.

A lady who has ridden with us for many years, recently sent a card stating that she would no longer be riding with us. She was so excited to report that her husband was being released and that she was excited to resume family life with him. She wrote, "If it wasn't for PFC, I don't know if we would still be together. Because I don't own a car, our monthly visits could have never happened without your ministry. I am happy that we have remained close even during these very difficult years. Thank you for the wonderful blessing you have been to me and my husband."

The Van Transportation Ministry is thankful for your support, financially, prayerfully, and in serving. Please continue to pray for the ministry. Pray that we can have a positive impact on our community and on our world.

B&S

PEN PAL MINISTRY

by: Brent Hoiosen

Do you want to be blessed? Or do you see yourself as being a blessing? If so, then the Pen Pal ministry at Prisoners For Christ is where you need to plug in. Ask any of our current volunteers and they will tell you what a blessing they receive from corresponding with an inmate or two. This connection is not time consuming, but it is a vital ministry in furthering God's kingdom. All it takes is a short note or brief letter a couple times a month and you will bless your inmate contact immensely. For many inmates this is the only positive contact they have with the "outside" world.

The requests for a pen pal that we receive at Prisoners For Christ are from inmates who are seeking a deeper understanding of the Christian life. They are wanting to know more about what a relationship with Jesus really looks like. Can this cause you to grow deeper in your walk with Jesus? Certainly! You will find yourself looking into the Word often to answer questions that your inmate pen pal asks.

Some of you may hesitate to volunteer due to a bit of fear that corresponding

with an inmate might lead to problems. A common question is, "What about my personal information?" Prisoners For Christ has established a clear and protective set of guidelines that, when followed, do not allow for personal information to be given to an inmate. Our policy includes not having mail sent to your home address nor do you use your address as the return address on the envelope. The most ideal solution to cover this situation is for a group to be established at your church and for the leader of the group to receive permission from the church to have the pen pal mail delivered to the church for pick up by the group members. Other guidelines provide a great deal of protection and give good instruction as to what is acceptable on the other end at the institution where the inmate resides.

We do have a backlog of requests so if your church has a men's group or women's group that would allow our Pen Pal Ministry Director come and speak about the ministry, we would appreciate hearing from you. The backlog we have is largely from male inmates and thus, we need many more men. It is our policy that men write to men and women to women only. Please give this prayerful consideration on your part and in regard to inquiring at your church.

B&S

YARD OUT 2014

I had no idea where my life was going until one day I picked up a Yard Out. I have been thanking God ever since. Wow! The testimonials are some of the most beautiful and heart felt words I have ever read," a prisoner incarcerated in Oklahoma recently wrote.

That sentiment is echoed many time over with every issue of Yard Out printed and circulated throughout the national prison system. Now in its eighteenth year of publication, Yard Out has proven to be a successful tool promoting the gospel to the prison population.

Success of the eight page paper is attributed in large part to the inmates own testimonies which make up about 60% of the content. Every inmate shares the same conflict: crime, arrest, incarceration, and those who consider and accept the gospel as presented by Yard Out, recovery and spiritual growth.

"The view many have of their bust is that it's a rescue. It brings them to a moment of truth," said Yard Out Editor Peyton Burkhart. "So when the bottom falls out of their world, who're they gonna call? It's not Ghost Busters. It's Jesus. He's had their backs through it all."

Committed to the theme of evangelism, Yard Out is relevant to the experiences of the offenders. Reading about the transformation of others in the same circumstance gives hope to those readers seeking answers for themselves. "It is a consistent soul winner," stated Greg Von Tobel, President of Prisoners for Christ Outreach Ministries. "Yard Out is on the cutting edge of what we do for inmates and their journey back to God."

Printed three times in 2014, Yard Out is placed in 1,265 prisons with a circulation of 59,000 copies per issue. There is an extensive network of chapels and libraries with departments in every facility. Feedback from the institutions state that it is one of the most highly demanded newspapers in the system. "It's the paper of choice," said one chaplain. "Priceless," wrote another chaplain. "It brings true rehabilitation."



**TRUSTED ANGEL by M. Gleed
2010 Honorable Mention
Yard Out Inmate Art Contest**

Among the hundreds of letters Yard Out receives are those writers who indicate they have made a decision to accept Christ while reading the newspaper.

"This paper showed me how much God loves people in prison. I thought God was not going to forgive me but now I know He will. That is the good news your paper gave me the moment I started to read," shared an inmate from Nevada.

Another popular feature of the newspaper is its annual art contest. Approximately 200 drawings are submitted to the competition each year. Many are basic, elementary sketches, but others show professional quality and are used as illustrations in the newspaper.

"The cover art is the hook that gets a prisoner to pick up the newspaper in the first place," says Burkhart. "Here's this powerful picture—an image familiar to their circumstance—that grabs their attention. The inmates are looking for answers from any source that is authentic and honestly deals with issues in their lives."

With time to read, a newspaper featuring drawings by inmates, stories by inmates, and offers a positive life change becomes a fruitful means of introducing prisoners to faith in Jesus.

B&S



HONORING DECADES OF SERVICE

As part of PFC's year-long 25th Anniversary celebration, we have been recognizing volunteers who have been with the ministry for the long haul. These faithful servants have been behind the scenes and on the front lines of this ministry for over a decade each - some for two decades.

There are so many volunteers who do such a wonderful job and sacrifice so much for the Kingdom, but we only had 12 months to choose winners. So many volunteers qualified that we had to choose two volunteers for some months. Each winner received a certificate of recognition and a gift card, as well as our undying gratitude.

In honoring these few volunteers, we honor all the volunteers who serve in this ministry. We appreciate all of you. No matter if you've been with us for 25 years or 25 days, you are invaluable to the success of this ministry. The Lord has truly blessed us with each and every one of you. Thank you.

25+ Years	Bob Jordan	Tom Lathrop
Bob Owen	MESSENGER	KC Sprague
Bob Rogers	Carol Pilskog	
Jeff Winter	Larry Ressler	10-14 Years
	Scott Van Ommeren	Julianna Crawshaw
20-24 Years		Miriam Herzog
Dave Baerman	15-19 Years	UNCHAINED
Betty Bordner	Joan Evans	Bruce Walker

Don Dermenstein

Volunteer of the Year - Monroe Correctional Complex

We would like to congratulate our very own Don Dermenstein for being named Volunteer of the Year by the Monroe Correctional Complex. Besides being PFC's group leader for a monthly church service at WSR, he also provides sponsorship for other religious groups so they can gather and practice their faith. Don also visits the medical facility to minister to the terminally ill inmates. He has become a vital help to the Chaplains at Monroe who do not always have time to perform all the tasks that they would like. Don's selfless volunteering has been helping ease budget gaps and tensions for almost 2 decades. Way to go Don! PFC is so proud to have you in its ranks. Many blessings on you and your family for these many years of service and sacrifice.



WSR - MONROE CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX
Photo courtesy of WA State Correctional Industries

Visit www.pfcom.org and click on "Get Involved" to read about the different ways you can serve.

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**PLEASE KEEP THESE FAITHFUL
SERVANTS IN YOUR PRAYERS**

PFC's 25th Anniversary

A Gallery of Memories

Over the past quarter century, Prisoners For Christ has been privileged to witness many wondrous sights.

The PFC staff has chosen the images below as some of PFC's most memorable moments... so far.



“Purple Dress”

India 2013
Greg Von Tobel

The PFC team did a prayer walk through the slums of New Delhi. I came across this teen girl in a purple dress in front of her purple house. She smiled when I snapped her picture.

“The Heat”

Kenya 2004
Greg Von Tobel

This day was blazing hot. We were late arriving for the service, but the inmates were well behaved as they sat on the hot cement slab, some covering their heads with t-shirts.

“History”

Russia 2001
Unknown Photographer

This picture is historical for PFC as it was taken at the end of our very first international mission trip. We took the day off to visit some of the Russian historical sites.

“Repentance”

United States 2003
Unknown Photographer

This picture was taken at the end of a church service where 30 inmates flooded the altar responding to a powerful sermon by a PFC leader. Many men were crying out to God.

“The Barrel”

The Philippines 2006
Unknown Photographer

This picture was sent to PFC by one of our missionary partners in the Philippines. They were baptizing inmates with the only large container available, an old, rusty, steel barrel.

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