
TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
How will the exercise benefit me as a social worker?	2
How does Project UK assist the aims of Prison Healing Works Trust Inc?	2
How will the communities in New Zealand benefit from the exercise?	3
How will the report benefit social justice in New Zealand?	3
FINDINGS:	4
Social Work – getting a feel for the local area in Richmond, Surrey, London.....	4
Interview with Vicar Peter Hart	5
Interview with Piers Carlisle – International Co-ordinator for Alpha for Prisons.....	6
Annual Report for Prison Services	7
availability of systems for the post inmate.	8
An interview with Julie Smith	9
Phone Interview with Phoebe Smith ex-offender	11
Premier Christian Radio.....	11
Alpha programme called Caring for ex-offenders	12
Interview with Marian Henderson - Salvation Army Prison services co-ordinator.	13
Andrew Humphries Manager for Youth Offenders’ Programme	14
Roman Catholic Chaplain Peter Hanneragan	15
Recommendations:	17
Conclusion:	17

INTRODUCTION

Project UK contained three objectives as listed below. The events took place in London, England between 18th October and 4th November 2004.

The final report and findings were drawn up 14th November 2004.

Objective (a)

To meet all tasks as set out in the contract between Te Wananga O te Aotearoa, Open Home Foundation and myself.

Objective (b)

To carry out an informal assessment with a former post-inmate from New Zealand. For the purposes of the Privacy Act, the post-inmate's, her family and place names shall be changed.

Objective (c)

To set up a consultation with Church Ministers/Elders, person/s, Probation Services and other persons involved with ex-offenders and relative integration processes.

How will the exercise benefit me as a social worker?

The data collected shall assist my career in terms of social work and assisting the prisoner to rehabilitate and subsequently engage in a smooth transition and re-integration into our communities.

How does Project UK assist the aims of Prison Healing Works Trust Inc?

Testimonies from former prisoners will relate the effectiveness of their belief in Jesus Christ and the desire for change. The data will relate that it is essential that a resettling plan be devised with the prisoner at least 10 weeks before his/her release and that adequate support systems and networks should be in place for the prisoner before his/her release.

Further information will relate the importance of community support and adequate networks which should set up to aid the ex-offender's re-settlement into the community.

A Christian Radio Channel in London gave commendation in relation to six of the CD tracks from the album entitled 'Set the Captives Free' and have expressed a desire to have a demo copy of the CD upon its completion.

Key people in Prison Ministry have sighted the Prison Healing Works website with keen interest.

The data relates innovative social ideas to implement into New Zealand's prison services.

How will the communities in New Zealand benefit from the exercise?

The information is useful to the Prison Healing Works Trust (which was set up for the purposes of rehabilitation and re-integration of inmates in New Zealand.)

The International Catholic Programme for Evangelisation (Frank Doherty –ICPE administrator) will be informed of the impact or non-impact that Christian input ministry has had on the inmate whilst in prison and how effective it has been in terms of social interaction during integration process. It will identify Christian networks and other Christian support during re-integration.

How will the report benefit social justice in New Zealand?

The report will benefit Department of Corrections in terms of approach towards decreasing recidivist's level in New Zealand.

New Zealand currently has a National recidivist level of approximately 89%. This figure relates to re-offences occurring within 2 years after release.

Acknowledgement of thanks to Open Home Foundation and Te Wananga O te Aotearoa is in order for making the venture possible through their prayer and support.
(See copy of contract attached).

FINDINGS:

16th October 2004

Richmond, Surrey, England

My Base residence: My Aunt's residence
48 Chaucer Ave
Richmond TW9 4JJ
Surrey
London

Date: Sunday 17th October 2004

Social Work – getting a feel for the local area in Richmond, Surrey, London.

My aunt handed me 3 keys and stated that 'we get burgled around here.' She spoke of a current break in to her back shed and the stealing of bricks that made a border alongside her front garden. I was handed one key for the cupboard to stash valuable belongings, one key for the bedroom door and one key for the front door.

In the afternoon I was introduced to the owner of the corner dairy. His name was Patel. I explained that I was from New Zealand and carrying out some research on the post inmate's integration into the local community and the Christian impact on their resettlement journey. I said that drugs seemed to be the reason for a lot of our youth offenders ending up in prison in New Zealand and he maintained that it was the same for UK.

A little further from where my aunt lived I sighted and observed a group of boys aged between 10 and 12 years playing football in the street. They were a mix of black, Indian and white and played together quite happily.

The pensioners are fed up with a bullying attitude experienced when making communication with the DWP (Dept in charge of distributing pensions). There were widespread reports of pensioners being bullied and misled about their right to continue to be paid in cash after the traditional pension book is phased out next year. (The newspaper is distributed throughout UK. The Mail on Sunday, (24 October, 2004)).

There is a law in current operation that prohibits youth 16 years of age or more from gathering in groups of more than three persons on sidewalks after 9pm. It is designed to defray the formation of gangs, graffiti on walls and to eliminate the visual impact that a large group of youth can relate. (Refer to interview with Andrew Humphries (Probation Services) 01/11/04)

During the viewing of BBC news it was noted that crimes of serious wounding and murders in UK were up in the first quarter of the year by 11%. A gun culture is prevalent in Birmingham an evidence of gangsters and drug crimes. A 16 year old was shot in a drive-by shooting by a gang. Sexual offences were up by 18%. (BBC News 7pm on television 21st October 2004).

On the universal scale of social activity, Britain's ancient sovereignty over its own borders is to be surrendered by the Government this week. Home Secretary David Blunkett will sign away the national veto on immigration and asylum policies, leading to greater European control over UK borders.

The issue of giving away Britain's right to control its own borders after 1,000 years of history threatens to become a pivotal General Election matter.

The new move comes as EU members debate a 'federalist' blueprint to speed up the creation of a 'Common European Asylum system'.

The announcement that Britain is preparing to give up the veto on immigration and asylum policy confirms the European Union's inexorable drive towards becoming a European superstate. (Newspaper distributed throughout UK – The Mail on Sunday (Monday 24th October 2004)).

Date: Monday, 10.00am 18th October 2004

Interview with Vicar Peter Hart

Vicar of Saint Luke's and Saint Philip and All Saints' - the Barn Church, Cnr Marksbury Ave., and Atwood Avenues, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4HE.

Question: 'What does the Church do to aid the post-inmate with re-integration into the Community?'

Answer (Peter Hart): 'There is a shroud of confidentiality around all post-inmates who are released from prison and it is very difficult to get any information about any post-inmates who may have come from this area or who wish to reside in this area.'

No prison chaplaincy has contacted me in regard to prisoners released. The Holy Trinity Alpha programme offers encouragement to post-inmates.

From what I gather in terms of prison, the inmates are given an introduction to the chaplaincy and what it has to offer within 24 hours of their arrival at prison.'

I inquired about available education for the post-inmate. He advised the availability of adult education courses. He maintained that he/she would be able to meet with colleagues with similar capabilities and that there would be courses, which were GMVQ and level 4 which were equivalent to second year university level. Peter said that his Churches were offering some community based programmes e.g. After School Club from 3.30pm – 6.30pm, youth sinfonia, nursery school and a mon-fri drop in centre for the elderly. Some of the neighbouring churches were rostered in offering an 'open Church' lunch which occurred every Sunday.

Saint Luke's Senior Folk Centre (around lunch time).

This was a provision for social interaction, which consisted of activities for the elderly folk. They were offered a lunch for £3. The local council Trust provided the 2.5 paid staff members who were instrumental in the administration, provision of the food and in general the co-ordination of activities e.g. tai chi, pilates, mat work, and trips to Kew Gardens. The success was dependant on the rapport with the elderly and the group leaders should establish this.

Kingston Library

They provided Internet facility and hard copy printouts.

They also advised the contact addresses for:

Alpha International Holy Trinity, Brompton Road, London SW7 11A

Salvation Army, 275 Oxford Street London W1R 1LD

Date: Tuesday, 19th October 2004

Alpha International, Holy Trinity Church, Old Brompton Road, London SW7 1JA

Interview with Piers Carlisle – International Co-ordinator for Alpha for Prisons

– He was instrumental in finding new outlets in which to introduce the Alpha programme.

Piers stated that the Alpha programme was now active in prisons in 45 countries including Canada, USA, New Zealand and India. The latest introduction was to a country just below Turkey.

Piers said that 10% of the offenders were under 21 years and that in UK, drugs had an implication in most cases.

There are 40,000 men and women who have undergone the alpha programme in prisons.

The prison chaplain makes the decision regarding relevance of the Alpha programme for his prison units. The decision is based on a number of factors e.g. the length of the programme which is 15 sessions which are spread over 10 weeks. It may be too long for the remand inmates who are only in prison for a few weeks. It may be too conservative. Consideration is also given to the staffing members who would need to be available to oversee the safety aspects and procedures.

Piers stated that The Holy Trinity Church was instrumental in linking some post-inmates with the Churches after release. Out of the 15 post-inmates that he knew personally, only 1 has re-offended and been sentenced with imprisonment.

The aim of Alpha for Prisons Vision:

To help reduce the re-offending rate by giving every person in prison the opportunity to attend an Alpha course and by linking prisoners who have completed Alpha with a supportive Church.

What some ex-offenders have said about the aftercare programme:

‘The church are like a family to me – they are there when I need them. They have provided me with care and practical support. I am so grateful to God for all that they do.’

‘I became a Christian in prison. When I was released the church helped sort out some of my practical needs. They helped me to find accommodation and they have also helped me to find a good pastorate group. Alpha helped me realise that there is a God after all!’ (An Introduction to Alpha for Prisons and Caring for Ex-Offenders. Alpha International Holy Trinity Brompton, London SW7 1JA (2004)).

The British Government’s Director for Crime Reduction, Ms Ellie Roy, attended Alpha’s Caring for Ex-Offenders conference in November and paid tribute to the Alpha course saying, ‘Alpha can make a difference.’

She said, ‘we need to do more about getting the numbers in prisons down. For people who go into prison, large numbers of people re-offend when they come out again.’

She said that although the Government is ‘well-intentioned’ in reducing re-offending, it cannot do it without help.

‘And that is where lots of community and voluntary organisations come in and where Alpha and the churches come in,’ she said. (Alpha News April – July 2004).

Date: Wednesday, 20th October, 2004

Went into Her Majesty The Stationery Office and purchased the

Annual Report for Prison Services

(£23.00). 123 Kingsway, London WC2 B6PQ

Effective regime interventions

The Correctional Services Accreditation Panel is an advisory Non-Departmental Public Body supported jointly by the Prison and Probation Services. It was set up in 1999 and was formerly known as Joint Prison /Probation Accreditation Panel. Its main work is to accredit programmes for offenders that are designed to reduce re-offending. During the year 2003-2004, the panel awarded full accreditation to the following programmes for the Prison Service:

- North West Area Drugs Therapeutic Community
- FOCUS/HSE drug programme
- STOP drug programme
- Action on Drugs
- Healthy Relationship Programme
- SOTP Better Lives Booster
- Democratic Therapeutic Communities Core Model

OASYS – Offender Assessment System

An operational Offender Assessment System (OASys) IT system has been successfully developed jointly by the Prison and Probation Services to assess individual offenders' likelihood of re-offending, risk of serious harm and the contributing factors. From these assessments, sentence plans are drawn up within OASys to manage and reduce these risks. During the year, roll out was completed in seven Prison Service Areas. There are 65 prisons now live about 1,200 staff trained.

Joint work to achieve OASys connectivity between the Prison Service and the National Probation Service progressed well. This will ensure that a seamless system for assessment of offenders is provided throughout sentence in prison and in community. The services are expected to deliver a connectivity pilot in July 2004.

Date: Thursday, 21st October, 2004

Carried out research regarding the following:

availability of systems for the post inmate.

Counselling: Private for drug and alcohol, anger management etc.
Integrated Medical Care Centre – Hornchurch
Services can be provided through insurance claims.
Therapeutic massages and aromatherapy available.
If a doctor refers the Job Seeker client (beneficiary) to counselling, the counselling is paid for by the Government.

The Police: Police Station on the main road in Hornchurch.
Advised of social services in Romford (past Mercury House)
Advised of the local Church which was Saint Andrews and they gave directions.

Social Security on 30 Main Road advised the following:
They deal with social services for home help, people with disabilities.
They recommended that the Probation Services be contacted in terms of post-inmates resettlement.

Department for Work and Pensions - Romford

Procedure for benefit assistance:

1. To ring 0845 600 1302
2. Physical claim forms to be filled in and the first appointment is made. If the applicant is illiterate, an appointment must be established for assistance with filling the forms. This will result in a second appointment.
3. The initial appointment is set and the new claim ensues.

In terms of an unemployment benefit, the applicant must be of a habitual residency. A post-inmate with habitual residency can receive this benefit provided that he/she is seen to be actively looking for work. He/she may qualify for a training scheme and a living allowance will be given.

Only part-time University study will qualify for a living allowance.

Once a fortnight an unemployed beneficiary must sign on and a discussion follows regarding plans for work. A Job seekers agreement is signed every six months.

An Early Training Scheme e.g. college, may be available for persons under 21 years. In the case of the post inmate under 21 years, a job seeker's allowance will be granted straight away because the person has not worked before.

Help with Health Costs:

The person would need to register with a doctor. All UK residents are entitled to free doctors' consultations. The doctor can make referrals to specialists and counsellors and these services will not incur a cost to the beneficiary.

Date: 22nd October 2004

An interview with Julie Smith

(the biological mother of former New Zealand in-mate Phoebe Smith) Duration of interview from 11am – 4pm.

Cultural English greeting:

She held my shoulders with both hands, hugged me and planted a kiss on each cheek, greeted me with a warm 'hello' and 'please excuse the way I'm dressed. I have not long been out of bed after doing night shift.'

She then offered tea or coffee and I accepted a cup of coffee and sat down.

I explained who I was and that I had been in touch on some occasions in writing and visiting with her daughter Phoebe while she was in prisons in New Zealand. Julie said that she had heard of me through Phoebe.

We carried on with more engagement. Julie and her husband lived in a council flat which they renovated. They had an opportunity to buy it about 17 years but declined the offer. The council will look at immediate family members if there is an interest to purchase the flat.

She said that her husband called Jason also did night shifts. He suffers from a debilitating disease. In May of next year they are planning to go to Cuba. Her husband (the father of Phoebe) is Cuban and Julie is English.

Julie went on to say that Phoebe is 20 years old and turns 21 in February 2005. She has an older half sister whose name is Pauline. The youngest sibling is called Larry and he recently turned 18. Phoebe attended the dinner in honour of Jason's birthday. She said that Phoebe had only been in contact with her about 2 times since she had been back in UK. In the most recent communication, Phoebe asked Julie for £100.00.

'Phoebe is self-centred and just keeps on taking.' Said Julie, 'She is in a flat without a job. I don't like her partner.' Said Julie.

Evidently Phoebe is in a flat and sharing it with a man called Jake.

Phoebe had been imprisoned in UK before through drug trafficking. She was a youth and imprisoned in Holloway and then because of her age, was moved to Burwood Prison.

Phoebe had left home at the age of 12 years and finished school. It was around that time that her grandfather (Julie's father) died. Phoebe ended up in fostercare. Julie said that she condoned smacking as a form of punishment for children. I asked to use her toilet facilities and as I left the bathroom, I observed a large hole in the bathroom door, about the size of a 'kick-in'.

Julie said that Phoebe maintained that she was set up the second time and that the drug dealer had stashed drugs on Phoebe's person. Phoebe had told her mother that she declined the offer to move more drugs and feels that this was the reason for the setup. However Julie stated that Phoebe had lied on other occasions and was not totally convinced that this was the case.

Julie said that Phoebe had a baby aborted three weeks before imprisonment in New Zealand. The baby had a blood disorder. This situation traumatised Phoebe. Phoebe had been moved around at least three different prisons.

'Phoebe has a very close friend called Michelle and she has stuck by Phoebe through thick and thin. Joe and Michelle visited Phoebe on different occasions while she was imprisoned in New Zealand. Michelle wrote to Phoebe at least once per week during imprisonment,' said Julie.

Phoebe had been imprisoned in UK before for trafficking drugs. She was in Holloway Prison Youth section and then transferred to Burwood Prison.

Prisoners Abroad Centre from Tottenham, helped Julie to make contact with Phoebe while Phoebe was in New Zealand. Prisoners Abroad was prepared to help Phoebe with studies and/or to find a job. Phoebe declined their offer.

Julie rang Phoebe while I was there and I managed to have a quick chat with her. She sounded in good spirits. 'We're held up on the motorway. Don't tell my mum but we are about 3-4 hours away from Hornchurch.'

I told Phoebe that I would catch up with her another time. She said that I could get her mobile number from her mum. I related that I would be staying at the Railway Hotel in Hornchurch until the following day. 'What room number are you in. I might be able to visit you tonight. It depends if I can get a lift. Give me a call at 6pm.'

I gave her my room number details and called her up at 6pm and then waited around to see if she would drop by.

Date: Monday 25th October 2004

Phone Interview with Phoebe Smith ex-offender

She related to me that due to her friend showing up too late and tiredness settling in that she was unable to visit last night.

Phoebe sounded filled up with a head cold and said that this happened as a result of walking about London without a raincoat in the rain. She is taking Beachams for her cold.

Phoebe said that she had put on weight whilst in New Zealand Prison.

She said that her rosary beads are draped over the mirror and that she was asking God to ask the angels to protect her and wanted to meditate with the angels and crystals.

Phoebe has been waiting for about three weeks to receive her pack from the Open University.

Phoebe said that she was expecting the social worker to see her today and that the Council was paying for bed and breakfast in a Council Flat.

She is living on a benefit and is eating okay but does not have much of an appetite.

She wants to live by the beach and that she needs to spend some time with her friend Michelle.

Date: Tuesday 26th October 2004

Premier Christian Radio

P O Box 13000, London SW1P 4XP email:
Charmaine.noble-mclean@premier.org.uk

An outline of the Prison Healing Works Project and current research carried out in UK was emailed to Charmaine who was part of a team that decided upon material for radio interviews. I also sent to Charmaine a copy of six of the CD tracks which had been produced to a reasonable air-play standard.

Charmaine's email in response related that unfortunately a radio interview would not be possible this time, due to the unavailability of radio time slot. Her musical director listened to the six tracks from my album 'Set the Captives Free' and said that the vocals and backing met with merit and that I should re-address the production levels.

Once the twelve tracks have been completed, Premier Christian Radio in London would like a demo copy of the album for review.

The afternoon of this day was spent in writing up Reports at Richmond Library and sending emails.

Date: Wednesday 27th October 2004

Drawn up Reports at Richmond Lending Library and the Central Reference Library in Richmond.

Date: Thursday 28th October 2004

Alpha programme called Caring for ex-offenders

This is a training day for Church leaders and other interested parties.

The seminar provided an understanding of the practical aspects of caring for Christians in prison and after release.

The first session concentrated on the work of Alpha for prisons and how the work has developed since 1995.

The rest of the day covered some of the issues faced by Christians leaving prison and addressed practical aspects of working with Christian ex-offenders.

There was an opportunity to network with other churches and various organisations that work with ex-offenders. I seized the opportunity to gather literature from Prison Fellowship International and Jesus Cares Rehab.

I read some interesting testimonies from four women who had experienced drugs and prostitution, followed by imprisonment. All attested to a newfound faith in Jesus and his saving grace and their desire to change their lifestyles in order to gain happiness, self-actualisation. (Seminar handout from Healing & Restoration Centre for Women with addictions. Testimonies (28/10/04)).

I also introduced my musical compositions to The Esther Trust who were instrumental in providing CDs to prisoners who need to hear the Gospel through today's media. The Trust also enabled the creation of new music projects which encapsulated the messages of life.

Speakers; Bishop Michael of Kensington, Barrister Nicky Gimbel, Ex-offender Michael (son of infamous Cray Brothers), Paul Cowley and Reverend Nimms, dChaplain from Dartmore Prison, Mr Marshall – Senior officer from Dartmore Prison, Simon Allan – Pastor from Kings Church, Policemen Hammersmith and Fullam, Peter (the retired magistrate), Jeff Baxter from Youth For Christ kept me spellbound as they related echoes of 'redemption', 'rehabilitation', 'responsibility' and 'restoration' for the ex-offender.

The day concluded with open forum questions and answers. We were each given a copy of the agreement between the new member (the ex-offender) and the Church Leader. Although this was binding, the paper evidence would be torn up within the first week or so.

I ceased the opportunity to suggest change within the opening paragraph. The speaker jokingly said that 'they are open to any suggestions just as long as they were above the belt!'

The phrase I questioned was as follows: 'protecting me and the other members of this church from my (the ex-offender's) weaknesses. This held a tone of oppression towards the ex-offender. It was thereby deleted in light of the fact that all Church members enter Church with a weakness of some description.

The Salvation will work towards dispelling the fear of ex offenders in Churches. Alpha and Youth For Christ are forming a partnership and will be working with youth offenders.

Date: Friday 29th October 2004

Interview with Marian Henderson - Salvation Army Prison services co-ordinator.

101 Newington Causeway, SE16 BN, London

Marian holds a degree in Psychology. Her role is to liaise with Home Office and to recruit the Salvation Army Chaplains. There are eight training weeks for chaplains and this is carried out on site. She visits chaplains on site and gets a flavour of what the prison is like.

Marian stated that in terms of sex offenders in prison, there is a huge element of over 60's. A club has been set up for them and they enjoy musical evenings and time-out of their cells.

An Alpha course is run by a couple from the Salvation Army and this involves three days of eight hours plus four hours travelling. The Alpha course provides scope for group discussion, living with bereavement loss, personal esteem, family, home etc. (it is a nine week course).

Marian said that Chaplaincy sits with Home Office and that the Salvation Army was in the process of implementing a Community Chaplaincy in London. Extensive work had been carried out in Canada. Major Emery had been to Canada to overview the implementation of a community Chaplaincy and Major Brown was sent to Canada last year.

The SA (Salvation Army) has keys to the prison cells and is able to talk one to one with the inmates. Two prison officers go in to the cell with the SA if any problems are perceived. There are segregation units for suicidal, paedophilia and other 'at risk' offenders.

It is important for the Inmate to have a plan prior to release and that the community is supportive. There is Christian Criminal Justice Forum. All Churches are working together. The Church of England holds the 'elite' Chaplaincy and ensures that every faith is represented. There is one Muslim Chaplain. (Rastafarian and Scientology are

not included in the Chaplaincy invitation.) The Elite chaplain meets with the prison officers every day.

The SA uniform provides the visual signs of love and hope to the prisoner and they are respected in prisons. The SA form part of the resettlement group and assist the post inmate's planning process for re-integration into the community.

The Salvation Army will sponsor 2,500.00 pounds towards the prisoner's education whilst in Prison. The prisoner is required to make a formal request for this funding.

Marian said that the Salvation Army's own Bible study was popular in prisons.

A place called Swansea has taken ownership of the Community Chaplaincy although it is partially funded by the Government. The SA sends an officer to run it.

At present, the prisoner after release is subject to three nights sleeping it rough e.g. on the streets before a financial benefit is granted. This places the prisoner in an 'at risk' situation with the sexual predator and drug users close at hand on the streets.

The criteria for a community chaplain is to have good people skills and to have the backing of Church elders or Bishop. It is funded by Trusts and Churches.

The CC (Community Chaplain) will go into prison to meet with the inmate who is due for release, 10 weeks prior to his release. Upon release, the ex offender will be met at the gate by the CC who will assist the ex offender to find work, and accommodation. There is going to be a change in name from HMS (Her Majesty's Service) to NOM (National Offenders Management Service) and this will be linked with Probation.

Date: Monday 1st November 2004

10.35am telephone

interview with Stuart Dew. Churches Criminal Justice Forum.

(www.cjcf.org.uk)

This formation provides an umbrella for funding and it is a distinctive body that serves the different local needs. It started through local endeavour and imagination. It does not have the intention to straitjacket its people but rather it can assist in a more practical way in terms of sharing resources.

Date: Monday 1st November 2004

Interview at 3pm with

Andrew Humphries Manager for Youth Offenders' Programme

White Roses Court, Oriental Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 7PG.– Andrew also visits prisoners as part of a prison fellowship team.

He talked about the Criminal Justice System and stated that the Police may or may not arrest for possession of class C drug e.g. marijuana but give a warning, a note of caution or they may elect to lay charges.

The court can award an anti-social behaviour order. This is not a criminal offence but a breach of order will derive consequences.

An anti-social behaviour order was brought into effect as a result of offenders who can't be caught, offenders who know the system e.g. for disturbances, home business or noise/music coming from vans etc.

It was also designed for fairly established behaviours in terms of persons who intimidate or threaten neighbours.

The licensed period is governed by a probation order. This is a period whereby the post inmate is monitored and undergoes intensive scrutiny. He needs to adhere to curfew times. Where a job and hours conflict with curfew times, request may be made to accommodate employment hours. In situations of home detention, an ankle tag is in place.

The new public protection sentence could see an offender convicted for 48 months or more. The first half of the sentence would be spent in custody while the second half of the sentence would be a licensed period.

The new public protection sentence when applied to the violent sexual offender takes the form of serving a term equivalent to four years. Three of these years may come under a probation order.

The more serious cases may see up to ten years in a licensed period. This could apply to the sexual offender who for one reason or another, chooses to remain in denial.

Date: Thursday 4th November 2004

Interview at 9.30am with

Roman Catholic Chaplain Peter Hannerger

who is a married deacon. He had served as a chaplain at Wandsworth Prison for approximately 5 ½ years.

Peter maintained that there were about 400 new prisoners admitted every month and that they were seen within 24 hours of admittance.

There were eight wings comprised of:

- A) Convicted prisoners who were working.
- B) Voluntary drug tested prisoners.
- C) Remand prisoners.
- D) Convicted prisoners who were not working.

- E) Shortly to be re-opened. There was provision for prisoners with the psychiatric and Health related problems.
 - F) Legal visits and social visits. Programmes devised for inmates who were fathers and needed to be equipped for dealing with their children and families.
- G, H and K were known as the Onslow Unit and named after the First Governor of the Prison.
- The VPU (Vulnerable Prisoners Unit) housed barristers, sexual offenders, police, clergy, standovers etc.

There was a small chapel which was used for all faiths and it can hold fifty people. There were separate chapels for Roman Catholics and Church of England, a small Mosque, and one for people of other faiths who cannot handle other symbols.

Wandsworth Prison had four Chaplains; one Roman Catholic, one Elim and two Church of England. Wandsworth was designed to house 1500 inmates but there is current evidence of overcrowding.

Peter said that there were approximately 55 million people in the United Kingdom and 74,000 of them were in prisons. There are 139 prisons in UK. 40% of convictions are drug related crimes and the offenders are behind bars.

Peter said that there was a need for proper detoxification programmes for prisoners and that this should be set in a more conducive environment. It takes 36 hours to get marijuana out of the body while it takes 72 hours to get heroine out of the system.

1995 saw the closing down of asylums. They set up nursing homes for patients for the short and medium terms. These were manned by trained psychiatric staff.

The prison has become a place for some of these people. 52 prisoners are awaiting psychiatric reports. They were arrested because they were a danger to themselves and to others.

In a programme set up for the sexual offender, Peter maintained that it was very difficult for the offender to peel back to the core i.e. how they came to be the way they are.

33% of remand prisoners were found not guilty or insufficient evidence. There are 350 inmates at the wing. One can wait up to 2 years waiting for freedom or sentencing. In allegations of sexual offence – it is difficult to prove that you didn't do it.

There is evidence of tension in the prison e.g. 2 men sharing a toilet in a bedroom, cultural differences, racial disharmony, non-equality and lack of health expertise. National Health Services come into prison.

The 'at risk' prisoners are monitored more closely and are placed on a register. These may be persons who are at risk of self-harm.

Peter has witnessed a 'toe by toe' happening in prison. This terminology relates to prisoners helping other prisoners and offering to be their mentors.

When asked what criteria is required in order to become a community prison chaplain Peter replied that one needs to express a willingness to help and needs to develop a sound rapport with the in-prison chaplain, the probation officer, prison officials, prison wardens. These people can hold informational keys to the success of the rehabilitation and successful reintegration and transition of the ex offender into the community. The ex-offender needs protection from the voyeuristic community (people who thrive on sensationalism, people who thrive at the expense of hurt inflicted upon one who is in a vulnerable state.)

Date: Sunday 14th November 2004
Findings, summary and conclusion drawn up in Report Form.

Recommendations:

To keep my Bible close at hand as I journey through my career;
To never underestimate the value of personal networks;
To carry out thorough research before embarking on a project which will impact on my life and the lives of other;
To exercise vigilance when working with people who have been damaged through oppression; and
To regularly engage in self-awareness and to exercise self-care.

Conclusion:

There has been an significant turnaround in ex-offenders lives in terms of discovering self-worth through the works of Jesus Christ and the subsequent desire to make significant changes in their lives after being released from Prison.

It is critical that the ex-offenders receive one on one support in terms of devising a resettlement plan at least 10 weeks prior to their release. Part of the process towards re-integration should be in providing education to the ex-offender who has spent e.g. a term of 10 years in prison, to provide visual and/or written changes that have taken place over his/her term of imprisonment. This process will aid a smoother transition into a somewhat changed lifestyle and social environment, vastly different to that of a prison environment.

The inmate should be met at the gate and with the assistance of e.g. a Community Chaplaincy, be assisted towards the implementation of his/her resettlement plan towards change. This process should span out over 10 weeks after release. Suitable networks should be in place to facilitate the resettlement plan.

Christ will work in the heart of the ex-offender who is ready to receive his healing grace.

By Trudy Stead.....Date: 23 November 2004
Trustee
Prison Healing Works Trust