



*'This son of mine was dead, but has now come back to life! He was lost and has now been found! - and they began to celebrate' (Luke 15:24)*

## What has this new Director been doing?



Since starting – I've not stopped! In fact even before I had started – I had started. The day before my official start date I met with the Trustees in Bridge of Allan in the late afternoon and then in the evening I met, in Bearsden, with the folks from the churches interested in becoming part of the Prison Fellowship team in the new Low Moss Prison – more of that later! The day I started I was breathalysed coming out of Kilmarnock Prison – it's a long story!

I have:

- Had support from Brian Fraser, our retiring Director
- Visited HMP Peterhead for the volunteer training by the SPS Chaplaincy coordinators
- Joined Terry and the group in HMP

Addiewell prison who were following the Sycamore Tree course and met with the faith leader, Bob Paterson, who gave me a guided tour.

- Had meetings with Chaplains from HMP Peterhead, HMP Aberdeen, HMP Addiewell, HMP Shotts, HMP Barlinnie, HMP Dumfries, HMP Inverness, HMP Polmont, HMP Glenochil, HMP Cornntonvale and HMP Open Estate
- With Terry met with Paul Cowley, Keiron Dunne and Paul Davie to discuss close co-operation between the organisation, Caring For Ex-offenders, Alpha and Prison Fellowship Scotland and a possible Scottish CFEO to take account of our separate legal system. It was great to meet with Caroline Crombie who was there with her CFEO, Integrate and Prison Fellowship hats on and with Rev Jim Robertson, former PF Trustee.
- Attended the Alpha Vision Day on the Saturday where the focus was heavily on caring for those coming back into Society from Prison.
- Spoken to a group of Christians in Glasgow about the work of Prison Fellowship
- Attended the Faith Communities Through-care Forum
- Had a meeting with our treasurer, David McEwan, to look at our funding
- Had a number of meetings with Bill Taylor and Brian Gowans the SPS Chaplaincy advisors.

I am still going into Greenock, Barlinnie and Kilmarnock weekly as a volunteer

Anne, Terry and I have a team meeting every Thursday and I am enjoying working with them (I am not sure how they feel!). We are working on a Year Planner / Diary which we hope to

circulate to you soon. The first dates to go in to your diaries are our group leaders' meeting, with the Trustees, in Bridge of Allan on May 9th from 3.30pm – 6.00pm and our volunteers day for the whole PF Scotland family, and those interested in our work, in ICC on June 11th.

### Santa's Little Angels

A big thank you to all of you who gave to the Angel Tree appeal. We were able to provide almost 600 gifts for prisoners' children in half the prisons we are working with. A tangible demonstration of God's love! We hope to increase the number of children and families who benefit throughout Scotland next year.



Angel Tree



## Comments on Restorative Justice.



Restorative justice is very much on the lips of politicians and those involved in the justice system but the some of the most encouraging things said have been by the men who have been through the Sycamore Tree Course which Prison Fellowship staff and volunteers run.

Here are some of the most recent comments:

- 'This course has made me think about how my family are victims as well in my crime.... I will think before I act and not act before I think. I will also try to make my son think before he acts.. I don't want to see him in prison'
- 'The course has made me take a good look at my life and now hopefully I have the tools to go out and make a decent life for me and my daughter..... I have learned so much on this course and hope to pass on what I have learned to others...'
- 'It has made me think about my victims..the boy and his parents, my family and what they go through. I will definitely have a different outlook on things - this course has changed my way of thinking – definitely glad I participated in it.'
- 'This course has made so much sense for me and I hope to hear more from this course and the people who took this course... I ask please for more help and support - Thank you so much.'

## Funding

We are limited in what we can achieve in many areas by a need for appropriate funds - so it is great to be able to report to you that the Allen Lane Foundation has made a grant of £5000 to Prison Fellowship Scotland.



## 4Thought

The last time Prison Fellowship Scotland was invited to take part in a radio discussion, on sentencing in Scotland, on Ricky Ross' Sunday morning programme, George Fulton, manager of 'The Arch' made very honest and insightful comment in the brief time available. George is fast becoming our man in the Media and has been invited to reflect, again briefly, on the Passion and its effect on his life in the run up to Easter, on Channel 4's 4Thought. Make sure you tune in during Holy Week.

## Low Moss

When the New Low Moss Prison opens, at the end of this or the beginning of next year, there will be an enthusiastic group of trained and ready Prison Fellowship volunteers there to support the chaplaincy and staff in their work with those in prison.

The Prison Fellowship team, Derek Watt, Terry Paterson, Ramsay Vallance, Ian Megaughan, Jude Boulton and myself, spoke about the work of Prison fellowship to a group of Christians from a wide variety of denominations.

## Christianity Explored

Gillian Pegler and Stephen James piloted a prison based version of Christianity Explored in Barlinnie Prison, supported by Derek and myself. As a result of their work they have now an updated version for use in Prisons which they have asked Derek and I to trial. Gillian recorded some of the men's comments and I quote from her prayer letter - One of the men said at the end 'It's like my eyes have been opened!' Another man told us that this was the first time that he had written anything for 2 years. We saw



the whole group grow in their understanding of what the Bible tells us about Jesus, and could see the pennies dropping in their minds!

One man who previously believed it was impossible for him to live the Christian life, said that he understood now how faith worked and

that he could be a Christian and live a new way with God's help. His reaction was 'Wait till I tell the wife!'

## Good News Bits and Pieces

•Sammy Davey was baptised on Sunday February 27th. Sam was a regular attender at Prison Fellowship when he was in prison and has grown in his faith. He was eager to make this public declaration of his faith. PF volunteers were there to support and celebrate with Sam



•James Faddes was ordained and inducted as the minister of Leslie Baptist Church on Saturday 5th March. James was the leader of the Kilmarnock PF group

•Duncan Strathdee, leader of our Glenochil PF group, spoke to the Scottish Parliament, at their 4 minute 'Time of Reflection', on Wednesday 2nd March. Listen again on the Scottish Parliament website at 'Time for Reflection'

• Advance notice of Prisoners week – 20-27 November 2011

It was a real encouragement to see 60 people from local churches show enthusiastic interest in what is often not a popular area of service. In the days that followed there has been a steady stream of applications from those who want to be volunteers with Prison Fellowship Scotland.

The follow up will be a programme of training, team building and visits to prepare the team

This pattern of recruitment is one we will replicate in other areas and with other groups of churches.