



Daylight Newsletter November 2020

One of our chaplains recently went to see Jim, a prisoner who had requested a Bible. After being given the Bible, Jim asked if our chaplain had time to talk privately and began to share something of his past. He spoke about how he had made some changes over the last year and had been earning an honest living, but his anger had brought him back on remand. He then asked if God could forgive him, in light of his past, saying, "I really want to change. I want to know God in my life. Will He accept me?"

*Our chaplain was able to speak to him about Moses, David and Peter and how they all sinned and failed, but were used by God. Jim was amazed, saying he never knew there were people like that in the Bible and willingly accepted a copy of *Ultimate Questions* and an *Emmaus Study Course*.*

When our chaplain saw Jim the next week, he had been reading Genesis, Hebrews and Proverbs and seemed to be devouring the Word and applying it to himself. Please pray that the Lord will speak to him as he continues to read the Bible and literature he has been given.

In another prison, we are thankful that Nigel has now been able to recommence one of our regular Bible study groups. The men are delighted that this has resumed and are extremely keen to learn, asking lots of good questions.

It has been particularly encouraging to see one man in the group, Robin, growing in his knowledge of Scripture. At the last session, he shared something of his testimony and how he had begun to read the Bible so he could prove that Christianity was false, but instead had been converted.

Please pray that Robin's testimony will be used to speak to others and that these times of Bible study will continue to be an encouragement.

November Prayer Points

Bereaved Prisoners – Please continue to pray that Daylight chaplains will be given wisdom and sensitivity in breaking news of the death of loved ones to prisoners. Being alongside prisoners at a time like this is one of the greatest privileges of chaplaincy work, but it also brings its challenges. The current restrictions mean that it is not always possible for prisoners to attend funerals, which makes bereavements harder to deal with.

Pray particularly for **Solly**, whose brother died recently. He was most appreciative of the opportunity to come along to the prison chapel where our chaplain prayed for his family.

HMYOI Deerbolt (County Durham)– Although corporate worship has not restarted, Bible studies are now able to take place for prisoners from the same wing, or in some cases, the same landing. This means the groups are much smaller, but gives the opportunity to get to know the men much better and to have an open discussion.

Please continue to pray for **Lou** and also for **Laurie** who are both going through John Blanchard's *Ultimate Questions* in their Bible study.

Pray too for around fifty young men here who are receiving Daylight's weekly written messages.

Jimmy – Give thanks that Jimmy now has a place at a Christian rehab. The use of drugs in the past has caused him a lot of problems but he seems genuinely converted and asks a lot of good questions about Scripture. Please pray that he will settle in well and that he will be kept from going back to his old ways.

Julia – Please continue to pray for Julia who is recovering from an operation and waiting for test results which will determine whether she needs to undergo radiotherapy or further surgery. She is very grateful for our interest and prayers and if it is possible for her to find accommodation, may soon be released. Please pray that she will continue to read her Bible and the regular written messages which are sent to her and that the Lord will work in her heart.

North East – Please pray for a number of the north east prisons which have been designated 'Outbreak Sites' due to a high number of staff self-isolating or being confirmed as COVID-19 positive. Several prisoners have

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also tested positive, with a much higher number in isolation. To prevent the virus spreading further, staff can only currently work in one prison, which means that John will not be able to carry out some of his chaplaincy work for a time.

Please pray that prisoners and staff who are currently unwell will soon be brought back to full health and strength, that the measures put in place will prevent the further spread of the virus and for officers and chaplaincy teams who are overstretched with so many of their colleagues absent.

HMP Swansea (South Wales) – Give thanks for the opportunities there have been to preach at Sunday services here over the last couple of months. With the increased restrictions in Wales, these have unfortunately had to stop again for a few weeks. Please pray that the men will be encouraged by reading written messages and other literature in their cells.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Please continue to pray for the two small groups of Christians meeting on their own in their wings for prayer, praise and Bible reading together.

Please pray for Christian prisoner D that he will be delivered from anxiety and depression and for N, a Christian on recall, that he will be given parole again soon.

Pray too for S who is very troubled and has mental health issues. He resorts to extensive and repeated self-harm, but is beginning to enquire about the Christian faith.

Pray also for the growing links with Community Chaplaincy Norfolk, that this will be a positive development and assist men to connect with agencies and churches in the community.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Resources continue to be sent into the five local prisons each Monday and we are very thankful that they are being used. Please pray that they will be a blessing to the men and women who receive them.

Monthly phone calls also continue to be made to the chaplains, in order to keep in touch and to gather prayer points for the group's time of prayer. Please pray that this contact will be an encouragement to them.

One of the prisons has positive COVID-19 cases involving officers and another currently has a chaplain in isolation. Please pray that the virus will not spread further and that those who are unwell will soon recover.

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Daylight

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