



AUTUMN 2017

# Prison Fellowship Scotland

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## HELP MAKE ANGEL TREE 2017 THE BEST EVER...

**How many days until Christmas? It seems far too early to be asking that question! The shops and shopping centres have already asked that question and we are starting to see signs of commercial Christmas. It can stress parents especially if you see no way of giving even a small gift to your own child as other children get lots of presents.**

Christmas is when God gave the greatest gift of all and we can show God's love in a tangible way by enabling men and women in prison to give their child a small gift as a token of their love and as a way of strengthening their family ties at a time of year when it is hard for anyone to be separated from those they love.

Prison Fellowship Scotland is working in 13 prisons and we want to help men and women at Christmas to feel as connected to their family as possible. If you or your church group would like to help please send your gift or even better your monetary gift to PF Scotland office and we will liaise with Chaplains and prison family contact officers to ensure we

buy appropriate presents for each child. We provided 1150 presents in 2016! Your loving gift will make a big difference this Christmas.

Last year we received many messages of thanks, here are 2 showing the power behind a present;

*"We were able to help several prisoners who were unable to see their children in person over the Christmas period so we parcelled up the presents and sent them through the mail with a card from mum or dad. Again, these were gratefully received and went as far as Liverpool!"*

**Family Hub HMP Grampian**

*"I wanted to write to express my sincere thanks for the donation of Christmas presents for the children of prisoners at HMP Glenochil who attended the family visits over the festive period..."*

*I am very grateful to you and your organisation for the donation of gifts and know that the event would not have been the same without them. Please pass on my very grateful thanks to everyone involved."*

**Governor HMP Glenochil**

Please make cheques payable to Prison Fellowship Scotland... Thank you

NEWSLETTER



# A Summer of Fun



PF's summer project for the children of prisoners has been running for over 5 years where some of the children return year on year. The affect this has on the children and families may never be known in full but, we simply ask the Lord to bless all who attend. This year the feedback regarding the Scripture Union holidays from the Circle's workers has been a delight to read. Comments like;

***"I absolutely loved it and so want to go back" (Child)***

***"My 2 girls loved it!! How can we get them back on it next year" (Mother)***

***The words a child said to their worker on their first visit to the family home since returning from the camp was "Is it time to go back?! I would love to go again, I LOVED it!"***

The greatest encouragement was a 2017 follow up report written by an SU worker on a young girl whose father wrote this as feedback last year;

***"Before she went to camp, she wasn't in a happy place, she had come out of a horrible relationship, so I was pleased that she was able to go...when she came back, she was a completely different person, she made friends and found herself again. She loved the horse riding....she came home charged and enthusiastic.***

***She said she could see the light and she has just kept growing since....she has kept in touch with one girl and they have been meeting up. She is much more positive, it was a turning point for her. Her sister has been saying that she has got her sister back.***

***She used to go to church but she had been in such a dark place that she had stopped going and for***

***her to come back to church has been great. She is happy and smiling at church again...she has been so uplifted. It's all came from the camp." (Father)***

The SU worker's comments on the girl this year;

***Another example of God at work is through one particular girl who came 3 years ago via a Circle referral. She was in a bad place back then and demanded a huge amount of our time at camp that year.***

***Last year she was first to book up and was clearly on a journey with God, which was so exciting as camp was playing a key role in the journey. By the end of the week she had given her life to Christ.***

***This year, we became aware that Circle were no longer working with her family so wouldn't be referring her. However, she was first to book again, this time with her dad paying the full cost himself.***

***This year it was amazing to see her still on this journey, by no means a finished article, but that God is still carrying her. She has matured not just in herself but in her faith. She was getting alongside other campers and encouraging them, and the growth in her has been great to see. We are so thankful that for this particular girl, camp has been an annual milestone on her journey with God!"***

Your support of the SU camps and your prayer support for the work of Prison Fellowship allows prisoners and their families to experience the love of Christ in a very practical way.

*Thank You!*



CONNECT  
- HOUSE -

# GEORGE FULTON

## Brother and Friend to Many

**My journey with Prisoner Fellowship Scotland began as a cocky prisoner in 2002, my over confident and “I know best” mentality was a mask, hiding all of my insecurities, confusion and frustrations.**

Thankfully, due to PFS volunteers’ ability to see through the front I put up, I found myself opening up slowly and accepting that these total strangers had genuine care & compassion for me. The chaotic and complex nature of those who are in prison can make us a “hard to reach” group, with a wide range of difficulties that won’t necessarily be solved overnight; I was no different. I know now the most effective way to engage a prisoner in that position is simply to let them know you care and to introduce them to a God who cares, they won’t believe the 2nd if you don’t accomplish the 1st. It was the love and acceptance of PFS staff and volunteers that caused me to investigate whether or not there was a God who felt the same. This led me to discovering that there was and accepting his love for myself.

And so, the journey began! Within 1 year of leaving prison I was married, employed as a support worker with a Christian Charity and my relationship with God blossomed as I worked hard to embrace my new way of living. As the years rolled on I found myself becoming a qualified health & social care manager, trained to graduate degree and managing multiple faith based projects all

over Scotland. My relationship with the PFS staff grew and we had steady contact over the years. Strange how no matter how “Mature” you become in the faith it almost always those who first led you to faith who act as your anchor line in difficult times. That has certainly been the case for me and PFS have always made me feel like they have all the time in the world for me.

A few years back I went through a difficult and confusing time the hardest I have ever endured as a Christian. Again, PFS was there for me, never forcing the issue and never making me feel judged. It was a hand of friendship extended to me that allowed me to re-assess some things in my life, simplify them and continue walking, all the time knowing I do not walk alone. I cannot express just how vital that ongoing connection with PFS has been to me, as I said it’s like an ever-extended hand of friendship and an anchor line of support that only needs tugged to know that it’s there.

And so, the journey continues! I am currently back doing what I love, making a difference through faith based charitable works. The temptation can sometimes be to try and regain what you had, when in reality God wants to move us on to bigger and better; as PF staff remind me sometimes “We’ve still not seen the best of George Fulton”, I believe that’s Gods exact view on my current situation, made real through the work and words of PFS, to whom I am forever grateful to call my friends.

**Proverbs 27:17**

*“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”*



**NEW  
WEBSITE**

Please take time to visit our new website  
**[www.pfscotland.org](http://www.pfscotland.org)**  
and follow us on Twitter & Facebook

**Week of  
Prayer 2017**

**Yes  
and  
Amen**

**November  
12th-18th**

Visit: [www.pfscotland.org](http://www.pfscotland.org)

**Prisoners Week**  
19-26 November 2017

**The Prisoners Week Prayer**

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.  
We pray for those who are held in prison.  
Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.  
Support with your love: prisoners, their families and  
friends, prison staff, chaplains and all who care.  
Heal those who have been wounded by the  
activities of others, especially the victims of crime.  
Help us to forgive one another, to act justly,  
to love mercy, and walk humbly together with Christ  
in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day.  
Amen.

[www.prisonersweek.org.uk](http://www.prisonersweek.org.uk)

On the website you'll find Prisoners Week  
information, a calendar of events, details of  
organisations that offer help and advice, discussion  
ideas, reflections, and worship resources which  
include prayers from the Christian and Islamic Faiths.  
In every prison Chaplains and those working with  
them offer spiritual care and the means by which  
people can explore and practice faith.

You are invited to:

The National Launch Service for Prisoners Week at  
6.30pm on Monday 20th November in  
St Margaret's, Drip Road, Stirling, FK9 4UA,  
followed by refreshments.

Prisoners Week is an initiative of the Churches that aims to  
stimulate discussion, highlight concerns and share hope.  
Prisoners Week Trust is a charity  
registered in Scotland, No: SC043422