

# Vocation as Ministry

*Speaking and Living Justice*



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# Introduction

Remember those in prison



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“”

...remember **those in prison** as if you were together with them in prison and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

HEBREWS 13:3

3 | Remember those in prison



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## What We Do

### Restore Prisoners

Our biblically based programs and training help men and women participate in a positive community behind bars, discover new paths for their lives, and continue in the freedom of a transformed life.

### Equip Leaders

Warden Exchange convenes corrections officials who want to enhance their leadership skills, exchange transformative best practices, and join a network of peers committed to creating safer communities inside and outside of prison.

### Minister to Families

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree™ serves incarcerated parents by providing a pathway for restoring and strengthening their relationships with their children and families.

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## What We Do

### Support Successful Reentry

Prison Fellowship works with local churches and community organizations to connect returning men and women with reentry resources and support that will help them transition successfully into life after prison.

### Advocate for Justice Reform

Prison Fellowship advocates for federal and state criminal justice reforms that help transform those responsible for crime, validate victims, and encourage churches and communities to play a role in creating a safe, redemptive, and just society.

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*But what is*  
**Vocation?**

Remember those in prison

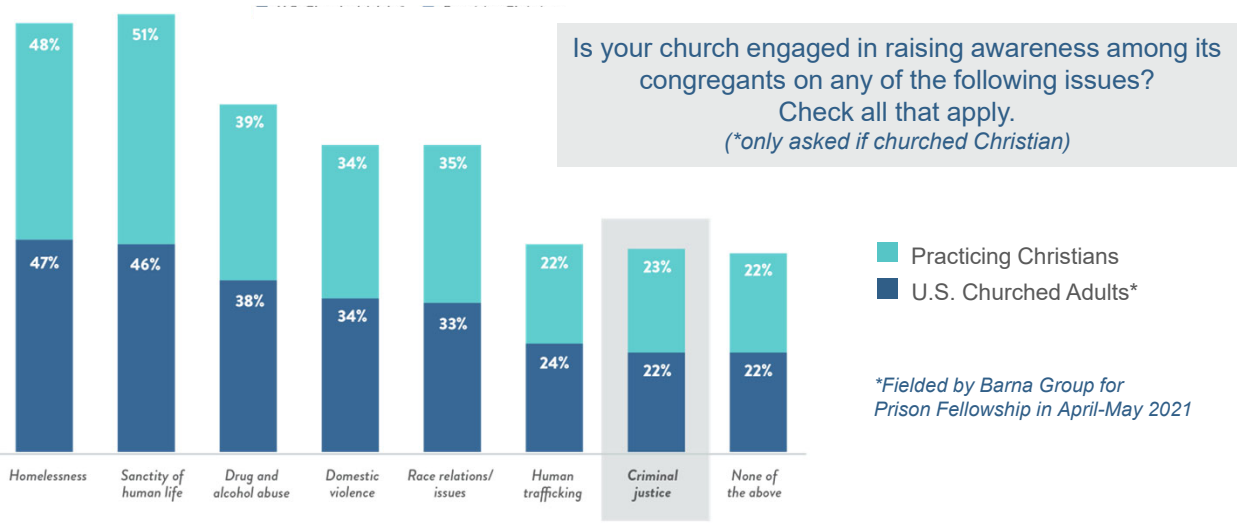
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## The Problem: Inadequate Engagement



Remember those in prison



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Vocation is...

# Ministry

9 Remember those in prison

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## The Solution

01

**HELP**

prisoners find a new life path.

02

**CARE**

for the families of prisoners.






03

**GIVE**


former prisoners a second chance.

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<p>MOSES</p> 	<p>DAVID</p> 	<p>ZACCHAEUS</p> 	<p>PAUL</p> 	
<p>11   Remember those in prison</p>				

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<p>Remember those in prison</p>	<p><b>“Moses spent forty years thinking he was somebody; forty years learning he was nobody; and forty years discovering what God can do with a nobody.”</b></p>	<p>D.L. MOODY @ALEXANDRIACHURCHOF GOD</p>	
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Martin Luther

Every occupation has its own honor before God. Ordinary work is a divine vocation or calling. In our daily work no matter how important or mundane we serve God by serving the neighbor and we also participate in God's on-going providence for the human race.

AZ QUOTES

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"PREACH THE GOSPEL, DIE,  
AND BE FORGOTTEN"

NICOLAUS ZINZENDORF

14 | Remember those in prison

PRISON FELLOWSHIP

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15 | Remember those in prison



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## In Prison for a Purpose

### IN 1974

Chuck Colson, a top aide to President Nixon, entered a plea of guilty to a Watergate-related charge. Although not implicated in the Watergate burglary, he voluntarily pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice. As a new Christian, he served seven months in Alabama's Maxwell Federal Prison Camp.



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## In Prison for a Purpose

### BELIEVING THAT GOD WAS CALLING HIM

to remember the people affected by incarceration, Chuck Colson founded Prison Fellowship in 1976. Today the ministry is the nation's largest Christian nonprofit serving prisoners, former prisoners, and their families.



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## OUR MISSION

is to restore those affected by crime and incarceration.

## OUR VISION

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

18 | Remember those in prison



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## OUR PASSION

Prison Fellowship was founded on the conviction that **all people are created in God’s image** and that **no life is beyond God’s reach**. As Christians, we believe that Jesus—Himself brought to trial, executed, buried, and brought to life again—offers **hope, healing, and a new purpose for each life**. Through an **amazing awakening to new hope and life purpose**, those who once broke the law are transformed and mobilized to serve their neighbors, replacing the cycle of crime with a **cycle of renewal**.

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## Our Impact

7,222

**PRISONERS**  
participating in Prison Fellowship classes each month

8,200+

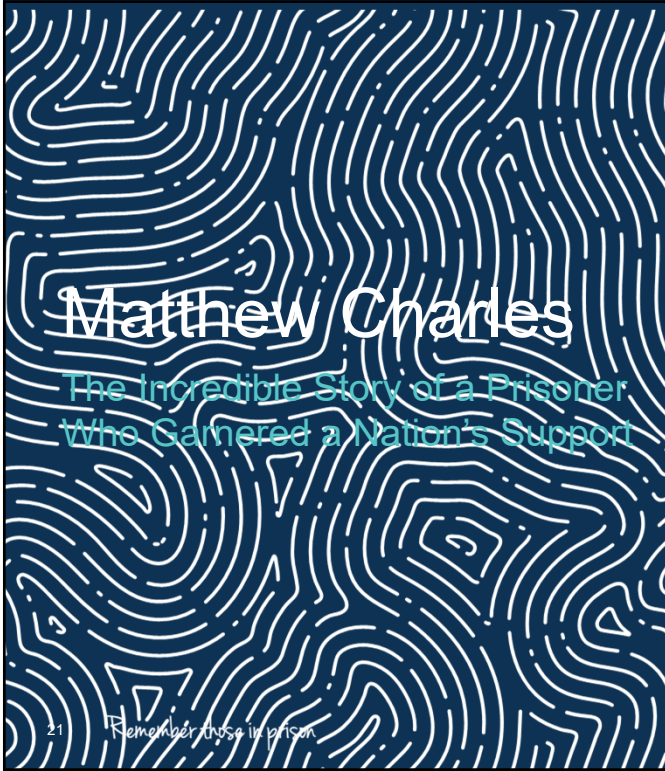
**VOLUNTEERS**  
across the country

236,965

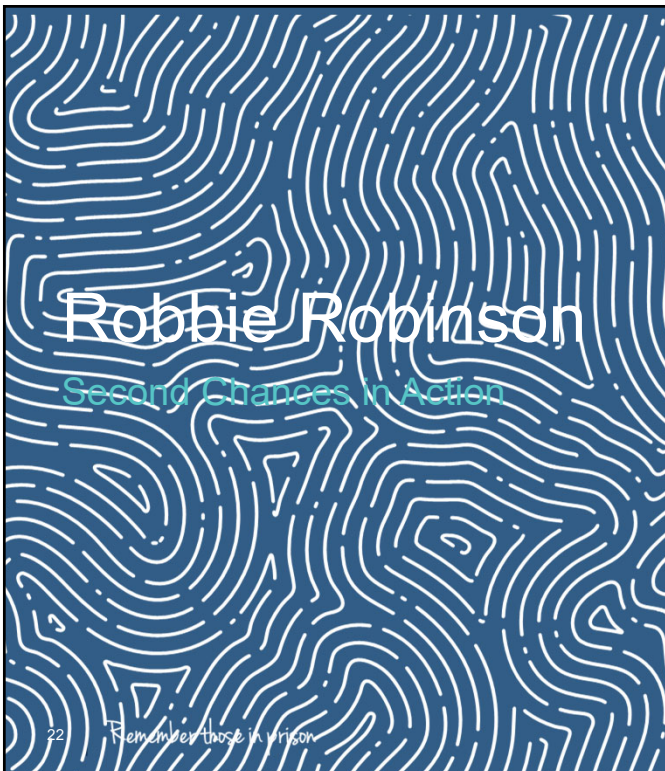
**CHILDREN**  
Connected to a church in 2021 to receive the Gospel and a Christmas gift on behalf of an incarcerated parent

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SECTION 01

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*Pursuing Righteousness in Vocation*

# Leading with Values

23 Remember those in prison

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## Our Approach: Justice that Restores

We advocate for a criminal justice system that:

- Recognizes and advances the dignity and value of human life
- Prioritizes victim participation
- Cultivates community engagement
- Promotes proportional punishment, constructive corrections culture, and closure for those who have paid their debt to society

HARMED PARTY

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

COMMUNITY

PRISON FELLOWSHIP

24 | Remember those in prison

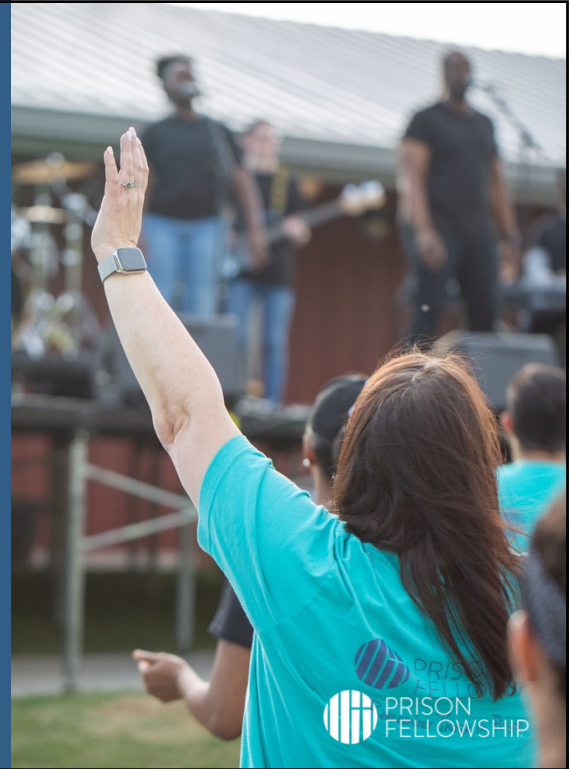
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## Leading with Values

### Christian Perspectives on Justice

- Affirm that the God of the Bible is a just God: *justice flows from God's very character*
- Treat every human being as a person made in God's own image
- Redouble our efforts to prevent crime by cultivating the "*seedbeds of virtue*," including families, churches, neighborhoods, schools, and other sources of moral formation

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*Practical Ideas:*

## Putting Your Faith Into Action

26 | Remember those in prison

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“”

Learn to do good;  
seek justice, correct  
oppression.

ISAIAH 1:17

“”

Open your mouth,  
judge righteously,  
defend the rights of  
the poor and needy.

PROVERBS 31:9

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## Practical Steps

# Advocate for Justice Reform

Prison Fellowship advocates for federal and state criminal justice reforms that help transform those responsible for crime, validate victims, and encourage churches and communities to play a role in creating a safe, redemptive, and just society.

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## Change Your Language

### Labels are powerful

- Can separate people into “us” and “them”
- Felon. Convict. Ex-offender. Inmate.
- We don’t want to be identified by our sins but by our relationship in Christ.

### Change your language to reflect human dignity

- We are all made in God’s image
- “People in prison” and “returning neighbors”



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## What is the role of the church?

We believe Scripture teaches that the Church is the **primary conduit** for God's ongoing ministry here on Earth.

For this reason, we delight to be a part of **equipping the Church** for works of service. As we work with incarcerated people and their families, we recall Jesus' words not to forget "**justice, mercy, and faithfulness**" (MATTHEW 23:23).

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## Thank You

### QUESTIONS?

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