

LUKE CARSON'S PRAYER UPDATE – February 2024
Prisons and Resettlement Team

Thanks for taking the time to read my first update of the year. Before Christmas we had a very busy period both inside the prison and with the guys who got released during that time. Every person released from prison has huge challenges to face. For us, it can be a gruelling task trying to help men released from prison who are homeless. It's also very tricky supporting those who are addicted to crack and heroin. A few of the men released in the run up to Christmas were facing all of these things. Despite having found a relationship with Jesus during their sentence, a willingness to not go back to their old lives and the reliability of support from our team and Christians from local churches, they would still have a mountain to climb.

We were very hopeful for a time. They were coming to church, abstaining from drugs, asking for help when they needed it, making connections with family and community and seeming to be in a good place. But sadly, as is more normal, things didn't last for long. As I write this, we are dealing with relapses, returns to prison, division in families, homelessness and the consequences of bad decisions. But we persevere. It's at times like this I am grateful to be part of a fantastic team who encourage each other and keep each other going. Even when we've had a crazy day in prison, we still have a laugh and pray together. So thank you for your prayers, your messages and emails and your financial gifts to LCM. I really appreciate it. We are seeing God at work. People are coming to faith in prison, people are getting released and holding down jobs and joining churches. Please pray that we would see more.



PLEASE PRAY:

We've just finished running a Life Explored course inside Pentonville and are about to go straight into the Recovery Course. We've had a really good turnout every week and it's been exciting to see men from the enhanced wing, the neurodiverse unit, the drug

and alcohol wing and the general population all mixing together in the groups. It's certainly led to some lively discussions. Pray that the Recovery Course would connect with them and that we'd continue to get a lot of people coming along, hearing the gospel and getting set free from addiction.

Similarly, we've had amazing numbers at our Monday afternoon group week after week. Some sessions have had so many guys show up we've had to split into separate groups so everyone gets a chance to participate. We are still going through the book of Mark. Pray for one man, L, who had never read the Bible before but since reading Mark start to finish has committed his life to the Lord. He's on fire and



just last week stood up spontaneously in front of 70 prisoners and officers to share his testimony. He is now reading the gospel of John so pray he keeps growing in his new faith.

Pray for me as I try to come up with a creative solution in reaching some of the men in Pentonville with the gospel who don't speak very much English. My goal over the next few months is to collaborate with churches in London to reach some of the Romanian and South American prisoners. It's a big task so please pray for opportunities and wisdom.

Pray for myself and Karis as we have been invited to the parole hearing for a man we have known for many years. He is a strong Christian with contagious faith but is serving a life-sentence. We long to see him released from prison and to be able to move forward with his new life. Pray protection over him and for those making the decisions about his potential release.

Give thanks that our Winter Conference at LCM was a big success. We had some amazing guest speakers from charities and organisations working with homeless people and the day was focused on empowering those on the streets. Pray that there will be ripple effects from the conference that will give hope and purpose to the homeless people our churches in London are connecting with.

Continue to pray for our team, for Karis and the whole chaplaincy department as we try to care for individuals on the neurodiverse unit at Pentonville. We meet men who are incredibly unwell and vulnerable, and we are often very concerned for their wellbeing, but we have seen glimpses of hope and joy in them as they take part in our groups and come to church. Pray that they would know they are loved and seen, and they have a heavenly father who will never let them down.

Give thanks that a couple of the lads in our prison-leaver discipleship group have found somewhere to live. It was worrying for a while that they might end up homeless, but they are both in a great place for now and it's been a big answer to prayer. Also pray that the group would grow as men leave prison and seek a community that is consistent and caring.

Pray for our partnership with Kings Cross Church. We have a full-time apprentice working with us this year and a lot of committed prison volunteers. We also have a number of people at the church who have helped support prison leavers through difficult times and this ministry wouldn't work without them. Pray for strength and encouragement for each of them as they get involved in Sunday services, Bible studies, wing visits or even just being there to listen to someone going through a crisis.

As always, please pray that I would have strength and perseverance in ministry. We have a hectic few months coming up, nothing unusual there, but I need God's wisdom to manage. Pray for all the men we are trying to reach, some of them are open and some are resistant, help me to follow the spirit's guidance.

Thanks,

Luke Carson - 27/02/24

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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.

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