



## Daylight Newsletter August 2023

Five years ago, we shared news of a man named James. He had come into prison with no interest in faith at all, but following contact with one of our chaplains, began to attend Sunday services, and was then able to say that he knew he had come to prison to find Christ.

Over the following months, it was good to see James being encouraged by the messages on Sundays, sharing that he was seeing so many new things and learning so much from the passages by the Spirit applying the Word to his heart. After one service, it was particularly encouraging to hear James share that he had felt really helped by the message, saying, "I know I am a Christian".

James faced many difficulties and struggled with feeling lonely, but sought to be a blessing to other prisoners on his wing. When he was given a job in prison reception, it was good to see him using that as an opportunity to point newcomers to the Sunday services.

During the pandemic, James was moved to an open prison, where we have continued contact with him by sending regular literature, and it was encouraging to receive a call from him recently saying, "You have supported and helped me through my whole prison sentence; I am going home tomorrow and just wanted to say thank you".

What James will face back at home is uncertain, but he shared that he was remembering the words of Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". Please pray that he will know the Lord's guidance and blessing as he settles into life outside, and that he will be able to become part of a local church.

## August Prayer Points

**Aber Conference** – Please pray for Hannah with Daylight's stand in the Mission Exhibition at this year's Aber Conference (12th-19th August).

**HMP Cookham Wood (Kent)** – Changes at the prison have meant that our team have had to restart the vetting process. Please pray that this will all go through smoothly so they can soon resume running services with the young offenders here.

**HMP New Hall (West Yorkshire)** – Give thanks for continued opportunities to run monthly Bible studies in this women's prison. They are very well attended, with around fourteen lively, and very interested prisoners, who are keen to participate in each session.

**Nigel Robinson** – Please pray for Nigel, our Regional Director for the Midlands, who recently fractured his sternum after tripping over on his way back from running services in a prison. Give thanks that surgery has not been needed, and please pray that he will take time to rest and soon be brought back to full health and strength.

**Noah** – Give thanks for Noah who recently wrote to let us know he had moved prisons, and would still like to receive our written messages regularly, saying, "I look forward to receiving them and would also like to say thank you. I really appreciate it". Please pray that these messages will be used to speak to him.

**Parole & Court Appearances** – Please pray for prisoners who are anxious about upcoming parole meetings and court appearances, for those working in chaplaincy as they seek to support them, and for the Lord's will to be done in the outcomes of these.

**Simon Gay** – Give thanks for Simon, a volunteer who has been carrying out chaplaincy work at a prison in Norfolk. He and his wife, Jane, are planning to move to France during August to attend a Christian language school for a year, with a view to possible church planting work, so please pray that the Lord will bless and encourage them as they seek to serve Him there.

**Solent Prayer & Support Group** – Give thanks for the opportunity the

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team had to run a service at HMP Ford at the end of July. Please pray for the prisoners who came along, that they will truly receive salvation in Christ.

Please also continue to pray for further opportunities to run services in at HMP Ford in the future, and that opportunities will also open up at another nearby prison.

**HMP Wakefield (West Yorkshire)** – Give thanks that the *Christianity Explored Prison Edition* course currently running here continues to go well. Though numbers have dropped a little, the interest of the men who attend is increasing.

As he left the latest session, one prisoner commented, “I shall miss this when it’s finished”, while another has started to attend Sunday services. Please pray that by the end of the course, all the men will have a greater understanding of who Christ is, and that they will each come to know Him as their Saviour.

Give thanks that the monthly Bible studies here are also due to resume during August. Please pray that the Lord will guide the team as to which aspects of His Word the group should study each month.

**HMP Wayland (Norfolk)** – Please pray for L who is working through a correspondence Bible study course, that as he answers the questions, his spiritually blind eyes will be opened.

Please also pray for M as he leaves the prison, that he will seek out the church that was suggested to him and be brought to faith in Jesus Christ, and for P who has returned to prison after a period outside and recognises that his lapse in attending to his spiritual life has led to him reoffending.

**HMP Wealstun (West Yorkshire)** – Give thanks for the recent *Hope Explored* course here. Please continue to pray for the three men who showed a keen interest in each session, one of whom believed he had been recalled to prison so that the Lord would change his life.

The team have been asked to run the course for a third time later in the year, so please pray that there will be others keen to attend then.

**West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group** – Please pray that as the Lord is opening more doors in nearby prisons, He will also lay upon the hearts of others in the area, the desire to be involved in prison ministry.

## News from the Office: Team Building

At one of our recent team zoom calls we heard how 50% of Prison Officer new recruits had quit in less than a year, and that a specialist team had come in to help with training and skills for new officers. Over the past month I have had the privilege to discuss with at least two new people and others already known to us, the possibility of either beginning or increasing their service for the LORD with Daylight.

Building teams and maintaining good relationships are vital to life; God has not put us here, in families and churches, to be independent, but to be interdependent. It is my conviction that we need to better connect the Daylight family; with one another and particularly the 'workers' with you, the churches and individuals, who are our prayer and financial support.

Over the last few months I have got to know most of the Daylight 'workers' but not so many of you. So, if you would like to drop me a line with any comments and suggestions, but also about keeping in touch, I would love to hear them. I am also hoping to join Hannah at the Aber Conference on the Friday afternoon, if you happen to be there, it would be great to see you. (email: [gaius@daylightcpt.org](mailto:gaius@daylightcpt.org) or 'snail mail' to the office)

So please pray for the Daylight family that God would draw us together but pray also for the training and recruitment of officers in prisons, and that God might raise up some of his people to serve in this role too.



The Welcome Directory offer a Prison Awareness Course for churches wanting to be prepared for welcoming prison leavers. Visit [welcomedirectory.org.uk](http://welcomedirectory.org.uk) to find out more or sign up.



If you would like to support Daylight's work financially, one-off or regular gifts can be made via the 'Donate' tab on our website [daylightcpt.org](http://daylightcpt.org), or call 01245 252735 to make gifts by phone. Cheques made payable to Daylight Christian Prison Trust can be sent to our office address below, and if you would like a Gift Aid or Standing Order Form, please let us know.

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