



News from the Office: Prayer & Praise from October

This last month has seen many difficult stories about Prisons in the press; a high profile death-in-custody (DiC), a number of cases of misconduct in public office, and in the last few days a release-in-error. All of these are not as rare as these news reports suggest, in fact, tragically, a DiC occurs just about every day somewhere in our prison estate. The fragility of life and the need for certainty over our eternal destiny is so clear.

Last month also saw us take part in Prisons Week, under the Title of *God's Word is not Chained*. We hosted a number of Zoom prayer meetings, focussing on Psalm 107, where we read of how grateful we should be that we serve a God who redeems and who brings justice. I am so grateful to God for those of you who joined in; these times are always a great encouragement to those of us who go into prison. Please continue to pray for the specific prisons affected by the stories you see in the Press as well as the news contained here.

The work of Prison Ministry was wonderfully highlighted by a BBC Wales Broadcast on 17th October where the Free Church Managing Chaplain of HMP Swansea, David Lewis, led the Daily Service. He challenges us, from Luke 7:36-50, to consider who we associate with and what we think of those who associate with prisoners and what it means to "associate with Jesus."

You can still listen to the short service here (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002knxt>) until the 16th November.

Attending a Prisons' Week event in Bristol and on a trip to the Isle of Wight, I have been able to make some connections that I hope will soon result in our Bristol Prayer & Support Group starting up and in the launch of a work on the Island. Over the next couple of months please pray for these and the areas of Durham and the North East and Doncaster and South Yorkshire as we seek to build the Lord's work in prisons there too.

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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CHRISTIAN PRISON TRUST



Daylight Newsletter November 2025

While many of those we meet in prison are only inside for a brief time, we often have opportunities to work with others for longer periods, and to build up good relationships with them, sometimes over many years.

One such person is a man named Blake who we have had contact with for over a decade. As well as receiving our written studies and other literature, for much of that time, he has used our letter writing ministry, writing to a married couple who have both been long-term letter writing volunteers with us.

From their earliest letters, it quickly became clear that our volunteers and Blake had a mutual love of gardening, and with Blake working in the prison gardens, letters back and forth over the years have often contained news of what was being planted or harvested that season. Blake also sometimes struggled with the Maths course he was completing, and with our volunteers having experience in tutoring, Maths papers also became a regular part of their correspondence.

Yet alongside these aspects of everyday life, our volunteers have also been able to support Blake through difficult times, such as the loss of loved ones, and the long hours in his cell during the pandemic lockdowns. Through all of this, they have continually pointed Blake to

Christ; sharing their own faith with him, and encouraging him to keep up his own personal Bible reading, as well as attendance at regular services and Bible studies.

Over the last few weeks, it has been a joy to hear both from Blake and one of his family members, telling us how much he has appreciated this support. He writes, *"I just wanted to write and say thank you for all the support you have given me over the years. After nearly 12 years in prison, I am pleased to tell you that I have just been granted my parole and I will be out of prison in the next few weeks."*

Blake went on to share how much the support from our letter writers had meant to him, asking if he could keep in touch after his release, and closing by saying, *"Thank you again for keeping in contact with me. Your support meant a lot to me"*.

Please pray for Blake as he leaves prison, that he will continue to receive good spiritual support, and that he will be kept on the right path.



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HMP Wealstun (West Yorkshire) – Please pray for the continuing work here. As well as one of our team providing ongoing pastoral support to the men, we have been asked to provide more dates for the *Hope Explored* course to be run again.

A number of the men who have attended the course in the past are due to be released, so please pray that they will receive the necessary support in the community to prevent them from here from early September. Fairly soon in, he was asked to lead a weekly Bible study. Around a dozen men now attend this and it is clear that many of them have excellent Bible knowledge. Our chaplain is currently taking the group through the Psalms, ensuring he points clearly to Christ each time.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Please pray that God will reveal Himself to M, a prisoner on an IPP (Imprisonment for Public Protection) sentence who has lost all hope. His mother and siblings are all Christians but he professes no faith. Our chaplain has given him a Bible and has regular conversations with him, but these tend to go round in circles.

Pray too for C who left prison at the end of October and has been connected with a good church. Although he is a Christian, he still has an unresolved substance abuse habit that is likely to cause challenges.

Like many chaplains, HMP Wayland has a vacancy for a Church of England Chaplain, so please pray that this will be filled with an evangelical, gospel loving person who will fit in well with the existing team.

Please pray that these weekly sessions will continue to be a blessing to the men who attend.

Remembrance Sunday – Give thanks for opportunities for some of our workers to lead or support Remembrance Sunday services in some prisons, and for prisoners who will receive remembrance themed Written Studies over the weekend too. Please pray that the messages, both preached and written, will be used to speak to many.

HMP Warren Hill (Suffolk) – Give thanks that our Daylight chaplain from HMP Holliesley Bay also commenced working due to be released, so please pray that they will receive the necessary support in the community to prevent them from here from early September. Fairly soon in, he was asked to lead a weekly Bible study. Around a dozen men now attend this and it is clear that many of them have excellent Bible knowledge. Our chaplain is currently taking the group through the Psalms, ensuring he points clearly to Christ each time.

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November Prayer Points

HMP Deerbolt (County Durham) – Give thanks for several new men who will be joining the Bible study group as we begin working through *Fly Through the Bible* this month.

G – Please pray for G, a prisoner we have had contact with for some time who has been attending one of our Bible study groups. He has recently been transferred to another prison due to an assault, so please pray that he will recover well and that he will continue to receive good chaplaincy support there.

HMP Holliesley Bay (Suffolk) – Give thanks that the weekly Bible studies continue in The Beatitudes are most encouraging. As is typical with an open prison, outside work and home visits can prove a disruption to regular attendance, but we get around ten or so each week who join these interactive studies. The majority participate well, following the links between Old and New Testament passages and making excellent spiritual application.

Praise God that the Jewish man also continues to attend, so please pray that he may see that the Messiah has come. A number of the men are also reading good literature or following helpful courses, so please pray that these will be a blessing to them.

HMP Kirklevington Grange (North Yorkshire) – Give thanks for continued opportunities to run regular services

here. One recent encouragement was when a prisoner prayed that he would be humble enough to change his mind about any beliefs that he has, if he finds that the Bible says something different.

At an upcoming service, our chaplain will be taking in a local church leader who has experience of youth work in difficult areas to give his testimony. Please pray that this will be used to speak to the men and that we will be able to build up a team of volunteers to support the ministry in this prison.

HMP Leeds (West Yorkshire) – Give thanks for continued opportunities to run Bible studies here. Please pray that the number of men attending will continue to grow.

HMP Oakwood (West Midlands) – Give thanks for continued encouragements from the Bible study group here, with good numbers attending and excellent engagement. When the men were asked for feedback on the studies recently, it was a joy to see how much they value these times, with one writing, "I find Bible Study good for strengthening my knowledge of God's word through other people's understanding and my own, teaching I've studied outside of prison. Plus, most of all, the reason I'm blessed is that Christ said go make disciples not just converts. This course teaches discipline, not just conversion".

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