



## Daylight Newsletter October 2020

While church life has not been the same for anyone over the last six months, many of us, while not able to meet in person have benefited from watching services online or have been able to listen to recordings of sermons. We can encourage one another with conversations on the phone or perhaps chat via Skype or Zoom. A conversation one of our chaplains had recently reminded us that those who are seeking to follow Christ in prison do not have the same support during this time without services.

Speaking to James, a Christian prisoner he sees regularly, our chaplain noticed that he seemed a bit down. He mentioned a few things that were bothering him and our chaplain was able to remind him of Romans 8:28 and how we can be baffled by things, but still know that God is in control.

As the conversation continued, it became apparent that the thing which was really getting James down was the lack of fellowship with other believers. He spoke about how much he was missing the services and Bible studies, saying, "To be in a group where men pray for each other – I really miss that".

While no substitute for the normal activities, we are thankful that the written messages being sent into prisons each week continue to be appreciated and it has been encouraging to receive letters thanking us for them. One man who would usually attend our services writes, "Thank you for the Daylight sheets. I love to get them. I always read them a few times; they help keep me going. I pass them on to other people, not just in prison but to my family and friends outside".

Please pray that Christian prisoners will know that the Lord is with them, that they will be encouraged in their personal prayer and Bible study and that the weekly written messages will continue to be a help to them.

## October Prayer Points

**Accommodation** – Finding accommodation for those being released is always a challenge, but it is a problem that is intensified by COVID-19 restrictions. Some prisoners do not know where they will be going until very shortly before their release date. This can cause significant anxiety with some men feeling that they are being “set up to fail”. Please pray for those being released in the coming days.

**HMYOI Deerbolt** – Give thanks that some of the Chaplaincy Bible Study groups here were able to recommence in September, with others beginning in October. As each group will be restricted to prisoners from the same wing, the groups will be smaller and will meet less frequently in order to accommodate all wishing to attend. Many will be attending for the first time. Please pray for these young men as they will have the opportunity to carry on these Bible studies in their cells, that the Lord will speak to them through His Word.

Pray too for the newly appointed Anglican chaplain of HMYOI Deerbolt & HMP Kirklevington Grange as she goes through her clearance process prior to working between these two prisons.

**Jimmy** – Please pray for Jimmy who will be released during October. Give thanks that he is keen to go back to the church he was attending previously.

**Lou** – Please continue to pray for Lou who is due to be released this month. Pray that he will link up with a church in his area of release where connections have been made.

**North East** – Many of the prison staff working in the north east prisons are from areas where there have been rapid rises in the number of Coronavirus cases. Please pray that there may not be any outbreaks in the prisons, as they are an environment where it could spread very quickly.

**Prisons** – As some restrictions eased, there has been freer movement around prisons. This has led to more assaults in some prisons as old scores are settled. These assaults are more common among younger prisoners who often do not think before they act and then regret the consequences. Please pray for prison staff who have the difficult task of dealing with these situations.

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**Richard (Ex-offender)** – Please continue to remember Richard who very much needs prayer at the moment. Pray that he will see the importance of making time for reading and prayer each day and that he will be given wisdom as he faces important decisions about his future.

**HMP Swansea (South Wales)** – Give thanks that David was able to take a Sunday service here recently for the first time since lockdown began. While numbers attending were limited, the men listened well and he also had good conversations with members of staff. Please pray for that the message will be used to speak to them and for future opportunities here.

**HMP Wayland (Norfolk)** – Please pray for W, a Christian prisoner who is organising informal prayer times regularly for a small group on his wing, for L who is also running a Bible meditation group on his wing and for S, a Christian who is making good progress with Emmaus correspondence courses, but would like to be able to get off his anti-depressant medication.

Please pray too for D, a Christian who is feeling low after his parole application was turned down and for N, a Christian on an unexpected recall. He is waiting for a hearing and is suffering with a bad back.

Pray also for the Free Church Managing Chaplain here who is off sick at the moment.

**West Midlands** – Give thanks that Nigel was able to return to one local prison recently and will now be able to carry out chaplaincy work there each week. Please pray for him as he speaks to prisoners on the wings.

**West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group** – Give thanks that the further restrictions in the area have not prevented the group meeting in person for their monthly prayer time. It saddens the whole team that a return to their prison visits does not seem likely in the near future, but they give thanks that God is sovereign and would appreciate prayer that their trust in Him will remain strong.

The Chaplaincy teams at the local prisons are persevering in meeting the challenge of not being able to gather the prisoners together for worship. Please pray for them as they are seeing individuals having problems that previously they would have been able to cope with.

One local prison has reported an increase in sickness, but thankfully none are COVID related. Please pray that the men will soon return to full health and strength.

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

# Daylight

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