



Daylight Newsletter April 2022

Over the last few weeks, it has been good to hear news of a few men who are getting on well a while after their release. One of our team was particularly encouraged to see James while speaking about Daylight at a church recently. James was converted through a *Christianity Explored Prison Edition* course, and it was lovely to see him settled in a church and still going on with the Lord a couple of years after his release.

It was also good to hear from Neil who attended our services during his time in prison. On his release we found him a church that was willing to help him, and he got in touch recently to let us know that he was being received into membership there, saying, "You wouldn't believe the change the Lord has made in my life over these last 14/15 months!":

We also continue to be encouraged by responses to the regular written messages which are sent into prisons. One response we found particularly touching was from Harry, a prisoner we have mentioned previously who struggles with his mental health.

After reading messages on the book of Ruth recently, he wrote, saying, "Thank you so much for your latest messages you sent to me. It was a wonderful story and touched me so that I wept. The beauty of the story really touched my heart, thank you. I was so touched that I had to get a Bible to read the whole story.

Unfortunately, we have no Bibles on the wings, so I asked an officer to get me one, which he did. I received it today and read the whole of Ruth's story; I did more weeping, but her story was well worth reading. Thank you once more." Please pray that Harry will continue to read his Bible and that the Lord will speak to him through His Word.

April Prayer Points

Alex – Give thanks that one of our chaplains recently had a good conversation with Alex, a Sikh prisoner who has been reading through the Old Testament. Please pray that the Lord will work in his heart and life.

Chaplaincy Work – Please pray for those carrying out chaplaincy work as they take up opportunities to speak to individual prisoners on the wings. Pray particularly for the contact chaplains have with prisoners of other faiths, that they will be given the right words to say as they chat on corridors or in communal areas.

Christian Prisoners – Please pray for Christian prisoners who are keen to speak about their faith and attempt to answer difficult questions their fellow prisoners may have, when they have often not been a Christian for long themselves.

Moses (Ex-offender) – Give thanks that Moses went along to services at a local church recently and seemed to feel at home there, commenting that no one was judging him. Please pray that he will continue to attend and that the support he receives there will be helpful to him.

HMP Oakwood (West Midlands) – Give thanks for encouraging services here recently. Please pray that the messages preached will be used to speak to the men that came along.

HMP Portland (Dorset) – Give thanks that weekly Bible studies have resumed here with a few prisoners listening well and taking in cell study materials. Please pray that these will be used in their hearts and lives, and that more men might be keen to come along.

Prison Opportunities – As prisons begin to return to more activities following the lifting of restrictions, please pray for our volunteer teams seeking to return to work they did previously. There can be challenges with this, particularly in places where chaplaincy staff have changed, so please pray that these opportunities will be opened up once again.

Solent Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks that the team had an encouraging prayer meeting in March. Please pray for Shane as he takes

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on the responsibility of organising services in a nearby prison and that the weekly written messages which are sent in will be distributed and a blessing to those who read them.

HMP Sudbury (Derbyshire) – Give thanks for the Bible study group here who are currently going through the book of Acts. Please pray that these studies will be beneficial to those who are believers and that others will be challenged by what they learn.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Give thanks for encouraging opportunities to spend time with new Christians on the wings. There are still no Sunday services or Bible studies running due to ongoing concerns over coronavirus and continuing regime challenges, so please pray for the Christian prisoners who do seek to encourage each other in small informal pairs or groups where they can.

Please pray for the literate men who benefit from good supplies of books, monthly daily devotional publications and Emmaus Bible School courses, and that we will be able to feed them with the right materials. Pray too for those who struggle with literacy or poor concentration who are less able to benefit from these means.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks that all but one of the nearby prisons hope to resume services at Easter, with the remaining one restarting them in May. There have previously been some problems in one prison with getting prisoners names on lists in time for them to attend services, so please pray that this may be overcome.

Pray too for the new Anglican chaplain in one of the prisons, that the Lord will bless him in this new role, and for the vacancy for a Free Church chaplain at the same prison, that the right person will be appointed. Please also continue to pray for the chaplain whose sibling is terminally ill, that he and his family might be given strength at this sad time.

William (Ex-offender) – Please pray for William, a man struggling with anxiety who got to know one of our chaplains during his time in prison. He had previously been in contact with a local pastor and has begun to attend their church since his release.



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