

Daylight Newsletter January 2023

We continue to be thankful for opportunities to run regular Bible studies in prisons and have been particularly encouraged by an opening to start a new study group recently. Taking place on a wing in a prison where we already carry out chaplaincy work, we have begun to work through John's Gospel, and it is good to already have a core group of men who are keen to come along week by week.

Jordan, one of the men who has been attending regularly is not a believer but is showing a real interest. It has been wonderful to see him taking notes, going away and doing further reading on his own, and then coming back prepared for the next session.

While running a Sunday service recently, one of our team was also pleased to see Peter who he had first met while carrying out chaplaincy work at another prison. Peter never used to show any interest in Christianity but shared that he did used to think about the conversations he had with our chaplain and read the literature he was given.

Since moving to his new prison, Peter had been invited to a Sunday service by a fellow prisoner and thought he would give it a go. It was encouraging to hear that he now goes along to services every week, as well as attending Bible studies.

Please pray that as Jordan, Peter, and many other prisoners come along to services and Bible studies week by week, the Lord will use these activities to show them their need of Christ.

January Prayer Points

Alfie — Please continue to pray for Alfie, a prisoner we have regular contact with. It was lovely to receive a Christmas card from him letting us know how much he had appreciated the support he received from Daylight during last year. He writes, "Thank you for all your gracious help you've gifted me over the last year...and for being there when I needed a friend!" Please pray that this contact will continue to be an encouragement to him.

James - Please pray for James, a Christian prisoner we first met at Sunday services some years ago who struggles with his mental health. He seems to do well while in prison, enjoying the services and fellowship with other believers, but despite support from a local church, does not cope well on the outside, meaning that he has spent the last number of years in and out of prison on short sentences. Please pray that the next time he is released, there will be suitable accommodation and medical support available for him, and that he will be helped to settle into life outside prison.

Phil – Please pray for Phil who is looking to move to a new area after his release where he is keen to find a church. One of our volunteers has been able to provide information on churches in the area, so please pray that one of these will be a good fit for him and that he will stay on the right path after release.

HMP Portland (Dorset) — Give thanks that the weekly Bible study group here has built up to six men. Please pray that the break over Christmas and New Year will not dampen their enthusiasm and that the studies will be beneficial to them.

Solent Prayer & Support Group — Give thanks that the group have been able to make plans to hold prayer meetings every six weeks from the beginning of January. Please pray that opportunities for the team to run services in HMP Ford will continue this year and that it might also be possible to begin involvement in another nearby prison.

HMP Sudbury (Derbyshire) — Give thanks for the weekly Bible study group here. Please pray that the current studies in Genesis will be used in the hearts and lives of the prisoners attending.

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Tom - Please pray for Tom, a prisoner one of our chaplains had contact with who was released over the Christmas period, that he will soon find permanent accommodation and employment and that after hearing about Christianity from our chaplain, he will be keen to go along to a local church.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group — Give thanks for Christmas services and social events that took place in each of the prisons in the area, with good attendances being recorded.

Please pray for God's blessing on Bible studies which will be taking place at the end of January with the women in HMP New Hall and the men in HMP Leeds. We praise God for opening up these opportunities once again and would ask you to pray that these studies will be used in the hearts and lives of those who come along.

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For the last eleven years, David Lewis has been Daylight's Regional Director for Wales, working with the support of local churches to run services, Bible studies and Christianity Explored courses in prisons. For several years, he has also carried out chaplaincy work in HMP Swansea, and we are delighted to share the news that David has recently been appointed as Managing Chaplain of the prison there.

Managing Chaplains have a difficult task in running a multi-faith chaplaincy, and there is a clear desire in Wales to develop the role of Chaplaincy, both inside and outside prisons which David will be very much involved in. We are incredibly grateful to David for all he has done during his time working for Daylight, and give thanks for the way the Lord has used him to bring the good news of Christ to many in prison, something he will continue to do in his new post.

All of us at Daylight and local churches who have supported David over the years will continue to support him in prayer, and we look forward to continued partnership with him. Please do pray for him as he begins this new role.

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