

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



**"...where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom"**

2 Corinthians 3:17



NADIA ZEVERSENUKE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

How would you define **FREEDOM?**

Perhaps you would think of times in your life when you felt free to travel or free from financial constraints or free to choose a certain career path. The dictionary defines freedom as the power or right to act, speak, or think without hindrance or restraint. As I was reviewing 2021, I realized that I was given a new perspective on freedom. This new insight came through the letters, feedback and stories shared by prisoners across our nation. While each of them was living within the constraints of a jail cell, their stories provided awareness into the gift of spiritual freedom given to us by Jesus.

In 2 Corinthians, Paul says **“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”** I have read this verse numerous times over the years but witnessing the truth of this scripture lived out in our students is miraculous. Each day my definition of freedom is expanded, as students are released from the spiritual captivity of their past sin and transformed into Christ followers on a mission to share the good news. While each of them is living in a cell designed to provide strict captivity, God is cultivating a soul that is free to live in step with His will.

In 2021, New Life Prison Ministries witnessed transformation in the lives of more than 1700 students. We were given a glimpse into the breakdown of generational sin, of minds opened to scripture, of hearts softened to Jesus and of a new kind of freedom that the world can't offer. As you read through this annual report, my prayer is that you are encouraged by what God is doing through this ministry. Even more so, I pray that your definition of freedom in Christ will be redefined.

To everyone that joined God in allowing New Life Prison Ministries to thrive in 2021, my heartfelt thanks. It is a humble honour to serve along side you.

Nadia Zeversenuke

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



DOUG IDEMA BOARD CHAIR

If we are honest, most would like to “hit the delete button” on the last two years. The pandemic, with its health, social and economic impacts has left parts of our lives changed in ways we neither asked for or expected. Yet, during those two years, God was still at work and God was pruning and shaping us for even better things ahead - causing us to focus on the things that matter most.

At NLPM, we are excited about the future and what God has in store. The past two years have allowed us to refocus on those areas where we can have the most impact. Through your faithfulness, He has continued to provide the financial resources and support to reach inmates with the good news.

For over 40 years our strength has been, and will continue to be, our rich Bible based curriculum. When we partner this with our faithful volunteers, staff, and supporters then God promises to do remarkable things (Isaiah 55:11, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 4:12). The gospel is good news, providing transformation and hope. Does the world ever need its message now!

Our NLPM leadership has been praying for God’s direction for the year ahead. He is faithful, and we feel God is directing us to:

1. Strengthen our core: Focus on improvements to our Bible based curriculum, including development of Indigenous and French language studies. Enhance and improve the quality and reach of our “Audio Recordings for Christ” (ARC) devices. Build more consistency into all our materials and curriculum.
2. Build our cross Canada partnerships: Build and support our network of instructors, across Canada. Likewise, partner with churches and other supporting Christian organizations.
3. Improve our processes and systems: Invest in our people, processes, and systems to better support future student and course growth.
4. Improve our reach: While we have thousands of active students across Canada, there are so many more that need the good news. We want to reach more students in Canadian institutions with the good news of the gospel.

God directs us to remember and help those in prison (Matthew 25:34-40, Hebrews 13:3).

Will you partner with us?

Doug Idema, Board Chair

“ I really love the ARC and how it helps me calm down at night. I listen to the Bible everyday! ”

- Barry ”

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Current Assets	2021	2020
Cash	\$ 286,237	\$ 141,284
Short Term Investments	\$ 206,629	\$ 191,248
Accounts Receivable	\$ 15,199	\$ 18,283
Inventory	\$ 29,067	\$ 36,801
Loan Receivable	\$ 185,000	\$ 201,250
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 3,847	\$ 8,703
Total Assets	\$ 725,979	\$ 597,569
Capital Assets	\$ 21,291	\$ 26,014
Net Assets (unrestricted)	\$ 747,270	\$ 623,583
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	\$ 24,757	\$ 23,974
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ 40,000
Long Term Debt	\$ 24,757	\$ 63,974
Net Assets (Unrestricted)	\$ 722,513	\$ 559,609

Statement of Operations		
Revenue		
Donations	\$ 602,410	\$ 409,007
Grants	\$ 14,449	\$ 36,486
Investment	\$ 17,307	\$ 4,542
Total Revenue	\$ 634,166	\$ 450,035
Expenses		
Program Expenses	\$ 392,657	\$ 325,913
Management & Administration	\$ 35,815	\$ 30,022
Fundraising	\$ 42,790	\$ 35,554
Total Expenses	\$ 471,262	\$ 391,489
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	\$ 162,904	\$ 58,546

2021 IMPACT

Students Served	1792
New Students	1141
Studies Completed	12205
ARC Delivered	1400
Instructors	171
Salvations	155



CHAPLAIN TO THE CHAPLAINS

an interview with Frank Loo

While 2021 brought a great deal of challenges to chaplains across our nation, we also witnessed some amazing advancements. One of these highlights was the appointment of Rev. Frank Loo to Provincial Chaplaincy Coordinator of the Ministry of the Solicitor General, Corrections – Institutional Services. Frank has been a chaplain in various sectors for more than 30 years and has been a strong advocate of NLPM resources. We were blessed to interview Frank to discuss this exciting new role in Ontario.

What do you love about your new role?

I love that this newly created role allows me to empower and equip chaplains across Ontario. This new scope provides a space for me to provide a spiritual lens, including my own faith tradition of Christianity as a voice in the decisions made within Corrections and it allows me to raise the profile of chaplains in Ontario. One of the highlights of my new current role is that I travel all over the province visiting various correctional institutions ministering to chaplains, providing guidance, prayer, and insight into their work.

What is the future of chaplaincy in Ontario?

I have found that government leaders see this as a vital role in the correction services system. Since Covid, the chaplain's role in Ontario is stronger and more valued than in the past. Chaplains have proven to be a strong support when handling mental wellness issues, grieving, and have been known at times to be among first responders in time of crisis. Even leaders with little to no faith background view the chaplain as a vital resource. There has been an increased surge of recognition for chaplains within Correction Services recently and I am thankful to see this support.

Why is NLPM vital to this role?

Chaplains can't do ministry alone – the demands are too great, and time is limited. NLPM is a valued community partner that provides help for the Chaplain with resources and volunteers. What is unique about NLPM is that they have the largest number of resources that respond to specific issues being faced in jail like anger, grief, abuse, and so on just to name a few. This helps chaplains extend their reach to hit touch on



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topics that will help transform inmates and get them talking about their specific issue. New Life courses allow inmates to start where they need it most then move through the studies afterwards.

The value of having a volunteer instructor as an extension to the chaplain's work is life changing. They take the time to help build a relationship through feedback and letters that will encourage the inmate to get to know Jesus. The instructor truly becomes an extension of the chaplaincy office, extending our reach.

What is the impact on inmates when they are in the NLPM program?

Other than the obvious growth and transformation through Jesus, people who become NLPM students have stronger rehabilitation success and are less likely to come back to jail, due to their relationship in Jesus. **For some students, the New Life course certificates are their prize possessions, they hang them in their cells and when they are released, they take them home and frame them. In addition, they build a relationship with their instructor and that is rare to them. For many inmates it's the most consistent and encouraging relationship they have. This can be life changing!**

CHURCH PARTNERS

Working together for the Kingdom

When churches closed during COVID, face to face serving opportunities were limited but our church partners still responded to the needs of prison ministry across our nation. In 2021, NLPM partnered with more than 40 churches to help transform the lives of inmates with the good news of Jesus Christ. From live stream updates, virtual instructor training, mission committee proposals and live speaking engagements; NLPM creatively shared the amazing news that God was actively working in prisons despite the limitations of the pandemic. Our church partnerships provided a way for NLPM to expand its reach into the community. The local church is vital in making sure our students have successful Christ centered lives outside of prison and we count on our church communities to welcome NLPM students once they are released. As God grows our student database, we know that he will grow our church partnerships to help with this transition. We are thankful for each church that felt called to support the work of NLPM in 2021 and that God has given us the opportunity to connect with church communities in this way.

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I will be released soon, and I can't wait to find a church. I know its important to have healthy people around me, so I have a support system. Please pray that I find one that helps me.

- Mary



THE HEART OF AN INSTRUCTOR

Everyday we read encouraging letters and feedback from our instructors to NLPM students. For many of our volunteers, the journey to help a student open their hearts to Jesus is challenging. When students begin their studies, they are angry, filled with grief, and depressed about their circumstances. Despite this, our instructors offer encouragement, wisdom and hope with the confidence in knowing that God is working through them to transform their lives. We want to share with you a few notes from instructors to students to give you a glimpse into the heart of our volunteers.

In 2021, NLPM almost doubled the number of volunteers serving students across our nation. We are so thankful to each of them for their tireless commitment to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to our students!

Hi Daniel, how are you? I have been praying about your upcoming parole hearing and I want you to know that no matter what the outcome, God is with you always. Take care my friend and brother in Christ, you are loved. – Stacey

Luke – Wow, you have completed 20 studies already! This is amazing and I can see how much you have changed; God is doing such a good work in you! This lesson was all about the plans God has for you and I am thrilled to read your responses, you really understand that no matter what, God has a beautiful plan for your life. I pray that God's will may be done in your life and that He blesses you today! – Norm

Chad, another Bible course completed, and you got a mark of 90% on this one! Way to go! You continue to be in my prayers. As the possibility of your release date draws near, I pray for your life outside of prison. I pray that you find a church and keep doing studies. I know God will give you the right path to walk! Your responses and letters are a blessing to me in so many ways. Your friend, Dave



MISSION & VISION

Bringing transformation and hope, through the good news of Jesus Christ to those in Canadian Prisons.

Through God's empowerment, we will:

- Reach every major correctional facility in Canada
- Provide every person in prison the opportunity to know the Lord Jesus through Bible-based correspondence courses.
- Connect every interested person with Christian resources upon release

A STUDENT'S PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

I want to give up my criminal way and start to live for you today

Forgive me for everything I used to do because now I want to show the world my love for You.

My Lord, I hope you can understand that I am trying to be a better man.

I know that I should be in hell, but you still offer to save me from my cell.

Please God forgive me for all I used to be. Even after all the crime and murders, you find a way to forgive me.

I don't know how much time I will be given, but at least I know that I am forgiven.

Thank you, God, for hearing me tonight, I promise you that I will make my choices right.

Thank you, God, for giving me another chance, one day I will stand before you and dance.

Heavenly Father, I know you are there, thank you for the new life You share.

I will always be your child, this I know, so thank you God for this life to You I owe.

Bring peace to all, show us the way, may your light shine through on our darkest days.

You are the One, you will always be. Tonight, I rest, knowing you are with me.

We pray to You through Your Son, we lift our words like the setting sun.

Thank you, God, today is done.

Tomorrow, I rise and to once again serve your Son.

Amen

My Prayer – Inspired by a student in Calgary who has completed 43 courses since 2019.