

Testimonies

I've got 12 women in total and 10 of those have become Christians during lockdown from reading the in-cell resources and books we've handed out from chaplaincy and prayers through the door and over the in-cell phones. So I'm very excited about this!!

Just a couple of stories from some of the women I have been speaking to this week as I've asked them about their reasons for wanting to join the group.

P said " I've always been an atheist, but now I've ended up in prison I've just realised that I was out of control and I needed God, drugs had taken me over. I started to pray in my cell and then I asked a chaplain for a Bible because I just felt I needed to read it. I started reading it every day and praying every day and now I think I want to become a Christian. I can't explain it but I feel so different and I feel hopeful for the future, that things could be better for me. I'm really looking forward to starting this study group as I want to grow and learn more about Jesus and the Christian faith."

L said " I've been an addict on and off for about 10 years now and I've had spells where I've been clean and doing ok but then I keep falling back into it again. I've tried other things like Buddhism groups before but I couldn't stick at it for long. This time I'm so disappointed with myself for ending up back in jail again. Last time I was in I met Jo and she invited me to hear Barry Woodward share his story in the chapel. It was amazing and I could really relate to him, but I still didn't really want to go to church or anything, but I did pray with him at the end for God to help me stay clean. This sentence I got hold of his book 'Once an Addict' and I read it and it reminded me about Barry talking about his faith in God and the prayer I prayed with him. So I asked to see Jo and she brought me some books to read and I think this is the way forward for me now, I want to become a Christian, I need help and I need strength because I can't do this on my own."

Contact us at: GMCC Methodist Central Buildings Oldham Street M1 1JQ

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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

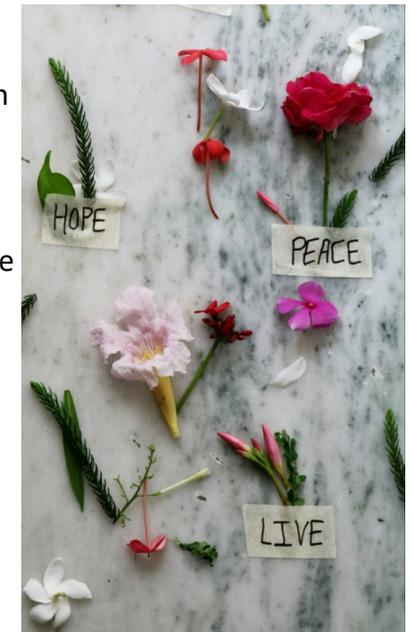
HMP MANCHESTER; HMP FOREST BANK; HMP BUCKLEY HALL;
HMP & YOI STYAL; HMP YOI THORN CROSS & HMP HINDLEY

GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

PRISON PRAYER LETTER SEPTEMBER 2020

A Poem of Hope

The world seems a mess right now
Uncertainty is the way we are living
Everything we hold onto seems to slip from our grasp
Our trust is shaken
Our future's not certain
But our hope, it is not in man
It is not in the system
It is not in this world
It is in the one who will never be shaken
It is in the one we call Father, Friend
The one we can run to
A strong tower that will never be broken
Jesus, the name we cling to
God we put our hope in
God we put our hope in



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- 1 S, C, A, K and F who are struggling with their mental health, that they have support and renewed hope
- 2 W is confused about his way forward. For clarity of thought and courage to move forward
- 3 M who is due out in April after 23 years in prison., that he begins to look to the future with hope, peace and no anxiety
- 4 D is completely reclusive. Please enable him and others to break down his self-imposed isolation, for courage, freedom and breakthrough
- 5 Please pray for GMCC as we apply for continued funding during this time of economic hardship, for favour and grace through the process.
- 6 We pray for all our residents who are struggling with mental health issues, especially KG, CR & HT. We pray for inner peace.
- 7 GMCC Trustees as they continue to advise and make decisions during tis difficult time, for wisdom and insight
- 8 B is finding the isolation and challenges of the present regime very difficult (as are many) . Please pray for him.
- 9 Wisdom for GMCC staff as we try to deliver our services in new and effective ways that will positively impact those we serve
- 10 R who is feeling very paranoid at the moment, that he will have peace in this process of healing
- 11 T is being bullied and finding prison a very hard place. For strength and courage to continue.
- 12 P who is out the month and keen to join a church, that he will have favour and find a suitable church to call home
- 13 GMCC clients as they return to us and adapt to the new systems in place, that they will have grace and patience during this difficult time.
- 14 J and A who are being released soon and have both had bereavements while in prison, that they will be comforted and filled with strength as they move forward.
- 15 Prison governors that are continuing to make tough decisions during this time, that they have support and wisdom in this time.
- 16 The message in Prisons team as they navigate the way they are working within the prisons, that they have favour to continue the good work

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- 17 M, S, J, A and J who are studying the bible and growing in their faith, that they will continue as they have started and become strong in the Lord
- 18 M is trying to follow his religious principles but finding it so difficult. Pray for perseverance.
- 19 We pray that our worship material for all faiths is helping to support our residents through the written word.
- 20 Smaller Bible study groups in Styal, that they are effective and impactful on the lives of the women who attend
- 21 A who has a trial in September and is feeling very hopeless, that he is given the support he needs and has courage for his future
- 22 Charities in Greater Manchester having to make changes to the way they do things because of the limitations of social distance, that they able to continue with the missions God has placed on them in an effective way
- 23 M, P, R, G who are anxious to move on to another jail, that they have patience in the waiting and favour throughout the process.
- 24 R who is struggling with his housing situation due to miscommunication, that he is placed somewhere safe and comfortable.
- 25 P, D and R whose mum has died, that they will have the space to mourn and be comforted in this difficult time
- 26 P who is struggling with anger issues, that he is able to receive the help that he needs to move on with his life
- 27 F who has been assaulted and is struggling, that he has the space to heal, receives the mental health assistance that he needs and that he has people to love and support him through this
- 28 For D who is struggling, that he will be filled with hope for the future
- 29 For A who is struggling to find purpose in life, that he will find Jesus and the hope that comes from knowing him
- 30 J, J and P who are IPP prisoners and very frustrated at being stuck in the system.