



PRISON
FELLOWSHIP

FISCAL YEAR 2018 | ANNUAL REPORT



*Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.
But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,
I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me
heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

—Philippians 3:13-14





Dear Friend,

Like Prison Fellowship's founder, Chuck Colson, and his wife, Patty, my wife Martha and I are partnered together in this ministry and have been spending quite a bit of time behind bars this year (Truth be told, I can't keep this woman out of prison!).

It's been a joy in our marriage to share the same passion for restoring those affected by crime and incarceration. Whenever we get a chance to go into prison together, it's my prayer that we can offer a small picture of what God makes possible for those who follow Him—not perfection, but a journey on which He faithfully moves us toward greater wholeness, unity, and love for one another and for Him.

As a Christian organization, we at Prison Fellowship have spent **42 years** pursuing that same vision of wholeness: men and women in prison at peace with themselves and with God, reconciled to their families and communities. Along the way, we've had triumphs and setbacks, but God has always been faithful, and the vision has spurred us onward.

Now, it seems like we're getting ready to crest a new horizon. With the Prison Fellowship Academy[®], we have a nationwide vision for prisoner transformation that's gaining favor wherever it expands. Our programs touch each part of corrections, including prisoners, families, communities, legislators, and wardens. And there's clear evidence that we're shaping the conversation about criminal justice reform and second chances as never before. These are exciting times, and every morning I get out of bed eager to start the day with Prison Fellowship.

As you open our annual report, I hope you can sense the excitement building—because it's through your prayers, engagement, and generosity that each dream of restoration becomes a reality. Thank you for being on the journey with us!

Yours in His service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James J. Ackerman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James J. Ackerman

President and Chief Executive Officer

Hope Events

Sharing the Light of Jesus in Dark Places

No person should be without hope, but many behind bars struggle to find it.

As we establish intensive, in-prison programs to transform lives, we remain firmly committed to our legacy of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with men and women behind bars. Prison Fellowship Hope Events introduce prisoners to the power of Jesus Christ through yard events featuring inspirational speakers, musicians, and other attractions.

During Easter week of 2018, Prison Fellowship continued the pattern Chuck Colson established by holding four Hope Events in two Virginia prisons. Our staff and volunteers came together with incarcerated men and women to celebrate Christ's resurrection with incredible music and messages. For a little while, there were no prisoners or outsiders—just people rejoicing in the hope of Jesus.

More than **700,000 prisoners** have experienced the love of Christ through Hope Events since the 1990s. By God's grace, we're pressing on to bring the Good News of the Gospel to thousands more in the coming fiscal year.

Reinforcing these events, our *Inside Journal*[®] newspaper presents the Gospel to hundreds of thousands of prisoners each year in a fresh, compelling way. Read more about *Inside Journal*'s impact on prisoners on the next page.

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It was incredible. I asked for prayer, and someone so kindly prayed for me. I just felt lifted up. Hearing those stories today and meeting real-life women who have overcome so much ... it's inspiring. It moves us forward. We're so blessed by this event. —Jamie, Hope Event™ Attendee



More than **16,300** prisoners attended one of **125 Hope Events** in FY18, where at least **3,339** prisoners made first-time decisions or rededications to follow Christ.

INSIDE JOURNAL®

Spreading Hope One Copy at a Time

Men and women are also learning about the Good News of the Gospel and finding inspiration behind bars through Inside Journal, Prison Fellowship's four-page, quarterly newspaper for prisoners, which was launched in 1990.

Prison Fellowship's founder, Chuck Colson, called the publication "God's paratrooper behind prison walls," because it can reach men and women who might not have easy access to other programs.

Circulation has been increasing steadily over the years, with more than **830,000 copies** distributed this fiscal year. The newspaper also went from black and white to an attractive full-color version.

In December 2017, Prison Fellowship launched a brand-new *Inside Journal* edition that addresses the unique needs of the fastest-growing prison population: women. In its few short months in circulation, the women's edition has been enthusiastically received by its **30,000 readers**.

Inside Journal will continue to expand circulation and offerings, and to shine God's light into the darkness—from a noisy prison cell block to a lonely solitary confinement cell.

As prisoners discover the hope of the Gospel, they begin to learn how the values of God's Kingdom apply to all of life. Turn the page to discover how the Prison Fellowship Academy takes men and women on a journey of biblically based life transformation.

I recently read Inside Journal and it made me cry, and at that point I knew I needed a change in my life. I got life in prison ... I've been here nine years and was giving up on life until reading that little article that said, "Are you fumbling in the dark?" And my heart cried out, 'Yes!' —Michael, Prisoner, Florida

— “ ” —



Offered in men's, women's, and Spanish-language editions, *Inside Journal* now serves hundreds of thousands of prisoners in more than **800 correctional facilities** throughout the U.S. and Mexico each quarter.



Transforming Lives From the Inside Out

Even for people who have started a relationship with God, prison can be a difficult place to live according to new, more positive values.

In 1997 Prison Fellowship launched the first Prison Fellowship Academy, designed as an intensive, long-term, in-prison community that would transform lives by tackling the roots of criminal behavior and instilling biblical values like integrity, responsibility, and community.

Based on the Academy's record of success, in 2016 Prison Fellowship embarked on the 40 to Fifty campaign, an ambitious, **10-year journey** to establish **172 Academy** sites in **all 50 states** by 2026—Prison Fellowship's 50th anniversary.

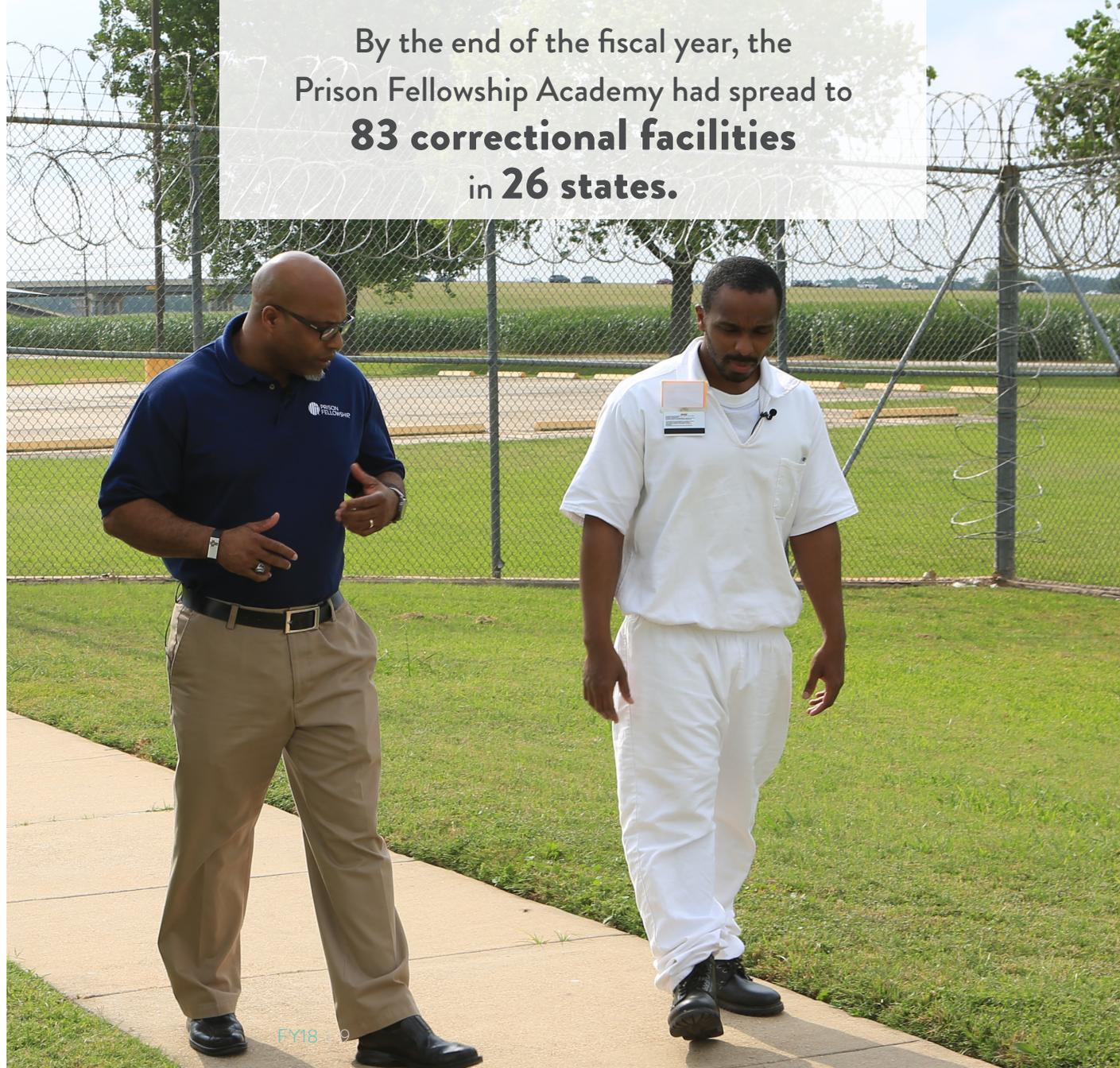
This fiscal year, new Academy sites opened in several states. Our Academy approach was also named a Top-200 finalist out of nearly 2,000 applicants in the MacArthur Foundation's 100&Change competition for innovative social solutions. The Academy was also listed as one of the Center for High Impact Philanthropy's 11 "best bets" for "creating a better and more just world."

The Academy was near and dear to Chuck Colson's heart. Expanding this life-changing program is one way we continue his legacy. The Charles Colson Hope Awards, which you'll read about on the next page, are another.

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“My father believed that God can change anyone and everyone behind bars. Like me, he would be thrilled at the expansion of the Prison Fellowship Academy, which is offering thousands more men and women an opportunity to be transformed from the inside out.” —Christian Colson, Prison Fellowship Board Member

By the end of the fiscal year, the
Prison Fellowship Academy had spread to
83 correctional facilities
in **26 states.**





Building a Legacy of Transformation

First launched in 2016, the Charles Colson Hope Awards honor the legacy of Prison Fellowship's founder by recognizing people who have faithfully worked to transform lives affected by crime and incarceration.

This fiscal year, the honorees included: Gene Mills (Advocate of Hope Award); Michael Miller (Champion of Hope Award); Sidney Wayne Carter (Restorer of Hope Award); and Randy Grounds (Servant of Hope Award).

The Legacy of Hope Award marks a significant contribution to Prison Fellowship's mission. At an event in southern California, this award was presented to B. Wayne Hughes Jr., an entrepreneur and philanthropist, whose generosity has helped expand The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI), an intensive biblical studies course offered in conjunction with World Impact, an urban missions organization. TUMI graduates have become recognized Christian leaders in their correctional institutions and have made positive contributions to the communities to which many of them return.

As TUMI expands, so does Prison Fellowship's ministry to the fastest-growing group in prison: women. Keep reading to learn more.



Wayne has invested faithfully and generously in the restoration of men and women. He's helping thousands in California and beyond to lead lives of purpose and productivity inside and outside of prison.

—James J. Ackerman, President & Chief Executive Officer of Prison Fellowship

More than **1,100 men and women**, representing **42 prisons in 10 states**, participated in TUMI classes at the end of the fiscal year.



B. Wayne Hughes Jr.



A photograph of a church service. In the foreground, a person's hand is raised, palm facing up. In the background, other people wearing blue shirts have their hands raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The scene is brightly lit, likely from windows, creating a soft, warm atmosphere.

*Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.*

*I said, "I will confess my
transgressions to the Lord." And you
forgave the guilt of my sin.*

—Psalm 32:5

Women's Ministry

Embracing Women in Prison With Christ's Love

Women are the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. prison population. Many women in prison feel trapped in the cycle of crime without resources to be healed and transformed.

This year Prison Fellowship began dramatically expanding in-prison ministry to women, helping replace pasts of abuse, addiction, and destructive choices with futures of hope and promise.

Enthusiastic staff and volunteers brought the Gospel to life for hundreds of women at **32 unforgettable one-day Hope Events** nationwide. In March, dynamic Easter events presented worship and interpretive dance, as well as a message of Christ's love from survivors of abuse, at Fluvanna Correctional Center in Troy, Virginia. Another Hope Event brought out large crowds at Central California Women's Facility—the largest women's prison complex in the world.

Meanwhile *Inside Journal*, Prison Fellowship's quarterly newspaper for prisoners, launched its new women's edition to tackle gender-specific issues such as motherhood, female health issues, and codependency.

Hundreds of women sought transformation through the Prison Fellowship Academy, and thousands worked to restore relationships with their children and families through Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree® Christmas program. Learn more on the next page.

Prison Fellowship gave me the foundational truth that I needed to actually be able to support what I believed ... to walk with God, to practice what I was learning, and to mentor a group of young women.

—Sheila, Prisoner, California

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Prison Fellowship operates
13 Academy sites
for women in as many
states with **312**
participants.





Restoring Families Starts With a Gift

From its unusual beginnings in an Alabama shopping mall, when Mary Kay Beard, a robber-turned-field director, hung angel tags on a tree, Angel Tree has been full of surprises.

This year was no exception. Gifts in Crowley, Texas, showed up on the backs of motorcycles while a guitarist played “Amazing Grace.” A grandmother near Cleveland, Ohio, who cares for seven children, couldn’t stop expressing her joy at how Angel Tree helped her family make it through the holidays. And an incarcerated mom named Christina, whose children received gifts, wrote to say she was left in awe by God’s goodness and the kindness of Angel Tree donors and volunteers.

For Christmas 2017, **100 percent** of all eligible children were assigned to receive gifts, and volunteers stepped up to serve boys and girls in every U.S. state. Through Prison Fellowship’s partnership with Christian publisher Zondervan, each Angel Tree household could also receive a free Adventure Bible in English or Spanish upon request, helping families discover God all year.

In an exciting, continuing partnership, Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program, promoted Angel Tree to all of its existing chapters nationwide, resulting in service to many children. Read more about how this valued partnership expands the impact of your generosity on the next page.

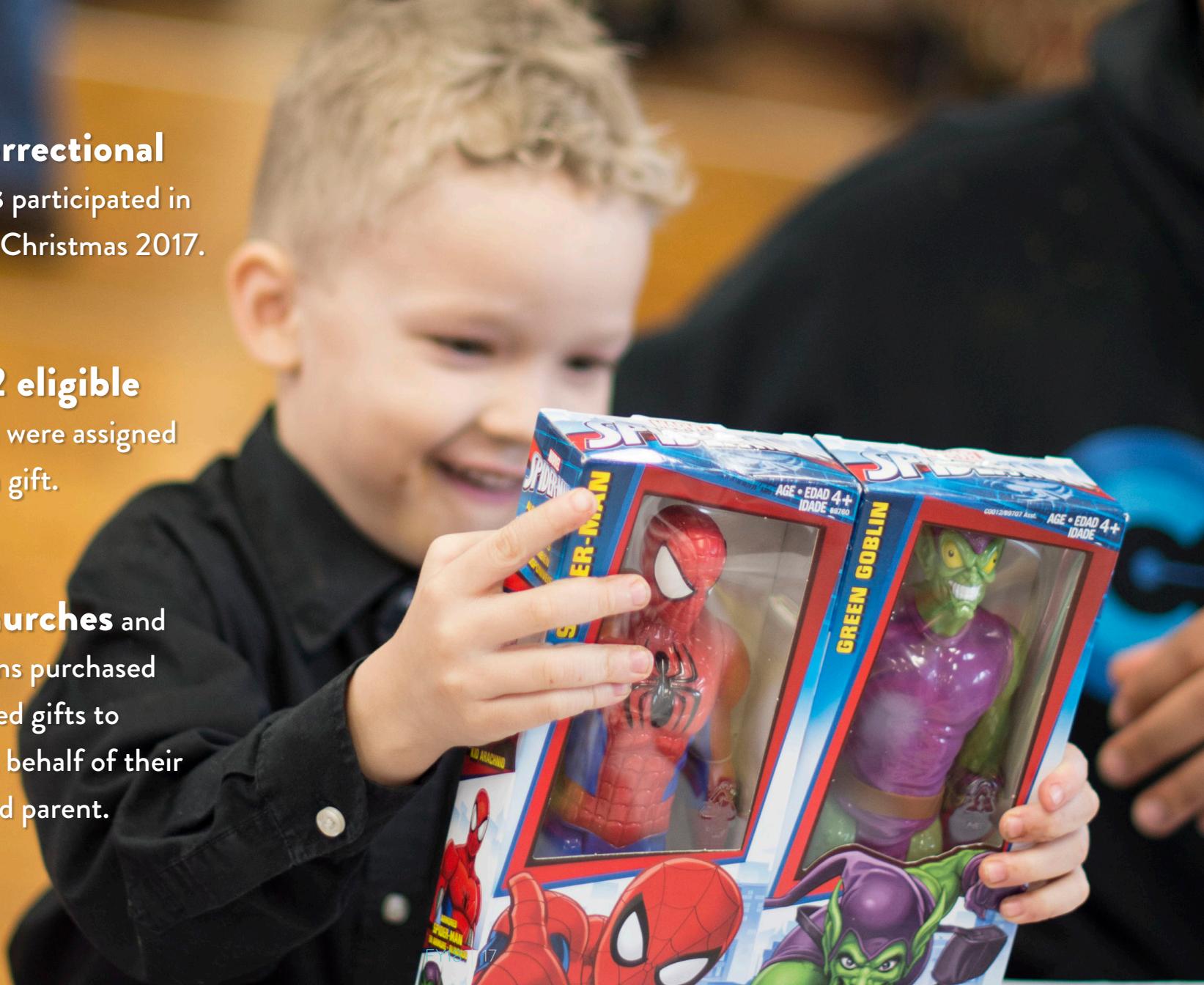
She was like, ‘I got presents from my daddy!’ I just wanted to cry because my heart was touched. Nothing like that has ever happened for her in her whole life. ... She has this little Bible that she got from Angel Tree, and I try to work with her on reading that. She prayed at our last prison visit, ‘God, I know my daddy is not always there, but I know his love is always there.’ And her daddy started crying. —Miranda, Angel Tree Caregiver, Texas

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1,263 correctional facilities participated in Angel Tree Christmas 2017.

278,942 eligible children were assigned to receive a gift.

7,182 churches and organizations purchased and delivered gifts to children on behalf of their incarcerated parent.



Celebrate Recovery®

Celebrate Recovery Partnership Restores Lives & Families

Prison Fellowship partners with Celebrate Recovery—a Christ-centered program that helps people overcome hurts, hang-ups, and habits—to provide addiction recovery programming to incarcerated men and women enrolled in the Prison Fellowship Academy nationwide.

This programming is needed more than ever, because the vast majority of men and women behind bars have struggled with substance abuse and other addictive behaviors.

Celebrate Recovery, in turn, implements and promotes Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program through its groups across the country. More than **160 Celebrate Recovery groups** served **3,406 children** from **36 states** last Christmas by delivering gifts, personal notes, and the Gospel message on behalf of incarcerated parents.

At this year's Celebrate Recovery National Summits, Prison Fellowship's President and CEO, James J. Ackerman, underscored the importance of the partnership for men and women behind bars, who, just like their children, need partners to come alongside and help lift them up. Keep reading to discover how Angel Tree Sports Clinic™, in partnership with current and former pro and college athletes, breathes encouragement into the lives of children with a parent in prison.

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Every time I make a delivery, I am just so thankful for this. This is just the best thing.

—Michelle, Angel Tree Volunteer & Celebrate Recovery Member

162 Celebrate Recovery groups delivered hope to children of incarcerated parents last Christmas through Angel Tree.



Lifting Up Youth to Be Champions

*In fiscal year 2018, the NFL's Kenny Clark— a former Angel Tree child who was 9 when his father went to prison— teamed up with Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree Sports Clinic to help more than **250 children** in Rialto, California, feel like champions for a day.*

Passionate volunteers and coaches took to the field to train and encourage children of all ages and share the Gospel with them.

Since the program kicked off in 2006, Angel Tree Sports Clinic has expanded across the country to help prisoners' kids have fun, build confidence and character, and learn about God's love at an unforgettable event. At **10 clinics** this year that included ice skating, football, and cheerleading, children rubbed shoulders with college sports stars and professional athletes who have overcome challenges similar to their own.

In the coming year, Angel Tree Sports Clinic will continue to grow, offering additional sports and locations to at-risk youth with a parent behind bars. It's just one way Angel Tree helps kids discover God's love year-round. Turn the page to learn how Angel Tree Camping® also expands Angel Tree's impact beyond Christmas.

At my camp we put God first in everything. Everything that we do in front of the kids, we do for a reason ... them watching me pray before I do this event or watching us do the drill. Even the parents, they can take something from this. —Kenny Clark, Green Bay Packers Defensive Tackle & Former Angel Tree Child

— “ ” —

861 kids across the
United States attended sports clinics in FY18.



ANGEL TREE®

Camping

Discovering God's Love in the Great Outdoors

Angel Tree has a profound impact throughout the year—not just at Christmas.

In addition to Christmas gifts, sports clinics, and Bibles, thousands of kids receive scholarships to attend caring, experienced Christian summer camps through Angel Tree Camping.

Since the 1990s, Angel Tree Camping has grown by leaps and bounds. Every summer, thousands of children now have the opportunity to create unforgettable memories, build relationships with caring counselors, and experience the love of God in the great outdoors. Days are filled with new activities like archery, horseback riding, swimming, and hiking.

Evenings are a great time for conversations with caring camp staff, who are ready to share the good news that God offers healing, forgiveness, and hope for the hurts in these young lives. At camp, many children hear the Gospel for the first time, bringing renewal into their hearts and lives.

This fiscal year, we served more campers than ever before. More than **7,000 boys and girls** got a camping scholarship, a tote bag, and a Bible—but we plan to top that number in the next fiscal year!

Your generosity is restoring prisoners and their families, but we want to do more—including making the entire criminal justice system more restorative. Read how we're pursuing this bold vision on the next page.

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This camp is my second home, and I feel so safe here. I hope next year more kids can come to camp. This place is amazing. The counselors really do care. They want us to have a relationship with God.

—Angel Tree Camper, Pennsylvania



In FY18, 135 camping partners from **32 states** served **7,157 Angel Tree children.**

Advancing Justice, Advocating for Change

Restoring lives and families on a broader scale requires changing the justice system at the state and federal levels.

Nationwide, more than **40,000 Justice Advocates** partner with Prison Fellowship to advance biblically based justice reform campaigns. Prison Fellowship also equips more than **150 Justice Ambassadors** to take more intensive action to lobby their elected officials, write letters to the editor, and host community events on justice reform.

This year, campaigns in Virginia, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and eight other states focused on advancing juvenile justice reform, promotion of second chances, sentencing reform, and other critical issues. Prison Fellowship also advocated vigorously for comprehensive prison reform that would improve programming and help reduce recidivism for men and women in federal correctional facilities.

These efforts are paying off. The conversation on justice reform is shifting—all the way to the top. This year, amid the effort to pass significant federal prison reform, Prison Fellowship has been to the White House frequently. Prison Fellowship leaders have met with Vice President Mike Pence, consulted with presidential adviser Jared Kushner, and convened with other criminal justice reform leaders at the White House Prison Reform Summit with President Donald Trump.

Beyond reform of the justice system, Prison Fellowship is working to improve outcomes for people who have paid their debt to society. Learn how on the next page!

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The tools and training provided by Prison Fellowship are not only useful but help fuel my passion to help change the broken justice system. —Jeff Walsh, Justice Ambassador & Pastor, Texas

40,000+ Justice Advocates
are working to advance justice that restores.



Craig DeRoche, Vice President Mike Pence,
and James J. Ackerman at the White House



Unlocking Second Chances and Brighter Futures

Once again in 2018, Prison Fellowship celebrated April as Second Chance Month. This nationwide movement, launched by Prison Fellowship in 2017, raises awareness of the barriers faced by people who have paid their debt to society and seeks to remove obstacles to their success.

Starting with a kick-off event at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., Second Chance Month gained national attention following a White House proclamation recognizing the annual designation. **Before the month was over, the U.S. Senate and 16 state and local jurisdictions also set aside April as a time for second chances.**

Second Chance 5Ks in Minnesota and Ohio, and a prayer walk in Washington, D.C., raised awareness and celebrated second chances. The month also included film screenings, briefings on Capitol Hill, and “Second Chance Sundays” at numerous churches.

A far-reaching media campaign brought the message of second chances to **800 million people**, helping shift our nation’s criminal justice narrative to one of redemption and restoration for people made in God’s image.

On the next page, learn how Prison Fellowship is also seeking to change the narrative inside our nation’s prisons by equipping wardens to be transformational leaders.

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Everyone deserves a second chance. Right now, people with a felony record—people with any sort of criminal record—have a really difficult time finding housing, employment, or getting an education. It’s almost like serving a second prison sentence after you’ve already done your time.”

—Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, Second Chance 5K First-Place Finisher



Nearly **200 organizations** joined
Prison Fellowship as **Second Chance Month**
partners in 2018.





Reimagining Prison Through a Lens of Restoration

Restoring prisoners' lives and families depends a lot on the right prison environment.

The atmosphere and leadership of a facility can reinforce or derail the life changes of the people who live there.

That's why, in 2014, Prison Fellowship launched Warden Exchange[®], a program that convenes prison leaders for high-quality, interactive, transformational leadership training. Warden Exchange prepares participants to foster more restorative prison environments that help men and women change their lives for the better.

This fiscal year, **15 wardens** and assistant wardens graduated from Warden Exchange at a ceremony in Denver, Colorado. The 2018 class included **15 people representing five prisons** in the residency program, and **18 additional leaders** in the online-only program. Prison Fellowship also launched a Warden Exchange podcast series, "Reimagining Prison," which tackles critical issues in the world of corrections.

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It opened up my eyes to a very different way of thinking in corrections. —Tim Callahan,
Warden Exchange Graduate



Since Warden Exchange began,
72 prison leaders have
completed the residency program,
and **33** have completed the
online-only class.

OUR MISSION:

Restore those affected by crime and incarceration

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018

Total Support & Revenue

● Contributions
\$38,547,000

● Other Revenue*
\$1,940,000

Total
\$40,487,000

+9.2%
from FY17

*OTHER REVENUE INCLUDES:

● Rental Income and Other Misc. Revenue
\$1,346,000

● Change in Split Interest Agreements
(\$201,000)

● Investment Return
\$819,000

● Loss on Sale and Disposal of Property
(\$24,000)

Contribution Statistics:

DEC

largest giving month

\$1M

single largest gift from three donors

581

number of gifts greater than \$5,000

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OUR VISION:

To see all affected by crime reconciled to God, their families, and their communities.

Total Expense Breakdown

\$40,361,000

+6.9%
from FY 17



● Prison Ministry +11.2%
\$24,113,000

● Public Education +7.0%
\$3,249,000

● Fundraising +1.8%
\$9,106,000

● Management and General -4.9%
\$3,893,000

FY18 Net Assets (in thousands)



To see complete audited financials, go to prisonfellowship.org/resources/financials







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prisonfellowship.org

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