

Daylight Newsletter July 2022

We continue to be thankful for encouragements from our Bible study groups, with a good number of prisoners keen to attend and participate in these sessions. It was particularly good to receive a report from volunteers following a monthly Bible study in HMP Bullingdon recently.

Fourteen men attended the session and listened intently as one of the volunteers shared about the two thieves either side of Jesus on the cross, and then about Jesus' death on the centre cross. They had encouraging conversations with two men afterwards who had both warmed to the Gospel, so we pray that God will continue to work in their lives, as well as in the lives of the other men who attended.

In another prison, one of Daylight's chaplains has been encouraged by contact with Gabe, a middle-aged Muslim man in prison for the first time who was a bit bewildered to be given a sentence of a few weeks and was seen as being at risk of self-harm. At the end of a meeting to review his safety, Gabe asked our chaplain, "Have you got anything on the Christian faith? I'd like to learn about Christianity while I'm here". Our chaplain was able to give him a booklet of Bible passages and then the next week, Gabe asked again and was given more literature.

A few days later, our chaplain stopped at Gabe's cell to speak to him as he was due to be released in a few days, and he said, "It's always so good to see you! You always make me feel so happy to see you — you are a real man of God!". This dear man is going home to his family with God's Word. Please pray that the Lord will work in Gabe's heart, and that he will come to trust in Christ as his own Saviour.

July Prayer Points

Barnabas — Please pray for a prisoner who likes to be known as Barnabas, an encourager, that he will be able to minister usefully to others and grow in his own faith.

Chaplaincy Work — Over recent weeks, Daylight chaplains have had the responsibility of notifying quite a number of prisoners of the death of loved ones, some of which have been particularly difficult situations with people having taken their own lives. Please pray for these prisoners as they deal with these losses, and for our chaplains, that they will know the Lord's presence and help as they seek to offer support to them.

Glen — Please pray for Glen, a prisoner who has spent much time studying the Bible. He entered prison as a Jehovah's Witness but has no particular allegiance to them now and struggles with substance abuse and self-harm. Pray that he will grasp the simplicity of the Gospel and understand grace, and that God will reveal Himself to him.

Levi — Please continue to pray for Levi who previously told one of our chaplains that Luke was his favourite Gospel writer and asked questions about part of the book he did not understand. He is now working his way through JC Ryle's Commentary on Luke, so pray that this will be used in his heart and life.

Theo – Give thanks that Theo continues to enjoy reading Daylight's written messages, writing "I really enjoy receiving and reading the stories I get sent. Thank you for still sending me them. I really enjoyed 'I'd Rather Have Jesus' about Abraham following, trusting and believing in God. I pray every night but I'm still learning about God and everything else". Please continue to pray for him.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) — Please continue to pray for the chaplaincy team who are often short staffed due to illness at the moment. This can have an impact on whether Sunday services are able to go ahead and can also mean we are asked to take services at short notice. Please pray that our volunteer will be helped in speaking at these.

Please also continue to pray for T who became a Christian while in prison. He is coming to end of a long IPP (Imprisonment for Public

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Protection) or indeterminate sentence and is anxious about the future. Pray that he will be able to reintegrate into society and find a suitable church where he will continue to grow in his faith.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group - Give thanks that the first Christianity Explored Prison Edition session took place in HMP Wakefield in mid-June with eight men attending. Six of them returned for the second session, plus two new men. They have worked well together and participated enthusiastically in the activities and discussions. Please pray that all of the men will return for the third session and for wisdom for those in the group who are running the course.

Give thanks too that services and group meetings continue to increase in the other prisons in the area. Please pray that staffing turnover will be more stable, and that recruitment will become easier.

The Anglican Chaplain in one of the prisons is leaving in July to return to parish work. She has had a positive impact while in post and will be missed. Please pray that her replacement will also be someone who loves the Lord.

Written Messages - As regular readers of our newsletters will know, since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been producing weekly written messages to be sent into prisons. We have been greatly encouraged by the responses we have received to these over the last couple of years, both from prisoners and prison chaplains and are grateful to God that so many people have received them.

A number of prisons are still using them, so we wish to continue to provide these, but with most prisons now back to a more regular pattern of services and Bible studies, they are not needed as frequently, so from the beginning of this month, we will be sending out new messages fortnightly rather than weekly and have made our back catalogue available for any chaplains who might need a message on the weeks in-between.

Please pray that these will continue to be an encouragement to those prisoners who are Christians and that others who read them will be challenged to think about where they stand before God.







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