



Daylight Newsletter March 2021

In previous months we have requested prayer for Lou, who had been reading through John Blanchard's *Ultimate Questions* as he approached his release date in February. Before leaving prison, he shared with one our chaplains some of the concerns he had about returning to life outside, speaking about the emptiness of the life he had previously.

Lou said that while he did not want to return to his former way of life, it would be a real struggle to settle into a regular job, knowing he could be earning much more through criminal activities.

Our chaplain was able to spend some time with him looking at the words of Jesus in Mark 8:36, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" and he was very appreciative of this.

We trust that something of this conversation will stay with Lou and that the local church which our chaplain put him in touch with will also be beneficial to him. Please pray for him and many others who face similar challenges after release.

Written messages continue to be sent into prisons each week and it has been encouraging to hear from chaplains who are appreciating these, as well as receiving letters of thanks from a number of prisoners.

One prisoner commented on how much he had enjoyed a recent message titled *The Sheep Listen To His Voice* looking at John 10:27&28, while another said he does not hear from anyone else outside prison, so is very grateful to have this regular contact.

Please pray that we will be given wisdom in selecting the topics and writing these messages and that they will continue to encourage Christian prisoners, as well as challenging others.

March Prayer Points

HMP Birmingham (West Midlands) – Give thanks for the opportunity to return to carrying out regular chaplaincy work here and for the potential opportunities to run Sunday services and mid-week Bible studies once restrictions are lifted.

Bereaved Prisoners– Daylight people carrying our chaplaincy work continue to have the responsibility of visiting prisoners with news of the death or serious illness of family members. Please pray for wisdom, sensitivity and true and appropriate words to provide comfort, but also to point them to the Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Please pray particularly for Robin, an older man who recently lost his brother and for Griff, a young man whose mother's life support had to be switched off following a second stroke.

Chaplains – Please continue to pray for chaplains of other faiths who we have regular contact with, particularly for one man who has asked us to pray for ongoing difficulties within his family, that his concerns may make him more open to the Gospel.

Jim – Please pray that Jim will grow in his knowledge of God's Word as he continues to study John's Gospel with one of our chaplains, using *The Word One to One*.

Jimmy – Jimmy recently left the Christian rehab he was staying in and has not been in touch since. Please continue to pray for him, that he will be kept on the right path.

Letter Writing – Give thanks for prisoners who continue to appreciate our Letter Writing ministry. Please pray that our volunteers will continue to be helped as they seek to share something of the Gospel with those who are unbelievers and to encourage Christian prisoners in their faith.

HMP Oakwood (West Midlands) – Give thanks that it has been possible to speak to many of the men here who would normally attend the weekly Bible studies and that a number of them say they are using the long hours in their cells to study their Bibles.

P – Please pray for P who has a number of health problems and struggles

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with alcohol addiction. He has recently been released, so please pray that he will be able to access the support he needs.

Patrick – Please pray for Patrick, a prisoner whom we have had contact with for some years. While it is not clear where he stands spiritually, he is keen to maintain contact with the church he attended previously and to receive literature from Daylight. In a recent letter, he said one of the weekly messages had been particularly “hard hitting” for him. Please pray for the Lord to work in his heart and life.

Prison TV – Give thanks that one of our trustees continues to have the opportunity to record weekly Gospel messages for a prison TV channel. Please pray that the Lord will use these to speak to the hearts of many, both prisoners and staff.

Thomas – Please pray for Thomas, who became a Christian while attending Bible studies shortly after he came into prison. In the time since, it has been encouraging to see him growing spiritually and zealously sharing his faith with others. He has been in prison many years beyond his original sentence and has a parole hearing early in March. Please pray for a good outcome.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – The ongoing coronavirus outbreak here has caused the tightest restrictions of the whole pandemic. Please pray that ways of providing ministry and encouragement to the Christian prisoners will be found and used.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks that the group’s prayer meetings are still able to take place on the last Tuesday of every month. The ongoing restrictions mean that they are still unable to visit any of the five prisons in the area, but regular contact is being made through weekly resources going in and monthly phone calls, to request prayer items.

Sadly, two of the local prisons have rising cases of COVID-19 among prisoners and staff, with many more having to isolate. Please pray that those who have the virus will soon recover from it.

Pray too that a peaceful atmosphere will be maintained, as there is some evidence of restlessness in the prisons, due to the prolonged lockdown.



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