



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

Daylight

christian prison trust



Daylight Newsletter May 2020

At the beginning of April, Nigel was asked to write a short Easter message for one of his Bible study groups. He gave five points from John 3:16-17; The Motive of Easter, The Means of Easter, The Method of Easter, The Mercy of Easter and the Miracle of Easter and the group gave very positive feedback, asking when the next message would be sent out.

The message was also sent to chaplains to be given out in a number of other prisons and to each of the prisoners using our letter writing ministry, along with a daily reading booklet. It was encouraging to receive a reply from one of them letting us know how much he appreciated the package, saying that at a time of fear and anxiety, he had been really touched by our kindness.

We are thankful that a number of our volunteer chaplains continue to have the opportunity to speak to individual prisoners and to share literature with them. The current situation seems to be causing some to think more about spiritual things, with many of them asking serious questions. Most of the work and classes within prisons are cancelled so prisoners have a lot more time on their hands and some are using this time to read Bibles, Christian literature and stories of people whose lives have been turned around whilst in prison. One chaplain reports that he has been amazed at the uptake of the Emmaus Bible Study Courses and writes that it seems initially in prison that this crisis "has fallen out for the furtherance of the Gospel."

Please pray that as written messages continue to be sent into prisons, these would be read and used in the hearts and lives of those who receive them and that chaplains would be given wisdom as they speak to individual prisoners and answer their questions.

May Prayer Points

Andy (ex-offender) – Please pray for Andy, a professing Christian who has been released after serving eleven years for a crime he says he did not commit. He is currently staying in a hostel and has asked for prayer that he will be guided as he looks for somewhere to live.

Bereaved Prisoners – Chaplains often have the responsibility of informing prisoners of the death of a family member. This is always a difficult task, but particularly at the moment, as prisoners are currently unable to attend funerals. Some prisons have been trying to get facilities to allow them to watch services on a live stream but this is not always possible. Please pray for prisoners who have lost loved ones and that chaplains and other staff would be helped as they seek to support them.

Letter Writing – Please pray that the letter writing will continue to be an encouragement to prisoners and for the volunteers who write to them.

HMP Maidstone (Kent) – Give thanks that Steven was given the opportunity to send in a written message to the men here recently. Please pray that this will be read and used to speak to them.

Nigel & Pat – Please pray for Nigel Robinson and his wife Pat who has now been unwell for a number of weeks. Medics have said her symptoms are consistent with coronavirus and she is still feeling very weak and constantly tired. Pray that she will soon be feeling better and that Nigel will stay in good health.

Scotland – Quite a number of prison staff are self-isolating which puts more pressure on those who are still at work. They have risen to the challenge and are coping very well, but please pray for staff in their various circumstances, that they will be given grace to continue to cope.

The prisoners seem to be coping with having no visits and the change in regime very well, but if the lockdown continues for a length of time that could change very quickly. Please pray that they will be given the grace to be reconciled to their situation at this time and that they will be able to see that staff are doing everything they can to make things as easy as possible for them in the current situation.

Give thanks for quite a number of meaningful conversations about spiritual things with the prisoners. Please pray that they will continue to

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ponder these things and that they will be challenged to ask where God is in all this.

HMP Swansea (South Wales) – Give thanks that David has been able to continue his chaplaincy work here and for good conversations with a number of the men. Please pray that the sheets given out each Sunday would be a blessing to the men and for those in the prison who are unwell.

HMP Thorn Cross (Cheshire) – Please pray for the men who would normally attend the services here, that they will remember messages they have heard in the past and that these will be used to speak to them.

HMP Usk (South Wales) – Please pray for the family of Rachel, a young prison officer who recently died from COVID-19 and for the family of a prisoner who has also died from the virus, as reported in the press. Two others are currently very unwell so pray for them and their families too.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Please pray for J, a Christian prisoner who was wonderfully saved two years ago and liberated from a life of drugs and violence. He is due to be released in May so pray that the arrangements made for his journey home and the contacts organised for him will all work out.

West Midlands – Please pray for the men who look forward to the encouragement and support of Bible studies and services and are sorely missing them. Pray that in the long hours alone they may draw near to God and keep their faith alive.

Pray too for the prisoners at HMPs Oakwood and Sudbury. As reported in the press, at least one man has died from COVID-19 at each of the prisons and this has a real effect on those who knew them.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Contact is still being made with the local prisons by phone or email in order to obtain prayer points for their monthly meetings. Give thanks that they were able to meet in their separate homes at the end of April to bring these points to the Lord and to pray for the ministry in general.

The Managing Chaplain at one of the prisons had agreed to the group writing to individual prisoners they had come to know well but unfortunately, they have not yet had a response about this going ahead. Please pray they will hear back soon so they can maintain contact with these men.

Daylight Giving Form

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Thank you for your support.

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