



Pathways to Freedom Ministries



FREE THOUGHTS - Newsletter

V.3 Edition 2

FALL 2014

Mark your Calendars:

October 4, 2014	Ride for Refuge
October 23, 24, 2014	Global Leadership Summit, Hosted by Rock Church, Lower Sackville
October 29, 2014	Forgive/Forgotten RJ Play @ First Baptist Church, Halifax
November 3, 2014	PTFM Board Meeting
November 15, 2014	PTFM Restorative Justice Breakfast, Details TBA
November 16 - 22, 2014	Restorative Justice Week (PTFM Prayer Event to be announced)

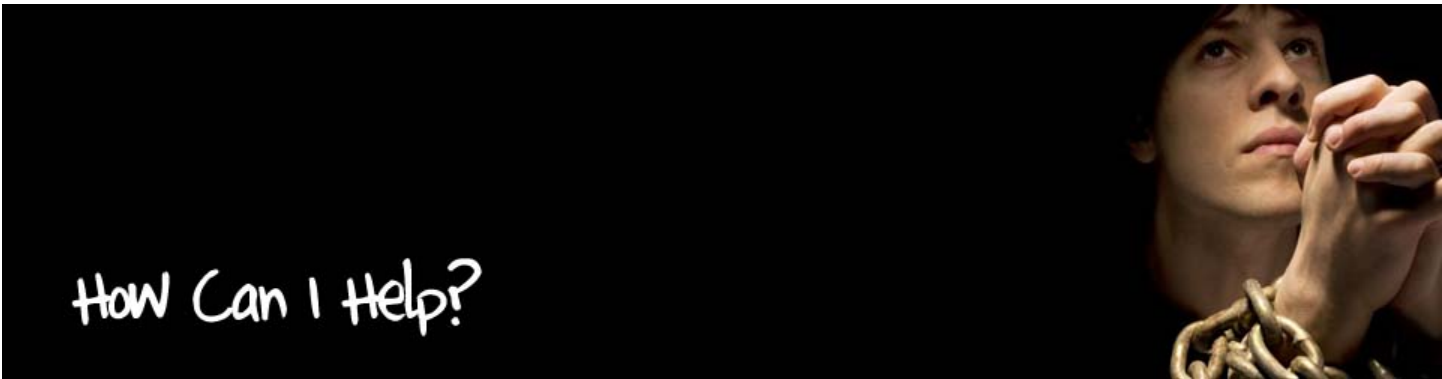


From the Editors Pen

Where is 2014 going? We are at the end of September already, the leaves are turning colour and a chill is in the air. As I was preparing to put this edition of our twice-yearly newsletter together I prayed about what I should focus my editor's note on. I thought about the change of seasons and how it is a **TIME** of refreshment. At the same time, the Lord showed me our Executive Directors (ED) heart. You will see this edition's feature article is about service, but I think God is saying **TIME** factors into our service. Service comes in many forms, we serve our clients as we write to them, and visit them. We serve the chaplains as we support them in our visits to the institutions, sometimes our visit means as much to the resident chaplain as it does to the men and women we are visiting. We serve as we raise awareness for those inside and their needs. Are you serving? Our ED serves with passion and his whole heart. He travels faithfully to each facility every month he gives of his **TIME**. He serves on our board of directors giving leadership and vision. OH, vision that is service, someone has to spend

TIME waiting to receive from God; to give direction to the ministry, to keep hearing what our heavenly leader wants from us as a ministry. Serving is challenging, it takes **TIME**. Service takes **TIME, TIME** away from family, **TIME** away from friends and hobbies. Which brings me to what God has shown me, **SERVICE = TIME**, our clients "serve time", so why is it that one of our biggest challenges with those that partner with us, is giving of their **TIME**. All good things come in **TIME** and with the **TIME** given. This is not a profound message but it is deserving of some prayer. We need mentors who give of their **TIME**, board and committee volunteers who give of their **TIME**. Of course, there is the **TIME** it takes to write a check or participate in a fund-raising activity. Prayer **TIME** comes to mind too. As we reflect on the change of seasons this fall and as we fall back in the November time change and watch the leaves fall. Let us ask the Lord to give us more **TIME** to serve, to extend the **TIME** he gives us to help where He has placed us. Give us joy O Lord as we give of our **TIME**.

In Christ, Nancy Hynes, Founder and Newsletter Editor



1) PRAY: Pray for inmates hearts to be touched for God; your prayer support of PTFM is most appreciated. If you are praying for us, please let us know by phone, or email.

2) VOLUNTEER: We have inmates that are waiting for a match. Mentors are the key, and the gift of your time means so much.

- If you wish to volunteer, read our [volunteer information overview](#)

Mentoring Documents available:

- [Volunteer/Mentor Application](#)
- [Mentor pledge of service](#)
- [Pastor's Reference Letter](#)

3) INVITE: Invite our Executive Director to speak at your church to the leadership, congregation, or ministry group.

4) NETWORK: Spread the word throughout your denominational peers, and through your head offices.

5) GIVE: Financial support is welcome as this ministry is funded on donations and free will offerings made during speaking engagements.

6) SUPPORT: Administrative support is needed for tasks such as phone calls, typing, filing, communications, etc.

7) LEAD: Volunteer to sit on our board of directors or an advisory committee;

Reference website: <http://pathwaystofreedom.ca/what-we-do/how-can-i-help/>



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VOLUNTEER PERSPECTIVE

Jessica is a 20 something, recently married young woman, who serves with PTFM. Her new husband is one of our newly minted mentor volunteers. This young couple are on fire for the Lord and on fire to serve and give of their **TIME**. – Editor

It's really cool to tell people, Christian or not, that you got to go on a mission trip. Mission trips are hot-topic ministries that have always commanded attention from church communities as well as interest from the secular public. Why wouldn't they generate this interest? Missions provide an opportunity for an individual to travel, experience another culture, and feel connection with a team.

Although the trips themselves are often times uncomfortable (i.e. hot weather, long flights, witnessing tragedy, eating strange food, and the list goes on), typically they are only short in duration and one returns to the comforts of their own lifestyle with an adventurous story to tell. Since becoming a Christian, I have always wanted to be a missionary. You know, someone who actually drops everything and flies halfway around the world to serve God's kingdom in a significant way. I had the privileged of going on my first short term mission (2 weeks) in June 2013 and it felt like a tease, leaving me hungry for more. I began to pray for opportunities and finances to be able to pursue servant hood in this capacity, while at the same time expressing this passion of mine to others. In the meantime for the past two and half years, I have been volunteering on the board of directors for a local prison ministry. I do various activities like attend meetings, type up minutes, and even contribute to newsletters... Okay now I have lost your attention.

The second part of my article isn't nearly as captivating and exciting is it? Honestly, God is really been revealing His heart to me, demonstrating to me that servant hood is not entertainment. While the genuine intentions of people who pursue missions (including myself) is not to be disputed, it is also true that our flesh often seeks to serve in dramatic ways when there is just as great of a need in our own backyards. God has shown me that we should not seek to serve in ways that we want, but where HE wants us, and how we figure that out is simply to look at where and when a need arises. There is so much work waiting for us for our Father and He requires many hands to do it. If we are all pursuing the same thing, we are not going to be able to break much ground. I am here to tell you that Prison Ministry is a major need. It needs finances and more importantly, ministry partners, to mentor and help administratively.

Historically, people have not jumped out of their chairs after a message on prison ministry was presented with an invitation to sign up. Usually there is an atmosphere of tolerant respect along with an (let me put this bluntly) excuse as to why one is not right for the job. Usually this comes from fear and/or judgement. I want to challenge you today to ask God where HE wants you to be spending your timeserving. Double check, what are your motives behind where you are serving today. Do you have time to serve in multiple capacities? There are many days when I think am I really helping by passing out thank you cards at a fundraiser event? or "Does my prayer really affect breakthrough at PTFM?" God says Yes! So, I continue to serve in a position that most people would be bored to hear about or do because for the time being this is what I am called to do. I hope this contribution will prick your hearts to examine any similar feelings in your own walk. Blessings to you! -J.H.

