



## Daylight Newsletter June 2022

We continue to be thankful for the opportunities that chaplaincy work brings and were encouraged recently to hear from one of our volunteers about the time he has been spending with a new convert, James.

He writes, “James was admitted to hospital in a serious condition with Covid; so serious he was convinced he was dying. He was in poor health anyway and his background from a childhood of sexual abuse led to him growing up engaging in substance abuse and self-harm, with one self-harm episode leading to him nearly losing a leg from severing a main blood vessel. After being convicted of a serious offence it led to a long prison sentence.

While in hospital, James phoned relatives and friends to say he did not think he was going to make it and said his goodbyes. Yet then he felt compelled to pick up the Gideon Bible by his bed and opened it up at Mark chapter five where he read of Jesus healing the demon possessed man. His understanding of the chapter was a story about Jesus healing a man who self-harmed by cutting himself, and James was saved and transformed overnight! He quickly came off all medication and, in a few weeks, was physically transformed from an overweight, unhealthy man, to a physically and mentally fit man, engaging with the education block and making real progress.

We as Daylight volunteers have the joy and privilege of discipling such new believers in prison. James has many strange ideas dating back to his pre-Christian days, and he would like to weave these back into his new faith. The challenge is to gently guide him to the rock and establish him in a pattern of godly living that will keep him from being swept away when the storms of life continue to hit.”

## June Prayer Points

**Alfie** – Please continue to pray for Alfie, that Daylight's written messages and letters from one of our volunteers will be an encouragement to him.

**Chaplaincy Work** – Please continue to pray for Daylight people who carry out chaplaincy work as they have opportunities to share the Gospel with those who are not Christians, as well as spending time encouraging those who are believers. Please pray that they will be given wisdom in the conversations they have with individual prisoners, particularly as they seek to offer support to those who have recently lost loved ones.

**Gary** – Give thanks for Gary, a young man who recently attended a service for the first time and listened very intently. Please pray that the message he heard will be used to speak to him.

**Moses** – Please continue to pray for Moses who has recently been recalled to prison, that ongoing contact with one of Daylight's chaplains will be helpful to him.

**HMP Oakwood (West Midlands)** – Give thanks that numbers at the weekly Bible studies continue to increase and that the men who come are engaging well with the studies. Please pray that these sessions will be an encouragement to those who are believers and that others will be challenged to think about where they stand before God.

**Pete** – Please pray for Pete who has recently come into prison for the first time. He is in contact with one of Daylight's chaplains and has a friend who is a pastor who is keeping in touch with him. Please pray that this contact will be used to speak to him.

**HMP Portland (Dorset)** – Give thanks for continuing support from the chaplaincy team here. Resuming the Bible studies has been a little stop and start, so please pray a good group will be established for the weekly sessions.

**Solent Prayer & Support Group** – Give thanks that the team were able to run a service at HMP Ford at the end of May and have been asked to take another service later in the year. Please continue to pray for Shane as he takes on the organisation of these.

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**Support on Release** – Give thanks that over the last year we have been able to carry out some research into the help prisoners receive on release, enabling us to think about how we can better offer support to prisoners we have got to know during their sentences. As a result of this, we have recently formed partnerships with both the *Community Chaplaincy Association* and *The Welcome Directory* which will help in providing local support and linking ex-offenders with churches. Please pray for us as we continue to seek to show the love of Christ to those leaving custody.

**Tom** – Give thanks for Tom who has been attending one of our Bible study groups. He had very little Bible knowledge when he came to prison, but it is a joy to see him learning more week by week. He recently asked for a book giving an overview of the Bible which we were able to give him, so please pray that this will be used to speak to him.

**HMP Wayland (Norfolk)** – Give thanks that we had the opportunity to take a Sunday service again during May, after a long period of services not taking place during coronavirus restrictions. Please pray for the men who attended.

Staff shortages have created an opportunity for us to get more local preachers to begin the process of security clearance for them to be able to help with Sunday services, so please pray that this will go quickly and smoothly.

Pray too for D, a fairly new and not particularly strong Christian who is really finding things hard after being recalled to prison.

**West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group** – Give thanks that the group have been asked to start a *Christianity Explored Prison Edition* course in HMP Wakefield from mid-June and that they were able to meet together recently to plan and organise this. Please pray that the men who attend will be blessed and respond to the Gospel in a positive way, and that the team will be given wisdom in delivering the course.

Praise God that the easing of restrictions means that services are now taking place in all the nearby prisons on a regular basis. Please pray that the team will be invited to resume Bible studies which used to take place in the two of the prisons prior to the pandemic.



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