

News from the Office: A Note from Gaius

I hope you will permit me a personal reflection at year's end.

I want to publicly thank God for the whole Daylight Family. You have made me, an outsider with no prison experience, most welcome; you have shown me the love of Christ in so many ways. I have been welcomed to fellowship and sometimes to teach or preach, in Homes, Coffee Shops, Churches and Prisons, in both Wales and England; Scotland is on the cards for the New Year and Northern Ireland for next Autumn! And wherever I have gone I have found men and women for whom their highest goal is the proclamation of our dear LORD Jesus; the presentation of sinful humanity's deepest need and Christ's once and for all, one and only, sacrifice that meets that need.

This time last year I had no idea what our Father had in store for me, the page was blank, and now I still find it hard to believe what He has planned, only this time the page is very full!

God the Holy Spirit is at work through us all, and Jesus' promise of John 14:12, "greater works than these [we] will do", is even now being fulfilled. Not greater in power but in extent, and to what extent, only last week I heard someone say, "I think this is me becoming a Christian" and "God has brought me here to wake up my faith." What other "food" do we need than to do the will of Him who sends us?

Over the course of the year (not including letter writing), we have been active in HMPs Birmingham, Bullingdon, Cardiff, Chelmsford, Coldingley, Deerbolt, Durham, Elmley, Feltham, Ford, High Down, Holme House, Kirklevington Grange, Leeds, Lewes, Maidstone, Nottingham, Oakwood, New Hall, Portland, Standford Hill, Sudbury, Swaleside, Swansea, Usk, Wakefield, Wayland, and Wealstun.

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, 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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Daylight Newsletter December 2023

It was encouraging recently to hear from our West Yorkshire team about Simon, a prisoner who regularly attends Sunday Services, midweek meetings, and a monthly Prayer & Reflection Session. Having found that five other men on his wing are reluctant to attend services, saying they are not accustomed to the formality that is involved, Simon has begun to meet with them for prayer once a week.

Simon is now also hoping to encourage these men to attend the next Prayer & Reflection session. Please pray that they might be willing to try coming along, and that the Lord will continue to use Simon to reach others.

We also give thanks that our written studies continue to be widely distributed, with many prisoners receiving them regularly. Following a recent study focusing on Christ as our great High Priest from Hebrews 10:19-22 which was sent in alongside a booklet encouraging the readers to think about trying prayer for themselves, it was particularly encouraging to hear from Rick, a prisoner we have had contact with for several years.

Despite finding reading a challenge, Rick appreciates receiving letters from one of our volunteers and our literature, and replied saying, "Just a note for the Daylight office team...I always read and enjoy the sheets they send, and I am currently reading the Try Praying small booklet".

Please pray that both the contact from our volunteer and the literature Rick reads will be used to speak to him.

December Prayer Points

HMP Birmingham (West Midlands) – Give thanks for continued opportunities to run weekly Bible studies here and for the group of men attending who are enjoying the current series looking at The Sermon on the Mount.

Chaplaincy Teams – Please pray for prison chaplaincy teams, with the additional events and responsibilities they have over the Christmas period, that they will be given strength at this busy time of year.

HMP Chelmsford (Essex) – Give thanks that we have already been able to build a good relationship with the new Managing Chaplain, and for a new opportunity to run services for VPs (Vulnerable Prisoners) here midweek, in addition to the Sunday services we are already involved in. Please pray that these services will be used to speak to the men that come along.

Christmas – Give thanks for the opportunities there will be to run services and give out seasonal literature over the Christmas period. Please pray that these will be used to reach many with the Gospel, both prisoners and prison staff.

HMP Deerbolt (County Durham) – Give thanks for six new men who have expressed an interest in joining the Daylight Bible Study Group here. Please pray that they will come along and that they will settle into the group well as they study God's Word together.

HMP Kirklevington Grange (North Yorkshire) – Give thanks for the two men who attended a recently restarted service in this open prison. Please pray that others might join them in future months.

HMP Leeds (West Yorkshire) – Give thanks that the team have been asked to move their late December Bible study to an earlier date, so that the men do not have to miss a session due to the Christmas period. Letter Writing – Give thanks for all the prisoners who have been receiving letters from our volunteers throughout this year. Please pray

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that this contact will continue to be an encouragement to them, and that our volunteers will know the Lord's help in writing these letters.

HMP Lewes (East Sussex) – Give thanks for the recent Christianity Explored Prison Edition course here. Please pray that what the men have learnt from Mark's Gospel will stay with them, and that this will be used in their hearts and lives.

Mike Riddle – Having served on our board of trustees for almost twelve years, Mike is retiring at the end of this year. All of us at Daylight would like to thank him for all he has contributed to the cause of the gospel in prisons throughout those years and for the encouragement that he has been, both to the rest of the board, and to our staff team.

Mike will continue to be involved in prison ministry with our Solent Prayer & Support Group, so please pray that the Lord will continue to use him as he serves there, and that he, Gill, and the family will know the Lord's blessing in their future lives.

HMP Oakwood (West Midlands) – Give thanks for several opportunities to run Sunday services here during November, and for continued encouragements from the weekly Bible study group who are currently studying Acts. Please pray that these activities will be an encouragement to those who are Christians, helping them to grow in grace, and that others will be challenged by what they learn.

HMP Sudbury (Derbyshire) – Give thanks for the opportunity to return to running Sunday evening services here. The men attending are mainly non-Christians, so please pray that we will be able to present the Gospel clearly, and that the messages preached will be used to speak to them.

HMP Wealston (West Yorkshire) – Please continue to pray for the running of the Hope Explored course here, that many men will attend, and learn more about Jesus Christ as a personal Saviour.

West Yorkshire Prayer & Support Group – Give thanks that members of the group will be attending Carol Services in three of the nearby prisons, as well as Community Events and a prison staff Carols & Mince Pies gathering. Please pray that these will provide good opportunities for them to speak to a number of different people.