

SPRING 2020

In this edition:

Sycamore Expanding
Meet The Johngrasses
Angel Tree Thanks
Prioritising Prayer
SU Holiday Appeal
Good News - For Who?
Thank you Grace
Dates for your Diary



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Sycamore Expanding

Over two consecutive Saturdays, 11th and 18th January, 16 people came to the PFS office at Connect House to be trained in the delivery of Sycamore Tree. Together we went through the programme for each of the six weeks of the course, explored the topic of Restorative Justice and how we can use the story of Zacchaeus in Luke chapter 19 to help teach this. We also explored the place of symbolic acts of restitution as part of the course. We thank Edith, Margaret and Caroline for their excellent delivery of the material and for all the participants for their willingness to embrace and learn this vital course.

During the summer of 2019, HMP Edinburgh Chaplain, Gordon Pennykidd contacted Prison Fellowship Scotland about opportunities to work together and



it was decided that it would be good to run the Sycamore Tree course in the prison. And so our journey began of compiling a team, getting them trained, screened and vetted and pursuing a start date. Jump ahead to 2020 and we are pleased to report that Rupert, Mike and Sheri started leading the first Sycamore Tree course at HMP Edinburgh on Wednesday 29th January. The course is going well with good participation. We thank God for the PFS Sycamore Team, the proactive Chaplaincy at HMP Edinburgh and for the participants at HMP Edinburgh. Now that we are in 2020 we are in a stronger position, with more opportunity to deliver more courses at more locations. Please continue to pray for Sycamore Tree.



Mike and Sheri Johngrass are from Ohio, USA and are passionate about helping others to know Jesus and to fulfil the plans and purposes that God has for their lives. They lead a new church plant in East Lothian called Haddington Elim Church. In May 2019 the Lord put a desire on their hearts to reach out to those in the Edinburgh prison. They sent an email to Prison Fellowship Scotland and were told that just two weeks prior, HMP Edinburgh had contacted PFS with an invitation to facilitate a Sycamore Tree course there. Mike and Sheri are excited about this new door that God has opened to serve as PFS volunteers and to partner with the chaplaincy team to reach out to those in HMP Edinburgh.



ANGEL TREE
Thank You

We would like to thank all our supporters for their generosity over the 2019 Angel Tree Christmas appeal.

Your generosity enabled us to provide gifts for over 600 children in 14 of the 15 Prisons in Scotland. We helped fund Christmas parties, one to one gift giving at pre-arranged family visits and even managed to give some gifts to prisoners families struggling in the community by simply visiting them on behalf of their loved ones.

What a wonderful way to express Gods love for all at a time of year many find extremely difficult. Together we make a real difference. Thank you.



John Nonhebel

A note from John

It is now over four months since I had the privilege of starting this job as Director for Prison Fellowship Scotland. Its been fascinating and very encouraging getting around visiting many of the Prison fellowship groups and Sycamore training courses across the country and seeing the work we do as well as hearing many stories of transformation.

A few weeks ago, I also had the privilege of spending time with my counterparts in Prison Fellowship England and Wales and Prison Fellowship Northern Ireland and was again so encouraged to hear of the work going on in different parts of the United Kingdom.

As I have met many people with years of experience working in our prisons across the country, one thing that has

stood out to me is that this work takes commitment of time, it takes faithful effort in preparation and it takes prayer. As I meet volunteers across the country I am very aware of all these things happening. However, as we plan ahead looking to see how we can impact more lives through the work of PF Scotland one area we are keen to develop more is that of prayer support for our jails.

Our vision is that we would have a group of people praying for each of our prisons ranging from Dumfries in the South to Inverness in the North. As well as praying for any prisoners we know in these jails through our PFS work, we would pray for Chaplains, for prison staff and for Governors.

In Ephesians 6 there is the well-known passage talking about how we are all caught up in spiritual warfare, and I am drawn to verse 12 where we are reminded that:

“Our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Prioritising Prayer

In PF Scotland we have a fantastic number of committed volunteers, however sadly the other thing that stands out in our work is how many of those we work within the jails are very broken individuals – but even as I reflect on this I am also reminded of God’s power to bring restoration to lives, and we have so many examples of this happening.

If you would be
interested in joining a
PRAYER GROUP

to pray for one of
our Scottish prisons
please email us on:

prayer@pfscotland.org

and we will be in touch as
we get this organised.

Many thanks.

It was an
**AMAZING
EXPERIENCE**

Celebrating our continued partnership



“I went to Lendrick Muir in July and it was fun. My favourite activity was go-karting. I made some new friends and I can’t wait to go back.”

Praying For The Big Picture of Prison Work in Scotland

Did you know there are 15 Prisons in Scotland?

HMP Addiewell
HMP Barlinnie
HMP Castle Huntly
HMP & YOI Cornton Vale
HMP Dumfries
HMP Edinburgh
HMP Glenochil
HMP & YOI Grampian
HMP Greenock
HMP Inverness
HMP Kilmarnock
HMP Low Moss
HMP Perth
HMP & YOI Polmont
HMP Shotts

Currently, there are about 8,100 people in these prisons - up from approximately 7,400 just two years ago.

Here are some things we can be praying for:

Pray For the men and women in our jails. Pray that God would give them a sense of hope and that as they spend time in prison they would hear the Good News of how much God loves them and wants to help them live lives free from all the hurt and brokenness they carry.

Pray For the Governors of all these jails, that God would give them the wisdom to care well for the people in their charge.

Pray For the staff working in these prisons who do an amazing but sometimes difficult job. Pray that God will fill them with hope that the work they do does make a difference.

Pray For the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Humza Yousaf, that God will give him wisdom and vision for his work.

Pray For all the Chaplains who do such an amazing job in our prisons, especially in the one to one conversations they have with the men and women in our jails.

Pray For the work of PF Scotland, for our fellowship groups, our Sycamore Tree courses and for us to reach men and woman in prisons with the unconditional love of Christ.

HMP & YOI Polmont



HMP Kilmarnock



HMP Dumfries



HMP & YOI Cornton Vale



“My son loved it and really wants to do it again. The theme was amazing. Best thing about the camp was the food. My son wouldn't stop going on about it especially the puddings. He's been enjoying reading the bible comic he got at camp.”

This year once again **Prison Fellowship Scotland** will be joining with **SU Scotland** and **Circle** to enable children affected by imprisonment, and also from communities that are impacted by crime, to attend an SU holiday. This is now the 8th year since we started doing this and every year we are excited by how much these children have enjoyed the holidays they go on.

Prison Fellowship Scotland is committed to helping fund these places and we would ask that once again you might join us as we raise funds for this work.

To help with this we have set up an online giving page: www.give.net/PFScotland_SUholidays Of course, if you prefer, you can still send cheques to us in the office - please mark your gift for the holiday programme.

TO DONATE:

https://www.give.net/PFScotland_SUHolidays



Prison Fellowship
Scotland

ANNUAL GATHERING

Saturday 30 May 2020

Letham St Marks Church

Amilree Road, Letham,

Perth PH1 2HH

10.30am to 4pm



**FOR
WHO?**

Thank you Grace

A Great Love and Concern for the Disadvantaged

We thank God for the life of our sister Grace, an original Prison Fellowship Scotland volunteer at HMP Peterhead, who sadly passed away recently. Not only did Grace visit the prison regularly, but she also wrote to prisoners and to their families. She provided hospitality to families making the long journey from the Glasgow area to visit their loved ones in Peterhead prison and after retiring from voluntary work in the prison, she continued to keep in touch with several ex-offenders. Grace always displayed genuine concern for the poor and disadvantaged. Towards the end of her life she kept PFS in her prayers.

We thank God for a life well lived and a race well run. Please pray that Grace's family would know God's comfort at this time.



CAN WE COME TO YOUR CHURCH?

Prison Fellowship Scotland would welcome an opportunity to speak in your church about our work in prisons across the country.

If you would like to take us up on this offer please email us on: office@pfscotland.org



Diary Dates

Sat 30 May
Sat 12 Sept
15-22 Nov

Annual Gathering
Training Day
Prisoners Weeks



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