



MISSIONARIES TO GREAT BRITAIN



CMF INTERNATIONAL PRAYER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2010

Much has happened since we last wrote to you. In fact, the past 12 months have had moments where they were little more than a blur. We spent last summer visiting a few of our support partners in the southern states (KY to FL). Since returning to the UK, we have been focusing on following God's leading in our ministry. Allow me to spend some time catching you up to speed. Fasten your seatbelt; it may be a bit of a blur.

THE POINT

"No, it's jolly well not okay!"
"What will I do with my Monday evening?!"

This was one response to our cancelling The Point for one evening. Due to schedules, we were not able to host The Point for that one week. The Point is our teen Q & A home group that allows teens to ask questions and wrestle with life issues in a safe place.

We host 15 to 20 teens on Monday nights for food, chatting, and teaching. It is all centered on sharing our faith in Jesus with the teens. It is fun seeing them grow closer to one another while also seeing some of them give serious thought to following Jesus. They are gaining a group identity.

The Point is gaining momentum in its influence on the young people. Some of them have begun sharing some prayer requests with us. The prayer

requests have centered on issues of family health, things they have heard in the news, or issues affecting someone they know. We are growing to the place where they will share things that are personal – we are not there yet, but we are getting closer.

The format of addressing questions in their lives has worked well. Placing a box with slips of paper where they can anonymously write a question or prayer request at any point during the evening has allowed them to put things before us they might not want to say out loud.

At a recent Point, I (David) had a very meaningful conversation with a few of the teens. One of them stated that she believed and wanted to follow Jesus. She even had a Christian band on her wrist. However, she did not go to one of the local churches for a variety of reasons. She said that she considered The Point her church! The reality of a teen church was taking root in her heart and her mind.

UNCHAINED

The Point has been significant in planning and leading our Unchained teen worship events. They have helped us think through the elements that help make the events accessible for teens of all backgrounds. The foundation of Unchained is the atmosphere. As teens enter the event, they



Unchained.



Jousting at Nottingham Castle.

are welcomed by the music of a local teen band. There is a café where they can eat or just sit and relax with friends. There is also an area with Playstations, dance mats, and other interactive games. An art area is provided for teens who want to draw, make buttons, or just doodle. Outside, we offer football (soccer) events and an area for teens to gather and talk.

During the event, the teens hear a short talk based on the theme of the evening. They are given the opportunity to respond in appropriate ways. The response may be praying with someone, taking communion, drawing a picture, or writing a prayer.

We have held two Unchained events and our next one is planned for autumn. We dream of a day when Unchained will become the church that is influential in the lives of young people in this community.

TRENTSIDE YOUTH CLUB

Our relationship with the local community has grown through the Trentside Youth Club. We assumed responsibility for the youth club as a way to connect with young people. Many of them have no contact with a local church. While Trentside is not a Christian club, as Christians we see it as a ministry of service to the community. The club has grown from the 15 to 20 when we first got involved to 40 to 45 teens. Our membership list has nearly 100 names on it, so we are able to consistently connect with new teens each week. By our willingness to serve the needs of the community in this way, we have seen our influence and integrity grow among the police, politicians, and parents. We thank God for the opportunity to serve the needs of this community in this way.

The community connection of Trentside, the relational nature of The Point, and the Unchained worship events are all part of our vision to see a transformational youth church established in this part of Nottingham. We are still looking for long-term teammates, but we have been extremely blessed by the help of parents, local Christians, and US friends/supporters.

Ultimately, we dream of the day when our ministry will be housed in a location which will better serve the community. We dream of the day when it will see teens drop in after school for a snack and a chat. We dream of a place that will house our teen worship, as well as provide a refuge for teens who are hurting from abuse, drugs, or loneliness. We envision a day that will see it serve as a centerpiece for ministering to teens on the street and training new disciples to lead and serve locally and around the world.

So, when we hear comments such as "No, it's jolly well not okay...", we realize that our dream is becoming reality in the lives of some.

FAMILY

The last 12 months have been challenging. My mother battled with cancer over two years. During the last part of 2009, there were times that we made trips to Ohio. We felt extremely blessed to have supporters who helped to make this happen. We said "goodbye" to her (and heaven said "hello") on January 8, 2010. She lost her battle with lung cancer but won the race. We know that she has been enjoying reunions with family members and looking into the face of Jesus. My father, Joe, and I talk on the phone every Tuesday evening. He continues to adjust to life without his wife of nearly 53 years.

Teresa's family has also struggled with health issues. Both parents have had some setbacks over the last year. In particular, in June, Teresa made a quick trip back to be with her mother. It was uncertain whether or not she would pull through. Thankfully she has had renewed strength and health. We know many of you were praying for her during this time. Thank you for your prayers!

Nathanael has continued with his gymnastics training and competing. He has done really well, but has also had several serious injuries over the last 18 months. He has demonstrated real commitment through these setbacks. He has shown similar commitment in his faith. He meets weekly with four or five other teen boys for mentoring and mutual accountability. He has grown

into a young man of faith. He is planning to pursue further training in his faith by attending a Christian university in America beginning next year. He is open to God's leading toward a career in Christian ministry or a vocation in sports.

Rachael has continued to progress with her music and dance. She has advanced in her piano and flute to a very high level. She is one of the more accomplished flautists in her school. She continues to enjoy a variety of dance classes as well. She has used her dance in a production of The King and I, and looks forward to further opportunities to be on stage. She has recently advanced to the GCSE years in school. This means that she has begun her final two years of compulsory schooling, which will conclude in a series of exams. She is looking toward a career in music.

We continue to move forward as we see God lead. Thank you for your partnership in prayer, finances, and encouragement. You are a blessing to us.

David & Teresa

David and Teresa Fittro

PRAYER PRAISES AND REQUESTS

Finances

As we set our budget for next year we are facing greater expenses due to our additional ministries. Although the exchange rate has become more favorable, we need to increase our monthly support and raise funds for work on our house/ministry center. Please pray with us for God's provision of funds and how He might use you in fulfilling these needs.

Family

Please continue to pray for our families in America. We remain thankful that they have been such an influence on our lives. Please lift up their health to the Father.

Please continue to pray for Nathanael and Rachael as they grow and mature into young adults of faith. They are a real witness to their friends. Pray that God would lead them into the paths that He has for them to serve Him throughout their lives.

Ministry

Please pray for the young people to whom we minister. Several of them are dealing with very difficult and challenging circumstances. Pray for us to have God's wisdom in working with them. Pray for Him to make Himself known to them.

Emily Hisey is a friend from Canton, OH, who is coming to work with us for seven months. Pray that as she arrives and settles in that God will work His will in her life. Also, pray for her relationship with the teens, that God would use her to show His love to them. Pray for her family in Ohio while she is away.

Also, we have an intern joining us from January-April 2011. Allison Jackson has been part of three Lincoln Christian University teams working with us in the past. She has a heart for England, and is seeking God's leading for her life. Pray for her funding and for all things to come together as she anticipates being with us next year.

Fishnet

We continue to circulate a monthly e-update. If you would like to receive this, please contact us at dlf92@aol.com. If you are not on the internet but would like a hard copy mailed to you, please let us know via CMF, PO Box 501020, Indianapolis, IN 46250.



Trentside youth playing games.



The Brandenburg family from Winchester, KY, came to help us for a week



Practice for "Set me free" drama.



Lincoln Christian University students talked with over 1,000 teens in Religious Education Classes.



David & Teresa Fittro

CMF INTERNATIONAL

PO BOX 501020

INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46250-6020

317.578.2700

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 2975
Indianapolis, IN