



I was concerned at the isolation Joy had died in and I started to encourage members of the Street Population to give me their family details so that I could keep a record. This could be used to inform the Coroner if there was any difficulty in finding next-of-kin in the future.

My wife, Angie, is originally from Bolton and we felt that we should move there in 2013. I contacted the Manchester City Mission and they agreed that I could start a ministry with similar principles to Operation Joy in Manchester in February 2014. 11 years later I am still very occupied with the Street Population in Greater Manchester going out once or twice a week to the city centre and in Bolton.

The everyday work of *Operation Joy* is Outreach, visiting drop-ins, remembering birthdays and providing useful advice for getting some normality into life. Going back to Joy, her ex-husband was traced and he told me that they had a son in Aberdeen. He was informed of his mother's death over a year after it happened.

Jesus cared about people that were the outcasts of society, and if they can get to know Him better through compassion that's worthwhile. One bible story that comes to mind is where Jesus turned water in wine. Mary told the servants, 'Do everything He tells you to do'. If we can set out each day doing everything Jesus tells us to do that's a good start.

Paul
Manchester City Mission



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

GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

Prison Prayer letter May 2025

Operation Joy

I was born and brought up in Bristol; I became a Christian at a youth camp in 1965. I realised I had no understanding of what it meant to be saved and I went to see the Padre after one of his talks. When he explained that Jesus died for me it was like a light bulb came on and I understood salvation.



I moved churches in 1982 and this freed up time and I took up train-spotting, resulting in frequent trips to London. This in turn brought my attention to the high numbers of Street Homeless in the city. By now I was working for Lloyds Bank and in 1987 they asked for volunteers to move to London. My name went straight in and I spent

five more years with the bank whilst going out onto the streets in my spare time.

In 1992 I joined the London City Mission and was appointed to a church in Kings Cross and to ministry amongst Gypsies and Travellers. The time in Kings Cross had kept me in touch with some of the worst problems of the Street Population.

The name *Operation Joy* was given the ministry on the streets in 1997 after the death of a lady called Joyce. It was over two months before I found the Coroner dealing with the death and shortly after a funeral was arranged. I was the only one there.



- 1 Lord help R to grow in faith and live it out
- 2 Guide B to walk daily with Jesus
- 3 We pray for S to come to full faith in who Jesus is
- 4 Help L to become a strong disciple
- 5 Lord we pray that C can grow as a leader and be an influence
- 6 D is looking for guidance to find God's purpose in his life
- 7 Pray that B can find Jesus and all that he brings
- 8 P to grow in his understandings of God's word
- 9 J to know Christ more
- 10 S to accept the progress Jesus offers
- 11 Please Lord enable R to find their feet properly on the out and keep out of trouble
- 12 Please Lord take care of D in the aftermath of his mother's death
- 13 We lift up D Lord for your provision and protection
- 14 For protection on the lives, mental health and well-being of all Prison Officers and Staff.
- 15 Please pour out your Spirit of Wisdom on K & J as they discuss anew initiative for HMP Manchester.
- 16 For all those inmates who are finding the Spiritual opportunities to be lacking, especially those who have moved from a place where things were different.
- 17 For S. who is finding the ethos in his new prison very difficult to live with.
- 18 Thanking you, Lord, that L. has, at last, settled down in his new establishment.
- 19 For S. and his legal representatives, as he urges them on to act on his behalf.
- 20 Thank you, Lord, for the recent improvement at HMP Oakwood; and we pray that this new initiative will flourish.
- 21 Thank God for K who has recently left prison and is looking to connect in with a local church. Pray for K as we connect with GMCC too.
- 22 We give thanks to God for our new chaplain R who has recently come on board here at GMCC. Pray he settles in well with the rest of the team.
- 23 Pray for C who is awaiting a recall review. C is looking to connect with us here at GMCC.
- 24 Pray for J who is about to be released from prison end of July 2025. J is looking to connect with us here and receive more support.
- 25 Pray for our staff here at the centre. Pray for protection for all of the staff and volunteers as we continue working with the people here.
- 26 Pray for one of our volunteers called A. She just received a upsetting health diagnosis and needs healing.
- 27 Pray for W who has recently started coming to our centre. He rededicated his life to Jesus and seeks to grow in his relationship with Jesus.
- 28 Pray for K, whose struggling with mental health issues.
- 29 Pray for E, one of our volunteers who is awaiting an outcome.
- 30 Pray for our clients who recently lost one of their dear friends.
- 31 Pray for S, one of our staff members who has a lot of pain.