



# INSIDE OUTSIDE

Volume 2, Issue 4

May 2008

Prison Network Ministries

## INSIDE STORIES



### COMPASSION HOPE SUPPORT

Prison Network's Mission is 'to support women who are, or have been in the Victoria prison system; providing practical, emotional and spiritual support to the women and their families; bringing hope and encourage-

ment to enable them to reach their full potential'. them through this difficult time.

Once released the work continues: There's readjusting to family life again, and the family readjusting to mum being home again.

many challenges and barriers to overcome in reintegrating back into society again. Prison Network will be there to encourage and cheer them on through these times of uncertainty.

#### Bringing hope and encouragement...

ment to enable them to reach their full potential'.

Life in prison can be very traumatic for the women as well as their families. Their families have to deal with life without their mum/wife being around for a time. The experience for the family is usually stressful and life changing. Prison Network is there to support

Mum doesn't always come home the same person she was when she went in to prison. Some for worse, some for the better. Either way the initial six months after release is the toughest. Prison Network is there to support them through this time of readjustment.

Over the next 12- 24 months there will be

Why do we do it? Because we believe in them. We believe everyone has the potential to change and have a satisfying life if they have supportive people to work side by side with them.

Come to Inside Stories and hear first-hand from the women about the impact jail has had on them and their families and be inspired by the women who are turning their lives around.

**Inside stories held:-**

### Inside this issue:

PNM's New Program: 'Fun with mums' 2

The perfect Time!! 3

"..I deserve respect.." 4

Have we got a story for you 4

*"I've been to all the Inside Stories events and I thought they were fabulous. I wouldn't miss going to another one".*



**Where:**  
Life Christian Church  
90-92 Mitchell St  
Maidstone

**When**  
Saturday 24th May at  
7.30pm

**For more information**  
Phone: 9873 4190 Or  
0413 708 382 or  
visit our website



Praise from the prison for new program

# Fun With Mum

Last year a series of discussions took place between the General Manager of the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre - Mr Brendan Money, Prison Fellowship and Prison Network Ministries. These discussions identified that there was an exciting opportunity to deliver an interactive and fun program during child/ren access visits on a Sunday that would foster the mother/child relationship and bond, improve the quality of the visits and make the visit a far more meaningful experience for both the mother and her child/ren. It was decided that the program would run on the first Sunday of every month and there would be a range of themes, which include: circus and magic, bears and teddies, clothes and dress-ups, story telling in family units, card making, painting etc.



On Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2008 the first program was implemented. There were approximately 20 women with children in the room at any one time. On this day, the theme was Pirate Hats.

The child/mother interaction was very warming to watch as a spectator. The children loved the hat cut outs, coloured paper, little stick on items etc. There was plenty of stationary available for their use and help from the volunteers if needed.

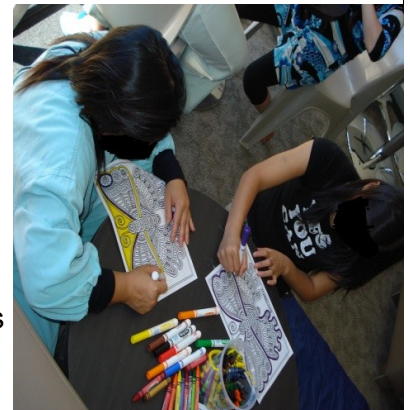
I believe that this program will be one of our biggest assets in helping the mother/child bond. The area was placid, stress free and the ambience was one of kindness a healthy interaction and warmth.

The women's feedback of the program was that they really enjoyed it and would not change anything about it.

Furthermore, the volunteers did a fantastic job; they were helpful when needed and never intrusive.

We look forward to many more in the future

Kathy Katzourakis  
Programs Coordinator  
Dame Phyllis Frost Centre



## COMMENTS BY PRISON STAFF & WOMEN

*"seeing the Mums interacting with their kids so well during the activities was great to see. Thanks for running this".*

*"the variety of activities is really good and there is plenty to do, we really enjoyed it thank you".*

*"It was really fun"!!*



**THE PERFECT TIME!!**

In the past week, the following comments have been said to us.

“Having you ladies at D.P.F.C is the greatest asset all of us girls could have. You give us the one thing we lose quickly and that is our DIGNITY.” (Mia)

“PNM gives women a listening ear; someone to laugh with, cry with and someone who will accept them the way they are without fear of judgement.” (A Prison Officer.)

“If I didn’t have PNM when I got out, I would’ve gone completely crazy! They kept me sane and on track. I hate to think where me and my children would be without them.” (Leanne)

Other women we’ve spoken to have been horrified and many reacted in a way that could best be described as frightened, when asked how they’d feel if Prison Network Ministries could not continue. Our question to them was hypothetical, and we are not concerned about such an occurrence at this stage, however to continue to do all that we do and faced with such enormous and growing needs every day we really need your help. We are constantly aware that this is a ministry close to God’s own heart and would simply ask that as the end of the financial year comes around you would prayerfully consider what YOU may be able to give to help this vital ministry continue.

Every day we are left in absolutely no doubt that the work of PNM makes a crucial difference in the lives of so many women and children.

So, if you have ever considered giving to PNM, this may be THE PERFECT TIME! Your gift will not only assist the ministry but will also give you a reason to look forward more enthusiastically to your tax return!

**Yes, I can see that PNM makes a real difference to the lonely and disadvantaged. I will make the following donation to help this vital ministry to continue.**

To make a donation simply fill out the credit card form attached or send a cheque payable to:

**Prison Network Ministries, PO Box 46, Kerrimuir, VIC, 3129**

Thank you for remembering those in prison who need all the support they can get to start a new life!

I will donate  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$\_\_\_\_\_ Please charge my: VISA Mastercard

weekly  fortnightly  monthly  one off

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name of cardholder:..... Signature: .....

**Please detach and mail to Prison Network Ministries, PO Box 46, Kerrimuir, Vic 3129**

*All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Please fill out your address details below to receive your receipt.*

Street address: ..... State: ..... Postcode: .....

Contact number:..... Name:.....

**Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Cor. 9:7**



**“...I deserve to be treated with kindness, consideration, respect, fairness and without judgement.”**

*Katie Souza, a former model, radio D.J, ex-cocaine user and methamphetamine cook and dealer, was originally sentenced to 12 and a half years in a U.S federal prison, and on appeal had her time reduced and miraculously ended up serving only 5 years. Whilst in prison, God did an amazing work in her life and she devoured His word. She soon began running bible study groups which were attended by over 100 women at a time. A short time after her release in 2004 Katie wrote a book and last year came to Australia, in July, to try and get a copy of her book/study guide “The Captivity Series”, placed in every prison. Her prayer is for the book to be used by God to show how we can enter into our created purpose while here on earth and to always keep in mind that the ultimate expected end God plans for each of us, is to reign with Him forever. The various events we go through on this pilgrimage are just preparations for this Day. Katie takes Israel’s journey in, through and out of prison and directly parallels it to the incarceration experience inmates face today. Throughout the study, Katie creates excitement and hope for her readers by interweaving her own miraculous prison story into each teaching. PNM asked her to share her story at both Tarrengower and the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre and this letter was sent to Katie by one of the women at Deer Park, after her visit. The letter was then emailed back to us as an encouragement to keep doing what we do.*

Dear Katie

I’ll never forget the day you came to the prison and spoke about your life and how you found God. You were so inspirational, I didn’t want you to leave. Thanks for taking the time to come and visit us. I’m still at ‘The Dame Phyllis Frost Centre’ My release date was 13th September 07, but I can’t leave until appropriate accommodation is found, which will probably take another month. I’m excited to be getting out of here and starting a new chapter of my life.

I have also found God through the gentle prodding and kindness of the Prison Network Ministry. Now that I’m in God’s hands, I feel safe for the first time in my life. By meeting good people like yourself, and the people in the Prison Network Ministry, I’ve been shown I deserve to be treated with kindness, consideration, respect, fairness and without judgement. Hanging out with people who also believe in God’s greatness makes me feel very optimistic. Some of your books have been put in the library and they are really popular!

Take Care, Alice

## Have we got a story for you!

*Prisons are generally places of mystery and intrigue. Most people have limited understanding of the impact imprisonment has on women and the dilemmas their families face. To hear more of their struggles and amazing transformations*

*contact -*

**Debra Redford** at PNM

Email: [office@prisonnetwork.org.au](mailto:office@prisonnetwork.org.au) or

Phone: 0413 708 382

*PNM speaks at women’s groups, youth groups, conferences and churches.*

## PNM Contact Information

Prison Network Ministries  
PO Box 46  
Kerrimuir 3129  
Victoria

To contact Laurel,  
Jody, Katharine or Deb  
Phone: 03 9873 4190  
[office@prisonnetwork.org.au](mailto:office@prisonnetwork.org.au)

### PNM’s New Website

PNM now has a new presence on the internet at:  
<http://prisonnetwork.org.au>

### PNM Prayer Notes

If you would like to receive a copy of PNM’s monthly Prayer Notes, send an email to Deb Redford or drop her a line. Details are on the left. Your prayers will be valued and appreciated.