

# Daylight Newsletter June 2021

In recent weeks it has been good to see a number of prisons beginning to resume services and Bible studies, and to start to have opportunities to open up God's Word with groups of prisoners once again. With limits on numbers attending, and other prisons yet to re-start these activities, we are also continuing to supply weekly written messages and other material, and it has been encouraging to hear of ways these are still being used.

One of our chaplains has recently had contact with Dwayne, a prisoner who has an extremely difficult home situation and seems to feel safest in prison. Our chaplain was able to visit him on the anniversary of the death of his twin and Dwayne was very grateful for that support. He says he does not believe in God, but is happy to receive the weekly messages, so we pray that something of what he reads and the contact with our chaplain will be used to speak to him.

It was also good recently to hear from Ivan, a Hungarian prisoner we have mentioned previously. He wrote thanking us for the regular messages and letting us know that how much he was enjoying an Emmaus Correspondence course we had sent saying, "I'm happy I got that course, The Bible Speaks. It is very useful for me and helped me to understand so many things. Now when I read the Bible I understand everything better." As well as studying himself, Ivan has also been sharing what he is learning with other Christian prisoners he sees in the exercise yard.

Prisoners also continue to receive Gideon New Testaments and for many of them, they are reading the Scriptures for the first time. One of our chaplains has found it a real encouragement to see this, saying "*How often do we get asked for Bibles in our ordinary day-to-day lives outside of prison!*" Please pray that the Lord will use His Word to speak to many.

### June Prayer Points

Aled (Ex-offender) - Give thanks that Aled continues to get on well in the United States. Please pray for him as he seeks to rebuild relationships with his family.

HMP Birmingham (West Midlands) – Give thanks for opportunities to run services here in coming months and for encouraging contact with individual prisoners. Please pray for three men who are currently reading through John's Gospel each day.

**Chaplaincy** – Please pray for chaplains undertaking one-to-one meetings with prisoners with complex needs and challenging behaviour, that they will be given much wisdom and sensitivity.

Pray particularly for one such prisoner, Malcolm. He is due to be released soon, but has a complicated home life and is struggling with self-harm.

**Cheshire Prayer & Support Group** – Give thanks for George & Jackie Gibson who have given much time to Daylight's work over a number of years, originally being involved in prison ministry in Surrey and then more recently coordinating the Cheshire Prayer & Support Group. Please pray for them as they step back from the work and for Paul Forrest as he takes on the running of the group, coordinating services in HMP Thorn Cross.

HMP Deerbolt (County Durham) – Give thanks that Bible study groups are due to recommence on a phased return. This will initially be limited to two wings being able to meet together, which will mean the introduction of a three-week rota for chaplaincy groups.

Please pray for the recruitment of a new Managing Chaplain and for John as he helps to cover extra hours in the meantime.

HMP Holme House (County Durham) - Give thanks that the lifting of restrictions means that John is now able to return to his work in this prison. Please pray that he will be given wisdom in deciding how best to use his time here.

Jim – Give thanks that Jim was recently encouraged by reading the book of Romans. He has now been moved to another prison and his trial is approaching. Please pray that he will remember what he has learned, continue to read his Bible and find Christian support and encouragement as he prepares to go to court.

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**HMP Oakwood** – Give thanks for opportunities to be involved in running services here once again. Please pray that prisoners will be keen to come along to these.

Solent Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks that the group have been able to meet to pray together via Zoom recently and for the opportunity for a few of the team to run a service in a local prison on 6th June for the first time since the pandemic began. Please pray for the men who come along to this.

**HMP Sudbury (Derbyshire)** – Give thanks that it has been possible to re-start Bible studies here and for Simon, a prisoner who has been encouraging others to come along to these. Please pray that the studies will be an encouragement to the men who attend.

**HMP Swansea (South Wales)** – Give thanks for the opportunity to return to running services here last month. Please pray that the messages preached will be used in the hearts and lives of many.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Please pray for S, a Christian prisoner who has recently begun an Emmaus Bible School correspondence course and for P, a new prisoner who has expressed an interest in Christian things. He has a history of addiction and is struggling with withdrawal symptoms, but an established Christian on his wing is trying to help and witness to him.

Please also pray that nothing will stand in the way of resuming Bible studies and Sunday services now that the prison is clear of coronavirus infection and for the recruitment of a new governor, that the person appointed will be someone who will work well with the chaplaincy department.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks that one of the local prisons has invited the team to a weekly Free Church Worship Time and a Meet & Chill Session, with just one member of the team attending each time. Please pray that they will have opportunities to speak to individual prisoners about the Lord and will be given wisdom as to what to say.

A number of the chaplains have asked for prayer for additional strength at this time, as things begin to open up, particularly with regard to organising meetings and services in the very near future.

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