

Dear

How are you? I'm fantastic! I just finished my degree; I've been studying BA Criminology and Psychology for the last three years at the University of Luton. So now I can sign my name with some letters after it, although I'm not sure it'll last long.

Over the last three years I have experienced many things. Most of them come under the guise of 'growing up'! Thanks to University I now know how to cook and clean up after myself, something that I'm sure is essential for life. I have also grown with God more than I could ever imagine. The last three years have challenged me and made me more reliable on God. This is partly to do with the fact that I started University with no idea of why I was there or where I was going.

I thank God every time I think of my first term at Luton and how I went from lone student to a member of a youth team at St Mary's Church in the town centre and gained some long-term friends. My life from that point was based fully on God and following His every word. Having believed blindly since I was little, the Christian Union and the church challenged my faith and made it stronger. I now trust God more than ever and my relationship with Him goes up and down like any normal relationship.

A verse that has surrounded me in the last year is Psalm 145 v 8 'The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love'. In September 2004 I was adamant that I would be staying in Luton the following year. Slowly in the run up to Christmas, my mind was changed. I had learned to love Luton and the young people with all my heart, but God wants to move me on to share his grace, compassion, temper and love with other people. So after exploring many options and going through interviews, my heart settled in Glenwood Church, Cardiff, Wales. Technically still in the UK, but a completely separate country!

The year is based around a Connect course which provides training for working with young people. The tuition fees are £2,500 which includes accommodation and food. This money is not just for everything I will do, but everything that God will do through me. Please support me in any way you can, either through tithing, or a one-off sum. If you wish to support me in this way, please send a cheque to the address above (or to my address in Wales after 12<sup>th</sup> September). I am investigating paying money straight to the church in order to claim Gift Aid. If you wish to use this method, please get in touch.

All the information for the year is on the enclosed sheet. It includes details of the year and prayer points in the run up to September. Please pray for me and consider the financial support you can offer, towards the work that I will do for God. Any questions you have please don't hesitate to ask.

God Bless,

Karen Fisher

**@ What happens in a year out?**

- The year out runs from 12<sup>th</sup> September 2005 to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2006.
- I will be working for a church called Glenwood in Llanedeyrn, as part of their gap year team.
- My first 3 weeks will be very unfocussed, getting the opportunity to do everything the church has to offer, which includes working with the young, the old and going to the base churches in the South Valleys
- During this time I will be getting to know the team around me (which is 9 people aged between 18-23) and meeting with my mentor
- Then the work I do becomes more focused. I hope to start working with those at risk of offending, or those who already offend. I have prayed about this opportunity for the last year, and I think that God is calling me to this particular area.
- During the year I will be doing the Connect course. This is a course designed to equip the learner with the various theological knowledge and practical skills to deal with young people.

**@ What can you pray for?**

- I will be praying throughout the year with the aim of asking God for a direction in my life. Please join me in this.
- I will be living in a house share with some team members. Pray that I settle in really quickly and begin to enjoy the commute to Llanedeyrn.
- During the year I receive two holidays and a weekend off per term. Pray for the use of these holidays as I will need them to rest and build up my own personal relationship with God in the quietest of places.
- For the team, that they will grow together and learn from each other.

**@ How can you support me?**

- You can pray for me, all the points above and anything God leads you to pray.
- You can support me financially. I will be paying the church £2,500 over the year. I know that over the next year I will be doing God's work. The money is to keep me in a house and on the Connect course.
- You can write to me. I love receiving (and sending) post. I move on the 10<sup>th</sup> September. Due to a change in circumstances I don't have an address yet. Please send any post to my Essex address and it will be forwarded to me.

**@ You will receive...**

- A newsletter each term to let you know how I am doing and what God is teaching me, with extra prayer points.
- Prayer for you as well. Even for the littlest things, just drop me a line.