Dear Friend,

At Prison Fellowship®, fiscal year 2020 prompted an unexpected double vision. The realities of the COVID-19 pandemic caused us to look again at how we serve those affected by crime and incarceration. With God’s grace, we met the challenges head-on, adapted quickly, and did not slow down.

Thanks to your prayers and support, we have seen year-over-year contribution revenue grow 8.7 percent—praise God! We trimmed costs and were blessed to finish the year with an operating surplus, despite significantly reduced income from other sources. We’re so grateful for your unwavering commitment during these extraordinary times!

As the COVID-19 pandemic closed prisons, God blessed us with fresh creativity. We stayed connected with prisoners and their families, sharing hope and meaningful support. Amid nationwide unrest, we urged lawmakers to be a voice for our brothers and sisters of color and those in prison and to enact reform legislation.

When our founder Chuck Colson’s beloved wife, Patty, passed this spring, I imagined their joyful heavenly reunion. I thank God that we carry on their legacy, “to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives” (Isaiah 61:1).

For some time, our board of directors has pursued a commitment to diversify in order to better reflect the population we serve. I’m proud to acknowledge our five new directors. Their talents and experience will truly bless the vital work of this ministry.

I couldn’t wait to share this report with you. May it inspire you with the incredible ways God has allowed us to pivot our ministry.

And thank you! Through God’s faithfulness, your prayers, and your generosity, together we’ve forged new pathways as we remember those in prison!

James J. Ackerman
President and Chief Executive Officer
We distributed **75,432** Bibles to the men, women, and children we serve.

We served **2,984** men and women in Prison Fellowship Academy sites in **110** correctional facilities across **29** states.
More than 300,000 children of incarcerated parents in 1,323 correctional facilities received gifts and the Gospel through Angel Tree volunteers from 7,365 churches and organizations.

We convened 58 wardens and prison officials in Warden Exchange residential and online cohorts.

We gave out 47,611 copies of Outrageous Justice during the fiscal year, and 15,679 of those were dispensed in the wake of the pandemic, April through June.
The COVID-19 Pivot
The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

—Isaiah 61:1-3
EXPANDING TO MEET UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND

Getting Bibles into prisons when our staff and volunteers couldn’t get in proved to be a tremendous opportunity we were well suited to meet. We aggressively expanded the offerings available on the Storehouse, Prison Fellowship’s online marketplace of free resources for in-prison chaplains.

Just weeks after COVID-19 hit, we contacted more than 1,300 chaplains in our network, encouraging them to visit the Storehouse for access to free Bibles, devotionals, and other life-giving resources to better serve the men and women in their care. Shattering our expectations, in the first 48 hours, we fulfilled requests for more than 6,500 Bibles!

In addition, just in time for Easter we distributed 950 copies of the Women’s Devotional Bible across Georgia’s four women’s prisons. Within a couple months, we had fulfilled requests for over 15,000 Bibles. And, as correctional facilities quarantined incoming prisoners in light of COVID-19, to support their entry into prison life, we supplied more than 5,100 copies of the Reception and Orientation (R&O) edition of Inside Journal®.

Well before the pandemic, Prison Fellowship began offering numerous free resources to prisoners through creative partnerships. In September, we teamed up with B&H Publishing to bring prisoners 10,000 copies of the latest bestseller of author and pastor Louie Giglio.

God continues to show His love and generosity. We are extremely grateful for His provisions.
I just wanted to say a big thank you!! The [Inside Journal] Life Recovery Bible has changed my life!!! It has helped me through jail, my mother’s cancer, the charges and reason I am here. ... I would have never made it out of my darkness. Thanks for changing lives!
—Mel, incarcerated in Pennsylvania
At Prison Fellowship, hope isn’t just an idea—it’s something we unleash. Every year we share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ through Hope Events. We were heartbroken when the pandemic forced prisons to close to visitors this Easter. But God made a way for us to bring a Hope Event™ into prison—virtually!

Each Prison Fellowship Hope Event features inspiring speakers, musicians, and other performers who share that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. This year was no different—praise God! We collaborated with our partners and recorded a full Easter celebration—including music, testimonies, and a beautiful altar call. This glorious celebration debuted on our new Floodlight™ platform (see page 12), and through partnerships with 20 departments of corrections, we shared it inside their prisons via closed-circuit television!

Easter Hope Events are an annual tradition started by our founder, Chuck Colson, and his wife, Patty. They understood that these shared worship experiences not only offer a break from the challenges of prison life, but they also give incarcerated men and women the opportunity to say yes to Jesus Christ and join a faith community behind bars.

We are so grateful to witness to this truth: COVID-19 may have closed America’s prisons, but it didn’t shut out the hope of Jesus.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. —Romans 15:13
“You are not forgotten.
You are not abandoned.”
—Richard Andrew,
Easter Virtual Hope Event artist
SHINING LIGHT IN A DARK SEASON

As the pandemic cast a pall everywhere, men and women in prison were particularly affected. Necessary health precautions locked down prisons and led to the cancellation of regular in-prison programming. That meant prisoners were required to remain in their cells or dorms, and many faced great isolation, despair, and even depression.

So we created Floodlight, our new online portal, to provide these men and women with dynamic education and inspiring entertainment.

Though we could no longer go inside, this collaboration with top Christian content providers, such as Alpha, Celebrate Recovery, and others, shines the light and hope of Jesus among one of our nation’s most vulnerable populations.

Floodlight delivers free, high-quality video content corrections staff may download and share on prison televisions and tablets (where available). This uplifting and faith-based programming quickly proved to be a safe and creative means of continuing in-prison instruction, such as Prison Fellowship Academy® classes. The platform includes the Purpose Driven Life video series, the financial planning course, Compass, Celebrate Recovery’s Life’s Healing Choices series, and even access to the feature film Mully.

COVID-19 closed prisons, but it could not keep out the light of Christ.

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.
—3 John 1:4

Amid all that’s happening around us during this pandemic, God is making a way for Prison Fellowship to bring the Good News into prisons however we can.

SHINING LIGHT IN A DARK SEASON
Floodlight brings high-quality, faith-based content to prisons—potentially reaching 420,000 incarcerated viewers in 41 states—right where they are.

You are changing lives and making a huge impact with [Floodlight].
—Illinois Prison Chaplain
When this year’s plans for Angel Tree Camping® and Angel Tree Sports Clinic™ shifted amid public health concerns, we made new plans! We made countless calls to Angel Tree® families throughout the spring and summer to offer prayer and encouragement. We also sent more than **2,300 care packages** to Angel Tree families, each including a $150 grocery gift card, a Bible, an age-appropriate evangelistic booklet, and a sports ball to encourage outdoor play. Each package also held a note to say, “You matter to us, and we want you to know that we are in this together.”

Angel Tree Sports Clinic reached the children we serve with our first-ever virtual basketball training, to help kids keep moving and even honing their skills while safely sheltering at home.

We are so grateful for every church that supported Angel Tree last Christmas. We will continue to deliver—safely—the hope of Jesus' birth to families of prisoners nationwide. This coming year, our church partners may choose to supply the Gospel and gifts purchased in person or through our newly developed Virtual Angel Tree™ platform. With this new option, we will ship a Bible, a gift card, and a Christmas message from incarcerated parents to their children across the country—wherever churches aren’t able to deliver gifts directly.

*And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.* —Philippians 4:19

As our team has made phone calls to offer these packages to caregivers, we’ve had so many tell us that our call came just in time.
“Thank you for serving the Lord and sharing with our children. Thank you for the ‘surprise’ care package you sent. ... Such a blessing to our family.
—Judy, Angel Tree caregiver

Los Angeles Rams kicker
Johnny Hekker
Incarcerated men and women are among our nation’s most at-risk citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more than 40 years, Prison Fellowship has been speaking up for people behind bars. Giving voice to their safety and well-being during this unprecedented public health crisis, our advocacy team has been making their needs part of the national response.

Our efforts helped shape Congress’ $2.2 trillion response to the pandemic with the passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which led to the release and home confinement of over 7,796 federal prisoners from late March until the fiscal year-end. With several partners, in April we asked Gov. Andy Beshear to take steps to lessen the impact of COVID-19 on prison staffs, men and women incarcerated, and the community at large. Days later, the Kentucky governor commuted nearly 900 sentences.

COVID-19 has impacted our justice system, prison system, and even Second Chance® Month—our effort each April to unlock brighter futures for returning citizens. Prayer walks changed from physical to virtual. But the pandemic didn’t stop the White House and 17 governors from declaring April as Second Chance Month. More than 380 businesses, churches, and organizations joined Prison Fellowship in advocating for second chances, and 40 million people from 47 countries saw social media posts with the hashtag #SecondChanceMonth.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

—Hebrews 12:28

Our Advocacy team never wavered from our commitment to those affected by crime and incarceration, representing the interests of some of the nation’s most vulnerable citizens during the pandemic.
You have to give people a second chance. You can’t just turn your back on them.
—Luis Centeno, Chicago entrepreneur
Core Programs
God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

—Philippians 1:8-11
PRISON FELLOWSHIP ACADEMY
Graduating Good Citizens

PRISON FELLOWSHIP ACADEMY, our yearlong, flagship in-prison program, saw God powerfully at work in prisons during this unprecedented year. Most Prison Fellowship programs are in state-run facilities, nearly all of which halted admission of outside visitors in response to the pandemic. Still, Academy participants showcased exciting commitment and creativity.

In the midst of the pandemic lockdown, Academy managers found innovative ways to stay in touch. The first Academy participants at Lexington’s Blackburn Correctional Complex, guided remotely by their chaplain and local program staff, conducted their own classes—and hosted a videoconference graduation ceremony “attended” by friends, family, staff, and volunteers.

With its targeted curriculum, compassionate coaches, and restorative community, the Academy leads participants to replace criminal thinking and behaviors with renewed purpose. Graduates emerge as change agents and good citizens—inside and outside of prison, and this fiscal year 672 men and women completed the program.

With its instruction in the biblically based values of community, affirmation, productivity, responsibility, restoration, and integrity, “This Prison Fellowship program really does work. I can see a difference,” the warden at the Carol S. Vance Unit near Houston said.

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. —1 Corinthians 9:25

It’s amazing to witness how the biblical values and new purpose learned by Academy participants change their lives forever.
Across 29 states, 2,471 men and 513 women participated in the Prison Fellowship Academy this year.

This is the beginning of the second chapter of my life. Thank you for forming me into the man I am today.
—Academy graduation participant
HOPE EVENTS
A Safe Place, a Sacred Space

The Gospel tells us anyone can be redeemed. Prisoners across America who attend a Prison Fellowship Hope Event find respite from the challenges of prison life and a safe place to encounter Christ. Each year, thousands of people in prison respond to that message with open hearts.

Before COVID-19 closed prisons to our staff and volunteers, a Nashville church, the Belonging Co, and recording artist Natalie Grant joined us for two Hope Events inside a Tennessee prison. More than 322 incarcerated women attended the worshipful events, and 91 responded to the Gospel. “I felt wrapped up in Jesus’ arms,” Shivonn said. “I felt His love.”

The pandemic forced us to cancel over 100 Hope Events. Even so, thousands of Hope Event attendees made first-time decisions to put their faith in Jesus or rededicate their lives to Him.

We believe that no life is beyond God’s reach. And we will continue bringing that message to prisoners around our country. Once prison officials reopen the doors of their facilities, we look forward to going back to prison to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ through one- and two-day Prison Fellowship Hope Events.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. —Romans 15:13

I never tire of seeing the hope of Christ taken into our nation’s prisons through Hope Events. As one corrections officer put it after a recent event, “Hope Events invite His work in and open doors for a better life, even inside the walls.”
There is hope. Hope for me. Hope that doesn’t disappoint. Hope from God.

—Jonathan, Hope Event attendee
Our Advocacy team made increasing higher education opportunities behind bars a top priority. In September 2019, Prison Fellowship hosted the Justice Declaration Symposium, a two-day summit that brought together nearly 80 pastors and faith leaders from around the country. U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos was a featured speaker at the event.

The following day, a delegation from the gathering, accompanied by Prison Fellowship staff, made their way to Capitol Hill, promoting reinstitution of Pell Grants for prisoners through the Restoring Education And Learning (REAL) Act of 2019. There, advocating face to face, they met with staffs in 39 Senate and House offices from 14 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, nearly 1,100 people in our advocate network sent almost 4,000 letters of support.

Our outreach, in part, helped the REAL Act gain 50 new U.S. House and Senate co-sponsors in the past fiscal year. We will continue to rally such unprecedented bipartisan support for the issue.

This spring we released The Drug Report, landmark research and analysis that reviewed the states’ disparate possession penalties, shining a light on disproportionate sentencing.
5,369 advocates took 27,000 actions, sending over 26,000 letters to federal and state lawmakers and the president.

Education is the ticket to the future for just about anyone and everyone, so we should be embracing these opportunities for brothers and sisters who are behind bars.

—Education Secretary Betsy DeVos at Prison Fellowship’s Justice Declaration Symposium
Reimagining safer, restorative prisons remains the unwavering focus of Warden Exchange®, the nation’s premier correctional leadership development program.

Continuing to equip corrections professionals, Warden Exchange brought together transformative leaders from 19 states, supporting their commitment to building safer, more rehabilitative correctional environments.

As CEOs of their institutions, wardens face a particular challenge caring for the men and women in their facilities. Warden Exchange cohorts convene corrections officials and renowned national and international thought leaders and experts in restorative justice, leadership, change management, engagement strategies, strategic planning, mindfulness, and team development. Through modern learning theory and innovative activities, program graduates emerge equipped to bring restorative change to their facilities.

Warden Exchange’s in-person and online sessions are free of charge, offering wardens from across the United States the opportunity to come together to build strong relationships, learn from one another, and share tips and best practices. Immersed in a multi-pronged, highly engaging, transformational leadership curriculum, participants reenvision prisons as a place to rehabilitate and nurture productive citizens.
This program has influenced me to think differently about my role as a warden and the impact prisons can have on our society. I am on fire to be a change agent in our department.

—Warden Exchange participant

The Warden Exchange challenges wardens to self-assess mind and heart: to embrace greatness, to re-examine views, and to evaluate the status quo—all with the goal of transforming communities both behind bars and beyond.

18 residency and 40 online participants attended the Warden Exchange this fiscal year.
Every Christmas, Angel Tree celebrates the birth of Jesus—the greatest gift of all—by being His hands and feet to the families of prisoners.

The hope and joy of the Savior illuminate the bond between incarcerated parents and their children, as Angel Tree provides a pathway for strengthening and restoring their family relationships.

This fiscal year, Angel Tree deployed ministry partners in all 50 states to make connection possible once again for families! Moms and dads in more than a thousand U.S. correctional facilities signed up their children to receive a gift in their name. At Christmas, volunteers from over 7,000 churches and organizations supplied a gift, the Gospel, and a personal note to over 300,000 children on behalf of their incarcerated parents.

Whether it’s the story of fulfilling the wish of a blind child, whose gift tag simply read, “Books in Braille,” or any of the thousands of joy-filled accounts of present deliveries, the love of Jesus warms the hearts of Angel Tree volunteers, parents, and children alike.

All your children will be taught by the Lord, and great will be their peace.
—Isaiah 54:13

What a joy it is to see family bonds strengthened and lives changed eternally through the giving of a gift and the sharing of God’s Word.
Thank you so much for giving my children Christmas gifts on my behalf. I cannot begin to express how much it means to me that you would do something so great in the name of our Lord ... I’ve made it a point to change my life for the better, with the goal of being the best man and father I can be.

—Adam, incarcerated parent

Angel Tree families received **27,587** Bibles in fiscal 2020.
Prison Fellowship continued to expand our ministry programs to bring restoration to women whose various histories—herstories—culminated in incarceration. Through events, resources, and intensive programs that offer healing and transformation, we’re providing support to help women replace addiction and despair with futures of hope and purpose.

We launched additional Prison Fellowship Academy sites at women’s prisons. Circulation of our Inside Journal’s women’s edition hit new heights. And we put more copies of the easy-to-read Women’s Devotional Bible in prisoners’ hands than ever before.

But perhaps the most exciting expansion of Prison Fellowship programming for women was this year’s official launch of Create: New Beginnings®, a series of restorative in-prison art workshops tailor-made to the topics and needs of women behind bars.

Create: New Beginnings consists of 10 modules covering restorative topics, including vulnerability, emotions, self-doubt, shame, empathy, accountability, forgiveness, courage, pride, and reconciliation. Participants dive into the topics and use art to explore in new ways emotions they may never have addressed before. Through the combination of artwork, creative activities, and group discussions, participants work toward healing and personal growth. They develop a sense of community, restoration, peace, and purpose, as they work in harmony alongside volunteers and prison staff.

Women’s incarceration is growing fast, and so our women’s programs are responding by expanding. Our Create: New Beginnings workshops, both in prison and virtually, are helping women to be transformed through art.

God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.
—Psalm 46:5
It’s very inspiring, and I’m grateful to have been part of this experience.
—Create: New Beginnings participant

We distributed 2,898 Women’s Devotional Bibles, and 525 women participated in the Academy this fiscal year.
Financials
Why are you cast down, 
O my soul, and why are 
you in turmoil within me? 
Hope in God; for I shall 
again praise him, 
my salvation and 
my God.

—Psalm 42:11
OUR MISSION
Restore those affected by crime and incarceration
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020

“Christians have a special responsibility—not only to be good stewards of the funds God has entrusted to us, but, by our stewardship itself, to be good witnesses to a watching world.” —Charles W. Colson (1930–2012)

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TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE

$44,616,000

Contributions $43,772,000
Other Revenue* $844,000

*OTHER REVENUE INCLUDES:
- Rental Income and Other Miscellaneous Revenue $885,000
- Change in Split Interest Agreements ($81,000)
- Investment Return (Net) $40,000

CONTRIBUTION STATISTICS

DEC
largest giving month
$1.25M
largest gift received from single donor
658
number of gifts greater than $5,000
OUR VISION
To see all affected by crime reconciled to God, their families, and their communities

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TOTAL EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

$45,354,000
+5.9% from FY19

- Prison Ministry
  $27,359,000

- Public Education
  $4,140,000

- Fundraising
  $9,444,000

- Management and General
  $4,411,000

FY20 NET ASSETS (IN THOUSANDS)

Without Donor Restrictions: $20,422
With Donor Restrictions: $16,740
Total: $37,162

To see complete audited financials, go to prisonfellowship.org/resources/financials. Prison Fellowship finished FY 2020 with a $199,000 operating surplus.