



Daylight Newsletter April 2021

In a prison that has recently had an outbreak of COVID-19, one of our Prison Ministry Associates has been able to return to some chaplaincy work on the wings and shared a particularly encouraging conversation with one prisoner.

He writes, "Last time I was in, wearing full PPE, I was able to get back out on the wings and see some of my 'regulars'. One in particular, Todd, as I opened his door, was reading his Bible. He greeted me enthusiastically and then told me he had been trying to help a friend, Joe, on the floor below who has been backslidden for many years. Joe was worried that he had blown his chances and was uncertain if God would have him back.

Todd told me that there had followed a time of messages and encouragement carried out by shouting through the small window of his cell to Joe on the floor below who could also communicate by having his cell window open. Todd wanted me to find the "No man shall pluck them out of my hand" text (John 10:28) that he remembered from doing a perseverance of the saints correspondence course.

This reminded me of several things:

- God is still very much at work even when things are locked down and we are not able to go in*
- The value of correspondence courses to lay a foundation in the lives of the men, also keeping them usefully occupied*
- Todd and Joe's through the window conversation was probably audible to dozens of other men on that block"*

Please pray that Todd will continue to be encouraged in his faith and that the Lord would work in Joe's heart, drawing him back to Himself.

April Prayer Points

Aled – Give thanks that Aled continues to do well in the United States. He is being encouraged by the teaching at the church he attends and is already involved in helping with various ministries there. He has also settled into his job well. Please pray that he will be given wisdom as he seeks to rebuild relationships with his family.

Anthony – Give thanks for Anthony, who recently wrote saying how grateful he is for the letters he receives from one of our volunteers, as well as the regular written messages we send. He writes, “It is such a blessing that I receive this encouragement and support”. Please pray that these will continue to be a help to him.

Brad – Please pray for Brad, who recently got in touch asking for material to help him with studying the Bible after hearing about Daylight from another prisoner. He said he became a Christian at the beginning of the first lockdown and wrote about what the Lord has done for him, saying, “The love Jesus has for me has totally changed me. Jesus is so merciful, I wish to serve Him as much as I can”.

Please pray that the material we have sent will help Brad in his understanding of God’s Word and that letters from one of our volunteers will also be an encouragement to him.

Chaplains – Please continue to pray for prison chaplains who are recovering from coronavirus, that they will be given strength as they begin to return to their duties in prisons.

Chris – Please pray for Chris, a prisoner who recently heard that his young son has been diagnosed with a brain tumour and that his surgery has been delayed.

HMYOI Deerbolt (County Durham) – Give thanks that John has had the opportunity to record an Easter message to be broadcast on a prison television channel here. Please pray that this will be used to speak to the hearts of many.

Jimmy – Please continue to pray for Jimmy who has briefly been recalled to prison, that as he is released again in a couple of weeks, he will know the Lord’s guidance in his life.

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Nathan – Please pray for Nathan, a man we have known for some years who suffers with PTSD from his time in the military. He has come along to services and Christianity Explored courses in the past, and although he has never made any profession of faith, he is applying to go to a Christian rehab on release.

HMP Oakwood (West Midlands) – Give thanks for encouraging conversations with the men here. Many are expressing a deep longing for Bible studies and services to resume and speak about reading their Bibles daily, sometimes sharing something they have learnt or asking questions about what they have read.

Prison TV – Please continue to pray that messages broadcast on a prison television channel will be an encouragement to Christian prisoners, as well as challenging others.

Thomas – Please continue to pray for Thomas, whose planned parole hearing last month was postponed until the end of May at the last minute. Give thanks that instead of being frustrated at this, he was able to say that he recognised it might be God's will for him to be kept waiting a bit longer, in order for him to grow more in prison first.

Solent Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks that the group have been able to maintain contact with the chaplaincy team at a local prison throughout the pandemic. Please pray that there will be opportunities for them to return to running services there once restrictions lift and for their Zoom prayer meeting planned for this month.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks that the three local prisons which had outbreaks of coronavirus are now seeing infection rates go down and that some of the wings have been able to reopen in one of them, with the chaplain saying that this was an answer to prayer.

Please pray for one of the prisons, which has seen a number of deaths over the last few weeks, not all of which have been COVID-19 related. Pray that those affected by these deaths may be uplifted by the Lord.

Give thanks that a new lady who feels that the Lord is leading her towards prison ministry was able to join the group's last meeting and hopes to attend the next one too. Please pray that the Lord will guide her.



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