

# HOW TO HOST A SEASON OF 24-7 PRAYER IN A PRISON AS PART OF KINGDOM COME 2012



**24-7 PRAYER UK**  
PRAYER // MISSION // JUSTICE

**CARING FOR  
EX-OFFENDERS**  
Reintegrating individuals into the community

## CONTENTS

1	Why pray?	3
2	What is 24-7 Prayer?	3
3	How can 24-7 Prayer work in the context of a prison?	4
4	What's your vision?	4
5	When are you going to pray?	5
6	Motivating people to pray	5
7	Starting and ending well	6
8	After you pray	7
9	Sign up sheets and reminder cards	9



# 1 Why pray?

Two words, one question, so many answers... We pray because God is listening (1 Chron 7:14). We pray because conversation is the heartbeat of relationship (John 15:4). We pray because the world is broken and our words can change it (Matt 6:10). We pray because Jesus said pray, and don't give up (Luke 18:1-8).

Bold, persistent prayer changes history... Over 2000 years ago: the church was born through continuous night and day prayer in Jerusalem. (Acts 2). Over 1000 years ago: Celtic monasteries prayed 24-7 and transformed Europe. Over 300 years ago: Moravians prayed 24-7 for 100 years and took the gospel to many nations even selling themselves to reach slaves. Over 100 years ago: a multi-racial 24-7 Prayer Room on Azusa Street, Los Angeles sparked the global Pentecostal and charismatic renewal.

**"AFTER THEY PRAYED, THE PLACE WHERE THEY WERE MEETING WAS SHAKEN. AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SPOKE THE WORD OF GOD BOLDLY." ACTS 4:31**

From Pentecost to today, when friends of Jesus pray, the unexpected happens. Dare to pray. Dare to change. Dare to impact the world.

# 2 What is 24-7 Prayer?

24-7 Prayer is a movement of the Spirit calling hundreds of thousands of people, especially young people, all over the world to pray. It's an idea as ancient as the Church, that has found new life and a fresh voice. The vision has reached more than 2 million people, in more than half the nations on earth. For more than a decade the movement has continued unbroken, impacting places as diverse as the US Naval Academy, a German punk festival, war-zones and underground churches, the slums of Delhi, the jungles of Papua New Guinea, ancient English cathedrals and even a brewery in Missouri. It's challenging, creative and mission focused; it unites age groups, nationalities and streams of the Church in talking with Jesus Christ.

**"MY HOUSE WILL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS"**  
MARK 11:17

The 24-7 Prayer model is simple and flexible. All you need is people willing to pray round the clock in one hour shifts and some inspiration for prayer. Churches, families and communities have prayed 24-7 for anything from 24 hours to many months.

**"I STRUGGLE WITH PRAYER; THE RIGHT WORDS DON'T JUMP UP WHEN I NEED THEM... BUT LAST NIGHT WAS A FLOW."**  
- ZIMBABWE

This guide is designed to help Chaplains and volunteers to run 24-7 Prayer in a prison. It includes ideas on motivating your community, organising the time slots, creative prayer and starting and ending well. Use this guide and the support of the 24-7 Prayer team to get praying. All it takes is 24 people to commit to an hour a day to fill a week in unbroken prayer.



### 3 How can 24-7 Prayer work in the context of a prison?

24-7 Prayer began in a prayer room but it doesn't need to be restricted to a prayer room. It is about a community coming together to unite in a season of continuous prayer.

“AGAIN I TELL YOU THAT IF TWO OF YOU ON EARTH AGREE ABOUT ANYTHING YOU ASK FOR, IT WILL BE DONE FOR YOU BY MY FATHER IN HEAVEN. FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE COME TOGETHER IN MY NAME, THERE I AM WITH THEM.” MATTHEW 18:19

Prisoners can pray wherever they are during the slot they choose. They could be:  
Praying through the night in their cell  
Prayer walking during their exercise time  
Praying whilst working.

Men and women may be confined to a prison but their prayers will be joining in with the chorus of prayers across the UK and Ireland throughout 2012.

### 4 What's your vision?

When mobilising a community to rise to the challenge of 24-7 Prayer it's good to be clear about why we're praying. As always, our primary purpose in prayer is to be in the presence of God, to speak with God and to listen to God. However, God has also given Alpha and 24-7 Prayer a vision for this year of prayer across the UK and Ireland, and this vision is inspired by words from Jesus' own prayer, *"Let your Kingdom come..."* Prayer is the power behind Alpha's vision to see the re-evangelisation of our nations and the transformation of society.

Before you begin talking or planning any further, stop and listen. Start by asking God about the reason for this season of prayer.

As you listen to God and pray with others, here are a few questions to help you find your focus. This season of 24-7 Prayer is for your prison, your chapel community, and for the wider community in your town or city. How can you express that? What needs or problems can you see? How could

a praying, loving community greater affect your prison, town or area? What is God already doing? What good things could you support and pray into?



"IF MY PEOPLE, WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND I WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND." 2 CHRONICLES 7:13-14

At the end of this guide is a template for prayer request cards. Why not use them within your prison to pray for whoever has need. Elsewhere on the 24-7 Prayer website, you can find other 'Kingdom Come 2012' resources to help you pray for your community and for the nations of the world.

## 5 When are you going to pray?

### Decide When You'll Pray And For How Long

Unless God has spoken clearly there's no need to rush. Is there a significant time, event or activity approaching that might benefit from continual prayer? (Have a look at some of the Christian organisations involved in prayer, mission and justice activities during 2012 - these might also provide inspiration as you consider when to pray.) Perhaps you could pray for individuals participating in an Alpha course? Give yourself at least a month, ideally two or three, to prepare and communicate. The more time you have to envision your community and teach on prayer, the smoother your season of 24-7 Prayer will run. Give everyone lots of notice and keep reminding everyone of when and why you're praying so they make time to take part.

Most communities pray 24-7 for a week. It's long enough to be a challenge but short enough to be an achievable goal. Many find that it's not long enough, and continue to pray. We recommend not continuing unless you're confident you can fill the time. It is better to end on a high with a hunger for more, than to continue and burn everyone out.

Ensure you have approval from the coordinating chaplain before you start communicating your vision to those in your prison.

**"I AM SEEKING GOD  
AND HE IS SPEAKING TO ME!"  
- UK**

### Register your season of 24-7 Prayer

Sign up now if you haven't already! Registering your group and 24-7 Prayer Room on [www.24-7prayer.co.uk](http://www.24-7prayer.co.uk) (UK) or [www.24-7prayerireland.com](http://www.24-7prayerireland.com) (Ireland) gives you access to free and discounted resources, online sign up pages and free, personal support from our experienced team. Most importantly though it signifies that you are part of a much wider wave of prayer in the United Kingdom and Ireland this year - 'Kingdom Come 2012'.

## 6 Motivating people to pray

Many people find the idea of night and day prayer daunting so here are some ideas on motivating your community to pray.

### Share the vision

Communicate the vision - why you're praying, at every opportunity. Take advantage of any gatherings, noticeboards and any other ways of spreading information you have within your community. Teaching on prayer is key, but don't forget to repeat the vision clearly, quickly and often.

### Recruit champions

Every community has people with an infectious amount of energy. When they get excited about something they spread their passion to others and motivate people to get involved. Find these people across the ages and social groups of your community and ask them to help you champion the 24-7 Prayer Room.

### Use 24-7 Prayer's videos and resources for inspiration

'Kingdom Come 2012' videos are available from [www.alpha.org/kingdomcome](http://www.alpha.org/kingdomcome). Other inspiring videos can be found on 24-7's websites - [www.24-7prayer.com](http://www.24-7prayer.com), [www.24-7shorts.com](http://www.24-7shorts.com) and [www.youtube.com/247pray](http://www.youtube.com/247pray) - and all of these will help you motivate others to pray.

## Share stories

Stories of God responding to prayer encourage people. Why not share times this has happened in your community and check [www.24-7prayer.co.uk](http://www.24-7prayer.co.uk) and [www.24-7prayerireland.com](http://www.24-7prayerireland.com) for recent stories from prayer rooms around the UK.

## Special events for your season of 24-7 Prayer

To motivate and maintain momentum in prayer, why not organise your 24-7 season around your Sunday services or Alpha course.

## Getting people to commit to pray

Have a sign up sheet (template at the back of this guide) available at every gathering, if you are able and have access to meet in a chapel. Make sure you point to it and remind people to sign up. We also highly recommend taking a time of silent prayer when you're all together. Get everyone to ask God how much time He would like them to commit to praying during your season of 24-7 prayer. Your sheet will fill up because God always wants to spend time with us.

## Inspire people on how to pray during their slot

Remember why you're praying as you plan your season of 24-7 prayer. Think about ways to express the vision of our 'Kingdom Come 2012' year of prayer. Think about the welcome of God, the mission of God, the justice of God. You can pray for the nation wherever you are. You might also want to research information to inspire people to pray. You could research:

- General ideas for praying about the prison
- Information about your community/town/city/nation
- Information about the Olympics and Paralympics
- Information about your Alpha Course and testimonies of those who have participated

Many people find the challenge of praying for an hour intimidating. To help 24-7 Prayer has produced 60-minute prayer guides to suggest how you could spend the time. These include topics such as praying through the Lord's Prayer and there is also one focused on praying for Alpha for Prisons and prisons in general. The guides are available to download when you register your 24-7 prayer room, or from the prayer

section of the 24-7 website: [www.24-7prayer.com](http://www.24-7prayer.com) or from [www.24-7prayer.co.uk/kingdomcome](http://www.24-7prayer.co.uk/kingdomcome)

“DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO PRAYER, BEING WATCHFUL AND THANKFUL.” COLOSSIANS 4:2

## Recording what God says and does

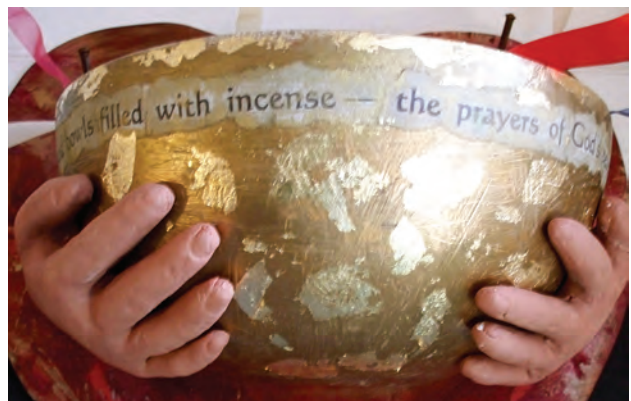
It's great if you can find a way for people to write what they're hearing in prayer and any encouraging stories. Maybe you could place a book at the back of the prison chapel, let people know that it is there and watch it fill up with encouraging words and testimonies.

## 7 Starting and ending well

Decide in advance how you will start and end your time of 24-7 Prayer. People have done this in different ways, running their season of 24-7 Prayer from one weekly meeting to another, or organising a prayer and worship gathering at each end. However you decide to start, make sure everyone knows where they need to be when. Begin the week with vision and faith, and end it with a chance for reflection, thanks and praise.

“AGAIN I TELL YOU THAT IF TWO OF YOU ON EARTH AGREE ABOUT ANYTHING YOU ASK FOR, IT WILL BE DONE FOR YOU BY MY FATHER IN HEAVEN. FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE COME TOGETHER IN MY NAME, THERE I AM WITH THEM.” MATTHEW 18:19

If you host a launch meeting have your sign up sheet (template at the back of this booklet) available. Consider praying together as you commit the time, place and community to prayer.



## Ending your season of 24-7 Prayer

When your season of 24-7 Prayer is finished it's important to consider the question, 'What has God said and done?' Make space in small and large group meetings to share how you found the time of 24-7 Prayer Room and to share encouraging testimonies. Gather all of this feedback together, pray and decide on some of the ways God may have used your time of prayer. Has He given any direction or instruction? Are there any key scriptures, words or directions that have emerged? How can you respond to what God has said and done?

**"SO MANY PEOPLE SAID HOW MUCH THEY VALUED THIS PRECIOUS TIME WITH GOD."  
WALES**

### 8 After you pray

What now? As a community you've probably just prayed more than you ever have before. Take some time to celebrate and rest. Seize the words God has spoken over your community and decide together how you're going to respond. If God is calling your community to engage in a new vision or project then decide how you're going to begin. If he's simply calling you to build a solid foundation of time spent with Jesus then you may want to look afresh at the prayer life of your community.

Most groups pray 24-7 more than once; many develop rhythm of 24-7 Prayer throughout the year bringing new momentum to their prayer life. Some groups have even worked towards 24-7 Prayer running constantly at the heart of their community and mission. Each 24-7 prayer season will reveal something different about the life of the Church and what God is saying to you. Consider when you would like to pray again.



**"THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW. ASK THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, THEREFORE, TO SEND OUT WORKERS INTO HIS HARVEST FIELD." LUKE 10:1-2**

## Go deeper in prayer

24-7 Prayer has many books, podcasts and resources to help people go deeper in their prayer lives. Check out the prayer and resources section of [www.24-7prayer.com](http://www.24-7prayer.com) for more information.

## Staying connected

Your 24-7 Prayer journey doesn't end here. Learn about other ways to pray and access stories and teaching from around the world. There are many ways to stay connected within the movement. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Pray The Lord's Prayer at midday: set your alarm for 12noon and join thousands of others praying the same words around the globe
- Stay in touch with stories, teaching and prayer initiatives through the UK website ([www.24-7prayer.co.uk](http://www.24-7prayer.co.uk)), the Ireland website ([www.24-7prayerireland.com](http://www.24-7prayerireland.com)) and the global website ([www.24-7prayer.com](http://www.24-7prayer.com))
- Follow us on twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/kingdomcome2012>) like us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/KingdomCome2012](http://www.facebook.com/KingdomCome2012)) and subscribe to 24-7 Prayer's YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/247pray](http://www.youtube.com/247pray))
- Find other groups praying in your nation in the Prayer section of the 24-7 website
- Sign up to receive a regular email newsletter from 24-7 Prayer UK or Ireland
- Join us at a national or international gathering. Details available from the website.

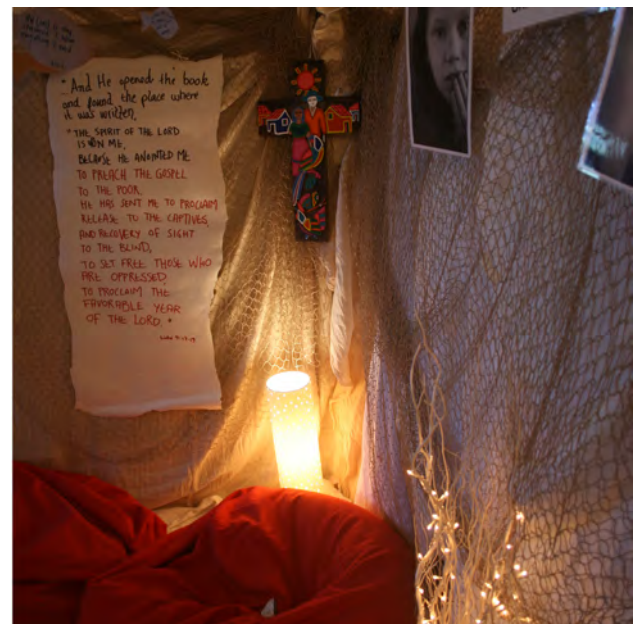
If you have any questions about setting up your season of 24-7 Prayer or staying connected with the movement contact our support teams;

[kingdomcome@24-7prayer.com](mailto:kingdomcome@24-7prayer.com)

or [uk@24-7prayer.com](mailto:uk@24-7prayer.com)

and [info@247prayerireland.com](mailto:info@247prayerireland.com).

If you would like to find out more about Alpha or **Kingdom Come 2012**, please contact [kingdomcome@alpha.org](mailto:kingdomcome@alpha.org)





[www.24-prayer.co.uk/kingdomcome](http://www.24-prayer.co.uk/kingdomcome)

# SIGN UP SHEET

WHEN:

WHERE:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
06-07							
07-08							
08-09							
09-10							
10-11							
11-12							
12-01							
01-02							
02-03							
03-04							
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10-11							
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12-01							
01-02							
02-03							
03-04							
04-05							
05-06							

DAY:      DATE:      TIME:

## REMINDER CARD

[www.24-prayer.co.uk/kingdomcome](http://www.24-prayer.co.uk/kingdomcome)



*Please pray for:*

THE 24-7 PRAYER ROOM WILL BE OPEN FROM

AT:

## PRAYER REQUEST CARD

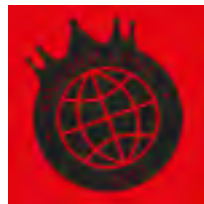
TO



DAY:      DATE:      TIME:

## REMINDER CARD

[www.24-prayer.co.uk/kingdomcome](http://www.24-prayer.co.uk/kingdomcome)



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AT:

## PRAYER REQUEST CARD

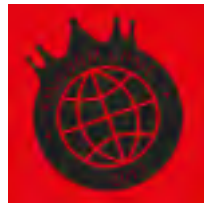
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DAY:      DATE:      TIME:

## REMINDER CARD

[www.24-prayer.co.uk/kingdomcome](http://www.24-prayer.co.uk/kingdomcome)



*Please pray for:*

THE 24-7 PRAYER ROOM WILL BE OPEN FROM

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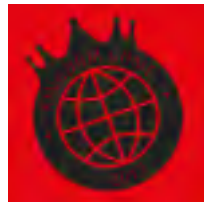
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DAY:      DATE:      TIME:

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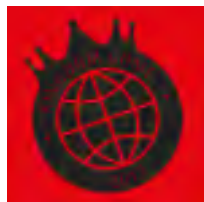
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## PRAYER REQUEST CARD

TO

