



Daylight Newsletter August 2021

Opportunities to return to services and Bible studies in a number of prisons continue to be encouraging, with prisoners keen to come along, some of whom have not attended before. In one prison over a three hour session each week, one of our Bible study groups are going through a series on Messages of Hope from John's Gospel, looking at people Jesus met. At another group, when asked what they would like to cover in the sessions, it was lovely to hear one prisoner reply, "I just want to see what the Bible says".

With some prisons not yet back to normal activities and others having to pause services again due to rising coronavirus infections, we are also continuing to provide written messages each week. One prisoner, Brad was recently sharing with the volunteer he writes to something of what he had learnt from one of these, saying, "I was reading a lesson from Daylight about Noah and the ark and the parallel we can draw from it; the great love and salvation of Jesus and Abba Father God. Wow, the more I find out the more I fall in love with Him".

Our chaplains also continue to have good conversations with individual prisoners and one has recently had the opportunity to spend time with Mark, a prisoner who returned a completed worksheet asking why God had not answered his prayers. When our chaplain went to see him, the first thing Mark said was that his prayers had now been answered. Mark's mother is a Christian who has been encouraging him to read the Bible and he seems very keen to learn. He had been reading through Genesis and was sharing how he had particularly noticed how the passage says that "all the animals came out of the ark". It seems the Lord is showing him how precious the Word of God can be, when a word or phrase really strikes you.

August Prayer Points

Billy – Please pray for Billy, a prisoner who has a Christian sister whose friends have had a profound effect on him. The kindness they showed him and his sister's faith makes him want to change his well-established criminal life.

Chaplaincy Role – Please pray for one of our team who currently carries out sessional chaplaincy work, as he applies to change to a permanent chaplaincy role and goes through the interview process for this.

Charlie – Give thanks that Charlie, a prisoner who has been struggling with PTSD, is now doing a little better. Please continue to pray for him.

Computer Systems – We are currently in the process of updating our computer systems. Please pray that this will all go smoothly.

Coronavirus – Please pray for those prisons which have begun to see an increase in COVID-19 infections, that both staff and prisoners will be helped through this time and that the rate of infections will soon fall again.

Encouragement – While on a prison wing recently, one of our chaplains was asked by a couple of prisoners when Sunday services would be restarting. He replied that it would be that week, saying he would be speaking, and one of the prisoners responded by saying, "I like it when you do it", going on to share a couple of things he remembered from previous sermons. Both of these were from services a couple of years ago and it was an encouragement to us to remember that the Lord can cause messages to stay with people long after they are preached. Please pray that something of what this man has heard will be used to speak to him.

Ex-offender Support – Please pray for work being done seeking to improve the help and support we can give when prisoners are released and are looking for a church.

Ivan – Give thanks that Ivan continues to read the Bible each evening, along with booklets we have sent him, saying that they are very interesting and he learns a lot from them. Please pray that the Lord will use these in his heart and life.

Jimmy – Please continue to pray for Jimmy who has recently been transferred to another prison. Please pray that he will continue to engage

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with chaplaincy there and that we will have the opportunity to visit him.

Leon – Please pray for Leon who has recently been released as he begins a college course. He has a Bible given to him during his time in prison and asked for Christian books to take with him. Please pray that these will be used to speak to him.

HMP Usk (South Wales) – Give thanks that the Bible study group here has now restarted, with a small, but enthusiastic group of men attending. While speaking at Sunday services, there has been the opportunity to advertise the Bible study and to offer Christianity Explored, with a good number of men interested in the course.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Please pray for S who in God's sovereign overruling now shares a cell with a Christian who is very outgoing and has witnessed to him. They get on really well together and he is also encouraging him to work on physical fitness. He has been given suitable literature and a Bible correspondence course to do.

Pray too for A, an older Christian man in poor health who is at the end of a long sentence and is waiting for a suitable placement to move on to which complies with his licence terms.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks that the team are able to continue attending meetings at one of the nearby prisons, with one member attending each week. Two of the other prisons that they previously visited regularly are not arranging services at the moment due to the high rate of infections nationally, so please pray that the chaplains will be given wisdom to know how to move forward.

Praise God that the team have also been invited to meet with the Managing Chaplain of another prison where there has been relatively little opportunity to visit in the past. This would appear to be a blessing arising from lockdown, as it seems to have arisen from the weekly emails and other contact. Please pray for God's blessing on this meeting.

Will (Ex-offender) – Give thanks for an encouraging email from Will recently. He has now been out of prison for just over a year and seems to have settled into life outside well. He thanked us for continuing to send him our written messages, saying that he has not missed any of them and always looks forward to receiving them. Please pray that the Lord will continue to work in his heart and life.



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