



NEWSLETTER TO SUPPORTERS: JANUARY 2019

[OUR NEW PATRON, TERRY WAITE, WRITES:](#)

In the five years of my captivity as a hostage in the Middle East, thousands of people wrote to me. They sent letters and cards to the British Embassy or to the Red Cross but not one got through as, of course, with my being a hostage, no one knew where to deliver them.

However, one day a guard entered my cell and dropped something by my side. When he left and I removed my blindfold, I was more than surprised to see that he had left a postcard. This was most unusual as I never had any communication with the outside world whatsoever.

The card showed a picture of John Bunyan. In prison. He was sitting at a table, wearing his own clothes and looking through the bars at the city of Bedford.

He also had a pen and writing paper. 'Lucky fellow,' I thought, as I had nothing of what he had.

When I turned the card over there was a message which said, 'Don't give up. Many people are thinking of you.' It was signed by someone I did not know by the name of Joy Brodier.

Later the card was taken from me by another guard but I remembered the name.

When eventually I was released, I made a radio broadcast and I asked if the person who sent me the card could get in touch as I wanted to know how she had managed to get the card delivered to me. I didn't give her name out over the air as I wanted the right person to come forward.

I was delighted when one day I got a response. 'My name is Joy Brodier,' said the caller, 'and I sent you the card'. 'Where did you send it to?' I asked.

'Oh' she said casually, 'I sent it to Terry Waite, c/o Hezbollah, Party of God, Lebanon.'

Well, that was the only outside communication I received in five years and it both cheered me up and helped me maintain hope because I thought that I had been completely forgotten.

I am delighted to become a patron and supporter of Prisoners' Penfriends because I know just how much a simple communication with someone on the outside can help.

It was a long time before I could actually reply to the card that was sent to me but Prisoners' Penfriends make it possible for there to be a regular exchange of letters between prisoners and their penfriends. In my case, a few short sentences on a small postcard made all the difference.

Patrons: Sir Nicholas Hytner, Sir Peter Lloyd, Peter Moffat, Lord Ramsbotham, Lynn Saunders OBE, Terry Waite CBE.
Trustees: Jennifer Gadsby-Peet, Stephen Pollard (chair), Joy Boyce.
Director and company secretary: Gwyn Morgan OBE. Company no: 4629036. Charity no: 1098118.

PO box 33460, London SW18 5YB; email: gwyn.morgan@prisonerspenfriends.org; tel 0207 261 0084