

Ruach City Church Prison Ministry – TESTIMONIES

Introduction

Through our Prison Ministry, Ruach City Church has the privilege of taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ into HMP establishments, where we have witnessed powerful moments of salvation, transformation, encouragement, restoration and renewed hope.

These testimonies remind us that “no place is too dark for the light of Christ to shine.”

God can reach someone in their darkest moment and shine His light into places where hope seems completely lost. What may have been intended for despair, “God can turn into hope, purpose and a new beginning.”

- This is why we go to prisons.
- This is why we pray.
- This is why we preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- This is why lives are changed.

We give “ALL the glory, honour and praise to God” who can turn darkness into light, fear into peace, despair into hope and brokenness into a testimony of His faithfulness.

HMP SEND- TESTIMONY

A Testimony of Hope and Transformation

During a Ruach City Church service at SEND HMP, a young female inmate attended the service carrying an overwhelming burden.

Earlier that very morning, she had been contemplating suicide. She felt that she had reached the darkest point of her life. Her children had been taken away from her, she was in prison, and she felt completely overwhelmed and without hope.

Then she heard the announcement that Ruach City Church had come to hold a service—and she made the decision to attend.

That decision became a life-changing encounter with God.

Sister Diane preached a powerful message entitled “The Antidote to Fear.” As the Word of God was shared, the young woman knew that the message was speaking directly to her situation.

She came forward for prayer and opened up about the deep darkness she had been experiencing.

We prayed with her, ministered to her and shared the love of Christ. In that moment, she surrendered her life to the Lord.

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Through her tears, we spoke the Word of God over her life, and we witnessed a remarkable change in her demeanour. The darkness and fear she had been carrying began to give way to hope.

Before leaving, we gave her Scriptures to hold onto and continued to keep her in prayer and advised the Chaplain.

On our next visit to SEND HMP, she attended the service again—and what a difference we saw!

This time, she was no longer fearful. She was at peace, encouraged and full of hope.

She shared that she had started her appeal and was looking forward to seeing her children again—children she was determined to fight for. She quoted the joy of the Lord is her strength.

What a mighty God we serve!

This testimony reminds us that God can step into our darkest moments and begin to transform them into moments of hope. He brings light where there is darkness, peace where there is fear and restoration where there seems to be no way forward.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” — John 1:5

TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY! 🙏

HMP FELTHAM – TESTIMONY

THE Holy Spirit Moved

What happens when the Holy Spirit fills a room and hearts are ready to receive? Lives are transformed!

During two powerful Ruach City Church services held on the same day at HMP Feltham, we witnessed an incredible move of God.

The Word of God was shared and as the message went forth, it began to touch the hearts of the young men in the chapel.

The atmosphere shifted as the Holy Spirit saturated the room, bringing conviction, hope and a hunger for God

One by one, the young men came forward.

They responded to the call of God and made the life-changing decision to give their lives to Jesus Christ.

Across the two services, 12 young men surrendered their lives to the Lord.

What an incredible moment!

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But God wasn't finished...

Later that same month, there was another beautiful milestone:

All 12 young men were baptised!

What began with a powerful encounter in the chapel continued into a public declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ.

These young men didn't simply hear a message—they responded to it. They didn't just experience an emotional moment—they took a step of faith and began a new journey with Christ.

- Two services.
- Twelve lives surrendered.
- Twelve baptisms.
- One mighty God!

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. — 2 Corinthians 5:17

- This is why we trust God.
- This is why we make ourselves available to the Holy Spirit.
- Because one encounter with Jesus can change everything.
- we believe God is rewriting their stories and opening the door to new beginnings.

****TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY!**** 🙏🏾🔥

HMP BELMARSH – TESTIMONY

FAITH THAT GROUNDS THE HEART

Even behind prison walls, the Word of God has the power to bring hope, perspective, strength and peace.

During a Ruach City Church service at HMP Belmarsh, Min Patience shared a powerful and timely message on Faith. The response from the inmates was remarkable.

The message resonated deeply with them, and the feedback afterwards was incredibly encouraging. The Word had not simply been heard—it had connected with hearts and spoken into real-life struggles.

One of the inmates, was particularly impacted by the message. He was so touched with what had been shared that he asked for the notes on Faith because he wanted to take time to meditate on the teaching.

He shared that he was feeling overwhelmed by the legal system and needed something that would ground him and give him strength during such a challenging season.

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What a powerful reminder that God's Word can meet us exactly where we are.

- In the middle of uncertainty, faith gives us something solid to hold onto.
- In the middle of pressure, God's Word brings perspective.
- And when everything around us feels unstable, faith can anchor the heart.

This is why we continue to take the Gospel into prisons—not simply to preach a message, but to bring hope to the hopeless, strength to the weary and truth to those searching for something they can stand on.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” — Hebrews 11:

- A message was preached.
- Hearts were touched.
- The Word was requested.
- Faith became an anchor.

TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY! 🙏🏿

RUACH PRISON BEFRIENDING SERVICES - TESTIMONY

FROM PRISON TO A NEW BEGINNING

Leaving prison is not the end of the journey—it can be the beginning of a transformed life.

At Ruach City Church, we recognise that individuals leaving prison may need more than a place to worship. They need **support, encouragement, accountability and a community where they can belong.

Our Ruach Prison Befriending Service, provides a safe and supportive pathway for individuals who have encountered Christ through our Prison Ministry and wish to become part of the Ruach City Church family.

Through close liaison with prison chaplains, relevant information can be shared to help us understand appropriate risks, concerns and support needs before the individual attends church.

Each person is then supported by a dedicated member of our **Prison Ministry Team**, who acts as a befriender and point of contact as they settle into church life.

Our befriending service helps create a positive and supportive transition from the prison environment into church community.

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The befriender service provides:

- A warm welcome and sense of belonging as the individual enters church life.
- Practical support and encouragement during the transition.
- Positive Christian relationships and accountability.
- Ongoing pastoral connection with the wider church community.
- Appropriate risk awareness and safeguarding working alongside relevant professionals and prison chaplains.

Our aim is to ensure that individuals are not left to navigate this transition alone.**

Instead, they are welcomed, supported and encouraged as they begin to build a new life centred around Christ.

We believe that salvation is not simply about a moment of decision—it is the beginning of a lifelong journey.

For someone leaving prison, walking through the doors of a church for the first time can feel daunting. Having someone there to welcome them, walk alongside them and help them find their place can make all the difference.

Through the Ruach Prison Befriending Service, we are building a bridge between prison ministry and church community

We want every individual who has encountered Jesus behind prison walls to know:

- Your past does not have to define your future.
- You have a place.
- You have a community.
- You have people who will walk with you.
- And in Christ, there is the possibility of a new beginning.**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” — 2 Corinthians 5:17

Ruach City Church — walking alongside lives transformed by the Gospel. 🙏 ✨

RUACH PRAYER REQUEST SERVICE – Partnering in prayer and standing in the Gap

Prayer is at the heart of everything we do. As part of our ongoing relationship with prison chaplains, Ruach City Church regularly communicates with chaplaincy teams to understand the needs within their establishments and identify where prayer can make a difference.

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Through these relationships, we have developed a dedicated **Prayer Request Service* creating a simple and effective way for chaplains to submit prayer requests for inmates, services, resources and other areas of need.

When a prayer request is received, it is shared appropriately with our designated Prison Ministry Team, who commit to standing in prayer over the specific needs raised.

Whether the request is for an individual going through a difficult season, an upcoming service, a particular resource or a wider need within the prison, **we bring it before God in faith.

We believe that although we may not always be physically present in every situation, we can always pray.

Prayer requests and sensitive information remain strictly within the designated Prison Ministry Team and are not shared beyond those who need to receive them for prayer purposes.

This allows chaplains to confidently raise genuine needs, knowing that they will be treated with **respect, confidentiality and prayerful care.**

The Prayer Request Service continues to develop as we strengthen our relationships with chaplains and seek new ways to support the work taking place within prisons

We believe prayer can open doors, strengthen the weary, bring hope to those facing difficult circumstances and create an atmosphere where lives can be transformed by the power of God.

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” — James 5:16

Ruach City Church — partnering with chaplains, standing with those in need and believing God for transformation behind prison walls. 🙏🔥

We are committed to going, praying, preaching, befriending and walking alongside those whose lives have been impacted by the criminal justice system.

We believe that no prison sentence can prevent God from reaching a person's heart.

- No wall is too high.
- No situation is too difficult.
- No life is beyond redemption.
- No story is beyond God's ability to rewrite.

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We continue to believe for salvation, restoration, healing, discipleship, rehabilitation and new beginnings.

Because when Jesus enters the story, everything can change.

TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY, HONOUR AND PRAISE! 🙏🙏🔥

PRISON MINISTRY OFFERS:

- Currently Ruach Prison Ministry ministers to 60-70 inmates every month, by conducting church services in two prisons. Brixton and Belmarsh, lasting approximately 1 hour to 1hr, 30 minutes.
- Our team members lead different parts of the service, including moderation, opening prayer, exhortation, the preaching of the Word, praise and worship, and the altar call, where we pray for the individual needs of the inmates.
 - We are currently working with SEND HMP, Downsview HMP, ESP HMP for our Sunday services and security clearances
 - BEFRIENDING SERVICE – A bridge from prison to Church and community
 - Prayer Request Service - Keeping inmates and prisons in prayer according to their need

The current challenges we are working through

Security Clearance Procedure

A new security clearance procedure is very intrusive for volunteers, it examines

- Personal history, ID, residence and those who live you. Education, etc.
- Criminal record check- any legal issues or arrests
- Credit checks, HMRC, employment history etc

Transport

- Wayland HMP, Highpoint North and Highpoint South Prisons have requested our prison services but unfortunately, we were unable to attend due to lack of transport. It was not realistic for team members to drive own car for such long distances 2 1/2 to 3 hours drive there or 5-6 hours return.

Chaplains

- Additionally, we are transitioning from previously established chaplains to new ones requiring us to rebuild relationships from the ground up.

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Witnessing the Transforming Power of God at HMP Belmarsh

This year, Ruach City Church Prison Ministry has been privileged to visit HMP Belmarsh several times, ministering in the prison chapel. Each visit has been met with great expectation from our team, the chaplains, and inmates, all eager to encounter God's presence. The gratitude expressed by both the chaplains and the men in custody has been deeply humbling. They have consistently thanked the team for investing time, love, and the Word of God into their lives. It has become evident that these visits are more than services; they are divine appointments where hearts are softened, lives are challenged, and hope is restored.

From the very beginning of each gathering, the atmosphere has been transformed through heartfelt praise and worship. Men who are often surrounded by the harsh realities of prison life have entered into genuine worship, lifting their voices and opening their hearts to God. His presence has been tangible among us.

As the Word of God has been preached, we have witnessed remarkable demonstrations of His power. Hardened hearts have been broken by His love. Men have openly wept as the Holy Spirit ministered to them, bringing conviction, healing, and hope. Many have come forward requesting prayer—not only for personal transformation and forgiveness but also for the restoration of broken family relationships.

Perhaps most moving of all have been those moments when inmates have asked God to give them the courage to accept responsibility for crimes they had previously denied. Such prayers reveal the deep work of the Holy Spirit, bringing truth, repentance, and the beginning of genuine freedom that no prison walls can contain.

The impact of these services has extended beyond the inmates. Prison officers and staff have also been touched by the messages shared, demonstrating that God's Word is not bound by circumstance or status. His presence has reached every corner of the chapel, reminding us that the Gospel is for all who are willing to receive it.

Each visit has been a powerful testimony that no life is beyond the reach of God's redeeming grace. We have witnessed Him bringing light into darkness, replacing despair with hope, and reminding every person present that they are seen, loved, and valued by Him.

We give all glory to God for what He continues to do through the Ruach City Church Prison Ministry. The testimonies we have witnessed are evidence that the Gospel is still transforming lives today. We remain committed to answering God's call to serve those in prison, believing that every seed sown through His Word will continue to bear lasting fruit.

"I was in prison, and you came to visit me." — Matthew 25:3. To God be all the Glory.

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From a prisoner

To Ruach Community

Just wanted to say thank you for coming and blessing us with your words of wisdom and worship. I can only hope and pray that you will return soon. The spirit was evidently there. I know I am not the only one to notice the difference of your presence.

Please hurry back to us.

Al

From a prisoner

Hello.

I am sure that I speak for others when I say I look forward to Ruach Outreach Ministries because I always get outpouring of the Holy Spirit when the team visit. I am uplifted by the praise and worship as I enjoy and I'm fond of a lot of the choice of songs because I am familiar with them.

It is also a blessing when they preach the word. So please attend more!!

Dwayne

From Chaplain Alison

I want to thank all in the Ruach Outreach Ministries team for faithfully and dependably ministering to our men who attend Sunday chapel.

The prisoners feedback is always positive after you have taken a Sunday chapel service as it is relevant for them, bringing spiritual energy and life. Their spirits are lifted through the praise and worship and they can be both encouraged and challenged by different messages. The prison officers even comment on their changed demeanour when they return to their House blocks!

As the Chaplaincy team, we really look forward to you coming in as we know that there will be an excellent delivery. Diane leads the team extremely well, and every member seems to be utterly committed and well prepared. We deeply appreciate this as it also helps us as a Chaplaincy team.

Thank you so much and God bless you and all that you do.

Alison