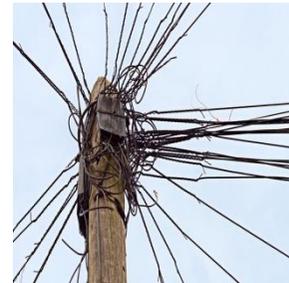
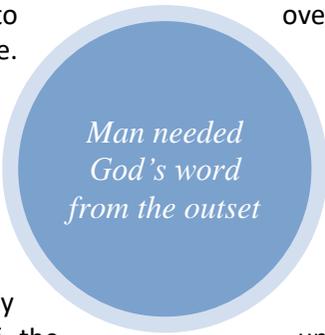


HMP MANCHESTER; HMP FOREST BANK; HMP BUCKLEY HALL;  
HMP & YOI STYAL; HMP YOI THORN CROSS &  
GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY  
PRISON PRAYER LETTER FEBRUARY 2018

**Who will we listen to?**



What a difference who we listen to makes! Have you ever bought something, done something or said something and then thought “I should never have listened to...” referring to whoever it was that gave the advice you based your purchase, action or words on? It may mean buying the wrong thing, doing something you regret or saying something you are sorry about. It could mean living your whole life under the influence of those who Psalm 1 calls “the ungodly.” In his book “More than Redemption”, in which he explains the theology behind Christian counselling, Jay E Adams says that “Man needed God’s word from the outset – even before the fall. His revelatory Word was necessary to understand God, creation, himself, his proper relationship to others, his place and functions in creation and his limitations.” Man was not created to be independent but to be “moulded by counsel.” He goes on to argue “...man was created in such a way that for his own good, and God’s glory, it was necessary to depend upon divine counsel and to be changed by it...man turned from God’s counsel to heed Satan’s counsel. In doing so, Adam attempted to achieve independence of God and to assert his own autonomy...Following false (evil) counsel plunged mankind into sin with all its miseries...from Adam’s time on there have been two counsels in this world: divine counsel and devilish counsel... ‘The counsel of the ungodly’ (Ps. 1)...He cannot throw off his dependency. Knowingly or unwittingly he always depends upon Satan or God. He was made to be motivated and moulded by counsel.” Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 3:15-16 that the Bible is able to bring us to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus and then gradually change us into the people God wants us to be as through it we are taught, rebuked, corrected and trained in righteousness (counselled). It is not difficult for me to look back on my own life and trace the painful effects of listening to the wrong people, imbibing bad ideas and following instincts that came as a result of that first attempt at independence from God.



Through the Scriptures I am so grateful to have learned of forgiveness, cleansing, a new start and the power to change. Through my involvement in prisons and GMCC I have had the privilege to meet many people who have reached the point of being convinced they need to change. For some it is still a stop-start process as they battle to break life-long habits and overcome ingrained attitudes. For others it has meant an amazing transformation and a life they had given up hope of ever experiencing. Some have encountered Jesus in the gospel and, although all change for the better is the result of God’s grace in one way or another, others feel they have found the strength within themselves to overcome and to be the people they were meant to be. We aim to support all those who make the decision to start again and go in a different, better direction. We will work with anyone, as much as we are able, towards this goal no matter what their faith position may be. At the same time some of us have seen that despite all the voices, varying ideas and information there is in this world there are really only two options: God’s counsel and the counsel of the ungodly. And as a result we will seek to build our lives and efforts on solid rock and not sand (Math. 7:24-27). I know that those of you who read this letter and use it in prayer regularly need no convincing of this but we can all benefit from being reminded. Who we choose to listen to makes a big difference and will continue to do so for all eternity. That our lives change for the better is important but that we acknowledge the one who makes it possible and turn to him for counsel is crucial.

**God’s counsel or the counsel of the ungodly?**

**Arthur Whillans GMCC**

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Please make cheques payable to: **GM Prison Prayer**  
and state if you would like to **Gift Aid it**

**Check out our Facebook Page or [www.gmccsupport.org](http://www.gmccsupport.org)  
for more photos and info.**

## FEBRUARY 2018

1. **M** has finally moved to an open prison and is out this summer. Pray he is able to make the fresh start he craves.
2. **P's** mum died before Christmas and he was just beginning to build a relationship with her. Please pray for special comfort and hope to be his from the Holy Spirit.
3. **P** lost his mum last month and he has no contact with his brother who is the next of kin. Pray that he will be able to contact his brother and have peace in his life.
4. **J** needs prayer to be able to break free from the cycle of self-harm that has trapped him. Please pray as he wants to stop but does not know how.
5. **A** is growing in faith and trying to change his behaviour. Please give thanks and pray that God will deepen his work in his life.
6. **A** is very angry and lost and blames everyone else for his problems. Please pray he will be able to have a different attitude and will turn to the Lord for help.
7. **S** and **R** are out in March and are very immature and will struggle without good support. Pray that this will happen before release.
8. **D** needs God's help to cope with being in custody. He has been charged with a very serious offence, and is finding prison hard to deal with and is worried about his family.
9. **C** has suffered a terrible tragedy and does not know how to deal with it. Please pray for comfort, hope and peace for him.
10. **D** is struggling and needs God to help him and to give him hope as he has been on remand for a long time and is not due to be sentenced for another few months.
11. **R** is waiting to hear if he will stand trial and feels left in limbo. Please pray that this will happen soon for him.
12. **D** is waiting to hear about his appeal and feels forgotten. Please pray he will have some news soon.
13. **B** needs prayer as he is due for parole soon and very much wants to maintain his good behaviour and grow in faith.
14. **B** has been struggling with the will to live recently. His faith is a protective factor. Pray that the Lord holds him close.

## FEBRUARY 2018

15. **D** is trying to address his anger issues. Pray that he gets the support he needs to help him.
16. **D** and **Z** are coming to terms with life changing decisions. Pray that they can take responsibility for their actions and accept the outcome.
17. **A** is doing his time with real dignity and sharing his strong faith in the process. It is a hard mission field; pray for his continued strength.
18. **P** is hoping his brother will inform the prison about the date of their Mother's Funeral. Things have not been easy in the family recently.
19. **M** is about to start a new life on the out. Pray that he can use the skills he has learned to keep close to the Lord at all times.
20. **P's** Father has died. He has asked for help from Chaplaincy. Pray for him and the chaplain who visits him for a special sense of God's love and peace.
21. **C's** brother died on Christmas day. Please pray he will open his heart to the comfort that only the Holy Spirit can bring.
22. **S** has been selected to be a mentor on the next Sycamore Tree course in March. He came to faith last year and has been a great encouragement. Please pray that he will now be the same to fellow prisoners.
23. **A** has been transferred to another prison but has continued with his faith. Please give thanks for this and pray for continued strength for him.
24. **G** needs prayer to be able to live near his daughter after release.
25. **S's** mother is very poorly in hospital. Please pray for her and her mother.
26. **A** needs prayer as she is struggling a lot with prison life at the moment. Another lady **A** also needs prayer as she is due for release soon and nervous about settling back into the community.
27. **L** and **H** have both separately requested prayer for their mothers whom they are really concerned about and **P** is really missing and concerned about his son. Please pray that they will have comfort and that the changes needed to ensure restored and happy relationships will take place.
28. **A** asks if we could pray for his daughter and also his brother who was involved in an accident. Another **A** became very emotional whilst requesting prayer for his children. Please pray that they will be kept safe and they will have hope for the future.