



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

# Daylight

christian prison trust



## Daylight Newsletter January 2016

At a prison service near the end of 2015, with a congregation of about fifty prisoners, one of Daylight's Prison Ministry Associates (PMAs) gave a message about the life of Peter. He spoke about how Peter made mistakes in his life, but he was given a second chance.

One prisoner, Thomas, has been in the prison for over a year and so the Daylight team have seen him at previous services. Following one of our services earlier in the year he told some of our team that he felt what he had done was not as bad as some of the other prisoners and we prayed for him at a staff Skype meeting that he would see that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

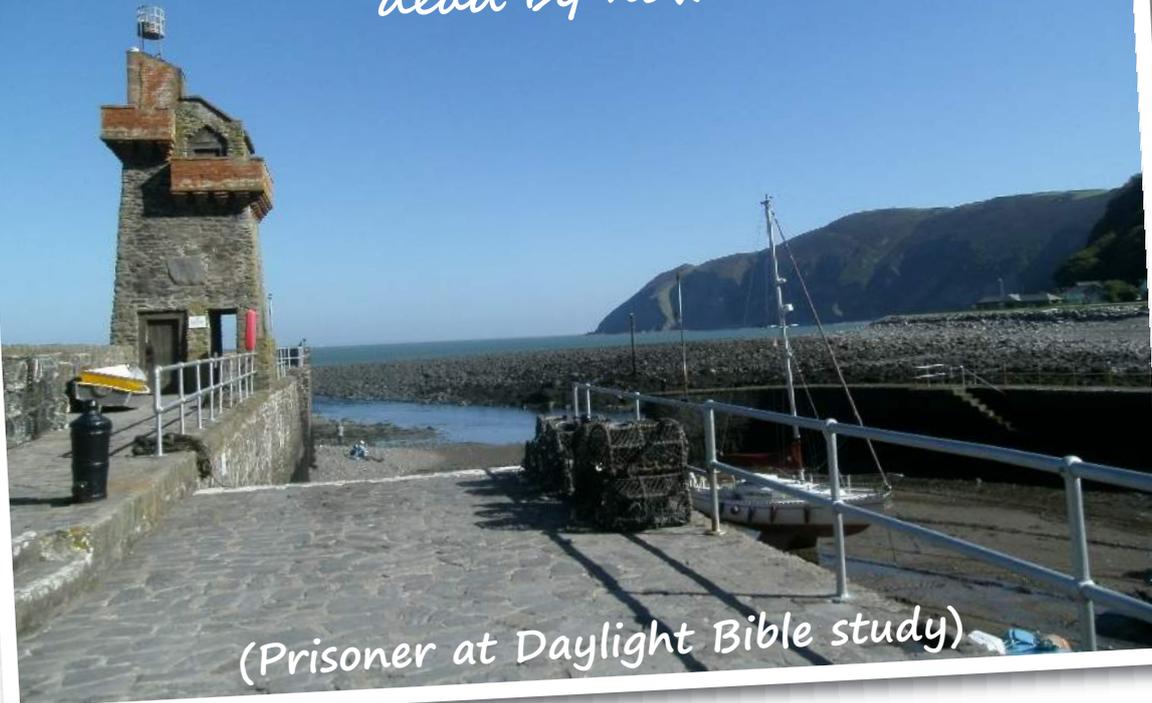
Thomas often seems to not take things too seriously, but after this service he said to the PMA, "You spoke about Peter being given a second chance, but I've been given loads of chances."

He also said to the chaplain, "I don't know what it was, but something was different today. I don't know if you noticed, but I was taking it seriously this morning." Please pray that Thomas would come to know Jesus as his Saviour.

Another one of the team had a conversation with a prisoner who was brought up in a Methodist home and has started reading his Bible because his Mum asked him to. Please pray that God would speak to him through His Word.

The prisoners listened attentively, sang well and took daily reading booklets and Bible text postcards back to their cells. It is so wonderful to have these opportunities to share the Gospel with the prisoners. If they were not in prison they probably wouldn't stop and listen to a message like this. Please pray for all the prisoners who were at this service.

*"If God hadn't brought me to prison and made me a Christian, I would have been dead by now."*



*(Prisoner at Daylight Bible study)*

## *January Prayer Points*

**Bible Studies** – Two of our Prison Ministry Associates run monthly Bible studies in their nearby prison. During 2015 numbers at the studies have been low due to staff shortages and the structure of the prisoners' days. Despite the low numbers the Bible studies have gone very well. Please pray for the prisoners who come to these, for those who are saved that they would grow in grace and for others that they would be converted.

**Charlie** – At a prison where Nigel regularly runs Bible studies and Sunday services, a prisoner named Charlie seems to have been saved. Charlie is a father of two who after years of trying to get right with God by his own efforts said he has become a Christian and finally understood that salvation is by God's grace. He said he was full of a new awareness of peace. He has been coming to mid-week Bible studies and shows a real hunger to learn from the Bible.

**Opportunities** – We are dependent on the good will of prison staff when it comes to going into prisons. Because of supportive chaplains moving on we lost the regular monthly Sunday bookings at one prison and felt that the mid week Bible studies might also be lost. However, the Managing Chaplain who is of a different faith actually asked us to fill in. This was partly on the recommendation of the Roman Catholic chaplain. Give thanks for answered prayer and for these increased opportunities.

Also, a prison which has not been open to Daylight looks promising due to contact with a chaplain we know well who is now working there.

**HMP Portland** – We are so thankful for how the Lord has established the regular Monday evening Bible study here. Prisoners seem keen to come, are mostly attentive to the content of the study and it is good to have met so many prisoners. Please pray that the Word will have an ongoing impact, whether they are released or have a longer stay.

**HMP Thorn Cross** – Please pray for our volunteers running a service here at the end of the month.

**Nigel Robinson** – Please pray that his diary for this year would quickly fill up with new bookings.

**Prisons** – You may have read about some disturbances in prisons recently. Prison staff do face many challenges. Pray that they would be given wisdom and that we would still have the opportunity to minister in prison.

**Prisoners** - It is the time of year that especially brings many memories and consequent heartache to prisoners and their families. They make so many resolutions but they simply cannot keep them. Please remember them that they would resolve to seek God and include Him in their lives as He will enable them to walk in the right ways.

**Scotland** – Give thanks for many encouragements and blessings received through Christianity Explored and Discipleship Explored courses completed in 2015. Those who attended regularly were disappointed when the courses ended and were pleading for something more to follow. They need our prayers as they are in a hostile environment.

We are nearing the end of the next Christianity Explored course with another group who have little knowledge of what Christianity means and who indeed Jesus really is. It is evident to us that a number of them are growing in knowledge and are very responsive to the teaching they receive. Discipleship Explored will follow and they are keen to attend this course too. Please pray that God's blessing on these courses would continue.

We are thankful that **D** who was recently released and had attended a Christianity Explored course has been attending a church where there is sound Gospel ministry and spiritual help available for those with addictions etc. Pray that he would continue to attend, trust fully in the Lord and also bring others along with him to hear the Gospel.

**HMP Wrexham** - We have been asked about Daylight's plans for the new prison being built at Wrexham. In January David Lewis is speaking at a ministers' fraternal in North Wales about this and we welcome invitations to speak at churches in the general area as to how they might get involved. Your prayers are coveted for this opportunity. The Lord has many times answered consistent and persistent prayer for our work, so a new Daylight Prayer and Support Group would be a very good foundation.

Please contact the office for more information.



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