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## WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED]

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I, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED].

WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:

### Introduction

1. I was a prisoner at HM Brixton Prison, from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] after being convicted of burglary. My prisoner number was [REDACTED].

### Christian courses

2. I attended several Christian courses whilst in Brixton, run by various church groups and other Christian volunteer organisations.
3. One of the courses was called Christian Faith, and was run by Reverend Paul Song and others. During the course, we heard testimonies from the volunteers about how their lives had been transformed by becoming a Christian. We also received messages from the Bible, and were given plenty of opportunity to have discussions on what we had heard and receive prayer.
4. During the course we heard testimonies from various people whose lives had been going very badly, and had been turned around because of them coming to faith. Paul Song shared his powerful testimony during the course, which was inspirational for the prisoners to hear. He was honest with us and did not shy away from talking about his pre-Christian life and the pain he experienced, and how he had been changed after becoming a Christian. He was very genuine and gentle, and he connected with us on a meaningful level, with his message providing hope that we too could see a turn around in our lives. All the prisoners enjoyed spending time with Paul and we had a lot of respect for him.
5. At the end of the 10-week course, we had a small graduation ceremony at which we could invite our family members. This was a special day, and when

receiving our award for completing the course we had the chance to share briefly about how we had found the course and how we had benefitted.

6. After the course finished, Paul offered to continue meeting with me to read the Bible and pray. This was exactly what I wanted, and I was pleased to know someone who was willing to spend time supporting me. Brixton did not have enough Christian workers, and so without Paul, I would not have had the chance to learn more about Christianity at this deeper level. Meeting up with Paul brought me hope of a new way of life and this is something that the prison would never have been able to provide.
7. I understand that Paul offered to meet up with other prisoners too where they want additional support or to learn more of the Bible. To think that he was doing all this voluntarily is amazing. It is very important for future prisoners that people like Paul are able to continue offering support.
8. Upon being released on [REDACTED], Paul met me at the prison gate and we drove together to a nearby café where we had something to eat. Paul spoke to me about trusting in God, and staying on the straight and narrow, and his general attitude was so supportive. His presence was a breath of fresh air, and without him being there to support me, I would have had nowhere to turn. The support didn't end there, as he was there at the end of the phone and I could ring him anytime of the day and he would provide support. I also went to Paul's church on a few occasions where I was warmly welcomed by Paul and the congregants. Paul has always been there to help me with anything, including family issues, work issues and the development of my faith.
9. I now have a good relationship with my family and children. I have been off drugs over 2 years, and I am crime free. I now work for a charity called User Voice, which works to improve the criminal justice in Probation and Prison. I am work alongside the police as a volunteer helping youths to disengage from crime. My life has changed completely, and I am so grateful for all the support Paul has given me, from inside prison, to up to this day. The turnaround would not have been possible without him.

I believe that the facts contained in this witness statement are true.

**Signed:** [REDACTED]

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Date: 31st January 2018**