

LUKE CARSON'S PRAYER UPDATE – September 2022

Prisons and Resettlement Team



Hello, thank you for taking the time to read my latest update. I really appreciate your prayers. I want to give a special thank you to those who give financially to the work of London City Mission, it's vital in helping us get out and go with churches to communities in London that are unlikely to hear the good news of Jesus. LCM have launched a new website that very conveniently includes a page for each of our workers (<https://www.lcm.org.uk/people-places/luke-carson/>), so you can easily go and read more about what we are doing or give support. Please do check out the new site when you have a chance.

I was chatting to a man outside his prison cell last week and he was telling me how he just found out his court date has been pushed back again to May next year. He has already been in prison for almost two years waiting to be sentenced and now has to wait another nine months to find out how long he will be in prison. His health has seriously deteriorated, and he has lost his accommodation while he's been inside, so will most likely be released with nowhere to live. In the face of all this his faith in Jesus has grown a lot in the last few months. He even prepared and led a Bible study for other prisoners recently and is such an encouragement to other men on the wing as he tried to stay positive.

The conversation reminded me of how frustrated so many prisoners are at the minute. Last month the mayor of London called on the Justice Secretary to take urgent action and deal with the court backlog. They estimated there were 16,000 outstanding cases in the crown courts and nearly 73,000 in the magistrates. There have also been a number of barrister strikes recently so it really is not a good time to be a prisoner in London. We meet men every day who are uncertain about their future. But it also reminded me how there is always hope, even when things seem really dark, if we look to Jesus.



This is why it's so important that Christians keep going into prisons to share God's love, and why it's so important for churches to be safe and welcoming places for people who have been released from prison. Please join with us as we pray for our team, prisons, prisoners, and churches across London.

PLEASE PRAY:

Please pray for our team as we work with churches across London. One of the main ways is being a link between ex-prisoners and a church in their area. Sometimes this process goes very smoothly, with the individual quickly welcomed into church, but it's more common to encounter hurdles, or to lose contact with them as they readjust to life outside prison. Pray that men would show commitment to join a church family and that the churches would respond with patience and love.

Pray for **J** who got released a couple of months ago. He is really struggling with physical pain, anxiety and a lack of support from people who should be helping him. He is finding it hard to stay motivated and sometimes wishes he was back in prison. He needs somewhere secure to live and a new sense of purpose. Pray he would know God's presence with him every day and he would see doors start to open for him.

Give thanks for **E** who got released from prison over the summer. He took the brave step of coming to church on his own, is meeting new friends and inviting old ones along with him. Pray he would find a job and would feel like a part of the church family.

Pray for our Friday morning discipleship group. All the members are going through a lot of stress at the minute. Medication, family conflict, violence, addiction, mental well-being, housing, finances, anger, these are all normal. One member described his life as being 'a washing machine full of bricks'. Please pray that individually they would see God act in their lives, that their needs would be miraculously met, and they would experience peace.

Pray for our team in Pentonville as we launch a new term of the prison Alpha course and a new Bible study group. We have many guest speakers coming in and are inviting a large number of prisoners to come and hear the gospel and discuss it. Pray for a good turnout and for the men to have open ears to what is shared. Also give thanks for the large numbers coming to prison church services on Sunday and the local church members who come in and help us run it. Pray for strong, trustworthy relationships between volunteers and prisoners.

Pray for wisdom for Olly and myself as we keep trying to persevere in this difficult ministry. We are grateful to have Rob Hooks working with us one day a week in Brixton prison, so pray we would connect with even more men in prison and on release and that we would all stay obedient to what God has called us to.

I want to thank you all again for your prayers and support. I enjoy getting your messages and emails, so please do feel free to drop me a line. God bless.

PARTNER WITH ME SHARING JESUS IN LONDON

This ministry is possible only by God's grace and through the prayers and financial gifts of those who partner with us, I would appreciate your support which is vital for mission in London. Regular gifts are especially helpful as they keep ministry sustainable. If you would like to become a financial partner and support mission in London, please give online at www.lcm.org.uk/donate or get in touch with our Donor Care Team SRelations@lcm.org.uk or call 020 7234 3585 to make a single or regular gift. Please let this team know if you would like to make your gift in support of this ministry and please remember to mention my name – I would be very grateful for your support.

You can also donate here:

<https://www.lcm.org.uk/people-places/luke-carson/>