



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, D.C. - - - Prison Fellowship International congratulates the first Maximilian Fellowship recipient, Rachel Weber. The annual Fellowship supports a recent college graduate who wishes to volunteer for a year working alongside a Prison Fellowship national ministry.

Ms. Weber, a recent Vanderbilt University honors graduate, will be leaving for Rwanda in September where her time will be divided between PF Rwanda and the Living Bricks Campaign. She will be pursuing her interests in international development and conflict resolution by assisting with PF Rwanda's reconciliation programmes, the showing and follow-up of the "As We Forgive" film national tour, and supporting PF with other programmes, such as literacy training for street children.

The Fellowship was named for Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish priest who volunteered to die in place of a stranger at the Auschwitz concentration camp. His selfless witness and prophetic voice against what he called the "poison of indifference" has been an inspiration to Christians for decades.

Throughout the world we see enormous indifference – and active antipathy – to the plight of the prisoner, the prisoner's family, and victims. PFI's mission of justice and mercy seeks to combat this indifference with a firmly held belief in the reality of transformation, restoration and reconciliation.

With her heart for service to the prisoner and for reconciliation, and with her experience in human and organisational development, Ms. Weber is the perfect recipient of this new Fellowship.
