



Daylight Newsletter February 2022

A number of Daylight people continue to have opportunities to carry out chaplaincy work, and as part of this they undertake various statutory duties, including visiting prisoners shortly before their release to carry out discharge interviews. Having been freed up by a change in his usual schedule, one of our chaplains recently went to carry out a number of these interviews, three of which were with young men who had not previously had any significant links with chaplaincy.

The first of these young men asked if he could be put in touch with a church in the area he is being released to, while the other two both said they would like to know more about Christianity and what it was all about. For one of them, this interest had come from reading a Christian biography and wondering how God could so radically change someone's life, stating that he wanted to change like that himself. The other shared that a relative had made an amazing recovery from an illness having 'died' for a few minutes and that this had caused him to start thinking about God.

Our chaplain was able to leave them with New Testaments and booklets to help with some of the questions they were asking, and we pray that these will be used in their hearts and lives. While not something we had expected, these conversations emphasised to us once again how the Lord prepares the way before us.

Please continue to pray for those carrying out chaplaincy work, that they will be helped as they seek to take up the opportunities that are presented to them and for wisdom in these conversations, both with prisoners and prison staff.

February Prayer Points

Care & Separation Units – Please pray for prisoners in Care & Separation Units as they are frequently locked up for over twenty-three hours a day. Some are afraid to stay on the ordinary wings, so go to these units for protection.

Pray particularly for Martin who was recently given a Bible and is starting to work through his first Emmaus Bible School Correspondence Course. Give thanks that the staff in his Care & Separation Unit also arranged for one of our chaplains to be able to spend some one-to-one time with him recently which was very helpful.

Pray too for Kevin, whom we have known for some years, that the time one of Daylight's chaplains spends with him will be beneficial to him.

HMP Deerbolt (County Durham) – Give thanks that it has now been possible to recommence services and Bible study groups here, with one wing attending at a time on a three-weekly rota.

There are still vacancies for both the Managing Chaplain and Church of England Chaplain at the prison. Please pray for the recruitment process and for the rest of the chaplaincy team as they provide cover in the meantime. Give thanks for a volunteer who is helping with Sunday services.

Leo – Give thanks that one of our chaplains continues to have contact with Leo and was recently able to speak to him about repentance. Please pray that something of this contact will be used to make him think about where he stands before the Lord.

HMP Oakwood (Staffordshire) – Give thanks for the opportunity to return to running weekly Bible studies here. Please pray that these will be an encouragement to the men who come along.

Peter – Give thanks for Peter who recently came along to a Sunday service. He initially seemed like he was going to sleep, but when the sermon began, he sat and up and really started listening, asking when we would be coming again at the end. Please pray that it will be possible to follow up on this contact.

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Solent Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks for continued contact with the chaplaincy team at one nearby prison. Please pray that the group will be able to take up opportunities to run services here later in the year.

Thomas – Give thanks that Thomas continues to be keen to share his faith with others. Please pray for him as he moves to an open prison, that he will settle in well and continue to grow in grace.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Please pray for R, an enthusiastic Christian as he is discharged after several years in prison, that he will find a suitable church and succeed in making a fresh start.

Give thanks for B who recently started his first prison sentence and has become a Christian as the result of R witnessing to him. He is reading good books and showing great promise.

Pray too for S, who was completing an Emmaus Correspondence Course when he was recently moved to a new prison unexpectedly, that he will continue to receive Christian support there.

Please also continue to pray for J following the recent loss of both his mother and daughter. He has asked for help to go through a Mark Time Correspondence Course and is also enjoying receiving letters from one of Daylight's volunteers.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Please pray for the chaplaincy teams at each of the nearby prisons as the return to tighter restrictions has increased pressure on them, particularly for one of the teams who are currently two members down. Pray too for those who have lost friends in the prison or family outside through coronavirus, and for the well-being of staff and prisoners, as the current situation is leading to some serious self-harming issues emerging.

Give thanks that the team are still able to go into one of the nearby prisons and that resources continue to be sent out weekly. One part time chaplain has asked if he can use the resources in another prison outside of the area, where he also works part time. Please pray that these will be of interest and a blessing to those who receive them and that it will not be long before services and other activities can be held as normal.



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