



Wayne's Words

Rev. Wayne Walters



Remember Those in Prison

Welcome to a new year together as God's household at St Michael's.

The love of God prompts us with empathy, prayer and action to joyfully care for one another, and to also respond to genuine human need, wherever we encounter it.

This Sunday we will be alerted to the needs of Victoria's prison population of 8000 inmates.

Usually 'out of sight and so, out of mind', we will be made aware of the many activities undertaken by the Christian organisation 'Prison Fellowship' to care for prisoners and their families and to reach them with the message of Christ's love. They are not alone in this work of course. Chaplains from various denominations are also on the front line, as well as other Christian organisations who minister as they are permitted in this sensitive area.

The work of Prison Fellowship was begun in 1977 by Charles Colson of Watergate fame following his incarceration and conversion to Christ. He became convinced that the real solution to crime is spiritual renewal. PF has since spread worldwide to 120 nations. It continues a long heritage of Christian prison ministry and reform, prominent being the 18th century work of devout Christians in Britain, John Howard and John Wesley, and Elizabeth Fry in the 19th century. The scriptures urge us to 'remember those in prison as if we were their fellow prisoners'. (Heb. 13:3)

May we be prayerfully open to how God might lead us to respond to what we hear.

God bless you,

Wayne