



MARCH 2009 - #2

## ARE YOU A CRIMINAL?

In my previous email I stated that my laptop, hard-drive and some software had been stolen. What I didn't mention was who stole them.

One of the issues ex-offenders face after their release is that few people wish to employ 'ex-convicts.' Without work many of them feel that the only way to make ends meet is to return to their former lifestyles of crime.

When speaking to company owners who are reluctant to hire ex-offenders I often say to them that hiring an ex-offender is probably better than hiring someone off the street. At least you know that the ex-offender has committed an offence in the past, so you will probably keep a watchful eye over them. But what about other employees? Some of them may also have committed crimes that you just don't know about... yet.

My laptop wasn't stolen by an offender. In fact, over the past decade not one thing has been stolen from our studios by offenders. My laptop was in fact stolen by a volunteer! Like most of you, my eyes were on 'the criminals,' and I was completely blindsided by a person who I thought I could trust.

Not only did he steal from us but the theft was so meticulously planned; the lies so profoundly constructed; that it was incredibly hard for me to understand that this was one of our volunteers rather than one of the 'criminals.' It brought home the reality that *anyone* can be a criminal.



\*\* Painting by Wayne - an offender in prison \*\*



How many of us have gone home with stationery from the office that we never returned? Ever cheated the tax-man? How about driving over the speed-limit or without your seat-belt on? Paid your TV license? Regardless of how 'big' or how 'small' the crime is, breaking the law makes you a criminal – even if you didn't get caught.

All criminals aren't in prison but those who are have the opportunity and time to make some radical changes in their lives. It's up to us to ensure that we don't miss this opportunity and ensure that they utilise this time in the most constructive manner available.

The new prison television systems have come under some harsh criticism. And if these systems are merely to 'entertain' inmates then rightfully so. However, by utilising them to redirect behaviours, instil moral values, educate, train and rehabilitate they could be the most powerful tool ever used for rehabilitation behind bars. And this is the core of our objective! But we can't do it without your assistance.

## THE GOOD NEWS!

It's not often that one hears of stolen goods being recovered, but we have some good news... My hard-drive was retrieved from nearby and my laptop was retrieved from Malawi! Unfortunately the USB license key for the editing software was not recovered which renders this software useless. We thank the Lord for His divine intervention and the safe return of our equipment.

This is apparently not the first time CHRISTOPHER CHUNGA has stolen and he is still at large although currently believed to be in Malawi. He preys on Christian businesses especially in film production and his next quest might be in promotional sports gear.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

We are currently looking for **Video Editors** in Cape Town to assist us on a voluntary basis. Should you be interested please contact us.

## PARTNERSHIP

Thank you to those of you who responded to our previous appeal. If you would like to become a partner please contact us at [info@prisonbroadcast.org.za](mailto:info@prisonbroadcast.org.za) or on 082 4888 345 today.

Much love,

*Marius, Rochelle & the PBN team*

## PRAYER NEEDS

- For divine wisdom
- For provision for all our needs
- For specialist TV volunteers
- For protection

## OTHER INFORMATION

Prison Broadcasting Network is committed to the holistic rehabilitation and moral rejuvenation of inmates utilizing the mediums of radio and television.

We are a registered Non-Profit Voluntary Association - Reg. 027-721NPO and a registered Service Provider to Correctional Services – Reg. PL004/06. We are also members of the ACB.

We exist by faith and value your support.

Newsletters are sent out monthly or bi-monthly via email and posted on our website. The version number at the top of this page will tell you if you may have missed one.

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