

Their past may be full of chaos, uncertainty and crime....but their future can be full of hope. It can be a long journey, with many ups and downs, but ultimately it is hope that allows us to keep going, keep praying and keep on believing that someone's past does not define their future, and when hope and love are there, it can be a God filled future.

One of my favourite films is The Shawshank Redemption. A quote from the film is

"Hope is a good thing, may be best of things and no good thing ever dies"

The story of that film is all about hope, and one that links in with our ministry as a charity to support those who are ex-offenders make a fresh start. Hope can be what sustains us and our ministry together as Greater Manchester Community Chaplaincy.

So, my prayer for all of us is that we would have a fresh sense of the hope of the gospel that we have in Jesus Christ, and that this hope would fuel and encourage us in our prayers, ministry and volunteering together for the glory and hope of the gospel in this time.

Stay safe and well.

Gavin

Chair of Trustees, GMCC

Praise points:

There have been many opportunities to witness to prisoners who don't normally attend chapel in Buckley Hall

Contact us at: GMCC Methodist Central Buildings Oldham Street M1 1JQ

Telephone: 0161 236 2462 Email: chaplain@gmcconline.org

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

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

GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY

PRISON PRAYER LETTER OCTOBER 2020

"Take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." - Hebrews 6:18-19 (NIV)

What do we have to cling to as we face all the challenges that Covid-19 throws at us?

I've asked myself this question many times over the last 6 months. It's important for us to reflect on all that really matters to us when we face difficult circumstances, which I'm sure many of us have done in recent times.

I believe one of the key values and fundamental aspects of the gospel is hope. In Mark 4:35-41, when Jesus was asleep in the boat, and the disciples woke him up due to the storm, Jesus was able to respond in a peaceful way - Why? - He had hope. Hope that his Father would look after him and the disciples in the middle of the storm, hope that he had authority to calm the waves and ensure the boat was safe. Jesus had hope because the gospel he lived and preached is one that is full of hope.

It is the same today. We offer a message of hope in the gospel when all around us have seemingly lost hope. I know many of our prayer supporters have also visited people in prison, prayed for them and written to them. Thank you to all who do that so faithfully and regularly, Why do we do this? I believe it is because we have a hope that someone who is currently in prison will come out of prison, and that their identity is not ultimately defined by that.



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- 1 For those doing Emmaus Bible school booklets in-cell at Buckley Hall, that they will gain knowledge and understanding as they study the word of God
- 2 S and 17 other men who signed up for the Living with Loss course which is still on hold, that they will have hope for the future, even in their mourning
- 3 D whose father has just died, that he will have comfort from those around him as he grieves
- 4 N is really finding the lack of visiting by family members difficult and is very isolated, pray that he is encouraged to go on
- 5 For the clients at GMCC as we open up services in a new way, that they are happy to adapt to all of the changes
- 6 Please pray for DB and M who have both gone out to Christian supported housing that they will get the support they need and that they will grow strong in God
- 7 J & C whose Granddad died recently. They requested a memorial service and seemed ready to receive the comfort God's word affords, pray that they are comforted and receptive to the Gospel
- 8 That the message in Prisons workers are able to head back into the prisons asap to assist chaplaincy and connect with the men and women
- 9 For GMCC staff and volunteers as they enforce new & changing rules in line with government guidance, that this will be done in joy and love rather than with fear
- 10 P who is desperate to move out of the jail and is feeling very frustrated, that he has peace in the waiting
- 11 For new courses that will be starting soon, Living with Loss, Bible studies and Alpha, that the men who attend will be filled with hope
- 12 S whose father is terminally ill, that he receives the support and comfort that he needs
- 13 D is looking forward to his imminent release, may his optimism be justified
- 14 K, C and S who are young men with severe mental health issues and are waiting to move to a hospital, that they are given the treatment they need quickly
- 15 All the men who have not seen their families, especially their children for 6 months, that they are encouraged and uplifted during these difficult times
- 16 J who is feeling trapped in the system and does not have a release date, that he has hope and is given some clarity

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- 17 D who is struggling to come to terms with a long sentence, that he receives the support he needs and begins to hope
- 18 L is really struggling with his substance misuse. Please pray for resilience and perseverance
- 19 A whose gran is terminally ill, that he gets the support and comfort that he needs during this time
- 20 Please pray for DE who says he is feeling something is missing in his life and is thinking about faith, that he is receptive and open to the Gospel
- 21 For wisdom for governors as restrictions are slowly lifted
- 22 For those who receive prayer sheets in place of Sunday worship to find them of value
- 23 Prayers for chapel groups to be permitted quickly, please. Many prisoners are feeling the lack of them, pray that the prisoners are resilient in these tough times
- 24 Please pray for our visits Team as Social Visiting is re-introduced with suitable safeguards. May it happen safely
- 25 Please pray for continued financial provision for GMCC, may the Lord continue to be faithful to us in this difficult season
- 26 For families who have missed visiting their loved ones, that the families of prisoners are strong in this difficult time and that communication is still possible
- 27 B often uses violence rather than thinking to try and solve his problems pray that he might stop and think.
- 28 Pray for S, a new GMCC client who has recently started engaging with churches and has been given a Bible, may he grow
- 29 For K, M, C & C as they continue to grow in grace in these difficult times
- 30 C and R who are very vulnerable men who have just come into custody, pray that they are protected and cared for within the prison system
- 31 J who is out in September and very much does not want to come back to prison, pray that he makes the right choices and has the correct support when he is released