



Daylight

CHRISTIAN PRISON TRUST

to give light to those who sit in darkness

Daylight Newsletter February 2024

Over recent months, it has been good to have the opportunity to run a weekly service for vulnerable prisoners in one prison. Being in so regularly means that the men have begun to get to know us and are more willing to open up, sharing prayer requests for things that are troubling them, and asking deeper questions about spiritual things.

It has been particularly good to spend time chatting to Rob who comes along each week. Following the service a few weeks ago, while speaking to him and a few other prisoners, he began to share something of his past. He told us how quite often when he had got into trouble on a Saturday night, he would go along to a nearby church on a Sunday morning, thinking this would put things right.

Rob shared that it was often said in the church that God had a plan for his life, but that in his current circumstances, he could not see how that could be true. We were able to speak to him about how God sometimes brings us into circumstances that do not seem to make sense at the time. Often, it is only when we look back that we are able to see how He was at work, using those times to draw us closer to Him, or make us see our need of Him for the first time.

As the conversation continued, Rob told us he felt he was *beyond saving*, saying that the police and court judges tell him he is a *lost cause*. The message that day had been from the Psalms, so we were able to point him to people in the Bible who failed but were used by God, including King David, and also left Rob with a Gideon Bible.

The next week, we were able to take Rob a copy of a Bible study sheet which covered the healing of the blind man in John 9, also looking at the story behind *Amazing Grace*, which this group of prisoners love to sing. We encouraged him to think about the life of John Newton, who also thought he was beyond saving, but how God saved and used him. We also left Rob with the words of another song which speaks about how God welcomes those others consider a lost cause. Please pray that the Lord will work in his heart.





February Prayer Points

20th Anniversary – Please continue to pray for us as we put together gift boxes for each prison to mark Daylight's 20th Anniversary. The booklet of 20 Short Stories, titled *Let's Start from Here* by Simon Allaby of *Turn the Page* is now in the final stages of editing and proof reading before printing. Please pray that the booklet and Simon will be used mightily of God for His glory.

Christianity Explored – Give thanks for the opportunity to start a new *Christianity Explored Prison Edition* course at HMP Lewes in mid-February. Please pray for those who come along as they learn from Mark's Gospel.

Pray too for a possible opening to run the course in another prison in northeast England and that the Lord will raise up workers for this.

Evan – Please pray for Evan, a highly educated man who earned a lot from legitimate work and even more from drugs. He is reading the Bible and gospel material, including some apologetics, and may be released soon on time-served, but please pray

that he will stay in prison long enough to attend a *Christianity Explored* course which is due to start soon, and that the Lord will work in his heart.

HMP New Hall (West Yorkshire) – Fifty Bibles are being taken to the prison when the team visit for the next Bible study. Please pray that God will bless the women who will receive the Bibles as they read His Word, and that those who attend the study will be both challenged and blessed by what they hear.

Opportunities – Please pray for one area where we have a team ready and willing to go into a nearby prison, but changes in the chaplaincy team, followed by challenges with the security clearance process have meant that it has not yet been possible for them to begin any work there. Please pray that the application for the volunteer heading up the team will go through smoothly, and that through his involvement in the prison, there will be further opportunities for the wider team to get involved.

These challenges are not uncommon.

Continued...



Rick – Please pray for Rick, a prisoner we have had contact with for some time. Severe dyslexia means that he finds reading a challenge, but despite this, he continues to take the time to read our regular written studies. Writing recently to thank us, he said, *“Thank you for your letters with Bible passages and up to date versions, which I find better to understand and relate to. I do read all you send and enjoy them so thanks to you and your team”*. Pray that the Lord will speak to him through these studies.

HMP Swaleside (Kent) – Give thanks for the opportunity to return to running Sunday services here this month. Please pray for the men that come along, that the Lord will speak to them through His Word.

HMP Usk (South Wales) – Give thanks for a good consistent Bible class here. Those who come are mostly believers, but some are seeking Christ too. A few of the regular attenders are close to release, so please pray that their leaving will not deter those seeking from coming along, and for their salvation. Pray too for those believers leaving prison, that they will cope with the challenges they face on release.

HMP Wakefield (West Yorkshire) – Praise God for the twelve men who came along to the latest Prayer & Reflection Meeting. Please pray that God will continue to bless this time with them each month.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Please pray for R who requested a Bible, but when given one, explained that

he had previously had one but had thrown it away. A long conversation ensued regarding him feeling let down by God. Please pray that he will read this Bible and find answers to his many questions.

Pray too for the gym instructor here, who is a solid Christian and well placed to disciple men whilst pumping iron, and for J, who is due to be released to a hostel soon, and is looking to connect with a local church and make a fresh start.

Wyatt – Give thanks for Wyatt, a prisoner who has written to one of our volunteers for a number of years, often telling us how much he appreciates the correspondence and particularly the opportunity to discuss spiritual things. In a recent letter he writes, *“I send you thanks and heartfelt gratitude for your friendship that sustains me and the opportunity to resolve, consider and discuss Scripture and theological issues”*. Please pray that this contact will continue to be an encouragement.

Wyn – Please pray for Wyn who has been on remand for a long time and is awaiting a long sentence, meaning he expects to die in prison. He has fallen a long way, and his wife has very recently been diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer. He comes to Sunday services each week and says he prays, and has also been invited to join a *Christianity Explored Prison Edition* course soon. Please pray that he will be born again, and given a real, living faith in Christ.





News from the Office: Recruitment

Paul and Timothy were strengthening the churches in Galatia with plans to go into Asia and Bithynia, but God the Holy Spirit said, “No”, and then gave Paul a vision of a man from Macedonia. Having looked at a variety of ways that we might put into practice the vision God gave us last year we have found that the LORD has led us in surprising directions.

Volunteers unlooked for and prisons calling us are leading us to explore opportunities all over the country in places such as Scotland, Norfolk, and Cardiff. However, the biggest challenge came when a potential supporter took

an in depth look at our operation. The feedback has led us to seek to prioritise changes in the office. It is clear that if we are to properly take the opportunities that God is showing us across the country then we need some extra help centrally or we will very quickly be unable to properly support and enable the work.

So please will you pray for us this month, that we will find the right person to join the team as an Administrator & Events Assistant, and that we can successfully move our data onto a new system making it easier to keep in touch with everyone and all that is going on.

Partnering In Prayer: Macedonia

While at an *Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches* Conference, one of our workers was encouraged to meet Nikola who is keen to begin prison ministry in his home country of Macedonia. Conditions in the country's prisons are poor, and there is currently no official prison ministry, just one or two

pastors who visit prisoners, and so he asks us to pray:

- For an open door to do prison ministry together with three other churches
- For the pastors currently visiting and for the provision of mattresses & other practical supplies to the prisons.

If you would like to support Daylight's work financially, one-off or regular gifts can be made via the 'Donate' tab on our website daylightcpt.org, or call 01245 252735 to make gifts by phone. Cheques made payable to Daylight Christian Prison Trust can be sent to our office address below, and if you would like a Gift Aid or Standing Order Form, please let us know.

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