



Daylight Newsletter May 2023

One of Daylight's chaplains was recently visiting a prison to take a Sunday service, and was disappointed to find that the prisoners had not been notified it was taking place, meaning that no one had come over to the chapel. However, before he left, an officer came in and sat down for a chat, sharing that he had prayed for the first time in his life earlier that day.

The officer spoke about some of what had been troubling him, saying he had needed to cry out to God to forgive him for some of the things he had done, and mentioning that he had also previously spent some time speaking to a Christian prisoner about spiritual things. Our chaplain was then able to spend time sharing something of what he had prepared to preach about the thief on the cross, and they continued to chat about various things to do with the Gospel until the officer had to leave.

This was an encouraging reminder of how the Lord prepares the way before us in our prison visits, often giving opportunities we were not expecting. Please pray for this prison officer, and that our chaplain might have further opportunities to speak to him in the future.

It has also been encouraging to have our West Yorkshire Group running our first *Hope Explored* course in HMP Wealstun during April. The men attending have been keen to participate in the studies and discussions, and when asked for feedback, it was good to hear one prisoner say, "Today has been very good. I have really enjoyed myself and it has given me a lot of knowledge about God and Jesus". Please pray that this would not just be head knowledge, but that he and the other men attending will know for themselves the hope and peace that can be found in Christ.

May Prayer Points

Ben – Please pray for Ben who has been serving a sentence for a violent offence, having had a history of drug dealing and substance abuse. He has had contact with one of Daylight's chaplains and left prison at the end of April with a Gideon New Testament and contact details for a Christian charity that may be able to help provide him with work. Please pray that he will receive the support he needs and will be kept from drifting back into substance abuse.

Bereaved Prisoners – Please continue to pray for prisoners who have recently lost members of their families, and for chaplains as they have the responsibility of delivering the news and seek to provide support to them. Please pray that God would give them the right words for each prisoner's situation.

Christianity Explored Prison Edition – Give thanks for a *Christianity Explored* course run at new prison during April. The men attending went away having learned Mark 10:45: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many", as well as taking daily reading booklets and other material.

Howard – Please pray for Howard who has recently started using our Letter Writing Ministry. His family live abroad, meaning they cannot visit often, and he has been feeling particularly lonely since moving to a new prison. Please pray that he will settle in well and that letters from one of our volunteers will be an encouragement to him.

Solent Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks for the opportunity to take a service at HMP Ford on 7th May. Please pray for the team running this and for the men who come along, that the message they hear will be used to speak to them.

Theo – Please continue to pray for Theo who came into contact with one of our chaplains following the death of his mum. He has recently completed a *Christianity Explored* course, and is keen to find a church to attend when he leaves prison this month.

HMP Wayland (Norfolk) – Please pray for L who is spending a lot of time

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doing Bible correspondence courses, and making use of the resources we give him to read or watch, but is still not sure of the need to be born again.

Pray too that the Sunday services we are given to lead will be blessed and prove useful to the men, and that the Christian literature from various sources will be used, read, and applied by the Holy Spirit, without the men being distracted or misled by other influences.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks that the chaplains at all the nearby prisons were pleased with the way the Easter services and activities were received by those attending. Please pray that the messages given at these events will be used to speak to many.

Praise God that the group have been given the opportunity to start *Christianity Explored Prison Edition* in HMP Wakefield at the end of May. Please pray that the men who attend will be receptive and that they will come to know Christ as their Saviour.

An Introductory Note from Gaius:

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 1:7)

Hi, I'm grateful to God that I've been “a servant of Christ Jesus” some 35 years now. By Christ's grace, He used godly parents and the encouragement of the church; and raised me to serve a Residential & Outdoors Centre, as a Church Youth Worker and recently as a Pastor. Last month, in answer to your prayers, God called me to this ministry, and it is a joy and privilege to join the Daylight family, “loved by God, called as saints.”

“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you because the news of your faith” and witness to prisoners has been reported to me. It is my intention to uphold you in prayer and “I want very much to see you, so that” we may “be mutually encouraged by each other's faith” and I can really understand and support what is going on. Would you please pray that my ministry with you and for you might be fruitful, so that together we can continue to give the glory to God and “to preach the gospel.”



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