Crimes Hidden Victims
by Ann Edenfield Sweet

When my husband ended up in federal prison, I was left with four boys to raise on $800 a month. It was a bizarre, alienating experience; I felt like I had parachuted out of an airplane in the middle of the night, with no idea what country I had landed in, how to speak the language, what the customs were, or how to get home.

When my husband was released, I decided that I wanted to do something to help other prisoners’ families. I founded Wings For Life International, which teaches family members how to cope with the legal system and how to interact with their incarcerated loved ones so when they come home from prison they can become productive, law-abiding citizens.

Working with many families over the years, I have learned that it is easy for many prisoners to lose sight of the struggles faced by their families on the outside. The purpose of this article is to help the readers of Inside Journal stand in their families’ shoes, and do what they can to help ease the situation for their loved ones.

These are some of the difficulties your family may face while you serve your sentence:

- Learning how to navigate the legal system and the prison system. I have a college education, but my husband’s arrest threw me into a world with a language that I did not understand. Prisoners’ families often do not understand what is going to happen to their loved one next, where the prison is, who to contact if they have questions, or how to dress or behave when they come visit.
- Learning how to survive financially. If the prisoner was a breadwinner, his or her family must now make do with much less. Even if the prison accommodations are nothing to write home about, the prisoner knows that he or she will be housed, clothed, and fed, and have access to some sort of medical care. A prisoner’s family may be trying to figure out how to stay off the street, keep the lights on, and keep food on the table. My kids and I went six years without medical care because we could not afford it. Trying to afford transportation and lodging costs for a visit is an added burden.
- Social exclusion. When my husband went to prison, my children and I were ostracized by our neighbors, businesses, schools, and even by our church. When my husband was released, the senior pastor of our new church told us we had to leave. Even though we had not committed the crime, we were stigmatized by association.
- Exhaustion and stress. When one parent goes to prison, the person who cares for his or her children becomes the 24-hour-a-day breadwinner, chauffeur, tutor, disciplinarian, cook, etc. That is a lot of responsibility to fall on one person’s shoulders, and there is usually no way to take a break — much less a vacation.

So, what can you do to make things easier?
- Acknowledge and appreciate what they are going through. If your family comes to visit, be grateful for their sacrifice. Don’t complain if they are late or tired when they arrive.
- Make the most of phone calls and visits. Between calls and visits, make lists of questions you want to ask or issues you want to discuss. If you have more than one child, give each child a designated time to talk to you during a call or visit, so that everyone gets...
Children of Hawaiian prisoners ponei on the beach at Camp Agape, a prison facility Roy founded after his release from prison.

Roy’s Road to Paradise Continued from page 1

characters that we can as parents are something we can do for our own personal growth. Quickily I took a lesson from a job. Roy was a man in the Old Testament of the Bible who endured great suffering, pain, and loneliness. But he loved God, and he lived his children, and he is an example of how to endure and maintain hope even when things are bleak. We can use these stories to help our children.

We can learn from the things that we can do as parents so we can do for our own personal growth. Quickily I took a lesson from a job. Roy was a man in the Old Testament of the Bible who endured great suffering, pain, and loneliness. But he loved God, and he lived his children, and he is an example of how to endure and maintain hope even when things are bleak. We can use these stories to help our children.

Crime’s Hidden Victims Continued from page 2

some one on one time. But children don’t have to come to this every time. In an occasional visit with just your spouse or significant other will allow you to deeper private con

warrantions. Finally, when you see in the phone, don’t ever, ever hang up in anger! Your family cannot call back, and those hardy, angry words will just hang there. If you need to discuss a touchy behind him. If it is a letter or extended visiting.

Quovadis Marshall is the national director of spiritual de

velopment for Prison Fellowship Ministries and a graduate of the InnerChange Freedom Initiative.

The only question is: Are you ready for the truth of the Bible? God will never wait until the last minute to raise you.

World News of Note

Sentencing Changes in State Senate? WASHINGTON, D.C. — The United States Senate, which addresses federal issues, voted to move a sentencing reform bill. The Senate voted to pass the bill under the assumption that it would make sufficient progress to be continued in the coming years.

The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 60-39 and is expected to be reviewed in the coming months to ensure that it will have a significant impact.

Crisis in the Crimea

UKRAINE — A conflict with tensions of the Cold War is continuing in Crimea, a peninsula that is connected to the Eastern European nation of Ukraine. Earlier this year, the Russian military moved into Crimea, which is a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union. The United Nations Security Council voted to send 22,000 peacekeepers to protect the lives of people in the Crimean area.

UN Peacekeepers Sent to Protect Crimea

Lack of a&R Quin.

US Air Force / DoD

A member of the U.S. military aircraft flies a plane with the search for the missing Malaysian Airlines Flight 370.

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What is Angel Tree?
Maybe you’re excited about Prison Fellowship’s Angel Tree® program, but you’re not sure how it works. Angel Tree is a simple way to let your children know that you are thinking about them at Christmas.
Angel Tree works like this: Applications are shipped to the chaplain of participating prisons in early June. You fill out an application asking Angel Tree to give your child a gift from you at Christmas (you can suggest what kind of gift you think your child would like). Your chaplain collects all the applications and sends them to Angel Tree by the deadline. In the fall, Angel Tree volunteers call the prisoner who takes care of your child to verify what gift your child would like to receive. Before Christmas, Angel Tree volunteers will buy and wrap the gift. The gift will be delivered to your child’s home or given to your child at an Angel Tree® Christmas party with a presentation of the Gospel. Your child will be told that the gift is from you - your mom or dad who loves them! Plus, your brief, personal message to your child will be written on the gift tag.

Connect With Your Child This Christmas!
A Gift From Your Heart to Theirs ...
This summer is the time to sign your children up to receive a Christmas present from you through Angel Tree. Applications for Christmas 2014 must be postmarked by September 2, 2014. Ask your chaplain or program coordinator for more information on how to participate.

1) You must be the child(ren)’s father, mother, stepfather, or stepmother.
2) There must not be a court order restricting your contact with the child(ren) or their caregiver(s).
3) Your child(ren) must live in the United States.
4) Your child(ren) must be 18 years old or younger.
5) The form must be filled out completely and legibly.
6) The form must be signed.
7) The form must be postmarked by September 2, 2014.

Get an application and sign your kids up today! A special gift from you at Christmas will help them know that you love them, and it will connect them with a church that can come alongside your family in your child’s life. Best of all, it will give them an opportunity to experience the transforming love of Jesus Christ.
Angel Tree makes great efforts to serve every eligible child. Sometimes, however, if we are unable to locate your child's caregiver, if the caregiver refuses to participate, or if there are not enough Angel Tree volunteers in a local area, we may not be able to deliver gifts to your children.

If your facility is not signed up and has not received applications, your chaplain may contact 1-800-55-ANGEL for more information on how to participate.