



"...from darkness to light..."

**Daylight**

christian prison trust



## Daylight Newsletter April 2023

Over the last month, we have continued to see encouragements from our Bible study groups. It has been a joy to have a number of new prisoners coming along to these with good questions and a real enthusiasm for learning more from God's Word.

The study group that recently started in HMP Deerbolt are currently using John Blanchard's *Ultimate Questions* as the basis for their studies, and at their latest session, they discussed the question *What is God like?*. It was encouraging to see how much the young men engaged with the subject, asking if they could continue looking at the character of God in future weeks. We pray that what they learn in these studies will stay with them, and that the Lord will use this in their hearts and lives.

We have also been encouraged by letters received from prisoners in recent weeks. One man, Alfie, who we have regular contact with, has recently been affected by the death of a younger prisoner on his wing who he had befriended. After hearing the news of his friend, we were able to write to him, pointing him to Psalm 23, and to Jesus as the Shepherd who is with us, even in the darkest times, and also enclosed the latest of our written messages.

It was lovely to receive a reply from Alfie, letting us know that this had arrived just at the right time. He writes, "I've just been in my prayer hour and the last words I prayed were for good news in the mail to strengthen and lift me up, and then the Daylight Bible sheet and your letter came through the steel! Thank you, for tonight, you've been God's servant and lifted me right back up!". Please pray that contact from Daylight will continue to be an encouragement to him.

## April Prayer Points

**Chaplaincy Work** – Please pray for wisdom for Daylight Chaplains in some of the complex pastoral situations they face, including supporting those who have been bereaved and speaking with those who have gender-identity questions.

**Gavin** – Please pray for Gavin who came to prison as a young believer, and said how helpful he found the material he received from Daylight during his sentence. He has faced some difficult times since leaving prison last summer, so please pray that he will know the Lord's presence with him, and that he will be kept on the right path.

**Harry** – Please pray for Harry who is listed as having no religion, but was recently left with a simple booklet on redemption and encouraged to take his many problems to God in prayer.

**HMP Kirklevington Grange (North Yorkshire)** – Give thanks for the opportunity to run monthly Sunday services here, which are currently the only services that take place in the prison. Please pray that these will be an encouragement to prisoners who are Christians and that others will be challenged by the messages they hear.

**Luke** – Give thanks for Luke, who is delighted to be able to read the Bible in Romanian, his first language. Please pray that the Lord will speak to him through His Word.

**HMP Wayland (Norfolk)** – Due to a member of the chaplaincy team cutting back on their hours, we have been asked to cover a lot more Sunday services recently. Give thanks for these opportunities and please pray that the messages preached will be used in the hearts and lives of the men who attend.

Please pray for P who recently asked for a Bible. He has started to read it, but has a lot of baggage to overcome which is unhelpfully shaping his thinking at the moment.

**West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group** – Give thanks that the meetings and services held at the nearby prisons during Lent have been well attended. Please pray that the Easter Services will be a blessing to all who attend.

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Praise God that fourteen ladies attended the second session of the monthly Bible study group at HMP New Hall, with a similar number signed up to attend the next. Their enthusiasm and hunger for the Word is very encouraging.

Give thanks that numbers in the Bible study group at HMP Leeds are also steadily rising. Many of the men know little of the Gospel and even less of the Bible as the Word of God. Please pray that they will continue to return each month so they may learn more.

Please also pray for the *Hope Explored* course which is due to take place in HMP Wealstun during April, that it will be a blessing to those who attend. Pray too for the team as they deliver the course for the first time.

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Thank you so much to all of you who have been praying for the recruitment of Daylight's next Chief Executive Officer over the last couple of months. Your messages have been very much appreciated, and we have been encouraged to know that so many people have been praying for us throughout the process.

Those prayers have certainly been answered, and we are delighted to share that Gaius Phillingham has accepted the position, and will be joining us from Easter. Having previously worked in pastoral ministry, Gaius joins us with valuable experience which, under God's hand, we trust will help Daylight's work to continue to grow and develop to reach more prisoners with the Gospel.

Please pray for Gaius, his wife Tracey, and their family as he takes up this new role, and for the rest of the Daylight team as they help and support Gaius in his new post. Pray too for Steven as he works with Gaius to hand over his CEO responsibilities, giving thanks for all Steven has done over the last ten years and the way God has used him in this role.



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