



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

Daylight

christian prison trust



Daylight Newsletter June 2023

We give thanks that recent opportunities to run Sunday services have been encouraging. Prisoners have been listening attentively and engaging well and there have also been good openings for conversations afterwards.

After a recent service in which we had been thinking about Jesus as the Good Shepherd, it was particularly good to speak to one young man, John. He had a well-used Bible and bought it over to one of our team, asking if it was okay that he had been highlighting sections to come back to so he could take time to think over and meditate on them.

John had many good questions about passages he had been reading, but was concerned that he did not always understand things at first. He shared that his favourite book of the Bible was Genesis, and that he had been particularly enjoying reading the chapters on the life of Abraham and his family, listing various things he had learnt and saying he was keen to share the story with his son. We pray that John will continue to read his Bible and that as we encouraged him to, he will ask the Lord for help in understanding it.

It has also been good recently to come across Christian prisoners who are keen to witness to others. One of our volunteers carrying out chaplaincy work was encouraged by a conversation with J, who had become interested in the Gospel following a conversation with a Christian cell mate, and another of our team was delighted to meet Owen who is enthusiastically sharing the Gospel with others on his wing.

Please pray that those in prisons who are Christians will continue to grow in their knowledge of Christ, and that they will be helped as they seek to share their faith in what can often be a challenging environment.

June Prayer Points

HMP Bullingdon (Oxfordshire) – Give thanks for around fifteen men attending the monthly Bible studies here, with some always ready to ask questions about salvation and issues arising from the passages. Please pray that the men will understand the need for personal repentance and trusting in the Saviour for themselves.

Content Hub – Give thanks for a growing new opportunity with a Content Hub having been successfully trialled at one prison where we work regularly, and now being rolled out across the country. This new technology enables prisoners to access a closed internal server with useful content, and in the trial prison, this has included a Christian section with teaching materials, worship music, and Daylight's written messages. Please pray that we will be given wisdom in knowing how best to make use of this.

HMP Portland (Dorset) – Give thanks for the privilege of being part of people's journeys, particularly two men whose time in prison seems to be really making them think about their lives and God. They seem to have genuine faith, and yearn for the times of Bible study, especially as we zoom out to see the big picture.

Richard – Please pray for Richard, a Christian ex-offender we have had contact with for many years, that he will be encouraged and strengthened in his walk with the Lord, and for a local church to be found that will welcome and support him.

Rob – Please pray for Rob, a prisoner who lost his wife and daughter in a car accident involving a drunk driver, and has substance abuse problems as a result of trying to escape the pain of his loss. He is a nominal Christian but has little real understanding of what that means, so pray that contact with one of our chaplains will be used to speak to him.

Solent Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks for the opportunity the team had to share the Gospel at a service in HMP Ford last month and for further dates for services there this year. Please pray that opportunities would also open up at another nearby prison.

Steven St John – It is impossible to convey all that Steven has done during his ten years as Daylight's Chief Executive, but please join us in giving thanks for the way God has used him in this role, and pray that he will be blessed and a blessing in his ongoing work in prisons and elsewhere.

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Swansea & Bristol – Give thanks that Gaius was able to visit Swansea and Bristol recently to meet past and present Daylight family, which was both educational and encouraging. Please pray that we will be able to revive the work in Bristol which the pandemic and other circumstances shut down, and that we will be able to begin a work in Swansea to support David Lewis in his new role as Managing Chaplain.

Theo – Please continue to pray for Theo, a young man who had been receiving support from one of our chaplains and has recently been released. Please pray that he will go along to the local church we have put him in touch with, and that support from a nearby Community Chaplaincy will also be of help to him.

Travel – Give thanks for safety in Gaius' visit to the Solent PSG and others 'down south' last month. A number of the group were unable to attend due to ill health, but the prayer time was a real blessing. Please pray for travelling mercies in several trips to West Yorkshire, Durham, and the Midlands over coming weeks.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Give thanks that the weekly Bible studies are now back up and running and for the opportunity for a team from Great Ellingham Baptist Church to run a service here once a month.

Please pray for A who recently started his sentence. He had never read the Bible before, but is wanting to use his time in prison, accepting a New Testament from one of our chaplains, and beginning to read at Matthew.

Pray too for several of the men we seek to support and teach who are struggling to cope with mental health issues, and for two men who are happy to talk about the Bible but have a wrong view of who Jesus is, that they will be given the humility to come to Jesus with nothing in their hands and accept their need of the Saviour.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Praise God that the team are warmly welcomed at the monthly Bible studies in HMPs Leeds and New Hall, and that the *Hope Explored* course run in HMP Wealstun is to be repeated, beginning later this month. Please pray that the men who have signed up for the course will come along.

Give thanks for the opportunity to run *Christianity Explored Prison Edition* in HMP Wakefield. Pray for wisdom and clarity in delivering each session and that the men will be attentive and interested in the things of Christ.



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