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Contact: Elizabeth Street
Phone: 703-554-8665
Email: estreet@pfi.org

Prison Fellowship International to Co-host Training for Prison Ministry Leaders in the Middle East

Prison Fellowship International will co-host a training event for over 50 prison ministry leaders from throughout the Middle East—including Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Mauritania and Bahrain—from 26 September to 2 October in Beirut, Lebanon.

“Christian leaders from throughout the Middle East are responding to critical needs in their societies, where prison populations are soaring particularly among juveniles,” said Ron Nikkel, President and CEO of Prison Fellowship International. “In this conference we see that the solution to these and other problems will come from within these societies—where leaders with a vision for what is possible step forward to serve.”

Participants will explore the theme for the conference—“Let us be transformed and renewed”—through training in restorative justice, management, fundraising, volunteer recruitment, leadership development and strategic planning. Prison Fellowship International is coordinating the conference with the Middle East representatives of the International Commission for Catholic Prison Pastoral Care (ICCPPC), an organization which facilitates the creation and growth of Catholic prison chaplaincies throughout the world. Conference participants include Catholic, Orthodox, and Evangelical Protestant Christians.

“Our purpose in these days together,” said Roy Moussalli, a conference organizer and PFI's liaison in the Middle East, “will be to deepen the commitment and the growth of the participants as individuals and as ministries, in their vision, and in their hearts and minds.” In his role, Roy Moussalli travels frequently throughout the Middle East to develop and partner with prison ministries.

Fellow trainers at the event include Peter Walker, Executive Director of PFI's Centre for Offender Transformation; Dr. Curt Rhodes, founder and president of Questscope for Social Development in the Middle East, an organization which works with at-risk youth, young women, and children refugees; James Van Cleef, regional controller for Questscope; and Paul Morcos, a Beirut-based attorney and law professor at the American University of Beirut.

The world's most extensive international criminal justice ministry, Prison Fellowship International (PFI) is a global association of 113 national Prison Fellowship organizations. PFI is active in every region of the world with a network of more than 100,000 volunteers working for the spiritual, moral, social and physical well-being of prisoners, ex-prisoners, their families and victims of crime. National Prison Fellowship organizations are indigenous, volunteer-based and include Christians from the Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox traditions. More information is available at www.pfi.org.

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