

Prison Ministry India Roadmap to Golden Jubilee



Ruby to Golden

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Ruby to Golden



1980s

Foundations and
Outreaching to Prisons

Ruby to Golden



1990s

Rehabilitation Centres and
Homes for Prisoners'
Children

Ruby to Golden



2000s

Extending to Indian States,
Research Training and
Documentation

Ruby to Golden



2010s

Extending to Indian
Dioceses, Legal Cells

Ruby to Golden



2020

Special Task Forces, Incessant Intercessory
Invocation for the Incarcerated, Burning Bush,
Extending to Indian Parishes and Asian
Countries

Call of PMI



- ❑ A Call to listen to their unshared feelings
- ❑ A call to be a bold servant
- ❑ A call to renew, rehabilitate and redeem
- ❑ To receive the failed ones as precious ones
- ❑ PMI as response to the cry from dark cells
- ❑ Prison Ministry India: The Dreamers' Mission

Divine Dreams



Father God had a dream for creation and He found everything good after He completed it. Father God had a dream for fallen humanity that He sent His only Son to redeem it. Jesus had a dream for His chosen ones that He sent His Spirit and empowered His apostles. The apostles had dreams of making disciples that from the locked room they went out and proclaimed Jesus boldly.

Divine Dreams



Mother Mary had dreams of Jesus' mission that she walked silently accompanying her Son Jesus on the way to Calvary. St Joseph had dreams that he obeyed his dreams; he moved on with his dreams. And here Prison Ministry India volunteers too have dreams for the incarcerated and their families and move on with our dreams. PMI family has moved as the Spirit led them and as a result, they fulfilled the dreams of the dejected ones.

PMI Dreams



If there is a dream, there is hope. The 40 years of our journey (1981-2021) has been years of hope for PMI volunteers as well as for the lost. The journey has been years of dream realization for us. The cry of the homeless incarcerated opened our hearts to respond to them in constructing houses for them. The cry of abandoned children of the incarcerated prompted us to open Kolbe Homes for prisoners' children. The cry of prisoners from poor socio-economic backgrounds moved to release them from dark cells by paying their fine and compensation.

Dreams of the Incarcerated



As humans we all of us are in search of happiness. Much more so, our incarcerated brethren thirst for joy as they have lost everything in their lives. They long for a kind word; they look around for compassionate eyes; they look around for a smile and a gentle touch; they walk miles to meet someone who can spend some time listening to them; they look around for someone who will never judge their past; they look around for someone who can understand their aspirations; they look for someone who can fulfil their dreams. We become content when our dreams are realized.

Why Dreams?



- ❑ By our dreams we create opportunities to make their aspirations come alive
- ❑ By our dreams we lay platforms to make the goals of our brethren behind bars a reality
- ❑ We write down their dreams, we speak for them, so that the voice of the voiceless can be heard

What Dreams?



- ❑ Nothing can stop PMI Volunteers, not even Pandemic, for we are called by God for whom everything is possible. We dream, We believe, We Trust, We run and God makes it a reality
- ❑ In 2020, We dreamt of constructing 40 houses for prisoners, 33rd house foundation stone was laid
- ❑ In 2020, We dreamt of praying before the Blessed Sacrament as one family, and today we Incessant Intercessory Invocation for the Incarcerated and God made it a reality as we have 24x7 Eucharistic Adoration for the Incarcerated and their families

Dreams for this Decade!

2020-2030



- ❧ Constructing Houses was the great dream realization for PMI family.
- ❧ 2020-21: 40 Houses
- ❧ 2022-31: 100 Houses
- ❧ 2022-31: Educate 1000 children of the Incarcerated
- ❧ 2022-31: Release 1000 Prisoners
- ❧ 2022-31: Employment Scheme (Released Prisoners)
- ❧ 2022-31: Tailoring Machines for released women prisoners & the wives of incarcerated men
- ❧ 2022-31: Reaching out to all the Parishes
- ❧ 2022-31: Another 5000 more volunteers
- ❧ 2022-31: 10 Kolbe Homes for Prisoners' Children
- ❧ 2022-31: 10 Rehabilitation Centres for Released Men/Women
- ❧ 2022-31: Establishing Legal Service Clinics
- ❧ 2022-31: Parishes to be associated with nearby prisons

Our Role!



- ✧ Joshua 3:5, “Sanctify yourselves today, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you”. Remove all the bitterness, resentments, hate feelings of past 40 years and receive the surprises from the God of Surprises in this decade.
- ✧ Spent everyday one hour before the Blessed Sacrament and we will wonders in this decade
- ✧ Work hard to realize God’s dreams for us and God’s dreams for the incarcerated and their families

God Experience



In 2014, I was doing a spirituality course at Adhyatma VidyaPeetam, Bangalore, as preparation for my final commitment. One day, a professor asked us in the class whether any of us has had a 'God-Experience.' As I was seated on the first bench, I raised my hand and said, 'Yes, I have.' The priest asked me to share that. So, with conviction, I got up and said, "This morning I'm alive and that's my God-Experience." When we walk in the light of the Lord, when we move with the awareness of God, every second of our life becomes a 'God-Experience.' We do not need great miracles to take place to know our God, for we have been created by the God who sent His only Son to become one like us and we have been redeemed by the God who went up to Calvary and stretched out His hands on the Cross saying, "I love you this much'.

PMI: A Call to be a Bold Servants



We, the PMI volunteers, are called to be bold. For, our Saviour was bold. He was bold when He stood for truth. He was bold when He cleansed the Church. He was bold when He called the Pharisees and Sadducees, white-washed tombs. He was bold when He allowed the sinful woman to wash His feet with her tears. He was bold when He ate with sinners and outcasts. He was bold when He touched the lepers and healed them.

PMI: A Call to be a Bold Servants



He was bold when He asked the disciples to gather the lost after feeding 5000. He was bold when He went in search of the one, leaving the other ninety-nine. He was bold when He preached in public courageously. Jesus was bold when He said to the paralysed man, your sins are forgiven. He was bold when he said to the woman caught in adultery, neither do I judge you. Go, sin no more.

PMI: A Call to be a Bold Servants



He was bold when He forgave sinners. He was bold when He carried the Cross and walked patiently to Calvary. He was bold when He forgave the thief on the Cross. He was bold when He gave up His life on the cross to gather the scattered the children of God. And this is the call of every PMI volunteer who is called by the God of boldness. As we stoop through the prison gates to meet our brethren, let us gaze upon our God who spoke boldly, walked boldly, acted boldly, lived boldly and died boldly.

Failed Ones: The Precious Ones

The people who witnessed the miracles of Jesus' multiplication of five loaves, healing of the leper, curing the blind, and walking on the sea, abandoned Him when He was on the Cross. But the Centurion who never saw any miracle of Jesus proclaimed, 'Truly He is the Son of God' (Mt 27:54) when he saw Jesus crying out from the cross Abba Father and witnessed the death of Jesus.

Failed Ones: The Precious Ones



This is a conversion of the heart. Watching the agony of Jesus, gazing at the way Jesus died for humanity he changed himself and became a strong follower of Jesus. Sinners teach about responsibility, redemption, bravery and charity as well as saints do. In many ways, the sinners may be better teachers. The failed ones are the ones most precious to God since He went through the valley, thorns and thistles to find the one that was lost.

Our Brethren: God's Gift



We often hear that prison is not a safe place as it is the living space of criminals. But for me, it is the living space of human beings created in the image and likeness of God. The hearts of some of our brethren are filled with revenge and hatred. They need someone to guide them in their desperate moments. As St Therese of Child Jesus called Pranzini, Mon Premier Enfant, the broken ones behind the bars are our children; God's precious gift to us. As Moses was entrusted to lead and guide the Israelites, we too are called to guide our brethren and lift their souls to God. We need to reach out to them in their wounded-ness.

Our Brethren: God's Gift



Every prisoner whom PMI volunteers encounter is a God-given gift. The thief on the cross who had to be redeemed was the Father's gift to Jesus. They are our brethren and we accompany them on their journey to receive God's mercy and grace. As God asked Cain, where is your brother? In Genesis 4:9, the same God asks each one of us where are our brothers and sisters? For PMI volunteers, our brothers and sisters are behind the bars and we encounter our living God in their brokenness and woundedness. Jesus too was broken on the Cross; salvation came to the world from His brokenness.



Strength of Prison Ministry



Prison Ministry India from its inception on 8 December 1981 holds a few beliefs strongly. *Our God is never tired of forgiving.* When Peter asked how often he has to forgive his brother, Jesus said, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy seven times” (Mt 18:22). “Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future”, said Oscar Wilde, the Irish Poet. “One lost sheep is greater than the ninety-nine sheep!” (Mt 18:10-14). “God hates the sin, not the sinner” (John 8:1-10). “No one is beyond redemption” (Luke 23:43). The Holy Bible is a saga of redemption. Prison Ministry is the ministry of the redemption of lost souls. PMI is a call to win souls for God through our sacrifice, genuine love, mortifications and prayers. PMI volunteers have the blessing of being able to spend 30 minutes every day praying for the incarcerated across the globe as we have launched the *Incessant Intercessory Invocation for the Incarcerated* as part of our Ruby Jubilee.

PMI Volunteers: People of Fire



- ❧ When the families of prisoners look at them as a disgrace, we look at them as grace-filled human beings who are created in God's image and likeness. When society considers them worthless, we consider them priceless - because our God who died on the cross was a God who came to gather the lost. He searched till He could find. He never gave up. When He went in search of the lost one, he was determined that he would not return without the lost one. When He found it, He carried it on His shoulders. The ninety-nine sheep did not have the privilege of being carried by the shepherd but the lost one did.
- ❧ The call of PMI is as that of Jesus who never gave up! When we see a released prisoner returning to prison, we gaze at our Shepherd who never gave up on the lost one.

Incarcerated: Our Teachers



Mathew, the tax collector, denied everything when he found Jesus. Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector declared that he would offer half of his belongings to the poor by paying back four times as much to anyone he had cheated. Paul the persecutor, who was not a perfect human, became a zealous servant of the Master. As the sinners in the Bible teaches every believer to mend his/her way and to walk the straight path, the rejected ones from within the prison walls also teach us the lesson that no one is beyond redemption.

We Kneel: God lifts



- ✻ Abraham pleaded with God, Jacob pleaded with God, Moses pleaded with God, Jesus pleaded with God and the Prison Ministry India volunteers plead before God in the form of the Incessant Intercessory Invocation for the Incarcerated, a Eucharistic Adoration for 24 hours for the incarcerated across the globe.
- ✻ We kneel before God for the sake of all our brethren facing injustice, violence and persecution and we have witnessed our God standing for these vulnerable and broken ones.

We the Dreamers!



Incarcerated ones too have their dignity; they too have likes and dislikes; they too have a desire for the future; they too have dreams. Can we the dreamers join hands together to fulfill the dreams of the incarcerated, rejected, dejected, broken and vulnerable? Bring many more dreamers to join hands with us to realize the dreams of the incarcerated, their families and their children.

Let us Journey From.....



2021 to 2031

Fourth Decade to Fifth Decade

Ruby to Golden

