

PRISON CARE MINISTRIES

Annual Report

2011

**Annual Report
1st September 2010 to 31st August 2011**

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Quotes inserted throughout this report are taken
from letters written by men in prison.

Prison Care Ministries - Chairman's Report

AGM September 22nd 2011

This is our 7th year and it's been another good one. We've overcome several challenges along the way and there's still a strong demand for our services.

We started the year with a wait list of 71 (last year was 53) and finished the year with a wait list of 103 (last year was 71). We had 186 new referrals (last year was 150) and had a total of 55 residents over the course of the year.

The big news for PCM this year was that after saving for several years and looking around for suitable staff, we are very pleased to announce that Andrew and Kevin have recently become PCM staff and will work alongside Geoff and Jill. They seem to have made a good start and we hope they will continue to go from strength to strength.

We ran into a major difficulty with our houses as we learned that our landlord's insurers would not insure houses if ex-prisoner were living in them. This affected all our houses. However after quite a bit of negotiation between PCM, our landlords, the brokers and insurance companies; we were able to get insurance cover back in place for the houses. This could have shutdown PCM, but we are truly thankful to each of our landlords who stood by us during this time and potentially risked their houses until it was all resolved. This remains a significant issue for the community as a whole, as anyone who provides accommodation for someone released from prison, potentially puts their own house insurance at risk. This raises the big question: where can these people live?

The big news for PCM this year, we are very pleased to announce that Andrew and Kevin have recently become PCM staff....

Another challenge for Geoff and Jill was the surgery to remove Geoff's brain tumor earlier this year. We were all very thankful that it went well and Geoff doesn't seem to have suffered any ongoing after-effects apart from fatigue. However, as anyone who knows Geoff well - he does not let that get in the way. He is still as keen as ever doing what he and Jill love - coming alongside guys and helping them get their lives back on track.

Geoff has made more progress on his car project with several of the guys helping out where they can. Geoff is hoping to get it done this year so we'll see how that goes. It remains a good opportunity for Geoff and some of the guys to quietly spend time talking and working through the many challenges and hurdles they all face.

"I find prison to be a horrible un-natural environment"

While, Geoff and Jill's overall financial support had actually increased compared to last year (as at 31-Mar-2011), unfortunately the number of regular donations towards their support has declined this year. So we're looking to the Lord to try and make up the shortfall. With more guys in the houses we have been able to generate a small surplus, which has helped, but we continue to seek out those who would come alongside the ministry to support them financially. This will also be a challenge for Andrew and Kevin who have joined us recently as they will also need to raise a large portion of their own support to continue to work as PCM staff.

We continue to be grateful for all the volunteers who have assisted us directly and indirectly as it does make a difference. We still have many opportunities for people to come alongside and quietly assist so if that might be you, we'd love to hear from you.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Shepherd



Alex Shepherd, Maraenui Taituha, Jill McMillan, Geoff McMillan, Len Caley

"At first when I got here, I wasn't really concerned about taking anything away from doing this course. But after stuffing around and being non-compliant, I realized that this wasn't doing me any good. And now feel that being here has taught me loads about myself that I didn't know"

"...feeling that one has a hope for the future is a bit of a mission"

Thanks to the following funders and supporters who ensure that Prison Care Ministries continue to offer support to those involved in the Criminal Justice System:



- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Trust Waikato | Wages |
| WEL Energy Trust | Wages (new staff) |
| COGS | Office, Volunteer, Training |
| Lottery Grants | Wages (new staff) |
| HCC Community Well-Being | Mileage |
| Hamilton City Council (HCC) | Photocopying |
| NZ Post | Free Postage Envelopes |
| Geocon Soil Testing | Newsletter photocopying |
| NZ Bible Society | Bibles |
| Rhema Broadcasting Group | Word for Today |
| Maori Postal Aotearoa | Calendars, magazines etc |
| Telecom | Residential phone rates |
| Interspeed | Internet domain |
| AH Franks Tyres | Sponsorship |
| Plastic Welders | Sponsorship |
| Fusion Print | Printing |

Other Trusts, Churches and Individuals who have generously made donations towards office rent, wages, general funds, house provisions and other needs as they arise.



- Community Probation & Psychological Services
- Work and Income New Zealand
- James Family Op shop and other tenants
- Prison Staff
- Prison Chaplaincy
- Ellen Taylor, Auditor
- House Residents

Funding Expo



Our volunteers who support residents, write to prisoners and give support on release, help in the office, house maintenance, bible studies, accommodation treasurer and staff supervision.

"thank you for your awesome assistance and support in my desperate time of need"

Prison Care Ministries—Staff report

Another year, another 12 months of rich blessings. We have grown from a team of two to a team of four, which in itself has been a blessing. Andrew and Kevin introduce themselves in their own articles, but we are gelling together and allowing our strengths and abilities to blend into an enlarged unit of effectiveness. Geoff was off work in February for a couple of weeks due to neurosurgery for his brain tumor. Four days after the “opp” saw him home having lunch! He was back at work the following week, but with a few days working less hours taking things slower.

We had been praying for another/more staff for some time, (years), and as usual it has been the Lord’s perfect timing. The number of guys coming into our houses has built somewhat with our wait list now exceeding 100! Some of this list goes through to 2015, but it also means that we have more guys looking for accommodation NOW. This also means we have to *encourage* present guys to move on and make room for those needing their room, so making for a steady change in faces which always means more work. Our new staff are a real help in this, taking some of the workload off us both.

PCM
wait
list
now
exceeds
100

We have had some *sad* stories, but many more *glad* stories! There have not been too many guys “kicked out”, as when this happens it usually means a re-call back to prison if they still have “time to serve”. Even those who have served their entire sentence can be “breached” by probation, which can also mean up to 12 months prison *per breach*. There is always the odd guy who thinks we are a “soft touch” and that they can get away with anything. They have misread our love as being “wimpy” and “soft”, and have just done their own thing. Many of these guys have no concept or experience of real love, and tend to see it, (love) as an opportunity for personal gain.

We had a guy released to one of our houses and could see he was not a well man. He deteriorated very quickly, and after only a few weeks from his release was hospitalized with cancer of the lungs, liver, and stomach!! The hospital would not transport him north, so we did. We took him north to his family to spend the remaining time he had with them. We made plans to travel back a month later to see him while we could, *but were too late!* The weekend we planned to be with him turned out to be the Tangi and funeral. The family had planned to have the funeral soon after his death, full-well knowing it was imminent, but waited for us to get there the

“Sadly there’s not a lot you can do in these little concrete boxes”.

next day. His family accepted us as their family, just as we had accepted him as ours.

One of our future plans is to develop a “*PD support group*”. PD, (Preventative Detention), is a heavier sentence than “life”. Life is *usually* around ten years when the parole board sees fit to release a guy, PD is a different story. Some of our guys have been in for twenty five or more years. How do they get re-established into society? Our support group [hopefully] will be there to help them cope with the many many changes that have occurred while they have been “inside”. To not be able to cope means that the likelihood of going back to prison is high, and at what cost? More victims in our community, not to mention the families of victims and the offender.

Jill and I have been granted “blanket approval” to go into any north Island [men’s] prison, which cuts down the hassles that sometimes come up. This has taken some time, but finally come through, and shows how the name of PCM has got around now. We have earned some credibility over time while going into all of these prisons and getting on with the job we have to do. We have met a lot of prison staff, (Chaplains, Custodial and Reintegration), gaining their support and encouragement.

A new part of prison life is APPE, (Authorized Provider Prison Entry), Cards. At the moment we are going [again] through the induction process for our cards, no card, no entry! As we understand, these are “swipe cards”, so the entry process should be much simpler, although we as yet do not know how this is going to work around the different prisons with one? card?

<p>“All of our landlords are so supportive of what we are doing,</p>	<p>There are 4 other regions that we have had contact with about setting up a ministry such as PCM here in Hamilton. We have visited, or been visited, by interested groups who have asked questions and shown interest. As yet none have produced any result, but also none have argued about the need. We are dealing with <i>some</i> of the need in Hamilton, but there are needs all around the country that are not being dealt with. Many of our guys come from out of Hamilton; they come to us because of the service we provide. It would be great if guys were able to get their accommodation where their whanau/family/support is located. Pray that the interest shown by these various groups in the past would produce results.</p>
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“I have done and have a huge desire to turn my life around for the better.”

We had major problems with insurance this past year, one of our landlords on informing the insurance company who was in their house had their insurance cancelled. On enquiry, we found that we personally were probably also not insured whenever we had an ex-prisoner living in our own home! All of our landlords are so supportive of what we are doing, some said, "... *so who cares about insurance ...*"! After much prayer the landlords confirmed that all of our houses were insured again with approval from the Insurance Companies. Even so, we still cannot get contents insurance for what PCM has in the houses, as no company will take the risk!

Another [life-time] friend, (ex resident), has built a trellis for us on the end of our front terrace, all to stop being bored and to keep busy. He now has a full-time job again and is enjoying it, sometimes working six days a week. He called in to borrow some of my tools recently and saw some pavers stacked ready for laying on a path around the back of my work shop. First reaction, "*What are you going to do with those ...*"? He had been a builder working for himself in the past, so knows all of the tricks in laying pavers, one guess on his next statement!



Another friend has just moved "north" to work for his old boss again, but promised to keep in touch. He called in to the office to say goodbye and look for a hug! "*Give me some love ...*" was his comment as he stood there waiting for me to hug him, a big smile on his face, one of the many guys who will remain life-long friends with us. His next call was to report to Community Probation that afternoon in the town he was returning to.

The joy of the [mostly] positive outcomes keeps us encouraged and going on in the ministry. Andrew, Kevin, Jill and I realize that it is not us, but the "team" around us that supports us in finances and prayer that gives the momentum to this vital, life-changing ministry.

"One of the reasons I contacted you, other than accommodation,
was so that I can do some major
reconnecting with family which is long over-due"

"I hope one day they will forgive me. My offending has hurt so many "

WORKSHOP - PROJECT(S)

On a more personal note, there has been some progress on my “project” in the workshop. The help has been greatly appreciated, as



well as the fellowship, (“boy time”). There has also been the odd vehicle up the drive belonging to the guys needing some TLC and/or repairs. No problems, except the lack of time! The appreciation from them for this help is always forthcoming, as is the welcome opportunity to help on my “project”. My welding is not what it used to be

since my stroke, and a good friend who used to tutor welding has been my “main man” in this area. He is not now so available having shifted to the Bay Of Plenty, so things have slowed down somewhat, but still progressing.

Our mokopuna, (grandchildren), love getting a ride on the Trike, at least those who are old enough! I was taking one of the guys out for a coffee on it one day and hit the “80 K’s” speed limit and “opened it up a little”. He was sitting on the back seat busy rolling a cigarette at the time and “lost” the paper! A second attempt saw his LAST paper also blow away. Much hilarity!



Geoff and past residents with bike ready for a ride

I am a part of a group of “bikers” from a number of Churches who go for a “blast” regularly after Church, and I enjoy that fellowship also. The Trike has now turned “burnt orange” following a re-paint helped by a number of the guys. The registration was put on hold after my tumor operation as I was not to drive/ride for “*up to six months*”, so the opportunity to do this job was taken, *just to keep busy!!*



Geoff and Jill

“Some days I wish I was a little slower upstairs. Then I’d be a bit blinded as to how a lot of the system works and then wouldn’t get so frustrated”.

“When someone we love dies...” 1 Thess 4:13-15. (A verse given to Geoff after his mum died)

Introducing – Andrew Dickson, Staff

I started working with Prison Care Ministries in August 2011. I grew up on a dairy farm in the Waikato, studied agriculture and was farming before moving to East Africa to work in Tanzania for 8yrs. Then I studied theology in NZ before working as a construction & maintenance manager for a church mission in Uganda until last year. Since then I've married and started a family of my own.



Practical help - Minor maintenance on the guys flats, helping them with spring cleaning, taking a car trailer around the houses for guys to load rubbish in then transporting it to the dump. Taking a guy across town to pick up a secondhand bicycle he'd bought. Assisting guys with grocery shopping, showing them how to open an email account, helping prepare CV's, open bank accounts, supporting them at WINZ and probation service appointments. Collecting a newly released guy from Hamilton airport.

Social/emotional support - Showing newly released guys how to get around Hamilton on the Orbiter bus, occasional coffee meetings with particular guys needing someone to talk to, took a guy along to the ITM rugby final, writing letters to current inmates hoping to use PCM support when they are released.

It's been neat watching a couple of the guys who were really insecure and nervous upon release gain confidence in their ability to learn and do what are, for us, normal activities. It's also been humbling to better understand the sorts of prejudices and stigmas they face and must overcome on the journey to becoming free and responsible members of society. They really do need lot's of emotional and practical support to do this well.

It has been personally rewarding spending time getting to know these men as real people, perhaps even as friends in some cases, and seeing some of the guys doing well moving along in life. On the other hand it's been sad seeing a couple of men recalled who failed parole conditions and so the promises made to themselves and others.

I've been on a big learning curve over this period. At times I've felt frustrated with myself, various ones of the guys, government bureaucracy etc but overall I'm enjoying helping Geoff & Jill support these men as they make the tricky transition to freedom.

"Only the Lord knows what will happen ... I have Him to turn to when things turn to custard."

Introducing - Kevin Stephens, Staff

I have been fortunate to become a part of the Prison Care Ministries team and am quietly confident in my ability to carry out the job asked of me. I trust and believe that God definitely had a hand placing me in this job and is testing my ability to see how strong my faith is and how obedient I am towards him. I know I can't do anything without Him and I firmly place my confidence in Him. I am also grateful that I have been given the opportunity to work with three faith filled Christians, having the right people around me makes a world of difference. I have been attending Central Baptist Church for approximately 12 months and have found the church support towards Prison Care Ministry very encouraging.

My job involves supporting the men wherever possible, taking them to their appointments e.g. shopping, probation, doctors, etc. or whatever else is necessary to help make their transition from prison back into society as smooth as possible. The transition can often be challenging and sometimes frightening as many of the men have spent several years in prison and usually a lot has changed.

I've learnt about data bases and the different computer programs that Prison Care Ministries use. I'm also getting used to what my role is as a social worker and support person. I still have plenty to learn and am taking one day at a time. Geoff keeps saying "how do you eat an elephant" my reply is "one bite at a time", so I know not to rush things, everything will fall into place so long as I listen and learn, So far so good.

My background involves a history of going in out of jail since the age of 16. I am now 44 years of age and have not been back to jail for 10 years. I have been involved with Christianity and the churches for the past 10 years and believe that has played a big part for why I haven't gone back to jail. During that time I've done various courses e.g. hospitality and tourism, psychology papers, and am about a third of the way through an accounting degree, of which Geoff and Jill are supportive of me finishing while I work for them part time.

My background gives me valuable insight into how many of the men think and feel. Understanding the guy's point of views, desires, circumstances and situation definitely puts the men at ease knowing someone else has been where they've been, it's not just a job, I fully understand it's a ministry.



"This is the first time in all my life that I have had people who care about me"

Introducing Melanie Dickson - Volunteer

(not related to Andrew)

Kia ora koutou,
When I was a young girl, I remember tagging along with my dad and a small group of other church volunteers to fellowship at the prisons in the central plateau area. Little did I know that 20 something years later I would be passionately involved in this ministry myself.



My name is Melanie, I was born and raised in Putaruru. My husband Brendan and I have been married for 10 years and we have a 5 year old boy called Joel. Since recommitting my life back to Jesus 3 years ago, He has faithfully equipped me to serve as a Prison Fellowship volunteer at Waikeria. *"The harvest is plenty but the workers are few"* kept reverberating in my mind – although it took another year or so for me to say "Here I am, send me, I will go". I can honestly say this has been the most fulfilling and privileged way to serve my God.

My involvement with Prison Care Ministries came about after hearing Geoff and Jill on a Radio Rhema interview. Wow, what a ministry! I consider it a double blessing to be able to support Geoff and Jill where I can, and am thankful for the opportunity and that God will be glorified throughout all of this. *(the office is much more tidier and organized now ...Ed)*

"Hi, and thanks for coming to see me and accepting me into your accommodation which brings joy to my heart because it will be something new where I can help myself, get encouragement, guidance – all of which I need. I think my heart is still hard because I still let things annoy me.

I've tried things my way for far too long and not getting ahead. I do not want my sons to ever be in the situation I'm in. I am sure by trying another way will heal my being and be a positive role model for my sons so they won't walk down the road that leads to destruction becoming another statistic in the corrections department."

" having no-where to go on my release is going to leave me to again resort to crime to survive."

Jo
3rd June 1964—28th January 2011
Te Rawhiti Marae



**On November 17 you arrived by bus
Your first day out will be remembered by
us**

**The sights you saw kept you amazed
Something to talk about in those first
days.**

**In Albany you went straight to the shop
For seafood to eat was your first stop
To the office we took you on your arrival
The mussels you bought were fighting for survival.**

**Through your paper work they had all
soaked through
Not a bad way to make us not forget you.
You had lots of energy and the house
you did clean
With janola and soap powder a mixture
unseen.**



**You tried to hide the fact that you were sick
But it didn't take long and it happened real quick
It was a very short time before we knew
That your life on earth was almost through.**



**In these few short weeks that we have
known you
You have encouraged us heaps by the
things that you do
You came with hope and a positive plan
Your whanau a priority to heal if you
can.**

**You have done your best and this task is complete
You made your peace with God and you now sleep
In His arms He now holds you for eternity long
We will see you again when we get home.**

"My attitude is that I now always look for the positive in people and life."

Fundraising Karaoke

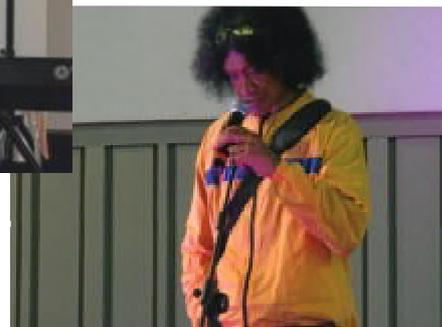
Chapel Hill
Community Church
November 20th
2010



ROBINSONS

LIVE
DUET SHOW

Geoff and Jill's daughter Nicky and her Employer Glen Robinson encourage the audience to participate between them singing. Thank you Glen and Nicky for sponsoring your time.



"I've taken the time to pick up a bible and make some changes in my life"

THE HITCHIKER

I'm the one that you turn to when life seems so hard
I'm also the one that can leave your life scared
When you try to escape like a prisoner who flees
I don't care 'cos I know you'll be back to see me.

I'm the friend that you hate, yet you love me the most
I'm the life of the party, you're merely the host.
I don't care about your family or if you have kids
I'm the friend that you spend all your quality time with.

I don't care if you're rich, I don't care if you're poor,
All I care is whether you come back for more.
I'm the best you've had, you mean nothing to me,
You're purely a victim of insecurity.

I've been loyal to you through good times and bad,
You've been loyal to me when you are happy or sad.
I'm here to medicate you when pain is infected
My first name is DRUG my last name ADDICTION.

My other bro ALCOHOL that led you to drink,
Confusing your thoughts and the way that you think.
One too many that led you to crime,
Now you're in prison, doing time.

I lived my life in the name of pain,
What was hidden was grief, anger, fear, it was shame.
In you I found shelter from the thunder and rain,
I ran to this shelter again and again.

Now I'm on a new journey of ABSTINENCE and discovery,
I have a new friend, his name is RECOVERY.
He said that he'll help me through to the end,
And never make contact with my old friends again.

By DM—2011 Used with permission.

"I want to make the most of every opportunity and make something of myself"



It takes 4 to ice a cake

**Our
guys
have
skills
in
many
areas.**



Waiting for the BBQ to cook



Carving in Geoff's workshop



**Cuppa
and
smoke
on
way
down
South
with
Geoff**



Time for a korero



Under car inspection



**Tree
felling
at
Geoff
and
Jill's.
Only
one
broken
w/shop
window**



Break in supervised by Geoff

"I cannot thank you enough for your kindness and faith which you have in me to succeed".



Alex Shepherd - Chairperson.
Software Architect, NetValue Ltd.
Alex and Judi have 3 children. They attend Chapel Hill Community Church where Alex is a part of the churches Missions Team. Alex was previously an approved visitor to Waikeria Prison.



Len Caley
Barrister - Len and Davina have 2 children and attend Hamilton South Baptist Church. Len specialises in criminal law. He was previously an approved volunteer to Waikeria Prison for Sunday Church services.



Maraenui Taituha
Maraenui is staff at Fairfield College working predominantly with children in Year 9 & 10 requiring Learning and Behavioral Support. Maraenui and Alison have three children and attend a Home Church. Previously an approved volunteer to Waikeria Prison for Sunday Church services.



Geoff and Jill McMillan
Geoff and Jill are Prison Care Ministries staff. Geoff first visited a prison in a Church team 43 years ago. During 22 years with OAC Ministries they continued in a visiting Prison Church team, Geoff later becoming an Associate Chaplain at Waikeria Prison.

During their 5 years with Prison Fellowship (Waikato) they were a part of a search group with a concern for the needs of prisoners on release. They then established Prison Care Ministries which became a Charitable Trust in September 2004.



They are approved visitors to all North Island Prisons. Geoff and Jill have 4 adult children and 12 grandchildren. They attend Chapel Hill Community Church.

"I really want some peace and happiness and love "

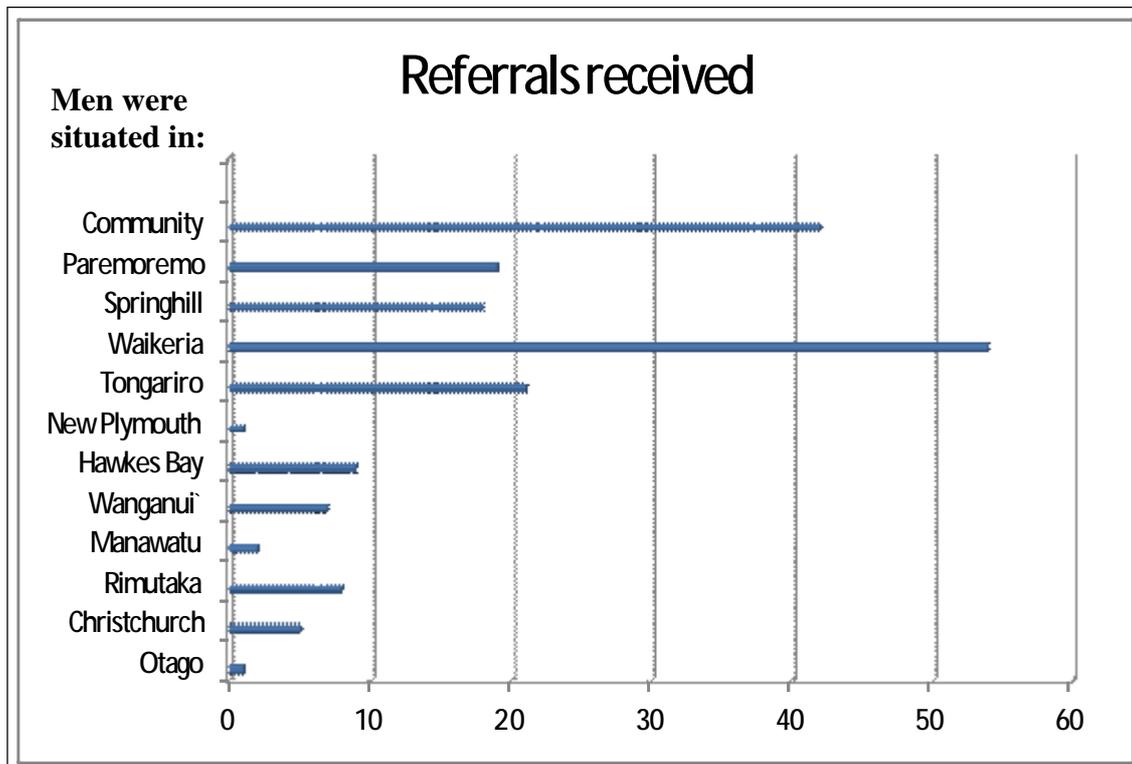
**Statistics for the 12 months from
1st September 2010 to 31st August 2011**

Referrals for accommodation

Prison Care Ministries began with a wait list of 71 and received 186 new referrals. These new referrals were from -

NZ Prison staff	24
NZ PARS	3
Community Probation Services	41
Chaplains, PFNZ, Church teams	11
Family/Friend	9
Prisoner/ex prisoner	9
Self	82
Social Service Agencies	4
Lawyer	3

"I just want to devote the rest of my life to my children who are paying the penalty for my wrong friendship choices and suffering from my absence. I have no words to describe my feelings and emotion about this matter."



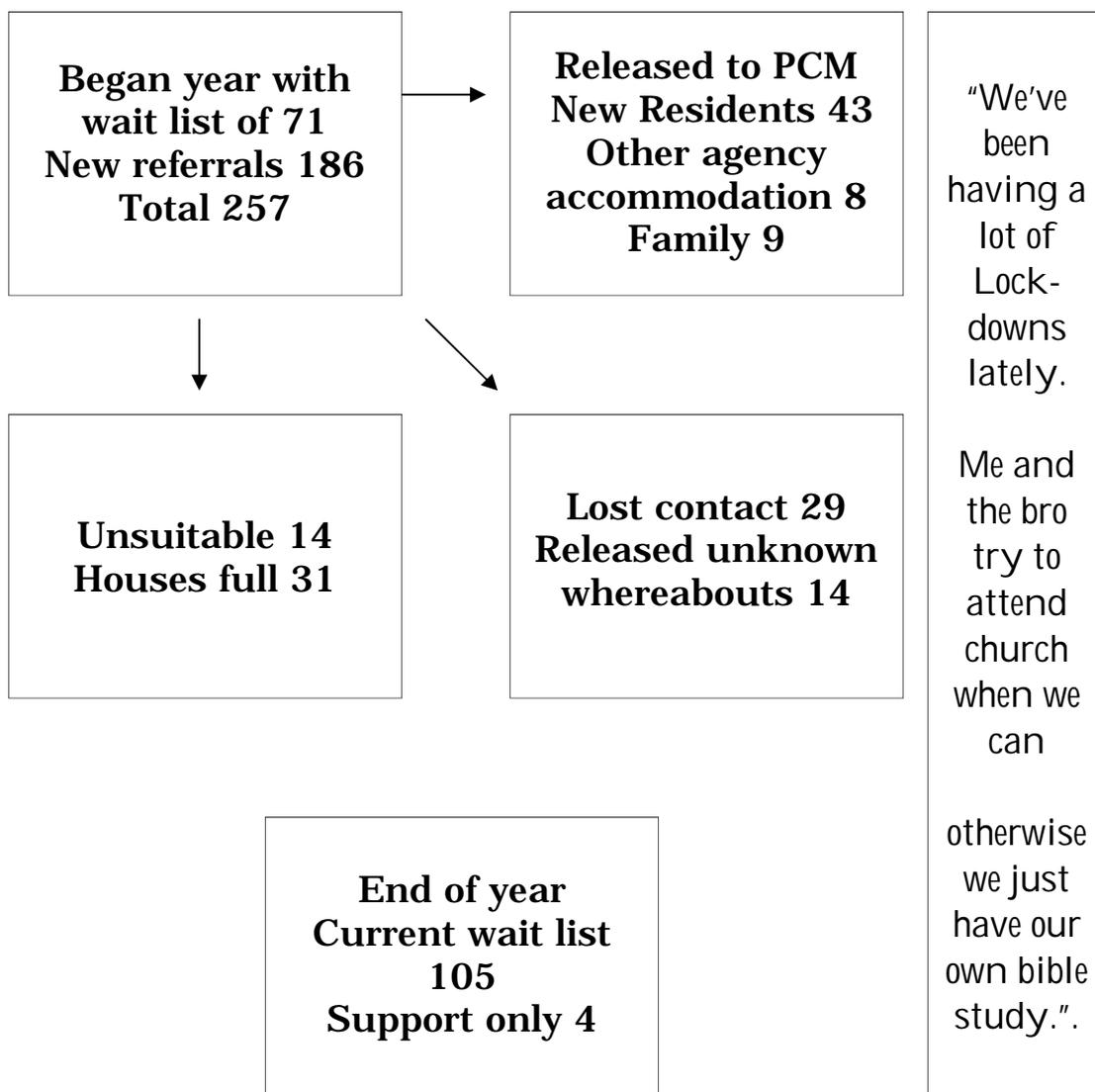
"... prison a horrible unnatural environment where the fittest and strongest (gangs) and (drugs) rule."

Outcome of referrals

Staff visit as many applicants as possible for the initial interview. This helps to build the relationship between each other and makes the transition back into the community easier for both the men and Prison Care Ministries staff.

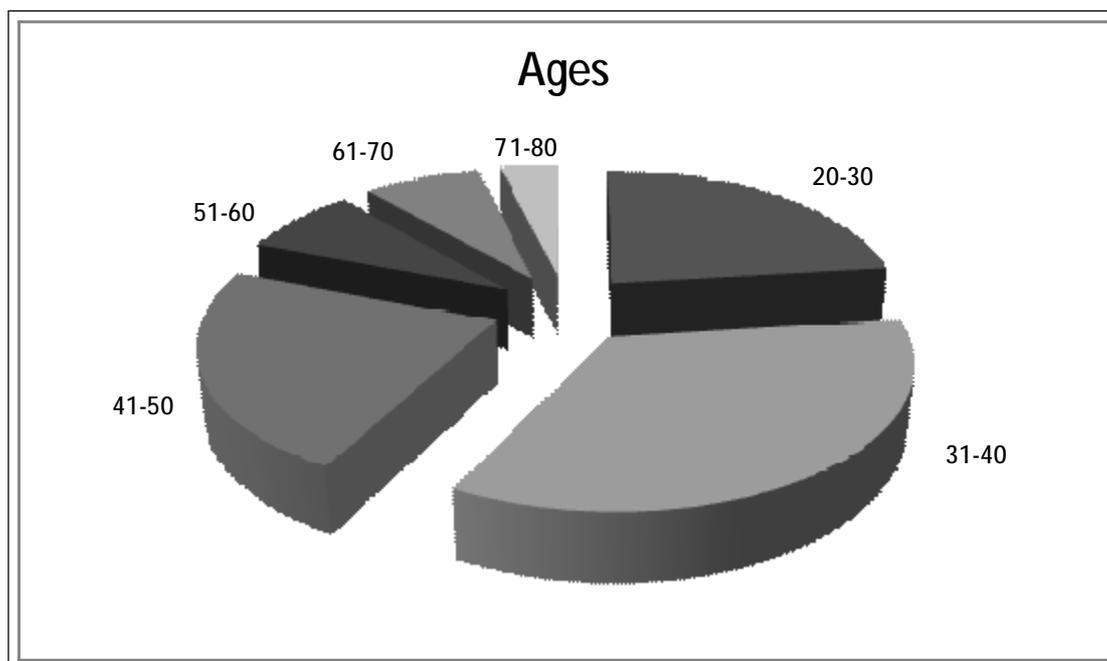
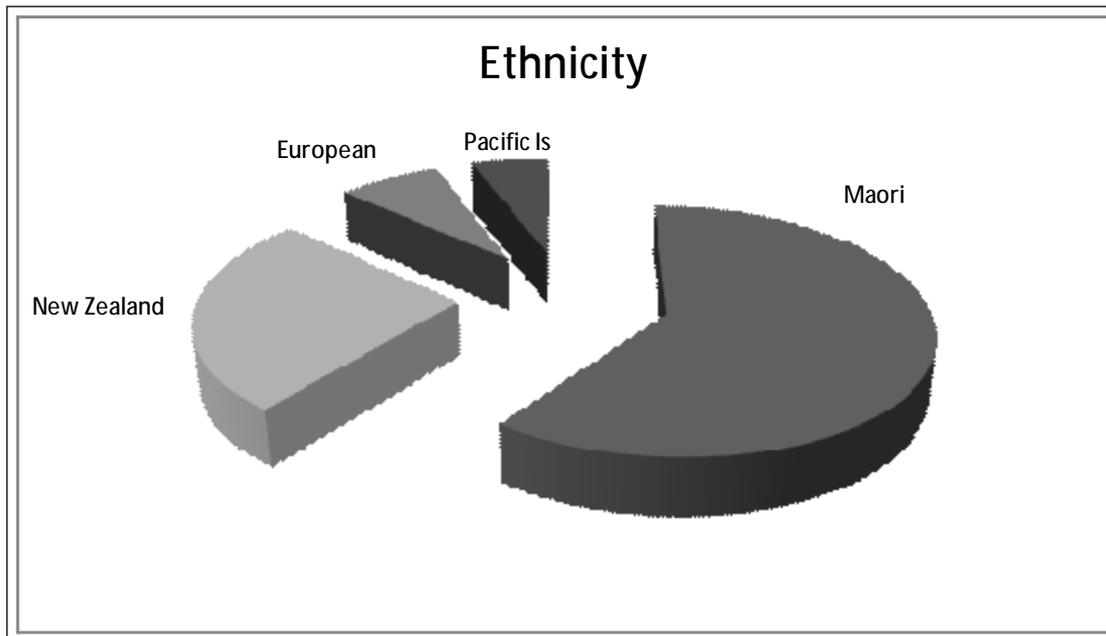
	Visits	Interviews	Men
Paremoremo	3	17	16
Mt Eden	1	1	1
Springhill	4	24	19
Waikeria	6	43	37
Tongariro	3	31	27
Wanganui	3	20	22
Rimutaka	1	1	1

A further 13 men were previously known to us.



"I'm a bit afraid of the outside, I've been here for over 5 years"

Residents



“Upon release I want more than nothing than to be able to find accommodation and employment and settle down again.

I am simply a good person who made a stupid mistake”

“The year has passed quickly, I can thank the Lord that He has kept my family and loves ones safe”

Residents outcome

We had a total of 53 residents through the houses.
1 returned to the house at a later date
4 were transferred between houses due to being in close proximity to someone in the community or to have a second chance.

Length of stay	
1-2 weeks	1
2-4 weeks	8
1-2 months	10
2-4	11
3-4	6
4-5	4
5-6	3
6-7	1
9-12	2
Current residents in at end of stats year	
	7

Residents moved on to:	
Flats	17
Houses	2
Private board	2
Family/friends	11
Night Shelter	1
Hospital	1
Disappeared	1

PCM staff continue to give support to many of the men after they have moved from the houses and have ongoing contact with 35 of our past residents from 2004 - 2010, 3 from the first house opened in 2004.

Staff are supporting families through the difficulties of having a family member in prison.

7 men were recalled to prison for a period of time for breaching Parole Conditions e.g.
Working without permission,
Breaking a curfew,
Drinking,
Being in the wrong place
Being asked to leave with no further accommodation.

2 men reoffended

2 men had a warrant out for arrest for breaching conditions or re offending and left the premises, all were later arrested.

"Can I have some photos, I want to see what it looks like at Christmas out there."