



**2015 CHAPLAINCY
CONFERENCE**
2-3 SEPTEMBER 2015



**CHAPLAINCY
SPOTLIGHT
PRISON**

OUR NEW NEWSLETTER



We are thrilled at the way chaplaincy is growing across the AoG and Elim! We are especially excited that the Apostolic Church UK has recently joined us.

Chaplains are working every day to bring God's love to all people in every walk of life – but the way they are accomplishing this might surprise you.

Chaplains are ministering to people in hospitals, prisons, military barracks, corporations, and even at places such as bike rallies, sporting events and disaster sites. Sometimes pastoral listening takes place on a Harley or on the shop floor, for chaplains, ministry opportunities change almost every day.

As long as people are hurting and confused, yearning for more than this life has to offer, there will be a need for qualified chaplains who are willing and able to take Christ's message of love and hope.

Thank you for all that you do to offer hope, healing, and strength through your loving presence. To be with and make a difference in the

lives of those who experience life's most challenging and painful moments, and to witness to God's healing presence in the midst of suffering is a tremendous privilege.

Please help us to spread the word by forwarding this newsletter to your contacts. We appreciate that many pastors and people in our churches are actively involved in chaplaincy ministry and as yet are not aware of the association or have just not been in touch, so please ask them to let us know. We would be so encouraged to hear from them.

I hope you can arrange to join us at the Chaplain's conference on 2-3 September – It will be **BRILLIANT!**

Nigel Tween - Joint Director of Chaplains Association



Nigel Tween is the national chaplaincy representative for Elim and joint director of the Chaplains Association.

Endorsement for Elim, Apostolic Churches UK, and AoG chaplains is provided through the Free Churches Group (NHS and Prison Chaplains) and the United Board (Armed Forces Chaplaincy).



For more information about Chaplaincy, please visit any of the following:
www.elim.org.uk www.aog.org.uk www.apostolic-church.org

CHAPLAINCY SPOTLIGHT

HMP & YOI BRONZEFIELD

*Simeon Sturney is the
Managing Chaplain
(Justice Services) at
Sodexo's HMP & YOI
Bronzefield in Middlesex.*



There is no greater joy for a Chaplain to be leading a church service here at HMP YOI Bronzefield with a chapel full of worshipping women. Most of the women we would have met when they first came in to prison and often in a distressed state. For those who enter prison for the first time it can be a scary, disorientating experience and one some of them would have worried long and hard about.

HMP YOI Bronzefield is privately run by Sodexo and able to accommodate up to 527 women from all over the South East of the UK (serving courts from Kent, Sussex, Isle of Wight, Hampshire, Surrey, West London, Berkshire and Oxfordshire). Up to 30% of our population can be foreign nationals and many of these women can be particularly scared and worried.

Yet prison isn't always what it's made out to be. Many women are surprised to find that there is a Chaplaincy department and that we so often have a chaplain representing their faith. Currently at Bronzefield there is a real moving of the Holy Spirit and we are seeing tens of women attending our services and bible studies:

- **Over 100 women worshipping on Sundays - Church of England / Free Church service for the past 6 weeks (April-May we have had 102,105,101, 103, 113, 106).**
- **Over 40 women attending the Roman Catholic service (Monday lunch times) for the past few weeks (recently we had 53).**
- **Over 30 women attend the Charismatic style evening praise on Wednesday evenings – 5.30-6.30pm**
- **All Christian classes are up on attendance: 4 Bible studies (New Believers, R/C, 'Pentecostal' Study, Exploring Faith).**

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- Quiet Communion for CofE / Free Church attendance is also up

- During the course of a week we can give out 10-15 Bibles (full bibles). As a remand and sentenced prison we can have a high turn-over of prisoners – hence a regular request for bibles.

- 6 months ago 27 women made a first time commitment to Christ, however the average Sunday service size was 70-80 women then.

- There is also a move amongst the staff – with more joining the small staff prayer meeting and others requesting prayer. I have liberty to mention answers to prayer in the morning meeting which is chaired by the Director and for all managers and team leaders.

Women of all denominations are finding great freedom in the worship here. We are blessed with being extremely well supported by Jesus House of the Redeemed Church of God and various other local individuals who assist us with worship throughout the week as well as several volunteers, representing different denominations – including the local Salvation Army, Roman Catholic, Church of England and Elim congregations.

Whilst my role within Bronzefield is as a Managing Chaplain and therefore I'm responsible for supporting all faiths and making sure we provide pastoral care to all people here (prisoners and staff) as well as supporting people of faith and of no faith regarding bereavement and loss – I also act as a chaplain. As an Elim Minister (and lead Chaplain) here I also act as a Chaplain when required. I can find myself listening to women of faith and no faith and journeying with them throughout their stay in the prison. (continued)

Endorsement for Elim, Apostolic Churches UK, and AoG chaplains is provided through the Free Churches Group (NHS and Prison Chaplains) and the United Board (Armed Forces Chaplaincy).

(continued) We also support women as they are about to leave prison and are often asked to find them a church to link in with upon their release. I have managed to find at least four women Elim churches in the past 18 months and reconnect a couple of women with churches they once attended.

We have many women who were brought up in Pentecostal type churches – both in the UK and abroad and for various reasons have slipped away. But now as they face the reality of where they are they now reflect upon how they have wandered away from a safe and secure path to one that has often been fraught with pain and danger. When they come back to Jesus there is such a joy and thirst that their passion can be overwhelming. Thus the services are extremely lively and joyous occasions, even when they have been challenged through the sermon as to the consequences of their actions.

There is nothing more liberating than to be told that once you repent and recommit to Christ you can know forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation. Some women have been carrying bucket loads of guilt for many years. In prison that guilt is only added to as they are so aware of all those they have let down – their parents, children, partners, extended family, friends, work colleagues etc.

Understandably many women cannot forgive themselves even if they accept that Jesus has. A very large number of

women in prison wrestle with low self-esteem and therefore it is important to remind them that Jesus loves them, even though he may not love what they have done.

All prisons need our prayers. The national organisation Prison Fellowship aims to have a prayer group for every prison in the country. If you wish to get involved contact PF to find out if your nearest prison has a group or offer to start one. I attribute this mighty move of God here at Bronzefield to the years of faithful prayer our local PF group has engaged in, without them I'm not sure we would be quite where we are now – hallelujah! I have a fantastic multi faith chaplaincy team and I know we all appreciate the power of prayer.

At HMP & YOI Bronzefield we have specific requests. We are in real need of a volunteer administrator and new *full* bibles (The Gideons Society kindly provide us with New Testaments and Chapel bibles). Jesus House have blessed us with a huge amount over the years, as has George Vewer, yet we give out hundreds a year and need more!

Finally, we are developing a Community Chaplaincy project which will support women upon their release which needs your prayer. Please pray also for all the women here and our staff – thank you.

Simeon Sturney, Managing Chaplain - Justice Services, HMP & YOI Bronzefield

For more information about the ministry work happening at HMP & YOI Bronzefield, please contact Simeon Sturney at Simeon.Sturney@sodexojusticeservices.com

2015 CHAPLAINCY CONFERENCE



We're really looking forward to this year's Elim, AoG & Apostolic Church UK Chaplains conference will be again at the Elim Conference Centre, Malvern.

The conference runs over two days - Wednesday & Thursday, 2nd & 3rd September 2015. This year's hosts are Sarah Chaplain (Apostolic UK), David Spademan (AoG) and Nigel Tween (Elim). This year's guest speakers are Dave Russon NHS and Community Chaplain, Richard Ellingham Navy Chaplain Recruiter, and Dave Newton Director of Training.

The costs are: Full Board: Single £86 Shared £ 74 Day Rate: One day £27 or Two days £49. For more information, or to book, please contact rebekah.marshall@elimhq.net . Please note booking is also available online at www.elim.org.uk .

To have information, testimonies, or other content considered for publication in this newsletter, please send all submissions to Janelle Kingham at janelle.kingham@gmail.com. Thank you.