



Daylight Newsletter December 2022

We are grateful that chaplaincy work continues to provide good opportunities to spend time speaking to individual prisoners. One of our chaplains was recently encouraged by a conversation with Aidan, a young prisoner who recently lost his grandfather. Aidan said he was sure there was a God but that he had not given it much thought. He shared that he had been to a holiday club as a child where he had really enjoyed hearing Bible stories and that he felt he should perhaps start thinking about things again.

Responses to our regular written messages also continue to be encouraging. Alfie, a prisoner we have regular contact with, recently wrote letting us know that while doing some work in the prison library, he had been invited to give some book reviews. Instead of books, he had chosen to review a couple of Daylight's messages, sharing the stories behind the hymns *He Giveth More Grace* and *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* with a group of other prisoners.

During November, prisoners received a remembrance themed message, thinking about the meaning behind the Cenotaph, pointing them to the empty tomb of Christ and the hope found in the Gospel. It shared the story of a young Halifax Bomber pilot who had left a letter to be opened in the event of his death, telling his family of his own hope in Christ. The story was also shared at the Remembrance Sunday service in one prison, and it was encouraging to speak to one prisoner later that week who said, "That message about the young man that won the Victoria Cross – I told my family all about him!"

December Prayer Points

Andy – Please pray for Andy, a prisoner who attended one of our services shortly after coming to prison. He has since been moved to another prison but had kept our Bible Text Postcards and wrote recently saying that he has some of them displayed in a collage on his cell wall. He has picked up a mix of ideas from Christianity, Paganism and Norse Mythology, but is interested in learning more about the Bible. Pray that the literature we have sent him will help to clear up some of the confusion he feels currently, and that the Lord will use this contact to speak to him.

Ivan – Give thanks that Ivan continues to appreciate receiving literature and letters from one of our volunteers and has been enjoying working through J.C. Ryle's *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels* throughout this year. In a recent letter, he writes, "Thank you very much for the messages and for the books, they are really useful and mind changing for me, especially the books. Since I read them I have changed a lot in my mind and behaviour. I see things differently now. I pray every day and I can feel the results". Please continue to pray for him.

Matthew – Please pray for Matthew who was released recently. It is not clear where he stands spiritually, but he had been attending a church before coming to prison and is keen to find a new church to attend in the area where he is now living. Pray that he will find a suitable fellowship where he will be welcomed and supported.

Prison Staff – Give thanks for the opportunities we have to speak to prison staff while carrying out chaplaincy work or running services and Bible studies. Following a Sunday service recently, it was encouraging to hear an officer comment, "That was a great service!". Please pray that prison staff will see something different in us, and that we will always be prepared to give a reason for the hope that we have.

Scott – Please pray for Scott, a Christian prisoner who is really struggling with the guilt associated with his crime. He is enjoying attending the services in the prison and was delighted to be given a

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booklet by George Whitfield which he had requested. Please pray that this will be an encouragement to him.

HMP Sudbury (Derbyshire) – Give thanks for answered prayer here, with more prisoners attending the last couple of Bible study sessions. Please pray that these sessions will be an encouragement to those who are Christians and that others will be challenged by the passages that are discussed.

HMP Swansea (South Wales) – Give thanks for the men who came along to the recent *Christianity Explored Prison Edition* course here. Please pray that what they have learnt from Mark's Gospel will stay with them and that they will be keen to come along to the *Hope Explored* course due to begin shortly.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Give thanks for L, a Christian prisoner who is doing a great job of shining as a bright light on his wing. He is a well-liked, outgoing personality which he uses to good effect to witness to others.

Please pray for J, a new Christian who has been given some good literature and has other Christians on his wing, and for M who is wrestling with a long sentence, but is beginning to see God's hand in it.

Pray too for B who recently spent some time in the prison chapel after losing a close relative due to suicide.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – As a group and individually, the team have been praying that opportunities would return in two of the nearby prisons where we used to run monthly Bible studies pre Covid. Praise God that He has heard and answered these prayers, with both prisons inviting the team to come back in. Bible studies recommenced in one of them at the end of November and will resume in the other prison in January. Please pray that these studies will be used in the hearts and lives of those who come along.

Give thanks that it has also been possible to make arrangements for a large number of Gideon Bibles to be taken into two more of the prisons in the area. Please pray that these will be read and that the Lord will speak to many through His Word.



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