

2. "Mighty men of valour": One of the things some of us at the prayer meeting felt led to pray for was for those "hidden missionaries" and hidden treasures; that is, men and women who may have been saved out of difficult backgrounds (such as addiction) and may be called to reach others in those same places. From the time we began to pray that prayer we regularly began to see believers joining our prayer meeting who had powerful stories of how God had saved them. Many of these men had been outside of Christian fellowship for a while; (therefore "hidden"). It was encouraging to see these signs that God was answering our prayers and preparing these men and women for the work ahead. As I write this, I want to encourage believers to be eager to look out for hidden treasures in those around them, including those (like David or Gideon) that the world might tell us to overlook.

3. Dreams: We prayed for people to have dreams that would lead them to Christ. While the testimonies of this happening are quite personal and cannot necessarily be shared here, it has been encouraging to me to see that this seems to be happening increasingly in our city and country, even amongst groups of people where we might be inclined to think this doesn't happen!

This is just a snapshot of all that God has been doing and we can be confident that he has been answering our prayers in many ways that we have not seen and may not have heard about! It is my firm belief that God is at work preparing a new wave of his work in Manchester throughout this year and that we are beginning to see the first fruits of it. It is also clear to me, from observation and talking to people involved in outreach and mission, that this kind of faithful prayer has made a real difference to the receptiveness of those they serve and the fruit that they see. For this reason, let us be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and persistent in prayer, knowing that God hears us and answers, and let us seek his grace to be reinvigorated in prayer through repentance (where we have become prayerless) and faith! And let us remember that he longs to lift our burdens too!

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

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HMP & YOI STYAL; HMP YOI THORN CROSS & HMP HINDLEY**

GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

PRISON PRAYER LETTER MAY 2024

Thank you to Joe Latham from Manchester City Council for writing this month's article after attending the prayer gatherings at Central Hall in January.



From the 1st to the 31st of January 2024 a group of about 30-40 people were gathering daily (excluding weekends) to pray for the city of Manchester at the Methodist Central Hall. It was an incredible time of experiencing church unity as members of different congregations

and denominations joined together in the prayer that God would revive this city and bring in 100,000 new believers this year. The month of prayer was organised by several church leaders in the city, and we saw God answering our prayers in a number of different ways:

1. Salvations: Teams going out from the prayer meeting to offer prayer and share the gospel on the streets had the privilege of leading 6 people to faith in the streets. These were incredible times and one person who went out in these teams for her first experience of evangelism reports the joy of seeing the change in people's faces as they received Jesus. The people receiving Jesus said things like "I feel relieved" and "I feel I have let go of a burden". What a marvellous example of Jesus who says: "come to me all who are weary and heavy laden... and I will give you rest". Other ministries doing their regular service and evangelism also reported a greater receptiveness during this month. Barnabus, a ministry serving homeless people, saw 3 more people accept faith and an outreach team from my own Church saw another 3 accepting Faith in our regular monthly outreach.



May 2024

- 1 Keep P in your prayers, who is grieving after watching his nan's funeral last month.
- 2 We lift up before you any Christian prisoners who have left us for another jail; we pray that they would find good spiritual support in whichever new prisons they have gone to.
- 3 Pray for all those folk whop received New Testaments (& other scriptures) on the streets of Manchester 17/4/24 through Good News for everyone.
- 4 Lifting up R before you Lord facing up to a situation which has been thrust upon them
- 5 Give D strength as he was recently able to visit his dad who is dying
- 6 T who has a lot of complex issues and staff are struggling to find a way forward with him. Lord show T the love of the Lord.
- 7 Pray for inmates whose family members could be affected by the Rwanda Bill.
- 8 Lifting up J Lord, who is feeling very lost and who is worried about his mum who is very ill.
- 9 Send peace to R who is waiting for a space in a secure hospital.
- 10 Please pray for there to be some spiritually minded persons coming onto the governorship of our prisons so that the spiritual needs of the inmates would be taken seriously.
- 11 Prayer for people not long out of prison who are struggling to get their lives together
- 12 K who is feeling under threat and scared at the moment. Pray for peace and calm.
- 13 Pray for all advocates working for inmates who are caught up in the hostile immigration system
- 14 Lift up Lord, all prison Chaplains who are sometimes dealing with destruction within the services.
- 15 R who has been in jail a long time and wants to move closer to his family.

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- 16 Pray for all inmates with family involved in the asylum system
- 17 Lord watch over A, who has been moved to a closed prison. Pray that he remains in contact via letter and is able to visit the centre again soon
- 18 Pray for all hotels in Manchester who received Bibles 17/4/24 through Good News for everyone
- 19 Pray for all prisoners who are grieving a loss, especially P, H and K whose mum's have died recently.
- 20 Lifting up PJ Lord, still living with 8 years of loss and grief
- 21 D who is in a very destructive cycle at the moment and is causing a lot of harm to himself.
- 22 Pray for the unseen challenges that the church is facing regarding the development of Central Hall
- 23 Pray for D who recently got released from Risley prison who is a Christian and came to our Bible studies. He is now homeless and living in a tent in Manchester city centre, pray he joins a local church.
- 24 Pray for J, who is looking to change their situation at the moment, please give them wisdom & clarity as to what their next move should be.
- 25 Praying that K's family differences will soon be reconciled
- 26 Pray for the ministry team at Central Hall, that they can cope with extra demand.
- 27 Pray for all men doing the Living with Loss course at HMP Manchester
- 28 Pray for inmates who will be affected by the Rwanda Bill
- 29 We give thanks that more men are coming to chapel services, many of whom are not used to being in that kind of situation; please pray that they would settle down and find peace.
- 30 We pray that those prisons which have still not returned to their pre-covid situations would soon do so; ie restoration of workshops and courses.
- 31 Pray for healing for G who has just undergone an operation, may the Lord do His work.