

Week 15: HMP The Wolds – Rev Peter Morris

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you that your heart is towards those who have known the pain of rejection; the heartbreak of Dad 'walking out' even as you Lord pierced the skies with the heartrending cry of, "Father, my Father why have you forsaken me?" We ask of you dear Jesus that you will draw very close to those who are in our prisons as rejection and fear grips their hearts in utter despair.

May your love heal the pain of their hearts and your power break the invisible chains that bind their lives. Flood their prison cell with the light of hope and your glorious peace. Lead them to the foot of your cross where new chapters are born and new tomorrows begin. You died for those, and for all, the door to a new beginning is open. We thank you for love Lord Jesus!

Week 16: HMP Wormwood Scrubs - Ray Elliot

Prayers for Chaplaincy team at Wormwood Scrubs:

- Pray for a common vision and unity in the team as they seek to journey alongside the residents who are casualties of our society. To enable the prisoners to meet with and to be restored by God's healing love.
- Pray for our Community Chaplains working inside and outside the prison. For the residents and ex-offenders to be supported and equipped with the skills and structures needed to live and operate as unified members of their communities, to break the cycle of crime.

Week 17: HMP The Mount - Phillip Abrey

We thank God for the:

- Unity within the Chaplaincy team and the acceptance of the team by staff and prisoners
- Men who take a spiritual lead on their residential units and who attend the annual preaching school and weekly Bible studies
- Support of volunteers with courses and Sunday worship, and for a successful year with Angel Tree

We ask God for:

- More men to attend worship on Sundays and weekly Bible studies
- Wisdom as the Chaplaincy team works in a time of change with reduced resources

- Spiritual leaders to emerge to be men of God on their wings and throughout the prison
- Acceptance for those prisoners leaving here and returning home

We rejoice that, "In all things God works together for the good of those who love Him." (Romans 8:28)

Ask that the men will grasp the truth of these words and live them out here in the prison.

PFI

Week 18: Prison Fellowship Romania

"Be with heart!" (Isaiah 41:6)

PF Romania is delighted to greet our Mum in Christ - Prison Fellowship England and Wales. You gave us a lot of loving 'know how' about prison ministry; we are now eighteen years old and your kind generosity made us crazy for Jesus. He has blessed us with working in prisons, starting Christian centres for prisoners' children, street and delinquent juveniles, ex-prisoners, mothers and infants, and homeless people connected with crime. During the last twelve years, more than 1,300 people have been with us either for a short or long period of time. By His grace alone, 75% of them are now members of the community. This means: family, church, a job, no fear for tomorrow, hope in Jesus. Being crazy for Jesus we are promoting His Kingdom here in Romania!

A great responsibility is pressing on our shoulders during this time of crisis, kindly remember us in your prayers for:

- The spiritual growth of our big family
- Grace and mercy for us as we are investing not money but our lives into the lives of many vulnerable children and adults
- Our daily bread

Please visit www.pfr.ro for our other needs

We do wish you a special Jesus smile from His throne of grace. May He always be with each and all of you.

Prison Fellowship Romania



PRAYER GUIDE

AUTUMN 2010

Prison ministry

Week 1: Sycamore Tree

Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering (Hebrews 13:3).

Together, let's give thanks for the Sycamore Tree programme that advocates a message of justice that restores. Pray for changed lives, that people will learn to love and forgive themselves; to move on. Pray that the Lord blesses the Tutors and Group Facilitators who sacrifice their valuable time to go into prison; pray that more volunteers would come on board. Pray too for provision to run more courses, that God would provide in this time when budgets are being cut.

Week 2: Letter Writing

'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me' (Matt 25:40).

Father, we thank you for the volunteers who faithfully give their time to write to prisoners and for the commitment of Chaplains across the country as they help us to implement the Letter Writing programme. We thank you for this opportunity to demonstrate your love and provide comfort to inmates who find themselves in such a lonely and volatile environment, and ask that you would give wisdom and discernment to volunteers as they write.

Week 3: Volunteers

We pray for those who give us their time to volunteer and work to see lives transformed - thinking particularly of Prison Fellowship groups and their faithfulness in prayer. Thank God for their willingness to go with Him into the darkest of places, and pray that God's love will shine brightly through them. We pray that more people will want to put their faith into action, to show God's love to those whom society see as unlovable.

Pray also for the Prison Ministry Conference at Holy Trinity Brompton on 29th October. Thank God for this opportunity to equip the Church to work with prisoners and ex-offenders, and to show the impact that the Church can have on transforming our society.

Week 4: Angel Tree

Lord, we pray now for all families who are affected by the imprisonment of a loved one; that they will find the support they need and that relationships can be maintained. Thank you for Angel Tree and for the volunteers who work to make Christmas an easier time for the children and partners of prisoners; we pray for more volunteers with a passion for this ministry so that Angel Tree can touch many more lives. Thank you for this opportunity to share your love.

Week 5: Prison ministries

Father God, thank you that you are in prisons revealing the truth to the lost and lonely. We thank you for all the ministries that work within prisons to share your love and we ask that you will bless them in their work, allowing them to reach more men, women and children.

Please pray specifically for: Prison Alpha, the Samaritans, Prison Fellowship, Christianity Explored and any others that you feel led to pray for.

Week 6: Ex-offenders

Please pray for those recently released from prison; that they would come in to contact with people who can help them build a new life away from crime, and that their families will encourage them in their new lifestyle. Pray also for the rebuilding of relationships between families; that this will help them stay on track. Lastly, please remember the work of organisations such as *Caring for Ex-offenders*, and ask that they would continue to be able to help men and women as they are released, as many of them have nowhere to go.

Week 7: Prisons Week 'Be With Me'

Lord, Prison's Week is currently running and we lift this ministry and everyone who is taking part up to you. Thank you for this opportunity to raise awareness for prisons on a large scale and thank you that so many people are united in praying for all those connected to prisons. <http://www.prisonweek.org/2010/>

Week 8: 'Lock them up and throw away the key.'

Many members of our society believe that offenders should be sent to prison and forgotten. Let us pray that people will begin to realise that they are no different to you or I; that instead of condemning them we should be uplifting them and helping them to rebuild their lives. Pray that God will give us the courage to speak out in support of prisoners and give us the strength to forgive.

Prayer groups

Week 9: PF Thorn Cross, North West

Our group is privileged to pray for Thorn Cross YOI - we support the Chaplaincy and are kept informed of meetings with the Police, Clergy and agencies who are enthusiastic about Restorative Justice. As a result, our prayers are relevant to urgent needs.

The Chaplain is full of enthusiasm for anything that will help the boys, and people are encouraged to go into prison to hold concerts, worship, Alpha and Bible studies – sadly, cutbacks are affecting these outreaches. Therefore, our prayer request is that we desperately need more funding for these ministries, especially for Sycamore Tree which makes so much difference to the boys' lives. We would also value prayer for the twinning of Thorn Cross and Risley Prison, this brings a threat of redundancy which may affect the Chaplaincy.

Week 10: PF March, East

Our prayer group supports HMP Whitemoor and we would like to give thanks for the answer to our prayers - Paul Foster's appointment as Prison Chaplain. We would ask that you pray for Sycamore Tree to be reinstated, for Angel Tree applications to increase, and for the fear within this prison to be dealt with by the Holy Spirit. We would also value your time this week in focusing on the prayer below:

Dear Almighty Father, we commit Whitemoor to you - its staff, inmates, visitors, volunteers, the Chaplaincy team and the special services held at this thought provoking time of year. As Jesus was born on earth, may he be born into Whitemoor. May your will be done and your Spirit come into the whole prison.

Week 11: PF Plymouth, South West

Please pray for the Chaplains as they work under extremely difficult financial restraints and new systems and also for the health of the teams. For the prisoners who are seeking or newly converted, that they will become grounded and strong in their faith. Give thanks for those who go into prison to run courses through the Chaplaincy. Pray for the new Community Chaplaincy as they build a team and for those they are supporting after release. Give thanks for those who are called to pray for the Devon prisons, staff and inmates.

Week 12: PF Swansea, Wales

Matthew 25:34 - 40

We at PF Swansea are taking up the challenge highlighted at the Prison Fellowship Conference - 'To support prisoners when they are discharged from prison.' Our desire is to envision and enable the Christian community across South and West Wales to partner with us in 'fleshing out' the above scripture. As well as signposting prisoners to existing provision, we will be looking to identify congregations, individuals, organisations, accommodation, paid/voluntary job opportunities, mentors etc. As the public sector contracts, is the call on Prison Fellowship and the Church to enlarge its tent? We will seek to initiate and challenge. This may include the setting up of a church just for ex-prisoners where we can nurture and encourage, especially in the early days after their release. The challenge is long-term; please join us with your prayers.

Week 13: PF Featherstone, Central

Prayers for HMP Featherstone: Thanks and praise for the Sunday services and Tuesday fellowship meetings, for the interest in Christianity, lively discussion, wonderful singing and the fact that Prison Fellowship volunteers are welcome inside the prison. Please pray for:

- Roger the Chaplain and the team which supports him
- The men who attend, that they will be really blessed and respond to the love of God, and that they may have a bold yet sensitive wisdom throughout the prison
- Any visitors, that they may have wisdom and discernment as they give a listening ear to the men
- The local churches, especially around Wolverhampton, that they will respond to prison ministry

Prison Chaplains

Week 14: HMP Chelmsford - Rev James Ridge

Heavenly Father, whose son Jesus Christ was tried before a human court and suffered the weight of human cruelty and injustice, we pray for the men in Chelmsford prison and for those working alongside them.

Especially we pray for those seeking to change their lives, to make a new beginning, and for the Chaplaincy team, to whom many look for guidance and inspiration.

Bless, we pray, all those who witness to Christ among prisoners. Give them humility as forgiven sinners and courage as ambassadors of Christ to stand alongside those in need and offer them hope.