



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

Daylight

christian prison trust



Daylight Newsletter October 2021

We continue to be thankful for renewed opportunities to run services and Bible studies in a number of prisons and for prisoners who are keen to attend and take part in these activities. A recent update from one of our Bible study groups has been particularly encouraging, with prisoners expressing appreciation for study material received during the times of lockdown and seeing their own need of the Saviour.

Our volunteer writes, "One man who was opposed to us coming in for a while has thanked me for Emmaus Bible School courses that were sent in during lockdown and has now done four courses. Another has sixteen certificates, with another four courses being marked at the moment.

A third man, who has over the past few years been quite argumentative, was struck a few weeks ago by the fact that we were discussing works. I told him that the horror of the cross was so great that we would have to ask ourselves the question; 'If we could work our way to Heaven, why would God put Jesus through the agony of the cross?'

He had also been reading C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*, and between the two he came to the conclusion that he could never be good enough for God. In the early hours of the morning, he stopped trying and started trusting! It was wonderful to hear him tell then of exactly what he was trusting in: the work of the Lord Jesus on the cross. Praise the Lord!"

We give thanks to God for such wonderful encouragements in the work and would ask you to pray that this man will grow in his understanding as he learns more from the Bible week by week. Please also pray for those who have completed Emmaus courses over recent months, that what they have learnt will stay with them and be used to speak to them.

October Prayer Points

Chaplains – Please continue to pray for those prison chaplains we work with who are facing real difficulties in their personal lives. Pray particularly for one chaplain who has recently lost one of their siblings to cancer and has another sibling who is terminally ill, and for another chaplain following the recent loss of his infant son.

COVID-19 – Please pray for those prisons which have been seeing new outbreaks of coronavirus, meaning that services and other activities have had to pause once again. Pray that things will soon improve, and that it will not be long before these activities can resume.

HMP Deerbolt (County Durham) – The prison continues to be without television reception following a fire at the local transmitter back in August. This has led to a growing number of men requesting literature, ranging from testimonies to New Testaments and Bibles, and two men in neighbouring cells were recently heard shouting to each other about the books they were reading, offering to swap when they had finished reading them. Over 25% of the young men in the prison now also receive Daylight's weekly written messages. Please pray that they will benefit from this literature.

HMP Oakwood (Staffordshire) – Give thanks for Zach, a Christian prisoner who recently led part of one of the Bible study sessions. Please pray that he will continue to grow in grace.

Pray too for David who recently came along to the Bible study group for the first time. He said his background was all over the place; he has been to church and tried other religions, but admits he is absolutely lost. Please pray that he will be brought to trust in Christ.

Prayerful Support – Give thanks that over the last month we have had several reminders of the fact that there are many people praying for us regularly. Steven and John found it a real encouragement to meet with folks at Thornhill Baptist Church, and to be part of a prayer meeting where they prayed earnestly for those in prison and those sharing the Gospel with them, and it was lovely to receive an email from one supporter letting us know that he takes a paragraph from our newsletters to use in his prayer time each morning.

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Prison Officers – Please pray for officers who are assigned to chapel duty as they listen during services and Bible studies. One recently joined in with a Bible study session, answering questions and engaging in the discussion, and spoke very positively about the time of prayer and reflection at the end.

Another officer recently asked one of our chaplains if he could ask him personal questions about what led to him to 'be religious' and went on to ask searching questions about the suffering and death of Christ. Our chaplain was able to explain about why Jesus died, speaking about how His separation from God the Father was even worse than the pain of His physical sufferings. Please pray that there might be opportunities to talk over these matters further in coming weeks and that the Lord will work in this officer's heart and life.

HMP Sudbury (Derbyshire) – Give thanks for continued encouragements from the Bible study group here, with regular attendees bringing along new prisoners. Please pray that they will be keen to come back to future sessions.

Thomas – Please continue to pray for Thomas who is still waiting for his move to an open prison. Give thanks that he remains very positive about his situation.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks that the team continue to have opportunities to attend services in one of the nearby prisons. They are now looking at putting two wings together for the services, meaning that the men would be able to attend services each week once again, instead of fortnightly as they do currently.

One of the team also continues to meet with one prisoner for a Bible study once a fortnight. Please pray for a blessing on each of these sessions, and that the right words may be delivered.

Written Messages – We give thanks that our weekly written messages continue to be well received, with those still unable to attend services regularly particularly appreciative of them. After reading one on *The Fear of the LORD* recently, one young man requested a Bible, saying he wanted to look up the verses mentioned in the message to carry on reading more about them. Please pray that God will speak to him as he reads.



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