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GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

PRISON PRAYER LETTER DECEMBER 2020

An often repeated phrase of John in this letter is “we know.” Here he says that one of the things we know is that he “has given us understanding.” This is a truly amazing and wonderful statement that should encourage us and fill us with gratitude. By nature as a result of the Fall of humanity in Adam we do not only lack any spiritual understanding but as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2: 14 we have no ability to grasp these things as “they are spiritually discerned.” But those who have heard the testimony of the apostles and believed the message they were authorised to proclaim can be sure they have been given understanding. This is a new spiritual capacity to know, accept and delight in things that only the Holy Spirit can reveal. Christianity is both historical and experiential. We need both the once for all revealed truth that came from Jesus in person and through his chosen apostles and also the personal experience of our hearts and minds being opened to the reality and beauty of these things.

When this happens the result is “that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ.” The whole point is that we come to know God – “him who is true.” The fellowship we were created to know and enjoy but lost through sin and rebellion is restored through all that Jesus Christ the Son of God achieved as a result of his coming. John said as much at the beginning of his letter when he explained that the reason for the apostles hearing, seeing and proclaiming was “so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

Writing this at a time of lock down when we are unable to worship together and enjoy time with our families as we were so used to doing seems very poignant. Everyone is hoping the government will find a way for us to be allowed to be together again and enjoy all that many have been so used to. John wants us to know that God has made a way for us to return to the experience of fellowship with God. The sin, failures, mistakes and mess of our lives that robbed us of this experience have all been dealt with and dealt with so fully that he can say “we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.” You may not feel the end of lock down will make much difference to you but the end of separation from God changes everything. May you be truly blessed this Christmas whatever it brings because the Son of God has come.

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Chaplaincy Volunteer

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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

“ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.”

1 John 5: 20

The first letter of the apostle John contains many great and emphatic statements several of which can be found within the verse above. At a time of uncertainty and danger when life as we knew it has changed completely we need to remember some of these foundational truths to steady us and help us through. We have here laid out before us redemption, revelation and restoration as things John wanted to remind believers of as they faced an onslaught of false teaching creating for them a similar feeling of danger and uncertainty.

Redemption because the Son of God has come! In what can only be described as a stunning passage John tells us in the first four verses of chapter one that the eternal Son of God “was made manifest” and that he and the other apostles heard, saw and touched so they can now testify and proclaim to others. He calls Jesus the “the eternal life, which was with the Father.” A fundamental error of atheists is that they say that matter came first and life developed afterwards. John tells us that before there was anything at all there was God and he is eternal life. This eternal life was manifested on earth when the eternal Son of God took on humanity in the person of Jesus Christ. Because of this he was able to become the propitiation for

our sins (2: 2 & 4: 10) so taking the punishment we deserve and enduring the righteous anger of God against those who have offended him. The result is that now, when we confess our sins and no longer pretend we are OK, we can know forgiveness because God is faithful and Just (1: 9).



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- 1 D who lost his Mother one year ago and still feels the loss, pray that he is comforted in this time
- 2 D whose best friend is on life support at the moment, pray for hope and support during this difficult time
- 3 Thank God for a good opportunity to lead the armistice day and share news of God's love
- 4 M who is due to be released soon and is very anxious about it, pray that he has the support system he need and that he is not afraid
- 5 K who is listening to UCB music and sermons and said he will attend chapel when restrictions are over, pray that his faith continues to grow
- 6 B who may be facing deportation which means he won't be able to see his daughter, pray for favour in his situation
- 7 A who is facing a trial for a very serious offence this month, pray for protection for him as he faces the future
- 8 Pray for GMCC clients who have has an inconsistent year due to lockdown
- 9 K, M, C, S, who have grown so much in the Faith but missing chapel services and courses, pray that God continues to speak to them
- 10 A whose brother has died, pray for love and support in this difficult time
- 11 Pray for prison Chaplains who are still working hard in this difficult time
- 12 P and C who have moved on from Manchester to other jails, something they have wanted for some time. Pray they soon settle and make the most of their new environment.
- 13 E who has shown a hunger for the things of God after being away from "church" for over 20 years, pray this develops
- 14 Thank God for wonderful opportunities to share the good news of Jesus after the death of a faithful volunteer who always used the prayer list and gave hundreds of jig saws to the prison
- 15 The safety of staff at Styal Prison as lockdown measures are reinstated
- 16 Pray for GMCC Trustees as they continue to navigate through lockdown and social distancing measures

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- 17 S who suffers from acute anxiety and is worried he has cancer, pray he get's all of the support and medical care he needs
- 18 Pray for A who is undergoing treatment after some pain, pray for complete healing
- 19 M self-harming again, pray that he will turn back to God for help
- 20 Pray for our Healthcare inpatients that has a large number of men who are mentally unstable. Pray the men get the help they need and pray for patience and protection for the staff
- 21 L whose father has died , pray that he is comforted and supported in this difficult time
- 22 D, L, C, I who have grown so much in the Faith but missing chapel services and courses, pray that their growth is not hindered as they continue to wait
- 23 L who is seeking accommodation in a Christian environment, pray for favour as he enquires and applies
- 24 The safety of the women at Styal Prison as lockdown measures have been reinstated
- 25 Pray for all of those missing family members today, pray that today brings renewed hope for all
- 26 Pray that when worship services can start in the community again; that they will allow us to re-commence our services in the prison at the same time.
- 27 Pray for Prison Governors as they continue to make tough decisions in light of lockdown and social distancing
- 28 A prison prayer fellowship prayer meeting has started in Rochdale.
- 29 Pray for GMCC staff who really want to get back to work and continue serving
- 30 Pray for those struggling with loneliness and fear, that they see a future for themselves
- 31 Pray for those struggling with suicidal thoughts, may they know how loved and valuable they truly are