

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

PRAY. Use this Guide to continue to pray for those facing struggles; go to www.unitethechurch.org/ap4c to find additional Prayer Guides about other ongoing issues facing our city; and watch for future monthly Guides with relevant information specific to those issues. Pray about how you might be able to help.

Also pray about these next steps:

LEARN.

- Go to www.unitethechurch.org to learn about ongoing needs, opportunities, and assets.
- Every city has people trying to resettle back into life after serving time. They face incredible obstacles - everything from broken family relationships to difficulty finding a job to intense insecurities. What if our communities had a continuum of service available to welcome these neighbors back and help them succeed?

"When we get off the bus, the pimps, the prostitutes and the pushers are waiting for us, but the pastors are nowhere to be found."

-Fair Park Pastor quoting returning community member

SERVE. Use these resources to find local ways to give and get involved.

www.freemanhouse.org
www.oneheart.com/index.html
www.prisonfellowship.org

TELL. Tell your friends, family, and co-workers about these needs and opportunities. Look at the resources above so you're ready to share helpful information with others as God puts it on your heart.



RE-ENTRY FROM PRISON PRAYER GUIDE

"Some sat in darkness, in utter darkness, prisoners suffering in iron chains, because they rebelled against God's commands and despised the plans of the Most High. So he subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron." Psalm 107:10-16

This month's topic is **"Re-Entry"** back into the community from prison.

Approximately 70,000 men and women are released from the Texas department of Criminal Justice annually, while hundreds of thousands return from local jails.

As you read the Scriptures and prayer points, Please prepare your heart before you begin to pray through the AP4C categories, so that these Scriptures and your time with God can renew your heart for our Metroplex.



AP4C model was established in collaboration with
Movement Day Greater Dallas and is facilitated by Unite



All Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, NIV translation.

SALVATION

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:23-24

- Praise God for giving the opportunity for loving Christians to go into the prisons to share the hope and love of Jesus with men and women who desperately need it in every way.
- Praise Him for the thousands of incarcerated men and women whose lives are transformed by the Gospel every year.
- Continue to pray for those in your circle of influence who don't know Jesus.

THE CHURCH

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35

- Praise God for the group of re-entry service providers who are collaborating to develop and pilot a complete continuum of care in a Dallas community densely populated with ex-offenders.
- Thank God for the Angel Tree ministry that gives comfort to incarcerated parents and their children.
- Pray that God raises up a coalition of churches to seriously address the issue of mental health with formerly incarcerated persons.
- Pray for church partners to mobilize group and individual mentors for spouses, children, and their caregivers left behind due to incarceration.
- Praise God that prisons are asking for more faith-based dorms, and ask Him to build the capacity of organizations who can come alongside them.

OUR COMMUNITIES

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:9-10

- Pray that God would move in the hearts of business owners and managers to hire ex-offenders and provide them the support they need to succeed.
- Pray for greater participation from ex-offenders in the pilot program in the Fair Park community.
- Pray for opportunities for us to show God's love to ex-offenders by connecting them to the services they need.
- Pray for lowered barriers to housing for formerly incarcerated persons.

TRANSFORMATION

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” Ephesians 4:22-24

- Pray for God to continue to guide us as we work toward a long-term goal of a single-digit recidivism rate (relapse of criminal behavior) in Dallas. For specific recidivism statistics go to www.bjs.gov.
- Pray for the important work of the prison reform committee working on the cradle to prison pipeline, sentencing, mental health, diversion, and incentives for prisons to reform inmates in preparation for release.
- Praise God and ask for guidance and favor for the continued partnership with the Probation & Parole Division. Teams are training large numbers of men and women who have been paroled.
- Pray that the city continues strategic planning to determine next steps for legitimately increasing the impact of the collective Church on all of the most critical needs facing the city.