

to give light to those who sit in darkness

Daylight Newsletter April 2024

**We give thanks that many prisoners continue to request Bibles and New Testaments & Psalms, wanting to have copies of God's Word to read for themselves, and for the joy of seeing Christian prisoners who are growing in grace and sharing their faith with others around them.**

In HMP New Hall, our West Yorkshire team have been encouraged by many of the women's desire to have their own Bibles. We give thanks that another one hundred are shortly to be taken to the prison; fifty New Testaments & Psalms, and fifty complete Bibles.

The women who previously received them tend to take the smaller New Testaments & Psalms with them when they go to the workshops, to court, and parole meetings, while the larger complete Bibles are read in their rooms. Please join us in praying for those who receive this next delivery of Bibles, that they too will read these and come to understand God's Word in a life-changing way.

The team were also encouraged by a positive response from the new chapel orderly\* to an invitation to come along to the regular Bible study group, and pray that she will attend

the next session. We praise God for His blessing in this prison.

Elsewhere, one of our chaplains has been encouraged by Seb, a prisoner who came into prison knowing nothing about the Bible, but started attending the weekly Bible study groups, and became a Christian soon after. In the couple of years since then, it has been a real joy to see him continuing to attend Bible studies and growing in His knowledge of Christ.

A month or so ago, Seb was moved to another prison to complete a course, and it was wonderful to hear that he has already gathered a group of men for times of Bible study there. Please pray that the Lord will bless him as he seeks to encourage and be a witness to his fellow prisoners.

\*A chapel orderly is a prisoner who helps with practical tasks in the chaplaincy





## April Prayer Points

**Andy** – Last month, we mentioned Andy, who was due to leave prison by the end of March. We give thanks that he has given us contact details to enable us to keep in touch with him and that in his last letter to our volunteer before leaving prison, he wrote, *"I do thank you and Daylight eternally for your support over the last 18 months, via four prisons. It has been so beneficial having your regular letters in my life"*.

He went on to say that he had recommended Daylight to others at Sunday Services and in his AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) group, as well as leaving copies of our regular written studies in the AA group classroom for others to pick up. Please pray that these will be read, and that Andy will settle into life back at home well and be kept on the right path.

**David** – Please continue to pray for David who has moved to a secure hospital as part of his sentence plan, but is still struggling with depression and self-harm issues. He is staying in touch and showing encouraging signs of faith, but still has a long

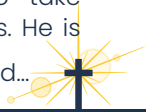
way to go. Please pray that ongoing contact from our volunteers will be a help to him.

**Neil** – Please pray for a recent situation in one prison where Neil, a Christian prisoner, had been pressurised into signing a document to switch to Roman Catholicism. Give thanks that Neil is clearly born again and that one of our volunteers is able to spend time with him, helping him to learn more about church history to inform his future choices. Please pray that our workers will be given wisdom in navigating such situations.

**New Opportunities** – Give thanks that one of our volunteers has recently received security clearance for a prison that is new to Daylight, and has been able to attend a Sunday service to begin to get to know the men there. Please pray that this will lead to opportunities for him to run one-to-one or group Bible studies in the prison.

**Pat** – Please pray for Pat, who has been in prison for a long time but has only recently begun to take any interest in Christian things. He is

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someone who is well thought of by the other prisoners and does what he can to help others, but now seems to be really thinking about the gospel. At a recent Bible study, he commented on just how much there was to learn. Please pray that he will continue to attend these sessions and that he will be brought to trust in Christ as his own Saviour.

**HMP Portland (Dorset)** – Please pray for H who was baptised in prison quite some time ago, but has struggled to put his faith into practice. He speaks of recently being awakened to spiritual realities and a new perspective, and at the end of our latest Bible study, said the session had enthused him to go and read the Bible more.

**HMP Usk (South Wales)** – Give thanks for great blessing in the Bible study group here recently, with a few prisoners coming to know the Lord Jesus as their Saviour! Please pray that they will grow in grace and knowledge of Him.

**HMP Wayland (Norfolk)** – Give thanks for encouraging responses to the monthly Sunday services run by a team from Great Ellingham Baptist Church, with about thirty-five men attending.

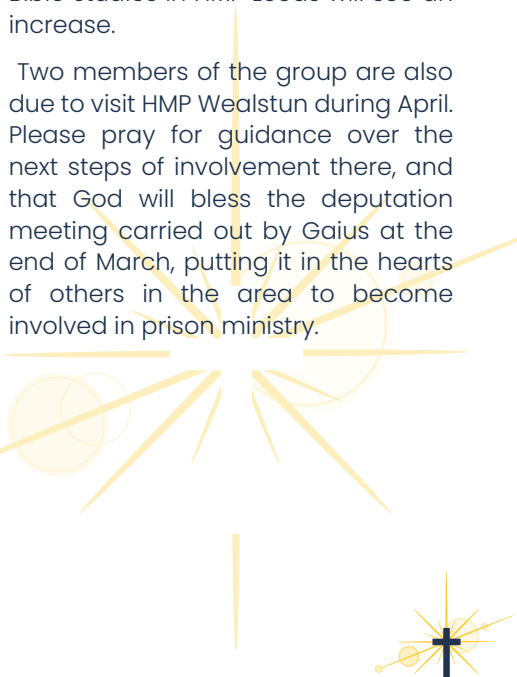
Please pray for S, a prisoner who is approaching release to an approved premises. He has a long history of re-offending and substance abuse, but we believe he is a Christian, so pray that he will receive the support he needs and that God will keep him on the right path after his release.

Please also pray for Peter, another free church chaplaincy volunteer who is halfway through a *Discipleship Explored* course with about twenty-four in attendance.

**West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group** – Praise God for the number of people attending the recent Bible studies, with twelve men coming along in HMP Wakefield, and fourteen women in HMP New Hall. The team have been particularly encouraged by hearing the prayers that are said by some of the prisoners during the open prayer times.

Please pray that this good attendance will continue and that the ones who are clearly trusting in the Lord will be strengthened, particularly those who have recently been baptised. Pray too that the number of men attending Bible studies in HMP Leeds will see an increase.

Two members of the group are also due to visit HMP Wealstun during April. Please pray for guidance over the next steps of involvement there, and that God will bless the deputation meeting carried out by Gaius at the end of March, putting it in the hearts of others in the area to become involved in prison ministry.





## News from the Office: Daylight's 'Secret' Ministry - Letter Writing

Much of what we do is behind closed doors but would normally be classed as public ministry, the leading of Bible studies and worship services, which are open to all prisoners who want to attend. However the letter writing is a 'private' ministry, a conversation between two people, through which we hope gospel and grace can be shared.

In recent weeks we have received from the printer and begun to use a new postcard to highlight this ministry. It doesn't look like much, on one side it's mostly dark blue with the words "from darkness to light" and the new logo and on the other is an invitation to receive the fortnightly written Bible message or to be connected to a pen pal. We commissioned these for the gift boxes which will go into chaplaincies to celebrate our 20th anniversary. However, shortly after they arrived in the office, I thought we should give them a try in our local prison. With a simple prayer we laid one on each seat at the regular worship service that we are privileged to take. What an amazing response! Over the last couple of weeks we have

received a significant number of requests, so much so that we need to appeal to you to consider if the LORD might be calling you to write to a prisoner; we are in particular need of male volunteers. The correspondence is monitored via the office for your protection and encouragement and is simply a matter of writing a letter every other week or so.

Please get in touch with us if the LORD lays this on your heart.

Other new things this month will be the website which we hope will go live over the Easter weekend. We hope you can direct your friends to see and hear for themselves the things you have been reading about here, and please let us know what you think.

We also have the name for our Daylight Prison Podcast. With the amazing expertise of the Good News Broadcasting Association the first episodes of *Convicted!* have been recorded and we will let you know when these *stories of hope from the inside* will be available to listen to on the outside!

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](http://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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