



PRISONS WEEK 2008 RESOURCES

ADDITIONAL DAILY PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Accommodation

"Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." (Luke 9:58)

Lord, we pray for men and women who have nowhere to live when they leave prison. May they be spared the dangers of sleeping rough and find places where they can start to rebuild their lives in confidence and security.

"But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion."
(Luke 15:20)

Lord, we thank you for those who, in trust and love, provide homes for those released from prison. Show us how we, in our own ways, can welcome the offender back and help them to stay on a right path.

Education, training and employment

We pray for all those people who share their skills and talents with prisoners to help them lead honest lives for the benefit of society and for their own image of themselves. We thank you, too, for those individuals and companies who are willing to train and employ prisoners and give them the chance of a new life.

Health

"Then some people came, bringing to Jesus a paralysed man, carried by four of them. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'... 'I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go home.'" (Mark 2:4)

Lord, we pray for all those who minister to prisoners' physical and mental health needs, staff of the NHS and of prison health care centres. We pray for those who find the help they need only in prisons and for those who are terminally ill in prison. We thank you for our own health and pray that we may use some of its benefits in the service of those less healthy in body and mind than we are.

Drugs and alcohol

We thank you for the efforts of all those, paid and unpaid, who seek to help prisoners break free from the captivity of their addictions, for CARATS teams, for drugs agencies and for Alcoholics Anonymous. We pray for the efforts of prisoners who help their fellows to overcome their addictions.

Continued overleaf...

Finance, debt and benefits

"The slave fell on his knees before his master saying, 'Have patience with me and I will pay you everything.' Out of pity for him his master released him and forgave him the debt."
(Matthew 18: 26-27)

Lord, we thank you for the patience and understanding of those who counsel prisoners about debt and who help them to manage their finances in such a way that they are not tempted to return to crime. May we find our own ways to invest in former prisoners.

Children and families

We pray for all who, separated from those they love, suffer 'the second sentence'. And we pray for those who have suffered violence and abuse from parents and partners who are now in prison. We pray for all staff who work with prisoners to improve their family relationships. Especially we pray for those volunteers who help to support prisoners' families and those who look after children in prison visits areas so that parents may have a few precious moments together.

Attitudes and thinking

We pray for all who work with prisoners to help them think more constructively and responsibly so that families may live together in greater harmony and so that fewer people are at risk of becoming victims. We especially pray that those who have been helped to think in new and better ways will be given time and space to prove their change and encouragement to help realise it.

Prisons week 16th-22nd Nov 2008

www.prisonsw.org

Encouraging prayer for, and raising awareness of, the needs of prisoners and their families, victims of offenders, prisons staff and all those who care.