

to give light to those who sit in darkness

Daylight Newsletter January 2024

It continues to be a joy to have contact with Christian prisoners, and to see them growing in grace and knowledge of Christ, as well as sharing their faith with others.

In our December Newsletter, we mentioned Simon, a prisoner who had found that five other men on his wing were reluctant to attend services, saying they were not accustomed to the formality that was involved. As a result, Simon had begun to meet with them for prayer on the wing once a week, and was also hoping to encourage them to attend the next Prayer & Reflection Session.

We praise God that one of the men did come along to the latest session, and would ask you to pray that he will be keen to come back in future, and that having seen him attend, others of the men would also try the sessions for themselves.

Please also continue to pray for Simon as he seeks to be a good witness for Christ. It was encouraging to hear from him recently that there are times when men drop into his cell in order to share a Bible

passage with him, and we pray that they will know God's blessing and wisdom during these times.

It was also encouraging recently to hear from one of our teams about Sean, a prisoner who previously attended a *Hope Explored* course. Sean shared that he wakes up at 6am each day to pray and read his Bible, and also spoke about how thankful he is for God's goodness to him. One particular positive for him, is that he has recently been made a Chapel Orderly, so please pray that he will be helped, and a blessing to others in this new role.

We give thanks for these men, and many others like them, who having come to know Christ, are seeking to use their time in prison to study His Word and share the gospel with those around them. Please pray that the Lord will continue to bless and encourage them.



January Prayer Points



Amos – Give thanks for Amos, a prisoner we have had contact with for some time through our Letter Writing Ministry. Writing to one of our volunteers over the Christmas period, he said, *“Your organisation has been a massive support, help, and eye opener for me to become closer to God and His teachings, and also blessing me with your communications whilst I was in prison with no-one to talk to. I am humbled by your kindness and the time you’ve so generously spared me.”* Please pray that this contact will continue to be an encouragement to him.

HMP Bullingdon (Oxfordshire) – Give thanks for continued opportunities to run regular Bible studies here, with about a dozen men attending each month. At the last session, the men listened well as our volunteers led them through the first two chapters of Jonah. They know that they need to own up to God and repent, and that as God did not write Jonah off, He has not written them off either. Please pray that this will not just be

head knowledge but something that changes their hearts, and that as Jonah did, they will call out to God.

Please pray particularly for J who is due to be released before the next study, that he will read the booklet he was given, and that the Lord will use this to speak to Him.

David – Please pray for David, who having served over twenty years in prison since he was a teenager is now being discharged to the care of a psychiatric hospital. He has slowly been working his way through a Bible correspondence course and there is some hopeful evidence of God being at work in his life. Please pray for him as he moves to the hospital, and that we will be able to find a church nearby who will be able to continue to offer him pastoral support.

Jim McMaster – Please pray for our trustee, Jim, that he will make a full recovery from surgery and be fit to preach on January 2nd at a conference and able to return to street and prison ministry soon after.

Continued...



Songs of the Folk – Thank you for your prayers for A.T. & Lauren Cason as they took a trip to share songs and stories with several prisons in the Northeast at the end of November. Give thanks for encouraging times in the prisons there, with good feedback from prisoners, and please pray for further opportunities in other prisons this year.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Please pray for C who is struggling with mental health issues, and is very troubled, with little or no support from family or friends. He is too anxious to leave the wing to come to Sunday services, but was recently given a Bible, so please pray that reading this and contact with one of Daylight's chaplains will be helpful to him.

Pray too for W, a young man who was discharged to Approved Premises just before Christmas, that he will read the Gideon New Testament he was given, and seek God, as our chaplain encouraged him to.

HMP Wealstun (West Yorkshire) – Give thanks for the eight men who attended the final session of *Hope Explored*, having been to the previous two as well. They continued to ask challenging, but relevant questions, with some of them seeming to be seeking, but having doubts, particularly in relation to the miracles that Christ performed. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will work within them, so that they will *Seek the Lord*


while He may be found. Many of the group also asked if the team could return to do other studies with them, so please pray that God will guide them in following up that request.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks for the opportunity that members of the group had to attend Carol services at three of the nearby prisons. Some were very traditional in nature, but the ladies in the choir at HMP New Hall gave a lively performance, mixing Carols, drama, and songs urging people to think about the lonely and homeless over Christmas. Please pray that the conversations the team had at these events will bear fruit.

Zoom Updates – During January, please join us to hear more about, and comment on, our refreshed vision and 20th anniversary plans. Are you a volunteer or prayer supporter; these meetings are for you. A brief presentation of our refreshed vision and plans for the 20th anniversary followed by questions and prayer: Monday January 8th or Thursday 11th at 7:45pm, or Saturday 13th at 10am.

There will also be some meetings for those getting into prison with Daylight or wanting to. Please contact us for more details of these.





News from the Office:
This is our 20th Anniversary Year!

Daylight was incorporated on the 21st June 2004; of course much work had gone on before that and much has happened since, but our God and His gospel have not changed and are just as much needed in prisons today as they have ever been.

How do you celebrate 20 years of prison ministry? We have considered a number of ideas and have settled on the main one being a gift to all prisons. We intend this to be a blessing to the chaplaincy teams both personally and in their ministry; and of course, we hope that it will highlight the ways in which Daylight can serve them; even as we serve our LORD Jesus and His gospel.

The box will include:

- A 'Care Package' for Chaplains, tea bags, biscuits etc.!!
- A new Gospel Booklet by Simon Allaby of *Turn the Page: 20 Stories for 20 Years*, each with a Scripture, picture, and question to drive the point home.

- Event offers: we are delighted to have secured Stefan Smart to deliver *I AM MARK* in prisons over 3 weeks in August and Songs of the Folk for other weeks of the year.

- We are compiling 52 of our written Bible studies from the archive of material written since COVID. We hope this will be a resource for many occasions, not least at short notice.

- In collaboration with *Christianity Explored* we are designing an Anniversary reprint of the Prison Edition.

Please join us and pray; praising God for the past, and seeking His blessing for the future.

Please get in touch if we can help you minister to your local prison, or if you or your church would like to sponsor a gift box or a production of *I AM MARK* (approximate costs: Gift Box £50, *I AM MARK* £500).

It is a privilege to partner with you.

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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