



Daylight Newsletter June 2020

While activities in prisons are still limited, we are thankful for the many opportunities there are to reach prisoners with the Gospel. One of our volunteer chaplains reports that many prisoners continue to want to chat or ask questions. It is not uncommon now for him to be on a wing and for prisoners to shout through their hatch asking to talk or to request prayer for them and their families and he often has the privilege of standing outside a cell door and praying with them.

A number of prisoners have also been asking for Bibles or New Testaments & Psalms and in some cases, they need the basics explained to them, such as what the difference is between the Old and New Testaments and how chapters and verses work. They are also asking questions such as which parts tell them about Jesus and how long ago the Bible was written.

Written messages on a variety of topics have continued to be sent into a number of prisons each week and have been warmly received. Many other items of Christian literature have also been given out, such as Emmaus Courses, Christian books containing testimonies, Roger Carswell's leaflets on Coronavirus and VE Day, Day One Diaries and Bible Text Postcards.

The letter writing has also continued with a number of prisoners writing more frequently than usual and letting us know that they are particularly appreciating the contact from our volunteers at this time. In a recent letter to a volunteer one prisoner wrote, "It is a hard time for everybody, but knowing I have friends like you who always keep in contact with me makes my life worth living. I pray you are all safe and well."

Please pray for a deep and lasting work in the lives of many at this time and that the current concern shown would lead to a conviction of sin and an awareness of their need for a Saviour.

June Prayer Points

Andy (ex-offender) – Give thanks that Andy was recently able to see his grandchildren for the first time since his release. Please continue to pray for him as he looks for somewhere to live as he has to leave the hostel at the beginning of June.

Chaplains – Please pray for those working in prison chaplaincies. Apart from officers, chaplains are the only ones going regularly onto the wings at the moment. Please pray that they will be helped as they seek to offer support to both prisoners and prison staff.

HMYOI Deerbolt (County Durham) – While services are not taking place the prison is preparing a weekly devotional/service sheet for those who are on the Sunday chapel list. Give thanks for the opportunities to speak to many prisoners on the wings and to give them Bibles, New Testaments and a variety of Christian literature. Please pray that the Lord will use these in their hearts and lives.

Pray too for the appointment of a new C of E Chaplain here as the current one moves on to a new post this month.

Drew – Please pray for Drew following his mother's recent drug-related death. Our chaplain was able spend time with him and they discussed John 11 about how Jesus wept at a good friend's grave and he was able to speak about the Lord Jesus Christ as the resurrection and the life and what that means to us today. Please pray for wisdom and sensitivity in future conversations with him.

Nigel & Pat – Give thanks that Pat is slowly getting better. Please pray that she will continue to improve and that Nigel will be helped as he writes messages to be sent into prisons each week.

Patrick – Please pray for Patrick who is back in custody as he is alleged to have broken the conditions of his release. A local church has been faithfully supporting him for some time but it is unclear where he stands spiritually. Please pray that the Lord will work in his heart and that the church will be given wisdom as they seek to help him at this time.

Prisons – Please pray for prisoners with mental health problems or on suicide/self-harm watch. Staff shortages, more time in cells and lack of family contact heighten these problems.

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Thankfully, it seems that the spread in prisons has so far been limited. Pray too for the families of prisoners and staff who have died from the virus.

Scotland – Please pray for the prisoners at this time, especially the ones who considered their attendance at services and courses like Christianity Explored to be the highlight of their week.

Solent Prayer & Support Group – Please continue to pray that opportunities to work in another local prison will come to fruition when the lockdown ends. The group hope to hold a prayer meeting via Zoom during June.

Vas – Please pray for Vas who asked for and was given a Bible. When we saw him the following week it was encouraging to see that he had been reading it. He said that he has ordered a notebook so he can jot down questions for our next visit.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Give thanks for the opportunity to work with one of the chaplains to send in items to help with his provision of internal TV Christian worship services. We have sent hymn singing with words, intercessory prayer and a short sermon video.

Please pray for men whose release or move to category D prisons has been deferred due to coronavirus.

Pray too for J who has been saved while serving his sentence at Wayland; that the arrangements for his journey back to his home town in Leeds this month will go smoothly and that we will be able to connect him with a suitable church and support network.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks that the group are able to send a small number of resources into all of the prisons in the area. Topics or verses for prayer and reflection, Bible studies, word searches and jumbled up sentences from Bible passages are being sent out and one of the chaplains has informed us that they go out to the prisoners every Sunday as part of his package.

Give thanks too that they are able to maintain contact with the prisons by phone to gain prayer points for their monthly prayer meetings.

Will – Please pray for Will who is due to be released this month. He has expressed gratitude for Daylight's support through services, Bible studies and letter writing and is keen to keep in touch after his release.

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Daylight

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