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Theme: Not forgetting those in prison ...	Date: 25 November 2012
Scripture 'Lord, when did we see you... in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25;37-40 (NIV) 	Comment This has been Prisons Week, an opportunity to think about the strain experienced by offenders' spouses and other family members both during and after custodial sentences. Few of us have the opportunity to visit people in prison although one amazing member of our When2Pray team and her husband run regular sessions for prisoners on couple and family relationships They know only too well the huge strain being in prison on a marriage and also of course the children. As well as those 'detained at Her Majesty's pleasure' in the UK, across the world tens of thousands of innocent people are locked up and ill-treated by oppressive regimes - some because of their Christian faith - and others have been kidnapped by criminals. We would all fervently hope that nothing like that would ever happen to us, but today lets look beyond our own lives and into an un-comfort zone where life can be unpredictable, bleak and with today's needs going unmet. Jesus taught how important it is to care about those in prison, even if it is someone's own fault that they are there. Let's take a moment to do something positive - pray for these people whom God knows, even if we do not. And if you have time do visit www.prisonsworld.org and perhaps ask God if you might be able to support Christian work in

	prisons, here or abroad.
<p>Prayer (as a couple): Heavenly Father, we are grateful to be saved from many kinds of suffering and we give You thanks for the priceless gift of freedom. Help us to reach out to others who are in chains of some kind; through our prayers, financially or through some other practical action. Amen.</p>	<p>Prayer (for others): Lord, we pray for those in prison, and their partners and children. By Your Spirit break any bonds of fear and isolation that keep them from Your love. Please bring healing, forgiveness, redemption and practical support to them and bless all who seek to help them. For Christ's sake, Amen.</p>
<p>Final quote: There are 160,000 children in England and Wales with a parent in prison. Seven per cent of children will experience their father's imprisonment before they leave school.</p>	

Remember others will also be praying in this way this week. Together and with God we can make a difference.

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