



Daylight Newsletter September 2021

While distributing packs of chaplaincy literature on a prison wing recently, one of our chaplains was asked by a group of prisoners what he was giving out. When he explained, one of them replied, “Oh, that’s not for me” but willingly accepted a small postcard with a text on to display in his cell.

A second prisoner, Matthew, also took a postcard, and went on to read out the verse, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31). This gave our chaplain the opportunity to share something of the story of the Philippian Jailer with the group, and at the end of the conversation Matthew requested a Bible.

Later that day, our chaplain was asked to go and see a prisoner who had heard that this mother had died, and when he went to the cell, he found that it was Matthew. Having read Psalm 46, our chaplain offered to read Psalm 23, but Matthew asked if he could read Psalm 30 instead, saying his mother had been sending the passage to him since he came into prison.

He went on to speak about how his mother used to take him to church, saying that he knew she prayed for him. Our chaplain was then able to speak about the life of John Newton and how his mother’s prayers for him were answered long after her death.

On another wing, our chaplain was stopped by a prisoner asking for a calendar to give to a friend. He then mentioned the memorial service carried out after his father died, saying “It was wonderful what you did. I’m so grateful”.

Please pray that our chaplains will continue to be given wisdom in such contacts and that the Lord will use these to save many.

September Prayer Points

Chaplains – Please continue to pray for prison chaplains we work alongside, particularly for one who is unwell with coronavirus, and for another who has two close family members suffering with terminal cancer.

Dan – Please pray for Dan, an employee of one of our volunteers who was recalled to prison a couple of months ago. He has now been released and said he was thankful for the people that had been praying for him. Please pray that the Lord will use something of this to speak to him.

HMP Deerbolt (County Durham) – Give thanks that the Bible study groups and Sunday services continue on a three week rota, with one wing attending at a time. It is encouraging to have prisoners attending who are asking serious questions about spiritual things.

The prison has been without television reception for a couple of weeks which is particularly challenging for those spending twenty three hours a day in their cells. Some are very appreciative of chaplaincy literature, and around seventy men in the prison are now receiving Daylight's written messages each week. Please pray for the chaplaincy team here as they continue to work extra hours while the post of Managing Chaplain remains vacant.

Levi – Please pray for Levi as he leaves prison. He has been one of the men regularly receiving written messages throughout the pandemic and plans to attend church with his grandmother who is a believer.

Moses – Please pray for Moses who was attending a local church before coming to prison. He has mental health issues, but regularly comes to the Sunday services and seems to be searching for forgiveness. One of our chaplains is trying to see him on a weekly basis.

Solent Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks for the opportunity for some of the team to take part in a mentoring course with a local Community Chaplaincy organisation. Please pray that this training will be beneficial.

Thomas – Please continue to pray for Thomas who is still waiting for his move to an open prison. Give thanks that it seems likely he will be sent to a prison where he will be able to join another of our Bible study groups.

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HMP Sudbury (Derbyshire) – Give thanks for encouraging times with the Bible study group here. At the men's request, one recent session was spent looking at the Biblical view of the Trinity. Please pray that what they have learnt from this will be of benefit to them.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Please pray for S, an older man who would think of himself as a Christian, but is still trying to get right with God through good works.

Pray too for J, who has recently been released and is facing lots of stressful situations as he tries to pick up the pieces of his life again and seeks to re-establish contact with his young child. He has a leaning towards Roman Catholicism and says a prayer morning and evening. Please pray that he will read the Gideon New Testament given to him before he left and that God will reveal Himself to J as he prays.

Please also pray for T who is getting to the end of a very long time in prison on an indeterminate sentence. He was remarkably saved whilst serving his sentence after a suicide attempt. Please pray that he will find a suitable church to join and that he will be guided as he seeks to find ways to serve the Lord in the future.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks that visits to the midweek services in one nearby prison continue and that others are due to recommence services during September. Our contact in one of the prisons is on a sabbatical, but we praise God that another chaplain there is happy to receive and distribute the weekly resources.

Will (Ex-offender) – Please continue to pray for Will. He says he feels down and lonely at times, but has settled in a local church where he is receiving support, and often gets in touch to let us know how much he appreciates receiving Daylight literature.

Wyatt – Give thanks that Wyatt continues to work through Emmaus Bible School courses and other material, and for an encouraging letter from him recently in which he said how grateful he was for the contact he has with one of our volunteers through letter writing. He also thanked us for continuing to send our written messages, writing, "I enjoy seeing how the Lord has worked in lives across the globe. I always ensure I put them on our resident information desk so others may see the power of the Lord". Please pray that these will continue to be an encouragement to him.



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