



"...from darkness to light..."

Daylight

christian prison trust



Daylight Newsletter June 2015

Steven St John Chief Executive



We continue to thank God for the way in which prayer is being answered in the work. Emails and calls from volunteers and our weekly videoconferences via Skype are opportunities to hear news from the front line, and so often there is much for which to give thanks: difficulties overcome, prisoners professing faith, mentees going on with the Lord and feedback from meetings with churches where the commitment and interest of our supporters has been humbling.

Some things stand out from recent events: listening to a young man from a family of foreign nationals on his second visit to prison preaching the gospel of grace clearly and powerfully to a group of foreign nationals, including some from his home country: an email from an ex-offender who is being systematically taught the scriptures by a Daylight volunteer, so thankful for the love and concern shown: meeting a lifer after a prison chapel Sunday service, who was converted a few years ago on a Daylight Christianity Explored course, and who is clearly growing in grace, longing for the Lord to use him inside: one of our sessional chaplains recounting a conversation with a young man with a Muslim background in the segregation unit for causing trouble, who hearing about Christianity Explored, wants to attend: the 17 year old who professed faith during Christianity Explored and who is going on with the Lord in spite of set-backs who asked Nigel, "Is Jesus mentioned in the Old Testament?": hearing of a Muslim Managing Chaplain asking us to do more in his prison: meeting a Probation Officer who seemed to be raised up by the Lord to help make an easy path for one of our ex-offenders, when we expected difficulties.

There is, of course, another side: the Managing Chaplain who seems to be thinking of new ways to make life difficult for us: the concern about being asked "Test Questions" on various equality issues by a chaplain or a member of the prison senior management: having to say "no" to a potential volunteer who seems to love the Lord but cannot agree with the Bible's teaching on a vital doctrine: prisoners and ex-offenders with major health issues.

But the Lord is gracious and sometimes in prayer and sometimes through other means of grace He reminds us that His grace is sufficient for all our concerns: that He is sovereign and, unlike us, is caught out by nothing: that our tears are gathered up in a bottle: that Christ must reign.

Thank you for all your prayers – what a precious thing it is to know the LORD!





*"I believe your charity has given me so much more hope in my prison sentence and the new chapter in my life."
(Ex-offender)*

June Prayer Points

HMP Cardiff – Pray that prisoners would come to the Christianity Explored course at the beginning of June and for David leading the course.

HMP Chelmsford – Pray for our Sunday service here this month, for the prisoners that come and for those leading the service.

HMP Highdown – Give thanks for an excellent Sunday service here last month, with a number of people enquiring about further chaplaincy services, requesting Bibles and asking to be prayed for.

HMP Portland – Pray that some changes to the daily regime will not adversely affect the Monday evening Bible studies in Mark's Gospel. Ten attended recently, with numbers steady at about six. Some are hungry for the Word and some are rather sceptical about the authority of the Bible. Pray that God's Word would be a light for all.

Give thanks for a new opportunity to run a Christianity Explored course in HMP Portland on Tuesday afternoons, starting at the end of this month.

HMP Prescoed – Pray for the prisoners who came to the Christianity Explored course at the end of May that what they heard would stay with them and have a lasting effect on their lives.

HMP Sudbury – Numbers have fallen a lot due to men being moved, released and kept from attending due to ill health or other hindrances. Pray for more men to join the congregation.

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Dorking PSG – Continue to pray for more people in the area to join in praying and supporting the work of Daylight and prison ministry.

Andrew – Pray for Andrew who is to leave a prison we regularly visit soon. He has attended every meeting since we started there although he claims he isn't really interested. His questions and comments suggest otherwise.

Bible Studies – Give thanks for blessing at HMP Featherstone and HMP Oakwood on the Bible study courses, with evidence of growth both in numbers as well as the spiritual understanding of the men.

Dillon – He has had problems with his back for some time that have stopped him working. He is due to have an operation at the beginning of this month. Please pray for him, his wife and children at this time.

Ex-offender – Pray for L an ex-offender in Cardiff that he would continue to walk with the Lord.

Harry – Continue to pray for Harry, a Christian prisoner who is currently in hospital being treated for throat cancer. Pray for his faith to hold up and that his treatment may successfully clear up the disease.

L – Continue to pray for L, a young prisoner who is showing real signs of spiritual growth despite setbacks to his hopes of early release. Pray that he will continue to grow and for his witness among the other prisoners. He needs wisdom and self-control to keep his quick temper in check.

Letter Writing – Pray for all our volunteers who write to prisoners and for the prisoners that they write to that the letters would be an encouragement and witness to them.

Nigel Robinson – Give thanks that Nigel's schedule for Sundays and weekdays is full to capacity. This obviously makes Nigel very busy, so please pray for him in his work.

Patrick – Give thanks for a local church that has been supporting him since his release. Please continue to pray for Patrick that he would evidently be born again.

Prison Staff – Pray for prison staff that are often present at our Bible studies and services that their hearts and lives would be touched by what they hear.

Sam – Pray for Sam, a young prisoner who seems to be deeply under conviction and very close to becoming a believer. He is due for release soon and will probably be gone after our next meeting with him.

Scotland – A new prison chaplain has been appointed. Please pray that we may have a good rapport with him and be a good witness of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please pray for G, a mature first offender who was regular at our services, but has now been released. Pray that he may begin to attend his local church as he promised he would.

A, who has been in for a long time has asked for prayer that his life would be transformed and that he would be able to look forward to being released soon. He has been attending the services over the years and is still looking for answers to his many questions.

Pray for R who has in the past made a profession of faith but is plagued with mental problems. He is being released soon and is going into a Christian rehabilitation centre. He asks for prayer that he may get relief from his many torments. Please do pray for him in this regard as he is deeply troubled.



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