



Angel Tree

ANGEL TREE HAMPER PROJECT 2019

IMPACT
REPORT



Prison Fellowship
Singapore



OVERVIEW

The Angel Tree Hamper Project was launched by Prison Fellowship Singapore (PFS) in 2005 with a vision to bring a message of hope from inmates to their loved ones, in the spirit of Christmas. Over the years, we have witnessed how inmates have found Christ in prison and are transformed by the Word of God. With this initiative, inmates are given an opportunity to seek forgiveness and share with their families how God has touched their lives.

Handwritten letters with powerful messages of hope and reconciliation are written by inmates and are personally delivered with hampers by volunteer church teams to the families. This knitting of hearts not only brings hope and joy to children and youths with parents in prison, but also opens doors for the restoration of broken relationships between inmates and their loved ones.

Churches and business organisations contribute and bring the love of Christ through donations and dedication of their time and service. The delivery of hampers also provides an opportunity for us to further identify needs of families whom we can help in more ways.



Among juvenile delinquents, boys with hostile fathers commit more crime and use a larger variety of drugs and alcohol than boys with absentee fathers. (Journal of Adolescence, 2018)

Among juvenile delinquents who had completed rehabilitation in 2011, 16.7 per cent re-offended within three years. These juveniles were aged between seven and under-16. (Straits Times, 2018)

85 new Beyond Parental Control cases were filed in 2017, the most since 2009. (TNP, 2018)

THE JOURNEY

2018-2019



MAY-JUL

CALL FOR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

This is communicated to our partner churches around Singapore and through our various social media channels.



AUG

PURCHASE OF HAMPER ITEMS

Purchasing is done early to ensure the availability of the chosen hamper products and to be cost efficient. Also, some products require a longer lead time to be manufactured.



SEPT

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN PRISON

Registration is open to all beneficiaries who participate in the PFS programmes in prison. Inmates write their letters and submit them to SPS for approval. PFS then converts them into greeting cards to be paired with the hampers.



NOV

HAMPER PACKING AND COLLECTION

A partner school opens up their premises and allows their students to contribute their time to pack hamper items into large tote bags and sort them in preparation for hamper distribution. Church volunteers collect hampers at the partner school and form teams to visit the homes of hamper recipients.



DEC

VISITS AND HAMPER DELIVERY

Church volunteers unite as a body of Christ to deliver hampers all over the island and bring love into the homes of families of the incarcerated.



JAN

FEEDBACK COLLECTION AND FOLLOW UP

Undelivered hampers are returned to PFS and church volunteers share their experiences to help us improve our processes and solve any issues that arise during the project.

OUR PARTNERS

PARTNER SCHOOL



Christ Church
Secondary School

“For Christ Church Secondary School, The Angel Tree project is a meaningful project to get the students involved and we look forward to it every year. It serves as a platform for students to demonstrate the values they have learned in school. This is the third year we are onboard on this project and we are honoured to be given this opportunity to serve.

Through the Angel Tree project, our students learn about caring for others, contributing back to the society. It is impressed upon them that their effort, big or small, could make a difference to the families who receive the hamper.

Our debriefing session was a time for our students to appreciate and be thankful of what they have.

We believe that the project has empowered our students to serve with purpose and seek meaning in it as we continue to groom them to be purposeful leaders with God as our enabler.”

Andy Lee



43

Churches

Supported the project through donations, of which 34 signed up with volunteer teams to distribute hampers to the families.

OUR PARTNERS

PARTNER CHURCHES

Agape Christian Centre
Covenant Evangelical Free Church
Bedok Methodist Church
Bethany Presbyterian Church English Congregation
Bethel Presbyterian Church
Bethesda Hall (Ang Mo Kio)
Bethesda Hall Depot Walk
Bethesda Pasir Ris Mission Church
Cherith Baptist Church
Christ Methodist Church
Church of God Evangelical
Church of the Good Shepherd
City Harvest Church
City Missions Church
Eng Kong Christian Church
Faith Communication Baptist Church
Glory Presbyterian Church
Grace Assembly of God
Herald BP Church
Holy Grace Presbyterian Church
Hope Presbyterian Church
Jeevan Apostolic Church
Jurong Tamil Methodist Church
Katong Presbyterian Church
Lawyers' Christian Fellowship
Light of Christ Church Woodlands
Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
Mar Thoma Syrian Church in Singapore
New Life Bible Presbyterian Church
Newton Life Church
Orchard Road Presbyterian Church
Parish of Christ Church
Pasir Panjang Tamil Methodist Church
Pentecost Methodist Church
Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church
Queenstown Baptist Church
Shepherd's Assembly
Singapore Life Church
St James Church
St. John's Chapel
Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church
True Way Presbyterian Church
Wesley Methodist Church

TESTIMONIES

Bethesda Pasir Ris Mission Church



We were initially discouraged as we had a difficult time getting in touch with the family member. But I am glad my husband and I continued to pray and not give up, and finally managed to contact her. She was very warm and grateful when she received the hamper. She invited us in, shared that she's a Christian, and even invited my colleague who was with me to her church! I felt encouraged and blessed by her response and how God answered our prayers.



I do not know anyone who has been imprisoned and my knowledge were probably from movies or TV shows. When I delivered the hampers to their families, I was surprised they were like any one of us, ordinary folks. One with a mother and one a son in incarceration. I do not know their stories but I shared the moment when they were connected and touched by a loved one whom they missed. I am glad I joined the ATP.

St James' Church



I started volunteering for the Angel Tree project as an offering to God for His provision of a family car. I had wanted to only help out for 1 year but continued being a volunteer till date. The delight I saw in the children's faces when they received the hampers, the smiles from the recipients when they received the cards written by their loved ones kept me going. Every family I visited had its own struggles and challenges. Christmas is a season of joy and hope, yet not every family gets to experience them. I am glad to be part of Angel Tree project to bring cheers to these families. As long as I have the use of a family car, I will continue to be the messenger of God's love and hope to the families who need them.



It's a pleasure to be able to distribute the hampers and Christmas cards to the families and also to see the smile on their faces and gratitude upon receiving the gift. We hope to spread the love of Jesus through us in this small part of our works.

Hope Presbyterian Church



We felt apprehensive even as we volunteered to deliver our first hamper under the Angel Tree Hamper Project. We did not know what to expect. We prayed on the way there. The moment we met the recipient, we felt at ease. We requested to have a chat, and she led us into her home. She opened up as we conversed, tears swell as she talked about her son. We felt glad when we left. Overall, a heart-warming experience. This was our way to share God's love with a family whose son was in prison. We were glad we volunteered as God's vessel, to bless and to love.

First Time Volunteer



Our CG has been supporting the Angel Tree Hamper project for several years. Besides seeing this as a way to give back to society, it is also a way we honor our God. As Matt 22:37-40 says we should love our God but it goes on to say we should love our neighbours as we love ourselves. When we bring these gifts to the family, there is always a light of joy in their eyes to receive. It also gives the recipient an assurance his or her family member is doing well despite the environment. Where there are young children of the inmates, it also allows the young child to feel that he or she is being thought of by his or her parent. The gift allows a connection to be made. I remember on one occasion, when the child's grandmother took the hamper, she turned to the toddler and said 妈咪给你喜欢的饼干 That spark on the little boy's face was worth more than a thousand words. When you see the recipient going the extra mile to receive the hamper, you know God is working His magic to restore the lives of the family. The value of PFS can truly be felt by the expression seen on faces.

Caregroup (CG) from HopePC

Glory Presbyterian Church



The Angel Tree Hamper Distribution project is a meaningful year end project by PSF. I've participated for two years and have being a church coordinator in that duration. The work by PSF reaches out not only to the inmates, but also to their families in the community. Partnering with PSF allows me and my family to ministers to the less privilege communities during the Christmas season. It is also a good lesson about humanity to visit, and sometimes to be invited into homes of recipients whom we've delivered to. It's an extension of God's love to touch more homes.

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Grace
Assembly
Of God

Our volunteers from Grace AOG are not new to this project and many had been involved for a number of years already. They willingly volunteered again in 2019 when contacted as they believe that their service could help to connect the inmates with their families for an expression of love and forgiveness during Christmas.

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Jurong Tamil
Methodist
Church

My brothers were ex-prisoners before. Therefore, I not only know how exps feel but also their family members. They need to see the genuineness in us, God's true love not just a service. I love them and their family. My involvement is for Jesus.

“

Wesley
Methodist
Church

It was a privilege to be the channel for goodwill exchange. I experienced a warm reception from the lady that received the hamper. She was delighted to receive the hamper, esp the greeting card. As she was illiterate, I had the privilege of reading the letter to her. I was grateful that my 'taken for granted' literacy became a blessing to someone that day. While I was able to bring blessing to her, I was richly blessed by her comfort. Glory to God.



Is really a joy and privilege to able to participate in this Angel Tree project. Very thankful to the Lord for providing a group, though not very large, church members Who are enthusiastic in distributing the hampers. I have an experience of going to a home opposite our church and the recipient refused to receive the hamper when found out is from her husband. Very sad to see how families Especially are affected. Really touch and encouraged by the great work of PFS ministering to the families of the inmates. Thanks for able to labouring together with PFS.

-Bethesda Hall Depot Walk



The volunteer's feedback that when some of the families received the hampers and the cards written by their love ones, their eyes were brightened up with joy. It was a heart-warming experience for the volunteers that propelled us to participate in this yearly project.

-City Harvest Church

LETTERS OF RECONCILIATION

To: My Loving Daughter,
I Love you and Miss you. Sorry for all the mishap that have taken place b cos of me. I know that I have caused alot of distress in all the previous time before my Prison term but being away from you'll have made me realize how important you'll play a part in my life so I'm taking this given opportunity to seek your forgiveness. and also you love. Thank you for the love and support you have been giving to the 2 younger siblings. Love you always my darling

LOVE
You

From yours Only Father

Dearest wife, (亲爱的最爱)

Just to tell you that i love you. A year is almost gone and its time for christmas again. Every single day passes represents my love grows stronger to you and family. To share with you a song that we use to sing in workd Reminded us that every gift is a gift from above (GOD). We love because He first love us.

(一件礼物)

有一件礼物，你收到没有
眼睛看不到，你心会知道
这一件礼物，心门外等候
是为了你-准备别人不能收

James 4:8 " Draw near to God,
And He will draw near to you."

With Blessings,

Hey mummy! I wish you a merry christmas and a prosperous new year.
Please look after yourself. Don't worry ok! I am coming out soon.
And this time round, I promise you I will definitely be a more matured and filial son
who won't give you unnecessary headaches anymore.
Take great care of yourself because I care!
Love you my mother!

your filial and loving son.



DEAREST FAMILY,

How time "FLIES". ITS THE TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN. NOT JUST FOR CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVITIES BUT ALSO REMEMBERING ON THIS DAY, THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD & SAVIOUR - JESUS CHRIST.

AS I GET NOTHING TO GIVE, I THANK PRISON FELLOWSHIP SINGAPORE FOR THIS CARD & HAMPER TO YOU ALL.

2019 IS FAST ENDING, 2020 IS FAST COMING. 8 MORE BIRTHDAYS & 7 MORE CHRISTMAS & WE CAN PREPARE TO REUNITE AGAIN AS A COMPLETE WHOLE FAMILY.

THROUGH THE GOOD & BAD, THE THICK & THIN, KNOW THAT FAMILY WILL ALWAYS BE FAMILY & NOTHING CAN/WILL BE ABLE TO CHANGE THIS FACT & TRUTH.

WISHING U & ALL, A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS, WITH EVERY COMING DAY, MONTH, YEAR GETTING BETTER & BETTER!

Love & Miss All DEARLY.

STATISTICS

765

Hampers
Sent

43

Churches
involved



70

Students packed
the hampers



1000+

Volunteers
delivered the
hampers

Thank You



Each year, we thank God for the many pairs of helping hands that converge to make this Angel Tree project possible. On behalf of the inmates and their families, we thank you for your partnership. You have sponsored, packed and delivered not just hampers, but the message of hope and reconciliation.

Thank you and be blessed!
