

Connecting People March 06

Rob Burns



We are in the final push of another great year with the trainees. The 2005/6 guys have been particularly bright, enthusiastic, teachable and social! It's been great to see them get on with each other so well. Some of the excellent feedback tells me that they are being challenged and inspired by the classroom training on Thursdays, their varied ministry adventures through the week and their time with a one to one mentor. Please pray for determination to finish well, continued quality relationships on all levels and for God's lead for the future in the trainee's lives. For some that will be a job, for others that will be further education. Thank you for your prayers, we desperately need them!

Karen Fisher



Hey there!

It's been a great term or so since we last wrote. Christmas was in there somewhere! It's hectic but really fun. Youth work at this level is great. Having theoretical and practical side by side has done amazing things to my reflection skills. Also having a great team around has built my confidence, it's incredible how well we all fit together! I thank God for the way that as a team we have been supported remarkably by Connect. I have really felt the difference learning makes

to Youth Work. I pray that it continues into the final term and that I get many opportunities to use it in the future.

Please pray for the team, we've grown through changes and tough times, it would be good to spend some time just being with them and enjoying their company. Also for me as I plan to leave Cardiff at the end of the gap year to be closer to my family and hopefully take up a job as a full-time salaried Youth Worker. This will be my first proper job, and although I will relish the challenge, I'm very scared.

Ruth Davies



Dear Friends

I've just got in from another session with some boys from the local High school who are on an alternative curriculum. We take them out climbing, kayaking, walking and do lots of fun stuff. In return we get to practice our patience and learn to forgive and forget the bad things that happened the previous week. I am having an awesome time and really enjoying the work I'm involved in. I'm learning such a lot in such a short space of time, I just pray that God helps me to remember it all.

This is without a doubt the place that God wants me to be! Most of us are beginning to think about plans for next year and I trust that God will show me where He wants me when the year is over. So praise God that He has blessed me and is blessing others through me, and pray that He continues to do His work in me and increase my circle of influence.

Josh Boston



These past few months have been an amazing time! We need to praise God for all that has been done through the programmes we have been able to start at the Butetown Church of God, which are discipling the young students and bringing them to a stronger commitment with God. Pray that we will be able to make a strong push for the end, that the Easter play will go smoothly, and that the youth will be motivated to continue the group after I leave. Also pray that we will remain faithful to the end, leaning on God for strength.

Bonnie Dixon



Hello. I am 24 and from Washington D.C. In May 2005, I graduated from Liberty University with a degree in Worship and Music Ministries. When I return back to the US, I might be going to graduate school to get my masters in counselling. Coming to Wales has truly been an incredible experience, God has taught me so much here since I arrived in January. Please pray that the Lord would direct my next steps in life. Also pray for the young people that live in the Grangetown area, that they would passionately yearn for Him and that the Lord would build up the relationships there. The Connect course has been a true blessing. Thank you so much for your prayers.

Nick Heavyside



Hello everyone. The year so far has been really good. Since the last prayer letter I have sorted out exactly what I am doing for the year, it wouldn't be very good if I hadn't :-). I am involved with an alternative curriculum class, an after school club and a sports and leisure class, all with Llanedeyrn High School. I do different church youth clubs and a drop-in centre. I am really getting stuck into these activities; I'm learning a lot and being challenged at the same time. Relationships with the young people are forming really well in all the youth work I am doing and I hope they will continue to develop. The Connect course is going well at the moment; however there are some subjects that I find hard to get done.

Please pray for the relationships with the young people and with Llanedeyrn High. For me, that I will continue to have the energy to do what I am doing, be motivated to get the work done well for the Connect course and that I will continue to learn and be challenged in all the things I am doing.

Thank you all for your prayers, God Bless!

Ruth McAdam



This term I love the variety of the activities I'm involved in and the diversity of people I'm working with! Please pray for the team, the staff and the people that we serve. A lot of the work I do is based with the church at Glenwood, the local High School and a local estate. Karen and I have started a small group for younger youth in the church (11-14s). Thank God that they are becoming open with us, pray for them to discover God for themselves. Once a week I work alongside the youth work team with a church in Porth. The young people are really developing in character and it's exciting to see! Please pray that they will dream big dreams and fulfill their huge potential. The Connect course is really

relevant to the work I'm doing. I'm enjoying the modules on leadership and the Old Testament. I know I'm learning lots, please pray that I would live it too. Thank you for your prayers. 1Th 3:12 May the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow more and more...

Matt Jones



Hello!

God has guided me in amazing ways over the last few months. I've learnt the important principle of stepping out of the boat to walk on water. By being willing to come out of my comfort zone, I've grown spiritually, which has deeply impacted my ministry. I am now watching myself doing things which I never thought I'd do. Thank you Jesus!

I've recently been accepted to do a degree in Youth and Community Work and Applied Theology (!!) and now need a church to work in for the next 3 years. I ask you to pray that I find a church around Cardiff or Bristol whom I can work with and that I continue to grow in my walk with God. I know for a fact God does not and will not let me down.

Thank you

Rachel Drury



Hello! This term I'm loving all the work that I'm involved with and the variety of what I'm doing. I work with little ones in Hand in Hand and at Wigglerz, which have been so much fun (I think I'm starting to rediscover the child within). I'm also doing lots more Schools work, helping in Llanedeyrn High on Wednesday afternoons and teaching PSHE in various schools.

In terms of prayer, please pray for the schools work that I'm doing, for God's peace and strength when it gets stressful and also for the young people in the lessons, that they would engage with what we are teaching and have a desire to learn. Also, there are many aspects of this year that I've found difficult in terms of new responsibilities and tasks. I would appreciate prayer that when I face these challenges, God would be working in me, stretching me and developing my character and gifts.

Thanks so much for all your prayers, it really is such a blessing to know that I have the support of my Church family. God bless you all.

Paul Francis



At the moment I am very struck by the simple thought 'one life matters to God'. I have just opened my newspaper and there is a large photograph of some people in Africa. As I looked into their faces I simply thought of what stories they could tell. Well as you have read these prayer stories from these young people on the gap year team, you have found they are full of excitement, hope, fear – full of life. It is such a privilege to play a small part in their story and to see what the Lord is doing in them and through them. You have read their short paragraphs, but now listen to the large story behind them – and thank God!