



Angel Tree

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

IMPACT REPORT

2020



OVERVIEW

The Angel Tree Hamper Project (ATP) is a PFS initiative rolled out annually under "70x7" whereby the inmates' handwritten letters, containing their messages seeking forgiveness and reconciliation with their family members, are personally delivered to their families. The primary objective of the Angel Tree Project is to instil the hope of restoring broken relations with their loved ones.

It aims to reflect our Heavenly Father's call to all His children to seek forgiveness when one has sinned against others and to live in peace with others in our community. These reconciliatory letters are personally delivered to the inmates' families by PFS volunteers from our ATP participating churches during Christmas. A hamper comprising of household/daily necessities, sponsored by our supporters, are also dispatched together with these letters to bring the Christmas cheer to the recipients.




The pandemic in 2020 made it impossible for the hamper items or for our volunteers to pack the items in the hampers. Through the kind sponsorship of Boxgreen Pte Ltd, the hampers were replaced with a box of healthy snacks. PFS has also decided to bless each family with a \$50.00 NTUC FairPrice stored value card from funds raised by our church partners. The deliveries were conducted in compliance with the Phase 2 COVID Safety Measures.


OUR JOURNEY

May-Jul 2020: CALL FOR DONORS & VOLUNTEERS

This was communicated to PFS's partner churches and sponsors. Letters indicating their participation as volunteers or donors were collated.




Aug 2020: SOURCING FOR SPONSORS & GIFT ITEMS




Sourcing for sponsors and gift items started early to ensure product availability and cost-saving, including printing of NTUC gift cards.

Sep 2020: REGISTRATION STARTS!

Inmates were invited to participate. Their letters and greeting cards were submitted to Singapore Prison Service for security clearance and sent to PFS for delivery to their loved ones together with the gifts.




Nov 2020: SORTING OF GIFTS & BRIEFING FOR VOLUNTEERS



Some 669 gift packs and 1,000 stored value grocery cards were delivered to PFS. These were sorted for collection by church volunteers, who were briefed on the delivery process.

Dec 2020: DELIVERY STARTS!

Like-minded and kind-hearted volunteers began the delivery of the gift packs and letters to the beneficiaries' loved ones to convey the message of love and reconciliation.



Jan 2021: FEEDBACK COLLATION & FOLLOW-UP

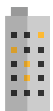
PFS invited feedback from volunteers on whether the families needed any assistance from PFS post ATP. Undelivered gift packs were also returned to PFS.

OUR PARTNERS



Partner Churches and Christian Organisations

- Agape Christian Centre
- Bartley Christian Church
- Bedok Methodist Church
- Bethany Presbyterian Church English Congregation
- Bethel Presbyterian Church
- Bethesda Hall Depot Walk
- Bethesda Pasir Ris Mission Church
- Cherith Baptist Church
- Christ Methodist Church
- Church of the Good Shepherd
- City Harvest Church
- City Missions Church
- Cornerstone Community Church
- Covenant Evangelical Free Church
- Eng Kong Christian Church
- Glory Presbyterian Church
- Grace Assembly of God
- Hope Presbyterian Church
- Jeevan Apostolic Church
- Jurong Tamil Methodist Church
- Light of Christ Church Woodlands
- Living Hope Methodist Church
- Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
- New Life Bible Presbyterian Church
- Orchard Road Presbyterian Church
- Parish of Christ Church
- Paya Lebar Methodist Church
- Pentecost Methodist Church
- Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church
- Shepherd's Assembly Church
- St. James' Church
- St. Matthew's Church
- St. Paul's Church
- St. John's Chapel
- Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church
- Toa Payoh Chinese Methodist Church
- True Way Presbyterian Church
- Wesley Methodist Church



Corporate Sponsor

- Boxgreen Pte Ltd

OUR VOLUNTEERS' TESTIMONIES



Testimonies from seven **Paya Lebar Methodist Church** volunteers:

"We participated this project hoping to bring joy to the recipient. This project cannot be fulfilled without God's help as we could not have done it with our own strength. God heard our cry for help and momentarily opened the 90-year-old lady's deaf ear to hear that we needed her address. We were overjoyed to see her smile. We experienced a great sense of satisfaction and accomplishment when we saw the joy on her face as she looked and explored the gift and letter."

I find this project meaningful as it brings love and warmth from the inmates to their loved ones. It reflects the inmates' intention to reconcile and seek forgiveness. When I contacted the inmate's daughter she was disinterested and reluctant to accept the letter and gift. She was impatient and avoided me, but I persevered on. With God's Grace, He answered our prayers. The lady's mother (ie. inmate's wife), eventually contacted me and accepted the letter and gift on the condition that we do not reveal her new address. We met her at a multi-storey carpark. She teared as she told me that they had shifted 4 years ago. I am happy that my perseverance pays off, otherwise the letter would never be delivered. The family must have been greatly hurt. We pray that the letter brings God's love and forgiveness for the family."

We volunteered for ATP project as we felt that it would be a meaningful way to spend our Christmas during this pandemic. We were humbled and touched by what we observed in the lives of the inmate's family. We had to make numerous calls to meet the inmate's wife and son to deliver his handwritten letters and gifts to them. Despite many attempts, we were unable to meet his wife as she was hospitalized and admitted to ICU. We were relieved to make contact with his 14-year-old son. We were warmly welcomed by his wife's parents in their 1-bedroom HDB flat as they were caring for his son in his mother's absence. We were saddened to hear from the grandparents that their daughter is suffering from severe diabetes while their grandson is working part time during his school holidays. It brought a lot of joy to our hearts to see the delight in their faces when we passed them his letters and gifts. In reflection, we are very grateful for the opportunity to contribute our little part to make a difference in their lives this Christmas season. We hope that our action will bring the Spirit, Love and Hope of Christ to the inmate's family to bond the family despite the temporary separation."

"From my encounter with the family, it is clear there is some disconnect and avoidance by the family with the incarcerated husband/father. Whilst the wife was cordial with us, the son remained uninterested. I sense hurt, embarrassment and suffering; the family appears resign to their circumstances and wants to move on. I am happy to facilitate this connection and possibly reconciliation between family members. As the family is said to be Christian, I hope they will forgive and reconcile with the inmate."



"I had so much fun and the entire journey was enjoyable; from the zoom briefing to collecting the gift packs, and to delivering the gifts to the families. Kudos to all volunteers for the Angel Tree Project 2020.

Meeting the families was a great experience as I saw how positive they are. The feeling of knowing someone is away but looking forward to their homecoming is very enlightening to me. Never lose hope and keep loving them as who they are. I would love to volunteer again!"

Volunteer, **St Matthew's Church**



Testimonies from six **St. Paul's Church** volunteers:

"We participated in the Angel Tree Project because we felt God wanted us to get involved. The inmates' families were very warm, friendly and open to us. We felt honoured to be involved in this noteworthy cause."

"I wanted to be an ambassador of Christ by participating in this meaningful outreach project. My experiences were very positive and encouraging. We were able to connect positively with the recipients. I am very happy to be part of this."

"I took part in ATP 2020 because as God has blessed me and my family, I wanted to bless others by reaching out to the marginalised. As a group, we experienced the joy of seeing the gratitude of the recipients as they received the gifts from their loved ones. It broke my heart that they had to be separated from their loved ones during this joyous season."

"I took part in ATP 2020 to show our care to the recipient families, especially their hurts and loss. I had a very meaningful time, seeing that the mothers were joyful and had positive outlooks. I could sense their hurt but thankful that they were still very joyful."

"I wanted to do something good and spread joy to others by participating in ATP 2020. I learned to be more sensitive to others and felt very fruitful."

"ATP 2020 enables me to render one-off voluntary work as I am not able to commit long-term. Was stepping out of comfort zone. To allay our anxiety relating to how we would be treated by the inmates' families, we had synchronised prayers before we headed out. One recipient was welcoming, one turned us down and then changed her mind and another firmly refused to have contact with the inmate. Felt sad about the third party who is a Christian and has probably been so hurt as to wish to sever ties. I pray for a change of heart and reconciliation over time. Felt inadequate in not being able to carry on a meaningful conversation beyond making the delivery. Covid-19 restrictions were not helpful either. There was a sense of relief when we completed visits. G was a good team player and his family members were very supportive. Am truly appreciative of the work that long-term volunteers do in this area."



Testimony from a family of 3 volunteers

"Our family thought that the Angel Tree Project 2020 was an especially meaningful project as it could help inmates strengthen bonds with their families. Some inmates could have been separated from their families for a long time and have yet to reconcile. This project allows the inmates to send a heartfelt message to their families during the festive season via the delivery of hand-written Christmas cards. Our family was happy to help in delivering the cards and gifts. We hoped that through our service, we could help reunite families and spread the love of Christ."

The inmates' families greeted us warmly and we had meaningful conversations. We connected with them and learn about their difficulties. We felt really appreciated and welcomed by the recipients. Seeing the smiles and joy on their faces motivated us to continue. This experience was very meaningful and rewarding.

The Angel Tree project is one where we can bring the festive joy and cheer to this group of community in a special way. We can help to reconcile inmates with their families and restore bonds that may have become estranged. This project is rewarding, and we encourage you to join us in this meaningful cause."



Testimony from husband-and-wife volunteers

"My husband and I stepped down from our service since having kids. So have been praying for opportunities to serve on an ad hoc basis. This project also spoke to me as my family member was also in prison before - but it is also through this episode that we came to Christ. Hence wanted to pass on God's blessings to other families in the same situation.

We prayed for the family before visiting them. After the first failed attempt (as he phone number wasn't valid), the family member finally opened the door subsequently. It was a short interaction, but the father smiled after hearing there was a letter from his son. We also updated contact number from the family.

Thankful to have this opportunity to serve God and pass the message to the family. Though we are don't know what impact it has on the family, but I believe it is still heart-warming to receive a note from their loved ones during this Christmas. Will be happy to serve in other ways as well.



"Participated because I may have been given another chance in life, but others may not have been as blessed. The experience from visiting the last house was really nice. Can tell that there is a certain degree of shame the families carry with them. Even during communications, when I said "oh you can call me ah boy" they got quite scared and thought I was associated with the secret society kind of life. I just feel very grateful."

Volunteer from **Christ Methodist Church**



Testimonies from three **Orchard Road Presbyterian Church** volunteers

"I found this to be a meaningful opportunity for me to serve in a small way this Christmas season."

"The inmate's family was approachable which made things easier for us. It was a short and simple activity but nonetheless I still found it to be meaningful in little ways."

"Our family participated in this event as we hoped to bring love to the inmate's loved ones. It was a wonderful experience to be able to talk and listen to them and to know that they still care for the inmate. We feel blessed that we could participate in the Angel Tree Project."



Testimonies from three **Bethesda Pasir Ris Mission Church** volunteers

"It is a meaningful way to contribute to the community. Besides, I am blessed with a car, and would like to use it to bless others in small ways. I was able to lend a listening ear to one of the recipients. It is a good cause being able to bless others in small ways especially during this festive season."

"This is my 2nd year volunteering for the ATP. God again showed His grace to us this year by enabling us to make contact at the first call. One of the family members we visited invited us in and shared her testimony of how she became a Christian through her loved one's incarceration. What an encouragement to hear how God works in painful and difficult circumstances! Although I have prior experience, being my church coordinator for ATP 2020 was not easy. Praise God for PFS staff who were very helpful, supportive and patient in answering all my questions and guided me along. This is because some things had to be done differently due to the pandemic. I have learnt to pray first and ask God for wisdom on how to get it done. Praise God for raising the volunteers to deliver the gifts. I'm also deeply encouraged by the volunteers' commitment and desire to bless others and being blessed in return. All glory to our Almighty God!"

"It is a wonderful way to bless the families through caring and sharing and comforting them. I feel very happy to help the community and it is an exciting feeling."



Testimonies from seven **Pentecost Methodist Church** volunteers

"It was heart-warming to meet the recipient family as it was our first time volunteering. An experience to remember."

"I have been participating in ATP for many years now. This year was different as vouchers were given instead of the hampers; made it easy for us, no need to carry those heavy items. Important to pray and pray. Let God lead. Be discerning and sensitive."

"We have been participating in this project for at least 5 years. This recent visit, the sister of the offender accepted the gift and told us that she is the one visiting her brother in prison as all his siblings have given up on him. Her demented mother who was present smiled at us all the time. With the voucher, she will buy groceries for her mum and tell her that it is a gift from her brother. This sister is a believer and she continues to love and pray for her brother to change. She persisted despite the trying circumstances, and her faith keeps her strong. Endurance with prayers will lighten the load."

"The incarcerated has two teenage children living with their uncle. When we contacted the uncle, he sounded friendly and agreed to meet us. When we got to the block we discovered that a couple of units had no unit number on their doors. We had to count the units to find the right one. The gate was locked and the door closed. A young girl who identified herself as the daughter of the incarcerated, told us that her uncle was not at home."

Happily we passed her the form to sign. She shut the door on us and later returned with the signed form. We were glad to be able to successfully hand over the gifts although it was an odd and cold encounter. However, we found out later that since we had three boxes we need to return three signed forms. We had mistakenly thought one form would suffice. We made a second visit after calling the uncle beforehand. The uncle said he was out but confirmed that his niece would be in. The door was opened this time. We called through the open door and the girl came and signed the other two forms. It must be difficult for the boy and girl not to have their father with them. We can think of many reasons why the unit has no number but it well could be for an innocent reason."

"The experience this year was different from previous years when we have to carry heavy hampers. This is better as the recipients can buy their necessities with the vouchers rather than accepting gifts which may not be useful. We felt for those children who accepted the gifts with great joy; one was surprised when we handed her a card from her mother. She was almost in tears. After the event, my daughters realised that they are so fortunate compared to so many out there. Praise God!"

"When I learnt of the ATP in November 2020, I thought it was a great opportunity to bring some joy to the inmates' families. Indeed the gifts from the ATP organiser, PFS, and the letter from the inmate were received with appreciation by the inmate's grandmother. While we did not ask too many questions, we hoped that our visit bring her some comfort to know that there are people who cared about her grandson's and her welfare. The ATP by PFS demonstrates its effort to share the love of Jesus Christ with those who have yet to know Him. I will not hesitate to participate in this project again next year."

"ATP 2020 was unlike previous years due to Covid-19 but we thank God for His faithfulness as He has provided us enough volunteers to minister to the inmates' families. The ATP is indeed a humbling experience. A few of the volunteers went in faith despite incorrect contact details. Many recipient families received their gifts with joy and were willing to share their stories with our volunteers. Although the FairPrice gift voucher may seem impersonal, its usefulness is better than previous years' hampers as it is definitely more convenient and less bulky than transporting a huge and heavy hamper. Many of the volunteers have expressed their keenness to participate in future ATPs. Even the to-be-volunteers (whom I had to turn away as I had enough volunteers for ATP 2020) would also like to participate in the next project. I am deeply heartened. Truly, I am grateful for God's provisions and leading of ATP all these years for PMC, in partnership with PFS. All glory to God!"



OUR BENEFICIARIES' LETTERS OF RECONCILIATION



亲爱的妈妈,大哥和小妹♥

时间过得真快,圣诞节又要到来了,这一年已经是我第八年,也是第八份教会的朋友,为我送给你们的圣诞礼物,我真的很感恩,因为近些年来外面教会的朋友,每个星期来监狱里鼓励我和帮助我把耶稣的爱传达给我,让我能够认识到这位真神..祂给我生命的力量,也给我生命的盼望,也让我懂得去珍惜和爱护你们. 妈,三年前老爸过世的时候,监狱官带我回家,我站在老爸的灵位面前,我告诉老爸,我叫他要好好保重,我还答应老爸说,这次我出狱以后,我一定会好好做人...我还告诉老爸,我一定会帮他好好的照顾妈妈您. 这是我对老爸的承诺,我不会再让离世的老爸失望了...妈妈小妹,你们要对我有信心! 妈妈,大哥小妹,我真希望有一天你们也能够认识这位真神..祂就是耶稣,圣诞节就是庆祝耶稣的诞生. 而且耶稣来到这个世界..就是为了要带给我们,喜乐,平安,和生命的盼望!!! 我爱你们!!! 祝大家;圣诞节快乐,2021年新年快乐!

Dearest Mummy

Once again it's Christmas, is indeed unfortunate that we can't be celebrate Xmas as a family. But my heart is always with you Mummy. Please forgive me for not being there for you when you needed me. I sincerely Apologise. Bear with me Mummy, three more Christmas Greetings in this manner to go. I promise, this time shall be my last incarceration. Thanks for not giving up on me. This voucher may not be much, but indeed it's from the Bottom of my heart. Love U Mummy. With Love God Bless U ...

May this Xmas
Brings U Happiness
As well As,
May the peace of
God Be Upon
You Always
Amen !!



Merry
X'mas
2020

Dear Mummy & Daddy

Thank you for never giving up on me & always being there whenever I'm lost.
Sorry for all the times I disappoint. Although I'm unable to promise there won't be
any more future disappointment but I'll definitely give my 100% to change just as
all of you have given me 100% faith that I'll change.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

我愛你,我疼你,我想你.

DEAR MOM,

MANY A TIMES I'VE GIVEN YOU EMPTY PROMISES.
EACH TIME I'VE TAKEN A BIT OF YOU CALLED 'TRUST'. FINALLY
THERE IS NOTHING LEFT FOR ME TO TAKE. I KNOW I'VE DEEPLY
HURT YOU AND I HOPE YOU WOULD FORGIVE ME. I KNOW THAT
I CAN'T WIN THIS BATTLE ALONE. THEREFORE I'VE PUT MY TRUST
IN GOD. JUST GIVE ME THE ONE OPPORTUNITY TO PROOF
MYSELF WITH THE HELP OF GOD. MERRY CHRISTMAS. LOVE YOU
MOM.

+ ROM YOUR SON

FOR My Beloved

* YEAR 2020 *

Papa, Wishing You A
Blessed Christmas Day!!!

Daddy, want to hug you and
apologize for being such a
lousy father. I was such
a miserable failure for you.

Boo Just want you to stay
Happy Always. 😊

I MISS YOU
&
LOVE YOU

With LOVE,
PAPA.



To,
BOTH OF YOU, MY LOVING SON. THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER
AH POR WHEN MUMMY AND DADDY ARE NOT AROUND
I AM SO BLESSED BOTH OF YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF,
WHEN I AM NOT BY YOUR SIDE.
MUMMY AM SO GREATFUL THE BOTH OF YOU TAKE THE TROUBLE
TO COME TO SEE ME AND SPENT TIME WITH ME AND DO SO
MANY THINGS FOR ME. I THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BOTH YOUR
LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING.
BEING CHRISTMAS NUMMY AND DADDY WOULD LIKE TO ASK BOTH OF
YOU FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS FOR OUR WRONG DOINGS.
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, I AM SO HAPPY BOTH OF YOU
HAVE REALLY GROW UP, AND WELL BEHAVE.
WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR
AND GOD'S BLESSING THROUGH OUT THE YEAR.

FROM,
MUMMY WITH
~ LOVE ~

亲爱的爸爸；

您好！借着这个节日，我要向您认错，并说声“对不起”，过去我的所做所为，我期待您能够原谅我，以往对您的不敬，和您顶嘴，使您生气，我万分地感到内疚，心中一直地责怪自己，为什么要让您生气，此刻，我真心地向您悔改，并保证在未来的日子里，绝不会让您失望与生气，我真的很渴望您能原谅我！我知道不可以再做错了

爸爸，“对不起，请您原谅我”

OUR NUMBERS



38 churches

participated in delivery and **9**
donated to The Angel Tree Project



> 1,000 volunteers

availed themselves for the Project



669 gift packs

were packed to be delivered to ...



669 families

whom the beneficiaries hope to
reconcile broken relations

THANK YOU



How lovely are the feet of those who bring good news! The 2020 Angel Tree Project hopes to catalyse a spirit of reconciliation for the broken relationships between our beneficiaries and their loved ones.

We are truly thankful for all our partners, both sponsors and volunteers, who have contributed in various ways to bring the good news of Christmas and to light the flame of hope for our beneficiaries via the gift packs and letters delivered to their loved ones. Your effort in sowing the seeds of reconciliation is most appreciated and valued!

Special thanks also go to Ms. Audrey Lee who designed the beautiful gift cards pro bono, NTUC FairPrice Foundation for the kind sponsorship of \$1,500 worth of stored value cards, Mr. Andrew Lim and Ms. Adeline Kuang of Boxgreen Pte Ltd for sponsoring the health snacks and, last but not least, Mr. Keenon Lee for sponsoring the 1929 anti-microbial face masks.

On behalf of our beneficiaries, their families and 70x7, a big THANK YOU to all of you! May you and your loved ones be richly blessed, just as you have blessed our beneficiaries and their loved ones.