



PRISONS WEEK 2008 STORIES

No. 5 - from HMP Swansea

Tony

Tony had to do the 12 Step Rehabilitation Programme twice before he really tackled his addiction issues.

The first time he said he was saying all the "right words" but he was going through the programme for 'other people'. He didn't succeed when released and ended back in prison to serve a five year sentence. He applied to do the 12 Step Programme again but this time he did it for himself.

I and other Chaplains were with him, particularly for Step 11. He's a new man now; he's at peace with himself and with those around him. However, he has not forgotten where he was and who he was with and so now, long after his release, he comes back to attend the Narcotics Anonymous and Listener sessions as an encouragement to others. Usually he comes after his counselling sessions which he gives in the local university.

John

John was angry with himself and with the world. He didn't like himself and always seemed bitter, looking for trouble and arguments. I once took him over to the Chapel, which is the quietest place in the whole prison, and asked him to tell me what was wrong. He just talked about his life and the hurts. After a considerable time he said, "Thank you". "What for?" I answered. "For listening, no-one has ever listened to me before."

Not much to ask for is it? But it made a difference to John.

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.

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