



to give light to those who sit in darkness

Daylight Newsletter August 2025

We often have cause to think about the value of chaplaincy work and the opportunities it provides to get to know individual prisoners, and are thankful that our chaplains are able to offer support to many; sometimes through the most difficult of times.

This was particularly highlighted in a recent letter received from Tommy. Having used our letter writing ministry for the last couple of years, Tommy was reflecting on his early days in prison, and shared how one of our chaplains had supported him during that time.

He writes, "A lay preacher at my first prison, without doubt saved my life. Both mind and physical."

For almost ten years, our Solent Prayer & Support Group have had opportunities to run services in HMP Ford (West Sussex) a few times each year, and we have often asked you to pray for further opportunities there.

We are thankful that those prayers have been answered, with five members of the team recently being invited to run a one-off Sunday evening Bible study in the prison. The prison have not had any Sunday evening activities since the pandemic, and as it is an open prison, with men preparing for release, the chaplaincy felt that a study format would be the most beneficial for those attending.

God really did find a good worker in him!

He came to my constant watch cell as I was cutting my left wrist. Yes, he on the Lord's behalf saved me but he helped save my soul; more than that, he was able to give me hope."

Give thanks for this encouragement, and please pray that the ongoing contact with Daylight will be a blessing to Tommy.

After observing the initial session run by our team, the Chaplaincy have invited us to run a *Hope Explored* course, and are also open to the possibility of other courses, such as *Discipleship Explored Prison Edition* in the future.

Give thanks for this opportunity, and please pray that a good number of prisoners will come along once the course begins.



August Prayer Points



Aber Conference – Please pray for Chris & Hannah with Daylight’s Stand at the Aber Conference (9th-16th August), and for good conversations that will enthuse many people about supporting and getting involved in prison ministry.

Ben – Give thanks for Ben, a prisoner who uses our letter writing ministry as well as receiving our Bible study sheets. Having enjoyed our recent series on David, he wrote asking for further material, saying, *“They are really good and I read them twice over for maximum benefit”*. Please pray that this material will continue to be a blessing to him.

Bereaved Prisoners – Quite a number of the prisoners we work with, either through visiting prisons or through our letter writing ministry, have recently lost loved ones. Please pray that contact with our chaplains, prisons teams, and letter writing volunteers will be a blessing to them, and that we will be able to encourage them to look to Christ in these times of bereavement.

HMP Bullingdon (Oxfordshire) – Give thanks for a very profitable time at the last Bible study session. It was particularly encouraging to hear V share how he had found forgiveness in Christ as he cried over his sins, and how Jesus had changed him on the inside, giving him peace within.

Give thanks too for S, who had been about to take his own life, but was

recently baptized in the morning service. He is going on well and reading his Bible a lot of the time, and is now writing up an account of how Christianity is true.

HMP Chelmsford (Essex) – Give thanks for continued opportunities to help out with services regularly and to run a weekly Bible study with the VPs (Vulnerable Prisoners).

Give thanks for one longstanding member of the team, Hugo, who is looking to increase his involvement by helping with running the Bible study group. Please pray for him as he begins to explore the process of obtaining faith accreditation.

HMP Five Wells (Northamptonshire) – Give thanks for encouragements at the weekly Bible study group, with twelve men attending the latest session. Please pray that these times will be an encouragement to those who come along.

Pray too for a new Faith Circle group beginning with elderly prisoners, that a good number of them will want to come along, and that these sessions will be a blessing to them.

John – Give thanks for John, who was one of our Bible study regulars in HMP Leeds, and has recently been moved to HMP Wealstun. When one of our team saw him for the first time since his move, he was beaming, saying, *“I’ve got a pen pal, and I’ve written back to her straight away!”*



Praise God that the letter writing ministry is bringing such joy into prisoners' lives.

K – Please pray for K, a female prisoner who is due to be released during August. Give thanks that she has Christian friends who are seeking to support her, and please pray that she will be kept on the right path and not end up returning to prison as she has done previously.

Keswick Convention – Give thanks for encouragements during our time at Keswick, and for an amazing number of people who wanted to know more about supporting and getting involved with Daylight.

Letter Writing – Last month, we asked you to pray that God would raise up more people to volunteer as letter writers to meet the growing demand for this ministry. Give thanks that over the last month through our time at Keswick and visits to churches, a number of new people have come forward, meaning we will have a surplus of volunteers for the first time in over a year.

As well as praying for these new volunteers, please also pray for our existing letter writing volunteers, some of whom are struggling with their health or have recently lost loved ones. Give thanks for their heart for serving, despite their own difficulties.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Please pray for T, a young man who was suicidal and had to be talked down from a bridge, and then ended up incarcerated again. He engaged in conversation with our chaplain, received a Bible, and expressed a wish to have further talks.

Pray too for J, a middle-aged man who has just received the news that his son

has died after years of chronic illness. This comes on top of other deaths in the family and his own father serving a long prison sentence. J has a Bible in his cell and welcomed our chaplain praying with him.

Please also pray for S who heads up the prison band that provides music for worship on Sundays. Taught by priests as a child, he rejected their teaching as soon as he was old enough and was put off anything religious. However, through his role in the band, he is now listening to good gospel preaching regularly.

West Midlands – Please pray for Nigel as he takes time away over the summer to run a Beach Mission and have a time of holiday; that this will be a time of blessing and refreshment for him. Give thanks for other workers, Bal and Robert, who will be running the Bible study groups in Nigel's absence, and pray that they will know God's blessing as they prepare and lead these sessions.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Please continue to pray for the new volunteers joining the group, as there are now five in total. Praise God as He has truly answered prayers, way beyond our expectations. Initial prison visits have already taken place for three of them, while plans have been made for the other two to do likewise in the very near future.

Praise God for the good number of men attending the Bible studies in HMP Wakefield as well as the Wednesday group in HMP Leeds. Please pray that the number of men attending the Tuesday session in Leeds will increase, along with the number of women attending the studies in HMP New Hall.





News from the Office: Holidays, Holy Days or Worse

If you took a break at the Keswick Convention and this is your first newsletter, "Welcome, we hope you enjoyed your holiday". For the rest of us; where have you been or where will you go this year? What will you do with your holiday? A weekend getaway? Two weeks of sun, sea and sand?

The old English root words for holiday are "Holy Days". Time has changed the word and the meaning! Once upon a time the only breaks from work were holy days, days given up to spend with God's people, perhaps inspired by the lives of saints or marking aspects of Christ's earthly journey. Now, as many Prison Officers take a holiday, and maybe you and I too, please pray for the many prisoners who will only experience this as a dreary, difficult day. Many will experience a changing regime and fewer opportunities, certainly not a 'holy day', quite possibly spending longer than normal in a hot cell or finding reduced time for work or education.

Please pray for Prison Officers, our Chaplains and Volunteers that their times away will be refreshing, that they will meet with the LORD Jesus and He will inspire and encourage them to greater works of service, to have more compassion and share His grace more widely, as they return.

Pray especially for our work and the regime in prisons, that where possible things will continue as normal, that God will raise up others to cover holidays and provide for all the needs of those inside, especially their gospel need.

And if you're taking a break in Aberystwyth in August with the EMW, then do say "hi" to Hannah and Chris who DV will be manning our stand there.

But however you spend your holiday, please don't take a break from praying for us and all who are in prison this summer!

MANUMIT
COFFEE ROASTERS

Many of our readers may be familiar with Dai Hankey of *Manumit Coffee*. Why not find out more about the work of *Manumit* by listening to a recent BBC Sounds Documentary *Freedom Through Coffee* at <http://bit.ly/44Gnllm>.

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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