Prayers from The Prison Fellowship

**Our Partner Organisations**

Praise God for our partner organisations such as Reflex,
Mothers’ Union and Caring for Ex-Offender

They support families, young people and ex-offenders with prayer and practical support.
They are ‘being’ the church by tackling urgent needs facing families and communities.

**Life Sentences**

Prison for life without the possibility of parole is a reality for some inmates.

The life sentence prison population has been steadily increasing.

So let’s remember those lifers taking part in Sycamore Tree courses,

 and those lifers who receive letters from Prison Fellowship volunteers.

Let’spray they would be reconciled to God

and allow His love for them to illuminate their days.

**Churches and Volunteers**

We remember all those volunteers and churches who takepart in Sunday services in prison

And who enable prisoners to sing songs of praise.

Lord we ask for even more church communities to investigate how they can serve their local prison.

**The Media**

The media has been known to report on sad news about prisons.
They note when standards drop or the availability of drugs increases.
Although it is good to be informed, let’s ask God that He would also clear the way

for positive and life changing stories of change to emerge more frequently in the papers,

on the radio and the television.

**Victim Awareness**

When one comes face to face with the pain caused by a crime,

it often causes a heartfelt response.

Thank God for the tutors and facilitators of the Sycamore Tree Course

Who taught victim awareness principles to offenders in 40 prisons across England and Wales over the last year.
Strength and compassion are needed from victims who share their stories in 2014,

and we thank God for the transformation and reconciliation their courage brings.

**The Prisons Week Prayer**

Lord,

You offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison.

Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.

Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially victims of crime.

Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly

together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and everyday.

**Amen.**

***Hymns***

The Spirit lives to set us free – Damian Lundy

Lord the light of Your love is shining (Shine Jesus, shine)

Loving God, source of all strength and understanding, give to all who work in prisons the wisdom, compassion and strength they need to defeat despair and doubt, that they might know and share life in all its fullness. Be present with them as they seek to engage with prisoners and guide them into new ways of living and along right paths.

God of justice and mercy, source of wise counsel and understanding, be present and active in all situations of judgement and sentencing, that justice with mercy will guide all those who work in our criminal justice system. Help them to act justly, to love mercy and to ensure that wise and compassionate judgements are made.

You never give us up Lord, despite our sin and loss of innocence, you came to us to bring us into a new and living relationship with you. You love us still, even when we stray from the path. Help us to recognise your image in one another and to offer that same generosity to those in our communities who have fallen into crime and been punished, that we might be always ready to forgive and offer help and companionship on their journeys.