

Prison Chaplains

Week 13: HMYOI Thorn Cross

We pray Lord, for all those victims of crime whose lives have been changed forever. We ask that you give them your blessing and peace and reconciliation in their time of need and that our society will do more to help victims.

We pray too for the secondary victims of crime - the families of offenders. Those who are shunned in society for the actions of others, but are expected to support themselves, their families, and their loved one in prison through it all. We ask for your grace and blessing on them and that you would help them through this difficult time.

We also pray for prisoners. For those who have committed crimes on their brothers and sisters and for those unjustly imprisoned. We pray that they will see the light of Christ in their lives and recognise their responsibility in change and reconciliation. We ask you Lord to bless and guide them on their life journey.

We pray also for all those who work in prisons: for all volunteers, without whom the prisons could not provide the interventions they do, for all staff, uniform and non-uniform, for their families, and for all who care for justice, peace and reconciliation.

Week 14: HMP Parc

Praise to the 'God who gives hope' (Rom 15:13) who continues to be faithful to His word, we give thanks for the new purpose-built 'Faith Centre' facilities.

Pray for:

- Healing and growth in Chaplaincy team unity (6 full-time & 1 part-time) and that they be God's prophetic conscience
- God's protection, wisdom and anointing for all interactions with staff, prisoners and supporting volunteers, and for all proposed projects
- Wise restructuring across management, including decisions affecting Chaplaincy
- All staff (approx 700 with capacity increasing to 1500) needing to adapt to changes in structures, regimes and a complex mix of prisoners

Week 15: HMP Ashfield

Lord I ask that you would intervene in the lives of the young people who find themselves in Ashfield. Please bring healing and freedom to those who are hurting and captive. For those whose lives are affected by discord and dysfunction, I ask Lord that they would know your peace and comfort. May Ashfield be a place where all young people hear the good news of your gospel and where they experience your salvation, forgiveness and love. Thank you Lord that your promise for our young people in Ashfield is that, *"for as many as receive you, you give them the right to become the children of God"* (John 1:12). Amen.

Week 16: HMP Leicester

Your prayers are asked for the staff and prisoners of HMP Leicester and their families. Please pray also for the Chaplaincy team and all those who volunteer to support the Chaplaincy, including the prison visitors, Chapel volunteers, bereavement counsellors, playroom volunteers and Alcohol Anonymous leaders. As we look forward, please pray for the volunteers who will lead the Alpha courses and relationship courses this year. We give thanks for all those who made the recent Sycamore Tree course so successful.

PFI

Week 17: PF Northern Ireland

- Give thanks with us for the wonderfully successful *Christmas Hope* project and for all those who gave their time, money, groceries and toys so willingly - food hampers and toy parcels went to prisoners' families across Northern Ireland
- Give thanks for new volunteers seeking God's guidance about future involvement with Prison Fellowship and pray for wisdom for our staff member, Joanna, as she seeks to match their abilities with the needs
- Pray for Robin, our CEO, as he oversees the day-to-day work - he is busy sometimes giving court support and generally finds himself spinning many plates!



Seeing lives transformed

PRISON FELLOWSHIP

England and Wales www.prisonfellowship.org.uk

PRAYER GUIDE

SPRING/SUMMER 2011

Prison Ministry

Week 1: Sycamore Tree

Father God, we want to thank you for the good news that since 1998 Prison Fellowship has provided more than 1000 accredited Sycamore Tree courses, teaching over 15,000 inmates the principles of Restorative Justice. We pray for the future of the programme, that despite the current economic climate the demand for Sycamore Tree will increase in the coming year and that the resources will be available to allow more men, women, and young offenders to attend so that lives can indeed be transformed. We also pray that more victims and volunteers will be motivated by your love to join us and support the programme.

Week 2: Letter Writing

Lord we lift up to you all those who participate in the Letter Writing programme and we ask that through the letters a sense of your love would be shared with the prisoners. We pray that more volunteers, particularly men, would want to take the opportunity to write to those in prison. Lord, may all participants be... *'as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves'* (Matthew 10:16). We pray that existing Letter Writers who receive the new manual will take onboard the guidance and wisdom it contains. We give you thanks for the dedication of all those who write letters and we ask that they would feel encouraged.

Week 3: Angel Tree

We thank you for all the families that were blessed last Christmas through Angel Tree. We also thank you for how the programme is developing in new and exciting ways with the Mother's Day scheme that was piloted this year. Lord, we pray for your continued protection over these plans and ask that you bless all Angel Tree volunteers who willingly give their time each year to help these families.

"It was very nice getting a nice present from my mum, it made my Christmas, I felt special and it was nice of you to do that, thank you so very much." (Child of a prisoner)

Week 4: Volunteers/Supporters

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

We give thanks for our many faithful volunteers and supporters who generously give their time and financial support to 'see lives restored.' Pray that God will continue to equip and protect our volunteers throughout their ministry and that more people will feel encouraged to join them as they put their faith into action. May God continue to bless both volunteers and supporters in all that they do.

Week 5: Prisoners and their families

Pray that prisoners and their families will be able to keep in contact, no matter where in the country the prisoner's sentence is to be served. Pray also that the families who are left without their loved ones are supported within their community. Pray also for prisoners, that they would have opportunities to improve their chances of employment once released.

Week 6: Restorative Justice in our society

Father, we offer our prayers for those you place in positions of governance in our criminal justice system, who determine policies to improve Restorative Justice. We ask that they will further seek to heal the brokenness among victims, offenders and communities. We ask that faith communities will be invited to work more closely with law enforcement, courts, victim advocates, and prisons as partners in the work of Restorative Justice.

We also pray that in our society we learn to accept that punishment served is final; create in us a willingness to trust in your redemption and justice and not harbour prejudice to what we do not understand.

Week 7: Raising awareness

Thank God for the high profile of prisons and discussions around the rehabilitation of prisoners in the media at the moment. Thank Him that we had the opportunity to contribute to the Government's Green Paper on sentencing and reoffending, and pray that we would be able to promote the message of the redeemability of every offender through our Restorative Justice work.

Prayer Groups

Week 8: PF Rotherham, North East

Pray that:

- A spirit-filled godly person will be appointed as Chaplain for Wolds prison to replace Michael Hudson who has retired
- The Sycamore Tree courses would not be stopped or curtailed due to the government spending cuts
- More ministries will be created to come alongside prisoners and their families when they are released from prison, and for the nurture of prisoners who have become Jesus followers whilst inside
- Security clearances will come through much more quickly in order for new group members to be able to enter into prison and be used for the Lord

Week 9: PF Maidstone, South East

Give thanks for the good number of men who attend Sunday services and the Bible study on Tuesday evenings, and for the good relationships within the Chaplaincy team.

Pray for:

- Visitors, that we would be good listeners and have a word in season for those we get alongside during these times
- The men of many nationalities, that they would come to know Jesus in a personal relationship and become renewed in their minds and attitudes to others

Week 10: Belmarsh & Isis Group 1, London

We give thanks to the Lord for the way He has been moving in the lives of many inmates and staff at HMP Belmarsh and for the introduction of Angel Tree last Christmas - nearly 100 presents were sent out! Please pray for wisdom for the PF Belmarsh Chaplaincy team as they seek to run more evening activities.

We also give thanks for HMP Isis, which opened in July 2009, and that Prison Fellowship has been able to go into this prison from 2011. Please pray for the Chaplaincy as the prison builds up to its full capacity and as they seek to minister to young men of 18-25yrs - this is unknown ground to the Coordinating Chaplain and to us as a group. Please also pray for the Chaplains as they seek to run Sycamore Tree once the numbers of men increase.

Week 11: PF Wayland - East

We praise God for the successful completion of Prison Fellowship's 1000th Sycamore Tree course, which took place at Wayland. Many of the men were deeply impacted and the Governor has asked for more courses than we have ever done for 2011/12, which is encouraging. We have only ever done six a year so this will be a challenge to our volunteer capacity. Please pray for new Sycamore Tree volunteers and for more victims of crime that are willing to share their story during session 3, so that we are able to respond positively.

Please pray for the Alpha courses, the Bible studies and the groups for life prisoners. Pray that they can continue despite the cuts in evening activities. Do also pray for the community of Christian believers here, that they will grow in understanding and commitment and that they will be strong for the future, whether released or remaining.

Week 12: PF Birmingham 1, Midlands

Heavenly Father, as we come before you this day, we give you the highest honour. We give you the highest praise because you are the true and living God. Thank you Father for life in all its fullness through your Son, Jesus Christ.

At this time we seek your heavenly wisdom. Help us Lord so that in our actions, our speech and all that we do, we act wisely. We pray for:

- Prison Fellowship throughout all regions, that we who have a part to play will be faithful stewards
- All staff at the national office. Lord, keep them strong in spirit, mind and body and help them to be good role models for others who will come after them
- Funding to be raised for Prison Fellowship and for more volunteers to come forward into groups where there are only a few people

Lord, also remember all prisoners around the world and their families, especially those who find it hard to get to the prisons. We commend these prayers to you in Jesus' name. Amen

If you would be interested in supporting the implementation of our future plans through prayer, please contact the office about becoming a Prayer Intercessor: 020 7799 2500