

Daylight Newsletter February 2020

At HMP Bullingdon a recent Bible study was attended by nine men, all but one of whom were new. They looked at John 1:12 & 13, "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God", and the men interacted well, asking really good questions.

One man shared how he was being bullied and although tempted to retaliate, had been able to restrain himself. We prayed after the meeting about this and he went back to his wing much calmer. Another shared how Christianity was new to him and said he wanted to learn more. It was good to be able to give him a Bible so he could read it back in his cell. A third man shared how he found God speaking to him when he read the Bible and how so often the passage really spoke to the issues he was facing that day. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will make the things of Christ real and precious to these men, that they may truly be saved.

In HMP Usk, one of our volunteers reports that it is great to hear those who profess Christ as Saviour discussing the Scripture at the Bible studies. He writes, "One man, who has been coming along for many months, who I suspected had trusted Christ as Saviour, spoke clearly last week of his belief in God and how Christ had died to be his Saviour. This was so wonderful to hear."

In another prison, we were recently encouraged to see a prisoner we first met a few years ago taking part in a service. He spoke about how helpful Daylight had been to him and said to his fellow prisoners that they should view their time in prison, not as punishment, but as a time to get to know God. Please pray for him.

February Prayer Points

HMP Cardiff (South Wales) — The numbers have been few here, but it has been a wonderful opportunity to chat in depth with some of the men. There has been a real move in the understanding of some, away from working to make yourself right with God, to repentance and belief. Please pray that they will grow in their understanding and take that step.

One prisoner comes each week and may well have taken the step of salvation by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, but seems to lack assurance. Please pray that he might come to know the joy of salvation.

Finance - Give thanks to the Lord for the way the financial needs of the work were met during last year and for the provision we have already seen since the New Year.

James — Please continue to pray for James who is feeling a bit unsettled at the moment. He is seeking to walk with the Lord day by day, but he feels alone, surrounded by so many men who revel in their sin. He is currently doing a horticultural course and is overwhelmed at the wonder of plants. "They're just so wonderful!" he says. "The way God has made them, well, wow! It's just amazing!"

HMP Leeds (West Yorkshire) — Give thanks for the six men who attended the last Bible study; lively discussions are always expected during the sessions here. Please pray for R who is struggling with reconciling the judgements of God in the Old Testament with the love of Christ in the New Testament and for two men who are to be released in the future fearing they will slip back into their old ways. Pray too that the Lord will be with the group during the next Bible study on 10th February.

HMP Parc (South Wales) — Give thanks for the opportunity David has to serve in the chaplaincy team as a volunteer. Please pray that he would be a help to those Christians who are serving their sentences in the prison and that he would be able to start a Bible study on one of the wings.

HMP Portland (Dorset) — Give thanks for continued opportunities to run Bible studies here each week. Please pray for J who has many questions but seems unwilling to heed the Bible or explanations of the faith. Pray that God would give him an open heart to submit to God as revealed.

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Scotland – Please pray for the Discipleship Explored course which began recently, that those who attend will benefit from it and humbly receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their own Lord and Saviour.

Pray too that our Chaplain would be greatly encouraged by attendances and also a genuine response to the Gospel message as he takes the weekly services and has many discussions with individual prisoners.

Solent Prayer & Support Group — Give thanks that the team had an encouraging time at a prison training session last month. Please pray that they would be given further opportunities to work in local prisons during this year.

HMP Swansea (South Wales) — Please pray for the new Christianity Explored course which has recently started here. Many of the men who have completed the course a number of times are being released so please pray for them and for new men to come along.

HMP Wakefield (West Yorkshire) — Praise God for answers to prayer as we now have the opportunity to meet the five men who completed the Christianity Explored course towards the end of last year. Please pray that the Lord will bless our discussions with them, that they will attend services and meetings in the future, and more importantly, come to know the Lord as their Saviour. Pray too that the six men who attended last month's Prayer & Fellowship Meeting will come again on 10th February.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) — Please pray for S, a Christian sharing a cell with a man who professes to belong to the 'dark side'. Every day he mocks him when he gets his Bible out and tells him to throw it away. In spite of this, S has remained strong in his witness and they debate questions to do with faith.

Please continue to pray that the right candidate will be chosen to fill the vacancy for Managing Chaplain here. We have always got on well with the managers here over the years, so please pray that will continue.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group — As mentioned last month, eight ladies in HMP New Hall asked to keep the Bibles the group had taken in for the Bible studies. Very recently a donation was sent anonymously to the group for them to be able to purchase more Bibles. Give thanks for this kindness and please pray that these Bibles will be used in the hearts and lives of those who read them.

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