

In prisons I gave out “anti-swearing tablets (strong mints)”. Now I give out chocolate biscuits; doors of opportunity opening through a simple act of kindness.

On this my journey many lives have been touched and changed by the Saviour and I am often asked about such people in my talks and sermons. One such man is Phil. Phil was in prison in the 1980s for petty crime but found himself on the Segregation Wing. I visited him daily and our conversations eventually led him to read and to learn from the Bible. His conversion was a very definite one and on release he felt called to open air ministry and was often seen in Manchester with his placard and Gospel tracts.

Phil now lives in North Yorkshire with Christian friends and now, aged 60 years, together they blitz towns with the message. Recently he told me they had given out 5,000 tracts in one busy town. The response was very mixed but later that day two men returned to talk to Phil. Having read the message they responded to the Saviour’s call.

What does this story say to you and to me?? On our journey of faith we must keep looking to Jesus. He has a job for each one of us, whoever we are and whatever we have done.



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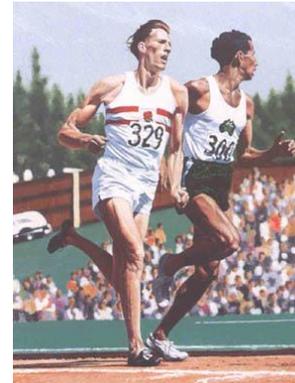
Telephone: 0161 236 2462 Email: chaplain@gmconline.org

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

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for more photos and info.**

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

“Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” – (Hebrews 12:1-2)



The 1954 British Empire Games held in Vancouver provide a remarkable illustration of our journey by faith. The famous 4 minute mile is enshrined in stone in that city as you see the two runners John Landy and Roger Bannister straining to reach the finishing tape. One is turning his head, while the other throws himself over the finishing line. How important it is to keep our eyes on Jesus, our finishing line, and not on each other.

Seventy years ago, when I was 17 years of age, Jesus started me on a remarkable journey. I had just committed my life to the Saviour while working as an apprentice in a shirt factory in Belfast.

My new Christian friends encouraged me with what talents and gifts the Lord had given me, and six years later I was training to be an Evangelist with the Church Army. From preaching at Hyde Park corner, singing in pubs on Edgware Road, to ministering in churches and cathedrals, and then to prisons and pulpits, the Lord led me on a life of tremendous adventure, all this because I wanted to introduce people to the Lord Jesus.

“O the love that drew Salvation’s plan. O the grace that brought it down to man. O the mighty gulf that God did span. At Calvary”

I retired from Manchester Prison at the end of 1995 and within weeks the doors opened to me at North Manchester General Hospital to become a voluntary Chaplain. Once again opportunities to encourage, share and listen came to me. For 16 years I visited the Wards on a weekly basis until, at the age of 82 years I withdrew gracefully, not wishing for the Staff to be lifting me off the floor and putting me in a bed. However, the Lord had still not finished with me and now I have the privilege of visiting Police Stations on a weekly basis as a voluntary Chaplain.

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1. **F** has multiple mental health issues. Pray for his recovery and wisdom for the professionals trying to find the right way forward for him.
2. **P** needs prayer as he attended his mum's funeral in January and is feeling very guilty about her death. Pray for peace and healing for him.
3. **R** is due for release and is feeling very negative about this as he feels he will have no life on the out. Pray that he finds the help and support he needs.
4. **P** is due for release in the summer but feels very hopeless about his future prospects and that there is no support for him. Pray that he will respond as he is directed to where he can find the help he needs.
5. **D** is showing signs of dementia and struggling in the prison. Pray that adequate support will become available and that he will feel more secure.
6. **M** is facing sentencing and is full of despair and **L** is also awaiting a court decision. Pray that this will cause them to reach out to the Lord who is able to help no matter what happens.
7. **S** made a serious attempt on his life recently and does not talk about how he is feeling. Pray that someone will come alongside him and he will open up.
8. **J**'s mother is dying. Pray for the comfort and strength of the Holy Spirit at this most difficult time.
9. **D** has been waiting over a year for sentencing and is feeling very frustrated. Pray that the waiting will soon come to an end and that he will be given the strength to deal with whatever the outcome is.
10. **A** is hoping to move to a specialist unit soon to help him with his problems. Pray that this will happy quickly and be really beneficial for him.
11. **L**'s husband has recently died. Pray for comfort, strength and hope for the future as she comes to terms with this.
12. **S** needs prayer as her mother who has been ill for a long time has recently died. Pray she will know peace and go forward with confidence and strength.
13. **C** is considering marriage to her long-term partner. Pray that she will be able to think clearly and make the right decision in this important situation.
14. **L** is struggling with self-harm issues. Pray for safety and that she will realise no matter what has happened in her life she is valued and cared about.
15. **C** recently died in hospital. Pray for all who knew and cared for her.

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16. **B** and **C** have recently lost their mother's and **P**'s brother has died. Pray for comfort, strength and hope and for those around them to be able to support them as they face the changes this will bring.
17. **I** has faithfully attended all the chaplaincy activities and proved to be a real blessing. Pray he will continue on this journey of faith and grow in grace.
18. **S** has been a mentor on the Alpha course and is growing in grace. Pray that his own faith will strengthen as he helps others who are searching.
19. **B**'s mind is being badly affected by his substance misuse. Pray he will stay away from everything that would cause him harm.
20. **J** that he may know and enjoy even more of God's blessing. Pray that he will know the hope, riches and power of Paul's Ephesians 1 prayer.
21. **R** is looking for assurance in God. Pray that this great blessing will be his.
22. Pray for everyone who has attended the Alpha course in prison that it will prove to be the start of discovering and fulfilling God's purpose for them.
23. **D** is dealing with some tough situations within his family. Pray he will know peace and that the whole family will experience God's mercy and love.
24. **C** wants to be able to attend the funeral of his father. Pray that he will be able to go and that he will find comfort at this time of great need.
25. **B** is struggling with suicidal thoughts and says he has hit rock bottom. He does not want to go back to the life he had before prison. Pray that he will be kept safe and have an encounter with God that will change his life completely.
26. **N** was recently released but with difficult licence conditions. Pray that he will know God's help as he conforms to these and avoids reoffending.
27. **D** is coming to terms with his addictions. Pray this will be the start of his recovery and that he will have the support he needs on this journey.
28. **T** is nearing the end of his sentence and is fearful about the future. Pray that he will engage with the help that is available and see new possibilities.
29. **G** is in prison for the first time and feeling very fearful and nervous. Pray for protection and the help he needs to cope well with this new experience.
30. **C** has been told his father has died and does not know how to react to this. Pray that he will come to terms with this news and find peace.
31. **P** is feeling very stressed both by prison and also outside issues. Pray he will turn to the Lord and find peace and be able to exercise patience.