

The ongoing blessing of giving away DayOne Diaries in prisons



Gerard Chrispin tells how the Day One Diary still helps in prison gospel work.

I thank Day One for getting me into prison work for Christ about twenty years ago. Day One's then leader, John Roberts, had received invitations from Prison Chaplains to send a Day One representative to go 'behind bars'. I was that privileged person who first took the gospel 'inside' for Day One Prison Ministries. On the principle of 'buy one – get one free' Phillippa came too.

Day One had developed a generous ministry of giving 140,000 Day One Diaries across UK's prison estate each year. The good-will thereby engendered gave Day One access to prisoners with the gospel. This allowed us to share with those behind bars that by personal faith in Christ crucified and risen again, sinful men and women can know forgiveness, eternal life and a changed life now, and the assurance of Heaven to come.

It was gratitude for the diaries and confidence in Day One as their publisher that encouraged a warm welcome in many UK prisons. That gratitude and confidence has spread each year as more and more Day One Diaries, books and gospel booklets have been received by the prisons. Today 180,000 diaries are given each year to those incarcerated in our prisons.

Following Day One policy, Phillippa and I retired when I became 60. That seemed very old to us then and very young to us now! With generous and welcome help and encouragement from Day One, Paul Philpot and we launched Daylight Christian Prison Trust, taking care to also keep Day One Prison Ministries alive in the prisons. About seven years later, Phillippa and I retired from Daylight leadership but continued to promote and encourage Day One Diaries in our independent work in prison. Later, CPR (Christian Prison Resources Trust – now ►

▶ better known as 'Christian Prison Resourcing') asked us to help to establish and develop their new work under David Fortune's leadership. Again, Day One encouraged us to also represent them in prison. Still today the magnetic attraction of the Day One Diaries helps us in our prison work, assists Chaplains who distribute them to prisoners, and are appreciated by the men and women behind bars.

Why are Day One Diaries still so helpful?

First, Chaplains are able to give to prisoners useful diaries containing beautiful scenic photographs and daily Bible verses. The diaries' annual Biblical theme is supported by individual monthly themes. Some prisoners receive the Day One Diaries as Christmas 'goodies' when they receive nothing else.

Second, the men have something in which to mark and store their significant dates – such as court appearances and legal visits – and the birthdays and anniversaries of their loved ones. Some men and women with little or no Christian background do read and think about the verses they read in the diaries.

Third, a number of members of staff also receive Day One Diaries. As well as being helpful to them, it does give Day One and its associates some friendly credibility in their eyes.

Fourth, in our current work with CPR it helps us to be identified with such a popular and appreciated gift. Also, to be identified with the Day One Diaries' brand gives us a positive knock-on effect when Chaplains and prisoners see the same 'Day One' logo on an evangelistic booklet or on books already used in prison such as *Is It True*, *Mark Time*, or *The Bible Panorama*.

If you are someone who supports Day One's gifts of Day One Diaries for prisons, either by prayer or by donating money to pay for their production and distribution, please be encouraged that your support is crucial, needed and effective. Please continue and encourage others to join you. ●