

Regular readers of our newsletters will remember George & Jackie Gibson who have given much time to Daylight's work over many years. It was with great sadness that we heard from Jackie during February of George's sudden death.

George was first involved in working in prisons as a Samaritan, but as this did not enable him to share his faith, he began to pray for other openings. Having heard about Daylight, Jackie suggested he get in touch, and he soon began to help with Sunday services at a prison in Surrey. Following their move to Cheshire some years ago, as well as establishing a Prayer & Support Group, George & Jackie were delighted when opportunities opened up to run regular services at a nearby prison.

George had a real heart for sharing the Gospel with those in prison and a way of getting others enthused about the work, often encouraging younger men to get involved in preaching at prison services. We give thanks for his life and testimony and would ask you to pray for Jackie and the family, that they will know the Lord's peace which surpasses all understanding.

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## Daylight Newsletter March 2022

We continue to be thankful for profitable conversations with prisoners about spiritual things. One of our chaplains has recently been able to spend time with Luther, a young man who having lost two of his friends to suicide says he cannot believe that death is the end, that there must be more.

Luther shared that he finds the helps at the front of his New Testament useful when he is feeling low. He said that when he had been in touch with his father, who is also in prison, he had told him that he was starting to go along to the chapel. He had obviously been unsure what his father's reaction to this might be, so it was lovely to hear that his father had encouraged him to keep attending, telling Luther that he is also reading the Bible.

Another of our chaplains reports that a Muslim prisoner, S, has been asking useful and interesting questions as part of a comparison study he is doing. He enquired whether Christians really believed Jesus' words that "he who looks at a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart". This led to a useful conversation about the understanding of sin and sins of the heart, as well as physical acts, and gave our chaplain the opportunity to offer an explanation of the difference between justification and sanctification.

This conversation took place in a communal area with not just S, but a whole group of men, including an experienced Christian, an enquiring new Christian, a nominal Roman Catholic, and one man who seems indifferent. Our chaplain described this as a joy and a privilege, saying, "Where else do we get opportunities like this?"

## March Prayer Points

**Josh** – Please pray for Josh, a prisoner who shared that his uncle, an ex-prisoner, was now going regularly to church and that he had also been going along prior to his sentence. He has asked to come to chapel and to receive Daylight's weekly written messages.

**Mike** – Give thanks that one of our chaplains was recently able to carry out a one-to-one Bible study with Mike, a young man who had questions about the death of Jesus. He had recently been able to meet his baby son for the first time and commented on how painful it was to have to hand him back, saying that this was a real incentive for him to change his ways and not come back to prison.

**Mother's Day** – With Mother's Day approaching, one of our chaplains was recently struck by just how many prisoners, particularly young offenders, have spent much of their lives in care or have very complicated family relationships. In some cases, occasions like this can be a time when bridges are re-built, but many find it very painful. Please pray that our chaplains will be helped in offering support to those who are struggling with this.

**HMP Portland (Dorset)** – Give thanks for the opportunity to resume Bible studies on one wing here from the beginning of March. Please pray for a good response to God's Word as it is shared with the men.

**Sam** – Please pray for Sam who explained that he had 'hit the bottle' following problems with his pregnant girlfriend, coupled with his mother's cancer. He has asked to receive Daylight's weekly messages, as well as coming to chapel.

**HMP Wayland (Norfolk)** – Please continue to pray for B who is making good progress after becoming a Christian in prison despite having to cope with a shared cell on a noisy wing. He is also asking for baptism.

Pray too for P who completed an Emmaus Bible School Course in less

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than two weeks, that this will be used to speak to him, and for J who has been asking for introductory leaflets on the Christian faith.

**West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group** – Over the past weeks, services and meetings in the five prisons in the area have been disrupted to varying degrees due to increased cases of coronavirus. Give thanks that cases are now decreasing and please pray that normal services and group meetings will be able to resume in the near future.

Give thanks that the clearance process for a new Anglican Chaplain for one of the prisons has now been completed, meaning he will be able to commence training and take up his new position at the end of March. Please continue to pray that the chaplaincy teams at each of the prisons will be given strength as the past two years have been very stressful for them, particularly for one chaplain who lost one of his siblings only a matter of months ago and is now facing the loss of a second sibling.

We are thankful that resources continue to be sent into the prisons each week, and it was encouraging to receive a reply from one chaplain recently, saying, "I enjoy reading the stuff myself and then I put it out to our lads in our weekly newssheets";

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