



## Daylight Newsletter July 2023

We give thanks that our West Yorkshire team have had an encouraging start to *Christianity Explored Prison Edition* at HMP Wakefield, with a good number of men attending. In response to a question regarding the answer to the problem of sin, it was particularly encouraging to see one man write, “Believing in Jesus and letting Him into your heart”. We pray that he and the others attending will truly come to know this.

Good responses to written material also continue, and one of our chaplains was recently encouraged by a chat with a young man, Scotty, who does not attend services or Bible studies, but is happy to receive Daylight’s written messages. Scotty spoke about the recent death of his grandfather and the funeral that had taken place that week, sharing that the previous Sunday, he had read Daylight’s message, part of a series on the life of Joseph, and felt it had been written just for him, bringing a tear to his eye.

Our chaplain was able to explain how stories or verses from the Bible can speak to us like that and hopes to see Scotty again. Scotty is due to be released fairly soon, but we pray that something of this contact will stay with him and that the Lord will use it in his heart and life.

It was also good to hear from another prisoner, Andy, who we first met at a Sunday service some time ago. He has a mix of ideas from Christianity, Paganism, and Norse Mythology but is interested in learning more about what the Bible teaches and wrote recently, saying, “Thanks for your literature. I always read them and find them interesting. Keep them coming”. Please pray that the Lord will use this contact to speak to him.

## July Prayer Points

**Chaplaincy Work** – One of our volunteers carrying out chaplaincy work was recently sitting with a prisoner in his cell discussing his reading of Acts 2. All sorts of music can be heard on the wings, but on this occasion, our volunteer realised that someone was singing 10,000 Reasons, based on Psalm 103, and found it amazing to think what is going on inside a prison. Please pray that just hearing the words of Christian songs like this might be used to speak to others on the wings.

**HMP Deerbolt (County Durham)** – Give thanks that things are now more settled with the Sunday services here and that numbers are increasing. Please pray that the messages preached will be used to encourage those who are Christians and that others will be challenged to think about where they stand spiritually.

Give thanks too for the weekly Bible study group. They had a profitable time working through John Blanchard's *Ultimate Questions* and are now looking at John Phillips' *Truth Unlocked*. However, a couple of the regular attenders have recently moved on, so please pray that there will be new men keen to come along.

**John** – Last month we mentioned John who had come along to one of our Sunday services with good questions about Bible passages he had been reading. It was lovely to see him again at a recent service and to find that having finished Genesis, he has now read through Exodus, and is also spending time completing Bible courses in his cell. Please pray that the Lord will use these studies in his heart and life.

**HMP Leeds (West Yorkshire)** – Give thanks for K, who has been rallying the men on his wing to attend the Bible studies here. He has recently been moved to another prison, so please pray that he may be able to continue to share the Gospel and give a reason for his faith in this new environment.

**Luke** – Please continue to pray for Luke, a Romanian prisoner who has been attending one of our Bible study groups. Having lived in this country for a number of years, he is concerned about the possibility of being deported at the end of his sentence and having to leave family.

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**Supporting Prisoners** – Please pray for Daylight workers in prisons as they seek to support prisoners with a variety of complex needs, including self-harm, gender identity, and mental health issues. Pray that we will be given wisdom as we seek to counsel them, and for the prisoners, that they will see the relevance of Scripture to their situations.

**HMP Wakefield (West Yorkshire)** – Give thanks for the *Christianity Explored Prison Edition* course currently running here. Please pray that the men attending will gel together as a group and that they will continue to ask questions to clarify their thinking about the things of Christ.

Praise God that we have also been asked to resume monthly Bible studies in the prison.

**HMP Wayland (Norfolk)** – Give thanks for the opportunity for a team from *Great Ellingham Baptist Church* to run services here each month. Please pray that these services will be used in the hearts and lives of the men who come along.

Give thanks for W who requested a study Bible and is regularly reading and making excellent use of it. From conversation with him, he seems to have been converted during his time in prison. Please pray that others in the prison will also be willing to take up and use reading materials and study guides that are readily available.

Pray too for D who is due to be released soon, having attended Sunday services inside prison. He wants to find a good church and we are seeking to advise him, so please pray that he will be able to find a fellowship that will welcome and support him.

**HMP Wealstun (West Yorkshire)** – Give thanks for the *Hope Explored* course here which started near the end of June. The three men attending the first session listened well and the team found that chatting with them while having coffee presented many opportunities to answer questions about the Gospel.

**HMP Woodhill (Buckinghamshire)** – Give thanks for a new team of volunteers ready to work here. Please pray that the team will grow and that they will be able to establish regular visits.

***New Foundations:** This month we are pleased to be able to highlight the work of *New Foundations*, a local Community Chaplaincy offering support to ex-offenders in the Solent area. Please pray for them in the important work they are doing, and if you are living in the Solent area and can help, please do get in touch with them.*

***News from the Office:** Seven prisons in nine weeks might well be some sort of record! It has certainly been a blessed time; I have seen with my own eyes the “breadth and length, height and depth” of God’s love for prisoners, expressed in the works, words, and prayers of our volunteers across the country.*

*Misclassification and bad behaviour are the usual reasons for getting around lots of prisons, and there is an increasing ‘churn’ of prisoners at this time. This is affecting opportunities for Bible studies and chaplaincy work in many places; as is the continued shortage of prison officers and increasing number of those in prison. Please pray.*

*We crave your prayers as we begin to look forward to 2024. There are many questions to seek God’s guidance for:*

- How to finish the post-pandemic recovery of as many Gospel opportunities as we can?*
- How will we give thanks to God for 20 years of Daylight?*
- How do we recruit and support the next generation of the Daylight family?*

*We are also aiming to run regional Prison Awareness Days, hoping to draw in more people to support the work and to encourage those already in it.*

*And please pray that Hannah will have a blessed holiday.*



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