

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CHAPLAINCY
PRAYER LETTER FOR CJC – November & December 2017

PRAISES:

1. We are so blessed by and thankful for the many wonderful volunteers who faithfully serve in CJC's various programs. Your contributions bless this ministry and contribute to its success!
2. Praise that so many of our clients have been able to find jobs! Pray they continue to move forward and build on their success.
3. We are grateful for the positive feedback we have had at our Reentry Networking Lunches. Many appreciate the welcoming atmosphere and hospitality as well as the sense of understanding for those who attend from many various backgrounds. We have also been consistently blessed with good attendance for this important program!
4. We are thankful for bike donations and a grant for locks that allowed CJC to provide 28 bikes and good locks to clients so far this year! We are grateful that we currently have no waiting list. Thank you to all who have helped this program by donating bikes, locks, helmets, or other bike items.
5. We are blessed with opportunities to serve returning citizens and partner with other agencies in new ways. We are so excited to see the growth in the Women's CLEAR program which is led by the Grand Rapids Police and working with CJC. We're grateful this program is becoming a good source of support for female parolees.
6. It is wonderful to work with good people and we are truly blessed by in our CJC staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors – for their dedication, caring and heart for those CJC serves.
7. We are so grateful for all who contribute financially to CJC. We are thankful for your prayers and words of encouragement.

REQUESTS:

1. The 37th Annual Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2017. This event not only provides an opportunity for CJC to share about their progress and impact in the community with their ministry to those returning from incarceration but it also serves as our main fundraiser for the year. River City Improv will be providing our evening's entertainment. Please pray for all aspects of this event – good attendance and great success for this event so CJC can continue to effectively serve and minister to these returning citizens and their families.
2. Criminal Justice Chaplaincy is forging a new, long term partnership with 70x7 Life Recovery, based in Holland, MI. We will continue our current programming serving returning citizens and will be adding 70x7's programming which includes workforce development. We anticipate a location move by January 2018 and in time, our name will be changing as well. We are excited about this opportunity and new possibilities for our ministries together. Please pray for all parts to come together smoothly as we combine our agencies and prepare for this move. Pray for our clients as they adjust to a new location and changes as well. We will be mailing more details about these changes soon!
3. Housing is a tremendous struggle for many low/no income individuals, more so for those with a criminal background. Pray for those who are struggling to find safe, affordable housing, especially as we approach winter months.
4. Pray for the children of our clients. Many children, especially those in single parent homes, are separated from parents and placed in foster care situations while birth parents are incarcerated or recover from addictive behaviors. Upon completion of programs or release from incarceration, it can be very difficult and daunting for birth parents to regain parental rights. Please pray for all involved in these very complex situations.
5. Pray for our mentor matches; that mentor / mentee combinations will be strong and beneficial. Pray that mentors will be understanding and patient with mentees many of whom are needing to make major changes to past lifestyles that were familiar & easy but not beneficial to their long-term growth.
6. During the holiday season, pray for those battling depression and specifically for those with suicidal thoughts. Pray for clients with serious health issues, which can be overwhelming with all the other challenges they face. Pray for those overcoming drugs and addictions especially those struggling to keep their distance from family and friends who are unhealthy and drag them back down. Pray for those who are dealing with loss & separation. Pray for strength so they don't relapse into destructive patterns and situations.
7. The Take Charge Program serves as a life skills and support group for female ex-offenders and other women who can benefit from the topics featured. Pray for the women attending that what they learn will be positively life changing. Pray for wisdom and insight for the speakers and blessings on the volunteers who faithfully help. Pray that new volunteer will step forward to assist!
8. As we approach the end of 2017, pray that financial support for CJC's ministry, combined with 70x7 is blessed, that donors continue to support these programs and those in them, and that changes being made will bless all involved now and going forward into the future.

THANK YOU:

Thank you so much for praying. Without your support the work we do is not effective or long lasting. "The prayer of a righteous man (woman) is powerful and effective." James 5:16.