



Daylight Newsletter December 2018

Sunday services have been such an encouragement over the last year. It has been wonderful to see large groups of prisoners listening in silence, hanging on every word as the Gospel is explained and singing the hymns enthusiastically. We give thanks for a real sense of God's presence in leading these services and in preaching.

Prisoners attending mid-week Bible studies have shown a real hunger to learn, have really engaged with the passages being studied and have been keen to discuss them together. Several of these groups have been studying John's Gospel and are rejoicing in what they have learnt and understood about practical Christian living and the person and power of the Lord Jesus Christ. One man who professed to have become a Christian said he had never realised before how free the offer of grace and forgiveness was.

A number of Christianity Explored, Discipleship Explored and Life Explored courses have also been run and we have been encouraged by the responses to these.

Many prisoners have been given Bibles and New Testaments this year, both at our services and through chaplaincy work on the wings. It has been a joy to see the desire they have to get a copy of God's Word and to read it for themselves and we often see prisoners return to services with the Bibles in their hands, obviously well used.

Our Letter Writing has also continued this year, with a number of new prisoners now using it. Several of these have been professing Christians who are valuing having the support of a more mature believer and it has been lovely to read letters from them speaking about the time they are spending studying their Bibles and how they are learning from that.

December Prayer Points

HMP Bure (Norfolk) – Give thanks that there have been more opportunities for our volunteer to preach here this year and that on a couple of occasions, he has been able to take a friend in with him who enjoys speaking with the prisoners and is interested in coming again in the future. He has felt particularly burdened this year to focus people's attention on seeking God in the Bible and in prayer, and coming to Him with empty hands to receive Christ. Please pray that these messages will continue to be used in the hearts and lives of prisoners.

HMP Chelmsford (Essex) – Give thanks for encouraging services here throughout the year. Please pray that prisoners would remember the messages they have heard, for the team running services on 9th and 30th December and for continued opportunities in this prison next year.

HMYOI Cookham Wood (Kent) – Give thanks for the team who run a service here each month. Recently, the 15-17 year olds heard a message from Mark 10 about the rich young ruler. Please pray that this would be used to make them see their sin and their need of Christ as their Saviour.

HMP/YOI Deerbolt (County Durham) – Please pray for John as he has the privilege of leading the Christmas Day Service, that the Lord would speak through His Word on this joyful occasion.

HMP Ford (West Sussex) – Give thanks for the services that have been run here this year and for encouraging times of prayer for these. Please pray for the team running the service on 16th December and for more opportunities in this prison next year.

HMP Holme House (County Durham) – Give thanks for opportunities to help out with statutory duties here. Please pray for wisdom and sensitivity in speaking on a one-to-one basis with men who have complex needs.

HMP Northumberland – Please continue to pray for the men who are attending the Christianity Explored course which concludes on 11th December. Please pray for wisdom in following this up and deciding what to do next and when to do it.

HMP Thorn Cross (Cheshire) – Give thanks for the opportunities there have been to run services here this year. Please pray for the prisoners who

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have heard the Gospel through these and for the team running the service on 30th December.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – James Ridge, the Managing Chaplain has recently taken up the national position of Chaplain General. Please pray for him in this new role and that a suitable person would be found to fill the vacancy James has left here. Pray too for the team from Great Ellingham Baptist Church taking the service on 16th December.

Alan Hare – Thank you to all who have been praying for Alan, our Chair of Trustees following his accident at the end of October. We give thanks that he is making good progress and is planning to chair the trustees' meeting on 6th December. Please continue to pray for him as he recovers.

Joe – Please pray for Joe who has become a Christian whilst in prison. His unsaved wife is being treated for cancer and he longs for his wife to trust in Christ.

Norwich Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks that during this year two new local people have become committed to attending and praying for the Norfolk opportunities and Daylight's work more widely.

Scotland – Give thanks for Iain's amazing recovery from a stroke and that he is now able to resume his prison work. This is a wonderful answer to prayer. Please continue to pray for the Discipleship Explored course and the weekly services. A number of prisoners who attend regularly listen well and show an interest in the Gospel message. Pray that they may come to a saving knowledge of Christ.

Steve – Please pray that Steve will settle into a church in Cumbria.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Praise God for blessing the first year of this group. We give thanks for the work Glynn Jones did making contact with a number of prisons in the area and generally providing help to the members. Give thanks particularly for the openings at HMP Wakefield. Three of the group began training in the prison in November and two more will start in December.

Will – Will has been a member of one of our Bible study groups for about four years and has been moved to another prison for the remainder of his sentence. Please pray that he will continue to grow as a Christian and that the Lord will use him to bless others.

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