



Daylight Newsletter September 2020

In last month's newsletter we asked for prayer for Al, a prisoner who had requested a Bible and had then been reading it with Bible Reading Notes which he said he had been finding helpful. Since then, one of our chaplains has been able to have very profitable conversations with him. Al has been making detailed notes alongside his Bible Reading Notes, writing down questions about anything he does not understand. He has also been asking about prayer, commenting that his prayers "included a lot of repenting".

Another prisoner, Dan, borrowed a book from our chaplain while in the Segregation Unit, which he said had made a profound impression on him. The author included words of a letter he had written to his father when re-establishing a difficult relationship with him. This prompted Dan to write to his father, who was so moved that he replied saying he would never have expected to read that from his son. Dan is now reading his Bible and one of his support workers has asked if she can borrow the book he was reading, saying, "there might be something in it for me".

After a period away from prison during the lockdown, another of our chaplains was able to return to their work in a local prison recently. It was lovely to hear how pleased the men were to see him again and he was particularly encouraged by a conversation with James, a Christian prisoner who spoke about the time he had spent reading his Bible over the last few months and shared what he had learnt from the written messages he has received.

Please pray for Al and Dan as they continue to read their Bibles and for Dan's support worker, that the Lord will work in each of their hearts. Pray too for James, that he will continue to grow in grace as he studies God's Word.

September Prayer Points

Big Picture Course – Please continue to pray for Wyatt and Glenn, the two prisoners mentioned in August's newsletter who had completed the Big Picture Bible overview course. They have now been sent certificates along with their marked answers so pray that as they read through these, they will be encouraged to think further about what they have studied and for the Lord to work in their hearts.

HMYOI Deerbolt (County Durham) – Please pray for the Chaplaincy groups that are planning to re-commence in September and for the interviews for the Church of England Chaplain post which are due to take place early in the month.

Julia – Last month we requested prayer for Julia, a prisoner who is terminally ill, coming to the end of one sentence and facing a trial for fresh charges. Having written to her, we recently received a reply expressing her gratitude to us for getting in touch with her and quoting Psalm 9:9, "The Lord will also be...a refuge in times of trouble". She writes, "I regret that before my illness I was never a religious person, being busy in other stuff, but now it's different". Please pray that she will truly know what it is to trust in the Lord and to take refuge in Him in her time of trouble.

Patrick – Please continue to pray for Patrick who has now been sentenced. It is not clear where he stands spiritually but he is grateful for all that is being done for him by the church supporting him and says that he wants to "continue in the faith". Please pray that he will come to a truer knowledge of his sin and need of the Saviour.

HMP Portland (Dorset) – Give thanks that the weekly written messages continue to be gratefully received here. There is no prospect of volunteers returning yet so please keep praying for the men who will be missing the regular Bible studies.

Richard (Ex-offender) – Give thanks that Richard has settled in to his new job well. Please pray that he will be strengthened in his faith and know the Lord's presence with him as he faces real difficulties within his personal circumstances.

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HMP Swansea (South Wales) – Please pray for plans to restart Christianity Explored Prison Edition here soon. Pray that all the practical arrangements for this will go well and for the men who come along to learn from Mark's Gospel.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Please pray for Christian prisoner **D** who has had his parole application refused. Pray that he will be able to appeal and that the preparations for linking him up with local Christians (if an appeal is successful) will be helpful.

Pray too for another Christian prisoner, **T**, that it will be possible for him to be released with a tag. His earliest date on licence would have been in mid-August but he is still waiting to hear. His wife and children really need him back at home so please pray for the whole family.

Give thanks that Christian ex-offender **J** is settled after his release and has already found full-time work. Please pray that the evangelical church he is now attending will be able to fill in some gaps in his knowledge of the Bible's teaching.

West Midlands – Please pray that as Nigel returns from holiday and begins to contact chaplains at local prisons over the next few weeks, it might prove possible for him to resume some of his work in prisons soon.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Though at a social distance, it has been a joy for the group to be able to join together in person for their past two prayer meetings.

All five local prisons were contacted for prayer items for the last meeting. The content of these varied, but sadly included some deaths. Please pray for the families of the bereaved and for wisdom and support for the Chaplains during this distressing time.

Resources are still being sent to the prisons on a weekly basis. Please pray that the Lord will continue to provide the team with ideas for these over the coming months.

Written Messages – Please pray for Nigel, that he would know the Lord's help as he continues to prepare written messages to be sent into prisons each week. The latest ones have looked at the Woman at the Well with the theme of Conviction and the Healing at the Pool of Bethesda with the theme of Repentance. Give thanks that these continue to reach hundreds of prisoners and pray that they will be used to speak to them.

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