

PRISONS

WEEK

a week of prayer

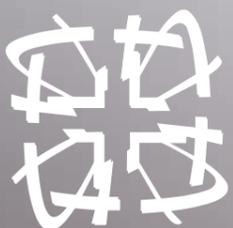
16-22 NOV

2014

www.prisonswalk.org



BUILDING HOPE



So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. 1 Thessalonians 5 v11 (The Message)

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Everyone needs a few words of encouragement. We grow stronger, we see things more clearly, and we achieve more. Justice surely hopes that there will be a sense of healing, a chance to see things differently, and a new future for all those affected by crime and imprisonment. To achieve this we need each other, and in particular we need each other's words of encouragement. This Prisons Week let us pray for all those affected by prison, that we may build a sense of hope in each other that life will in some measure be restored. **Restored, accepted, free. No one left behind.**

SUNDAY: The Prisons Week Prayer - Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. **Amen.**

BUILDING HOPE

MONDAY: FOR THOSE WHO WORK IN PRISONS

Let all those ground down by the unremitting hard work and the needs and worries of prisoners, who may feel hopeless or in despair, be lifted up by the powerful prayers of the faithful so that hope is restored, and that they themselves feel built up.

Loving God, give to all those who work in our prisons your grace and strength, your courage and your peace. May they know themselves to be loved by you, may their work be fruitful, valued and affirmed. Build them up with faith and love that they might know themselves to be people of the light, following your command to love and to serve. Amen.

TUESDAY: FOR THOSE WHO ARE PRISONERS

Let all those who are in prison, those for whom hope has died, for whom tomorrow is to be feared and for whom despair has become a constant companion, know themselves to be loved by God. May their hope be built up by the compassion and encouragement of others, so that they come to know that trusting in God will bring new possibilities.

Lord, you told us to come to you when we are heavy laden and you promised rest and re-creation. May those who are in despair, weighed down by guilt and without hope in prison, be built up with faith and love to know for themselves that they are like all other people of God, under construction. Amen.

WEDNESDAY: FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

Let all those who have become the victims of crime, and whose trust has been destroyed, be re-built by the power of God at work in and through the love and service of others and his forgiving, transforming love.

Lord, lead all those who have been the victims of crime from that deep darkness into the light of a new and restored life. Let the care and concern, and the energy and encouragement of those who know and love them, reflect the power and possibility of your hope. Restore in them your image that they may find joy in love and service. Amen.

THURSDAY: FOR ALL WORKING IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Let all those who administer justice and serve in our Criminal Justice System, who may be broken, baffled or bemused, and whose hope and confidence in the future has been worn thin, be built up in their sense of calling, and in their understanding of justice and mercy.

God of perfect justice and mercy, we pray for all who work in our criminal justice system; transform their human inadequacy by the power of your Holy Spirit, renew and build up their strength, their hope and joy in your service. Give them wisdom, grace and understanding. Inform their judgement and build up their commitment that they may exercise authority and responsibility in the knowledge that all good and all power come from you. Inspire them to continue in love and service. Amen.

FRIDAY: FOR THE FAMILIES

You can choose your friends, but not your family. To stand with relatives who have victimised others, or alongside relatives who have been the victims of others, takes courage and steadfastness. Let all those who are friends, parents or partners and children, supporting those in prison, hold on to the hope that change is possible and be built up by the encouragement of others. May those who support the victims of crime be built up by the goodwill and hard work of their own supporters and remain strong, firm in the hope that restoration and recovery are possible.

Pour out your healing spirit, O God, bring wholeness and healing to the families of all victims and perpetrators of crime. Give them strength and courage and build up their hope for a renewed and restored future, and keep them faithful in their love and service. Amen.

SATURDAY: FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

In our everyday lives, in the communities where we live, we are quick to forget that we are all 'under construction'. We fail to offer support and help to the victims of crime, to restore their lives and build up their hope. Neither do we welcome ex-prisoners into our midst, or build up their hope that they might live new lives, free from crime and full of possibility.

Father of all, none of us is without and we all fall short when we rely on our own strength to reach your kingdom. Forgive us our failings, reconcile us to you and to one another, and give to us the words of hope and inspiration to share, that we may, as your people 'under construction', build one another up in hope, support each other on our journeys, and be always ready to offer help and encouragement to those we meet on the way. Amen.



Prisons Week was formed to pray for and raise awareness of the needs of prisoners and their families, victims of offenders, prison staff and all those who care. It consists of representatives of Christian denominations and Christian organisations.

Please pray each day during Prisons Week, but also ask yourself whether there is one thing that you as an individual or as a church can do to assist in any of the above.

For suggestions as to how you can help, to make a donation or to order larger quantities of these prayer leaflets/posters, please visit our website at www.prisonsworld.org where you will also find additional materials including prayers, worship resources, ideas, useful contacts, books and more.

You may also write to: The Secretary, Prisons Week, PO Box 2733, Lichfield, WS13 6GZ

PRISONS WEEK 2014 is generously supported by:



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16-22 NOVEMBER prisonsworld.org

