

News from the Office: "New Fish!"

The memorable scene in the film Shawshank Redemption of the main character's first night in jail is thankfully not representative of UK jails now. However, going inside for the first time can be truly frightening. Prison is such a unique experience that I hope you will pray for the 200 or so men and perhaps 5 women who find themselves on "first reception" every day!

We all deal with new things differently, some find it easier than others, but I doubt that anyone finds their first time in prison a joyful experience. Some will have come straight from the court, and it didn't go the way expected, indeed they were hoping to be at home that evening. Brief goodbyes may have been possible to family and friends, but maybe not.

Everything you take in with you will be searched and checked and most, if not all, will end up in your 'prop' (property) rather than in your cell with you. Many have said that

you leave your name behind and 'become' your prison number, which will be printed on an ID card and which you will need for many things inside. It can be a vulnerable time and some may be taken advantage of or end up unintentionally "in debt".

Yet there is hope, there are usually trusted prisoners to help and guide the newbies, many prisons have an induction wing and spend as much as a week helping men understand the regime and their new way of life. And, a Chaplain must visit and ask about faith and practice, which can be a huge opportunity for the gospel.

Please pray for Daylight Chaplains (and others) doing inductions. Pray for the grace to deal well with those who are vulnerable and nervous, for wisdom to answer well any questions, and that many seeds will be planted and relationships begun that will bear fruit during a prisoners' time inside.

Supporters' Week – Please join us for our online prayer meetings throughout our Supporters' Week (w/b Sunday 1st February) from 7:45pm on Sunday, Monday, and Thursday, from 8am on Tuesday and Saturday, and from 12:30pm on Wednesday and Friday.

Meeting ID: 834 6260 5665 Passcode: 935565 <https://bit.ly/4qemZ9T>

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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Ahead of the Christmas period, we received requests from a number of prison Chaplaincy Teams for items they could include in gift bags for their residents. We were pleased to be able to send them Daylight pens and bookmarks, along with *How Can I Be Sure of Heaven* booklets from *Open the Bible UK* and sign-up cards for our Letter Writing Ministry and Written Studies.

During January, it was good to receive a message from one chaplain, saying, "I would very much like to express my sincere thanks for your kind donation of the books, cards, and pens. I created little bags which were given out to the men as part of their Christmas present. I have also sent a thank you card to Daylight (made by a prisoner), which I hope you will get shortly.

I got to know Daylight through the volunteers at my previous prison, their unjudgmental

witness along with all the work you do in the office is truly remarkable and incredibly appreciated by all the Chaplains here, as well as I'm sure the prisons throughout the country. A big thank you from me".

Please pray that these items will be a blessing to the prisoners who received them and that we will be able to continue to offer support to Chaplaincy Teams across the country.

While in the UK on a two-year missionary assignment, we were pleased to be able to partner with *Songs of the Folk*, a husband and wife folk duo of A.T. & Lauren Cason who use their music as a means of ministry to people in tough situations.

During their time here, A.T & Lauren visited a number of prisons with us, and before their return to the US last summer, they shared that these visits had been the highlight of their time here.

In another update recently, they announced that inspired by their work in prisons and other needy places, they have now been able to co-found a new non-profit organisation named *For the Folk*.

They write, "*For the Folk will give us an outlet to continue to do this special work, and a way to share about it and involve more people. Bringing joy to people who are downcast, bringing hope to people surrounded by despair, bringing beauty to people living within concrete walls and barren spaces, and showing up for people who feel lonely and unseen".*

Read more at www.forthefolknc.org

Please also pray for two members of the team who are going into the prison in mid-February to speak about the upcoming *Hope Explored* course. Please pray that a good number of men will sign up for the course, which begins a few days later.

HMP Weyland (Norfolk) – Please pray for N who has been battling cancer for a while. However, it has now spread, and he has been advised that he only has about two months to live. Our chaplain has had many one-to-one sessions with N, but is yet to see a clear response to the gospel invitation. Please pray that God will intervene and prepare him for eternity.

Please also pray for M who is diligent in his reading his Bible and has recently asked to be reclassified from a spiritualist to a Christian. Yet, he still says that he does not understand why when he watches a Christian TV channel they keep on about Jesus so much! Please pray that the Holy Spirit will lift his spiritual blindness to see the centrality of the cross.

Pray too for C, a Christian man who has experienced healing and is convinced that he has some sort of special power. Please pray that he will understand also the need for strong Biblical foundations, and appreciate the sentiments of the hymnwriter: *"I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus name"*.

HMP Whitmoor (Cambridgeshire) – Give thanks that a new volunteer has recently been able to begin some ministry in this prison where Daylight has not previously had involvement. Please pray for wisdom and the right words for him as he preaches, particularly as prison ministry is a new experience for him.

*Where a prison name is underlined, it indicates that a Daylight chaplain is active there.

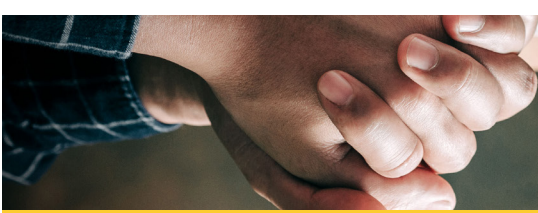
been resolved, a peaceful atmosphere will be maintained in the prison, and for the specialist officers who have the responsibility of dealing with situations like this.

HMP Wakefield (West Yorkshire) – Praise God that a new chaplain has been appointed here following a period of shortages within the team. Please pray that his vetting will come through quickly so that the services and Prayer & Reflection Sessions that our team are involved in can once more be held on a regular basis.

HMP Warren Hill (Suffolk) – Give thanks for ongoing opportunities to run regular Bible Study sessions here. Please continue to pray for C, a Roman Catholic who is finding our studies in Ephesians helpful, and for D who was engrossed with discovering God's Word, but has recently dabbled with Hinduism.

Wayne – From time to time we receive calls from Pastors seeking advice in dealing with situations faced by their congregants. Please pray that we can be helpful in all we say, and in particular please pray for Wayne from Hertfordshire who will have been sentenced at the end of January and may go inside for the first time. Since committing the offences, Wayne has been clearly saved and has been open with the church about his past, and they are helping him face the consequences of his crime even as they help him grow in his faith.

HMP Wealdstun (West Yorkshire) – Give thanks for five men who received copies of John Blanchard's *Ultimate Questions* while one of our team was walking through the wings here recently. Please pray that they may become interested in finding out more about the gospel.



February Prayer Points

Cameron – Give thanks for Cameron, a prisoner who was part of one of our Bible Study groups in his first prison and continues to use our Letter Writing Ministry, as well as receiving Written Studies. It was encouraging to receive a letter from him recently saying, "Thank you for your continued support. May the Lord bless each and every one of you throughout 2026. You are all in my prayers and I'm forever thankful for the positive influence you had, and continue to have upon me".

HMP Holliesley Bay (Suffolk) – Give thanks that weekly Bible studies recommenced immediately at the start of January and have continued to be encouraging. By the time you read this, one solid believer in the group will have been released, but in God's providence, another equally strong believer has recently been brought into the prison and has begun to attend.

Please pray particularly for M who is not a believer and can make challenging comments. Give thanks that he is not disruptive, and often fellow prisoners give an appropriate response, showing maturity and good grounding in God's Word. These are good moments, but please pray that M might come to see the Scriptures as God's infallible Word pointing to Christ the Saviour.

Outside the Bible studies, our chaplain has made weekly visits to P, and while initially, this did not seem to be an encouraging contact, over time, it has transpired that P has a Bible and has started reading it. After many years he is due to be released this

month and our chaplain is endeavouring to connect him to a local church contact in his new area. Please pray that this ongoing contact will be a blessing to him.

HMP Leeds (West Yorkshire) – Give thanks for the opportunity members of our team had to lead a service here at the end of January. The services get good attendance, with about fifty men attending. Please pray that the gospel message they heard will resonate in the hearts of many of them.

HMP New Hall (West Yorkshire) – Please pray that the vetting process for the newly appointed Church of England Chaplain here will be a swift one, so that the Bible Studies run by our team will be able to commence once again.

Norwich Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks for the opportunity to meet to pray for prison ministry this month. Please join us at Norwich Evangelical Free Church on 11th February at 7:30pm if you are able.

HMP Oakwood (Staffordshire) – Give thanks for around twenty-five men attending the weekly Bible study group. Please pray that the new series in Hebrews will be a blessing to them.

Prison incident – Please pray for one of the prisoners we work in which recently had to deal with a serious incident after disorder broke out meaning that the National Tactical Response Group (a specialist team of prison officers with additional skills and equipment) had to be called in. Please pray that now this incident has... Continued...