



Baptist Care SA provides Chaplains for people in prison to offer messages of hope, reconciliation and healing delivered with dignity and respect.

People in prison are some of the most vulnerable people in society and often come from disadvantaged backgrounds. People who spend time in prison experience higher rates of homelessness, unemployment, mental health disorders, physical and communicable diseases and alcohol and drug use than the general population. Baptist Care SA's Breaking Free program offers local churches the opportunity to engage with men and women who have spent time in prison and are wanting to move forward with their lives.

Steve* has spent most of his adult life behind bars. On his release he was introduced to the Breaking Free program where he came to know Christ. But the ongoing pain and trauma of his past proved too overwhelming and he re-entered prison.

Today Steve is still behind bars but hopeful for the future. Here are some words from a recent letter to his prison chaplain...

"I've got some good news. It seems the Lord is finding ways to use me to do his work. Since I saw you last, I've introduced two more guys to the Lord. I finally realise what I want to do, I want to be a fisher of men. I believe this is what the Lord has intended for me. I finally feel all is going to be ok. I know what must be done and why I exist."

Pray for Steve's continued healing, for his leadership and care for his fellow inmates. Pray for Steve's next release from prison to be a positive experience that leads to lasting change.

**Not his real name*

Prayers for those exiting the prison system.

Baptist Care SA walks alongside some of our community's most vulnerable people.

Please join us in praying for their wellbeing.

Pray for those who are imprisoned, that they might find the love, support and faith they need to reorientate their lives.

Pray for God to work through our church communities, Baptist Care SA services and wider social services to support and empower people who exit the prison system to experience flourishing lives.

Pray for improved mental health for people who are incarcerated.

Pray that people in prison would be open to speaking to chaplains, that they would feel heard and cared for and receive the good news of Jesus that they offer.

Pray for the chaplains and other staff who work with prisoners, for their visits, chapel services and programs to be well received and to bring hope and comfort.

Pray too for inmates who become Christians whilst in jail and are faithfully leading others to know of God's life changing grace.

Pray for the mentors and church communities who are engaging ex-prisoners through Breaking Free and pray that the love of God and His people would make a difference in people's lives for future generations.

Pray for the victims of crime and their families, that they might find healing.

Pray for each of these over-represented groups, and particularly for our society to address the systemic issues that make people in these groups more likely to be imprisoned.

Pray for restorative justice, for those who are leaving prison to find a pathway that leads them away from reoffending.

Pray for adequate housing for those without family support and for businesses to be willing to provide opportunities for ex-offenders in the workplace.

Pray for safe and supportive relationships, for healing and reconciliation with partners, children and extended family members to be possible, where appropriate.

Fast Facts

There are approximately **2,998 people** in prison in South Australia.

93% of all Australian prisoners are **male**.

30% of all Australian Prisoners are **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people**.

Up to **40%** of prisoners live with a **mental health disorder**.

Finding suitable stable accommodation is a major concern for prisoners about to be released back into the community, especially for those with no family support.

Prisoners recognise that where and with whom they live immediately after release from prison will affect their likelihood of engaging in drug and alcohol misuse and criminal activities.

