

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

Daylight

christian prison trust



Daylight Newsletter November 2021

Over recent months, we have had several reminders of the fact that our activities do not only give opportunities to reach prisoners with the Gospel, but prison staff as well. Officers are present throughout services and Bible studies, often listening attentively, and also work alongside our chaplains as they carry out duties on the wings.

Last month, we requested prayer for prison officers assigned to chapel duty, sharing that one officer had recently joined in with a Bible study session, while another had asked questions about the suffering and death of Christ. This had given one of our chaplains a good opportunity to have quite a lengthy conversation with him, explaining why Jesus died.

Just a couple of weeks ago, our chaplain was encouraged to see the same officer on Sunday duty, voluntarily taking a hymn sheet and joining in with the service, and following a second service at the same prison, another officer approached our chaplain, saying, "Thank you for that". When our chaplain replied "You're welcome" the officer continued, "I really mean that. You've given me something to think about".

Another of our chaplains is able to spend time with officers in a more informal setting by being part of their sports club. We are thankful that this has given good opportunities to build relationships with them.

Please pray that as we go about our work in prisons, we will be helped to be a good witness to officers and other members of staff we come into contact with. Pray that they will see something different in us, and that we will always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15).

November Prayer Points

HMP Bullingdon (Oxfordshire) – Give thanks for the opportunity to return to running monthly Bible studies here. Please pray that the Lord will use His Word to speak to the men who come along.

Cooper – Please pray for Cooper who one of our chaplains met recently. He was feeling very low, worrying about his partner's health problems and his life after release, but was grateful for the time our chaplain spent with him and willingly accepted a Bible. Please pray that he will read this and for opportunities for future conversations with him.

HMP Deerbolt (County Durham) – Give thanks that the prison hopes to be able to relax restrictions further by mid-November, meaning that all wings would be able to mix for corporate worship and Bible study groups, unless there are more Covid cases. Please pray for John as he leads more services due to shortages within the chaplaincy team.

Encouragements – Give thanks for continued encouragements from supporters who pray for us regularly and times of prayer during church visits, such as one at a recent meeting at Hambleton Evangelical Church where several people were able to hear about Daylight for the first time.

Joel – Please pray for Joel who has asked for support from a local church in the North East on release.

Lucas – Please pray for Lucas who frequently asks one of our chaplains for prayer. He has significant mental health problems but has recently had his medication changed, so pray that this will be effective, and that our chaplain will be given wisdom in knowing how best to support him.

Staffing Challenges – Please pray for prisons facing staffing challenges. Some are having a high turnover of staff and are finding it difficult to recruit as morale is low and absences are high, creating something of a vicious circle.

Pray particularly for mental health nurses who are frequently overstretched. They sometimes refer prisoners to chaplaincy teams, particularly in bereavement-related situations, so please pray that chaplains will be given wisdom as they seek to offer this support.

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Tim - Please pray for Tim, a prisoner from a Hindu background who is attending one of our Bible study groups quite regularly. He has begun to ask questions about sin, and seems to be really looking for peace, saying he really likes what he sees from Christianity.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) - Please continue to pray for T a man who was saved whilst serving a long sentence as he is due to be released to a hostel soon. Please pray that he will attend a church in the area and that he will be given guidance on work and possible ministry opportunities when he moves on from the hostel.

Pray too for S who has a long history of substance abuse but is now free of it in prison. He has begun to follow Jesus as his Saviour through the witness of another Christian prisoner. He still has lots of problem areas in his life, with particularly difficult family circumstances, so please pray that he will know the Lord's help in these.

Please also pray for J who has now been released. Pray that the brief conversation and prayer had with him before he left will be used to speak to him and that he will read the New Testament given to him.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group - Give thanks that some of the prisons in the area are making progress towards holding Sunday services. Others are having to hold back because of the increase in Covid numbers, but at one the chaplaincy team are running their first course on Christianity since restrictions eased and hope to be able to recommence Bible studies shortly.

Please pray for the strengthening and uplifting of the chaplaincy teams at each of the prisons, and for a new Anglican Chaplain who has just been appointed, that there will be no undue delays during their clearance procedure.

Praise God that one of the team is able to continue regular one-to-one Bible studies with J. After being given a copy of the hymn, *Before the Throne of God Above*, he cut out the verse, *When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within, upward I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin, and stuck it on his mirror so he can read it as a reminder every morning when he shaves.* Please pray that J's interest in the things of Christ will continue to grow.



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