

Daylight Newsletter September 2019

When visiting prisons, we often take in postcards with Bible verses on them which the prisoners are able to display in their cells. After a recent service, a prisoner took one of the cards with Romans 5:8 on, "God demonstrates His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us".

The prisoner struggles with reading and could not make out the word demonstrates, so asked what it said. Once it had been read to him, he said, "What does that mean?". We were then able to explain the verse to him and he smiled and said, "That's so good!".

As well as the postcard, he took a booklet which gives daily readings introducing Jesus and said that it would take him time to read, but he would work his way through it. Please pray that these will be used to speak to him.

We have been reminded recently of the significant challenges ex-prisoners face when they return to their home areas. Daniel made a profession of faith several years ago and appeared to be doing well, but is now back in prison.

After a short spell working with a Christian group in a new area and getting a job, he returned to his home area. He described this move as a 'dog returning to his vomit', as it led to him going out with mates, drinking too much and committing another crime. He is now back inside along with his younger brother who is starting to read his Bible.

Please pray that the Lord would work in the lives of Daniel and his brother and for the many others with similar stories.

September Prayer Points

Brian – Please continue to pray for Brian who has sadly not been in touch since his release. We give thanks that the Lord knows where he is and would ask you to pray that he will be kept on the right path and will be able to find housing and employment.

HMP Chelmsford (Essex) — Give thanks for recent opportunities to run services here, with good numbers of prisoners attending and listening attentively. The team have had a number of encouraging conversations with the men and lots of literature has been taken. Please pray that these services will be used in their hearts and lives and for the team running a service on 8th September.

D - Please pray for D, an ex-offender whom one of our volunteers is working with in the community. He has recently learnt the value of prayer and our volunteer is encouraging him to go along to a local Baptist church. Please pray that he will read Mark's Gospel and that the Holy Spirit will speak to him through it.

David – Please pray for David who regularly attends our services. He is always so pleased to see us and listens attentively to the messages, but needs to see his own need for salvation.

HMP Ford (West Sussex) – Please pray for the team running a service here on 1st September and for the prisoners that come, that they will be challenged by the message they hear.

Pray too for more opportunities for the team to work here during the rest of the year and into 2020.

Harry — Please pray for Harry, a young prisoner who came to one of our services recently. He had a bad motorbike accident and when he regained consciousness, he was being treated by paramedics outside a church. He felt that this was God speaking to him and had come along to the service to find out more about who God is. Please pray that the message he heard will be used to speak to him.

Health Care — Please pray for wisdom and sensitivity as visits are made to prisoners in Health Care. This includes those who are terminally ill.

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Pray particularly for one prisoner we first met about ten years ago who now has terminal cancer.

Solent Prayer & Support Group — As well as the ongoing opportunities at HMP Ford, please pray that there will be an opening for the group to work in another local prison.

HMP Wakefield (West Yorkshire) — Praise the Lord that twelve men signed up for the Christianity Explored course which began at the end of August. Please pray that this number will be maintained at each session and that souls will be saved.

Give thanks that some of the team have also recently had additional opportunities to speak to prisoners on the wings and in Health Care.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) - Please pray for M who is sharing a twin cell with a Christian prisoner who has been witnessing to him.

Please also pray that the Christian prisoners will be okay during this period when due to holiday and sick-leave, there is no mid-week Bible study or one to one mentoring.

HMP Wealstun (West Yorkshire) - Give thanks for the opportunity we had to share the Gospel with a good number of prisoners at a service here last month. Please pray for all the men that came and for those who are being followed up.

Pray too for Glen, the C of E Chaplain as he moves to another prison at the beginning of September and for the appointment of a new Chaplain.

Wesley – Please pray for Wesley who has been attending our services. The Lord seems to have used his time in prison as a spiritual wakeup call and when we saw him a couple of weeks ago, he was due to be on trial. Please pray that Wesley will continue to trust Christ whatever the outcome.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group — Give thanks that they now have an additional member of the team who has been able to attend a service at HMP Leeds. The team have further opportunities to visit here this month. Please pray for guidance as things move forward.

Praise God that the team have also been asked to conduct a monthly Bible study at HMP New Hall, the local female prison.

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