

I prayed a lot for my family to come to know the Lord but as far as I know that didn't happen. I am so thankful that the Lord gave me Christian friends and eventually I met my husband at the church

I really don't know what would have happened in my life if I hadn't walked into the church that day.

I am so thankful that on 28th March 1962 I cried out to God for salvation. The Lord has never left me and thankfully he gave me a husband and 3 sons who have wonderful wives. They and their children all worship and are learning to serve the Lord.

I have the privilege of being part of this wonderful organisation that seeks to help people wanting a new start. My hope is they will also come to know the saviour who gives not only new but eternal life.

My favourite Psalm is 27 where it says

'Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.'

Marlene, GMCC Volunteer



**“Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.”**

— Psalm 27:14

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Please make cheques payable to: **GM Prison Prayer**
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**HMP MANCHESTER; HMP FOREST BANK; HMP BUCKLEY HALL;
HMP & YOI STYAL; HMP YOI THORN CROSS & HMP HINDLEY**

GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

Prison Prayer letter for March 2025

My testimony and my hope

I grew up in a small 2 bed terraced house with mum dad grandma grandad and 2 brothers. I didn't enjoy the food my grandma cooked which was mainly a broth including a lot of barley which I hated. We didn't have much money but dad and grandad gave us 'spends' and we had presents at Christmas and new clothes at Whitsun. I was quite happy until when I was 12 my dad died. Nine months later mum remarried. My stepfather was a funeral director and also drove a taxi. It was a very difficult time as in some ways he was quite cruel and mentally unbalanced. Even to speak about it now is very painful.



When my all-girls school became a mixed school, I met some boys who although they weren't Christians went to a Pentecostal church youth meeting just for a "mess about and a laugh" They invited us to go with them and as soon as I walked into the meeting I was captivated. Young men sat at the front playing guitars which I'd never seen before in church and the person leading the meeting was smiling and everyone was very friendly and welcoming.

One night a special speaker came called Bob and in part of his message he said that to attend church or Sunday School wasn't enough but to be a Christian I needed to invite Christ into my life.



The speaker then invited anyone who wanted to be a Christian to stand up. I knew I needed Christ in my life and after standing a lovely lady came to me and explained more about what it meant to be a Christian. After that happened I had a strong desire to go back each week to the church and began to read my bible and pray each day.

March 2025

- 1 Lord we pray for the Community Chaplaincy Association (CCA) as they are searching for funders to enable them to continue to provide all the help and support to their members throughout the country.
- 2 Please can you give thanks that our Romanian pastor and his church have now been security trained and now carry keys at HMP Elmley so they can move more independently round the jail and that their Bible study group is running weekly.
- 3 We pray for D, a client who is struggling with addictions and paranoia. Please Lord lead him on the right path. And keep him engaged with us.
- 4 Thank you Lord for volunteers A and S who regularly run groups here at GMCC spreading your word. and welcoming all to share food and friendship.
- 5 Give thanks for the amount of volunteers who are being called to minister in prisons and support the pastoral care of the prisoners.
- 6 Pray for all the men taking part in the Alpha course at HMP Manchester, that they continue with the course and find enrichment.
- 7 We lift up prison officers and staff for wisdom when dealing with challenging situations.
- 8 Thank you Lord for L who is engaging at HMP Manchester and reaping the benefits.
- 9 Thank you Lord for our volunteer, S who you have brought to us to help in this difficult time and who is doing a great job.
- 10 Please pray for charities helping prisoners and ex-offenders as they struggle to raise funds
- 11 Pray for C as he looks to lead Bible study on the wing
- 12 Watch over C and L as they look to be a positive Christian example on the wing.
- 13 Pray for our colleague at Buckley Hall, DC who has been ill for some time
- 14 Thank you Lord for the inmates who regularly and attentively attend the chapel services at HMP Manchester.
- 15 Pray for a smooth changeover in the prison's IT systems
- 16 Lord guide BR as he begins his new journey after being released home

March 2025

- 17 Give thanks for the strength God is giving us to do the work here at HMP Elmley supporting needy prisoners.
- 18 Lord give strength to L as he tries to give up vaping
- 19 We pray for A and the family as they come to terms with K's death
- 20 Pray for continued resilience as we face our duties each day and wisdom as we interact with prisoners for all kinds of reasons.
- 21 Give thanks for those who have applied for the RC position and the Anglican position at HMP Elmley and please pray for us as we discern who out of the two applicants we should give the full time position to re RC chaplaincy, and pray for us as we discern who to appoint for the Anglican full time position.
- 22 Please Lord continue to minister to N in his ongoing health problems.
- 23 S is struggling to trust people after a difficult upbringing, Lord show him your guidance
- 24 Pray for patience and good favour for prisoners awaiting parole
- 25 Pray for the coming of a Free Church chaplain and for Cookham Wood as they make decisions as to which of the free church staff can be sent to HMP Elmley or whether we can recruit from elsewhere.
- 26 May the Lord's word be celebrated and continued during all the ongoing Bible Studies at HMP Buckley Hall.
- 27 We ask for your prayers for JP who is struggling with getting through the parole systems
- 28 Thank you for the generous spirit between the chaplains of different denominations within prisons.
- 29 Give thanks Lord for all the faith communities who support the production and distribution of this prayer letter and continue to pray with us.
- 30 Please pray for N who has lost a niece to breast cancer.
- 31 Pray for all prisoners struggling with addictions, may they find the strength to overcome them.