

## The Future

I have now passed the half way point in the year, and the end is very definitely in sight now. This is actually rather sad as I have really enjoyed being a Relay worker, and it's rather scary too as I need to figure out what I am going to do with myself afterwards! I will start applying for jobs very soon, but at the moment have no real clue as to what type of work to apply for. I'm pretty easy going so I don't really mind what I end up doing at all and I have a very open ended degree so I could go in a lot of different directions.

During July and August I hope to take a short break, but also to use much of my time serving at summer events. I already have one local youth camp in my diary at the start of August, and a conference down in Brighton during July. This period is still very uncertain though as my Relay support will have ended, and it will be difficult to find a job if I have lots of other things planned during those weeks. Pray that God would show me how best to use that time and that I would be able to trust him for his provision. Also pray that he would guide me into the right area of work after Relay.

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Dear supporter,

First of all, I have to apologise for taking a full five months to produce my second prayer letter. If you would prefer slightly more regular updates then you are more than welcome to drop me an e-mail or check out my blog. A lot has happened since I started Relay way back in September and I certainly don't have space to mention everything in this letter!

Nerves have definitely settled and I'm feeling pretty good about my role as a Relay worker now. It took me a long time to really figure out what my job actually is (and I'm not sure I could really define it now either!), but I am feeling a lot more relaxed and sure-footed about how to spend my time now. The study material has been both challenging and really exciting, and the time I spend working with students is fairly well structured now (which is a mighty achievement when working with students!).

One other personal note, I have found myself leading worship quite often this year in a number of different contexts, and am very thankful to my Church for running regular worship practice sessions for the first time which I have found really helpful. Pray that God would continue to grow me in this area, I still have a long way to go!



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## Free Weeks

Both of the universities in Leicester held “Free Weeks” in February, which are weeks of evangelistic events on campus (so called because this year the free gospel project was used as a focus for the events). The Christian Unions run regular evangelistic events during the year, but the free weeks are much more intense. At DeMontfort the CU is relatively small and so the week contained 5 events, three at lunch time and two evening events. Leicester CU is much larger and their week was jam packed, with stuff running from 8am until gone 10pm.



Both weeks went really well, and many students heard the gospel clearly explained. It was also wonderful to see so many of the Christian students getting involved and getting excited about sharing the gospel! Pray that the students would continue to keep in contact with those who they met during the free weeks, and pray that their enthusiasm would continue to increase even without the focus of a week full of events.

## Relay 2

Way back in January I travelled down to Dorchester for the second week long Relay conference. It was great to catch up with all the other Relay workers from around the country and find out how things have been going in their universities. This was a compelling reminder that I am not on my own, and the life is universally difficult, especially when you are openly sharing the gospel with people!

During the week we covered a lot of different topics, the most helpful for me was studying Zephaniah. It was both wonderful and terrifying to be reminded of just how serious sin is, and how great God’s reaction to it is. I have a large pile of notes from the week and I have yet to read through them again. Pray that God would continue to hammer home the lessons I learnt during the week, and that I would find time to read through my notes to remind myself of all of the excellent stuff we were taught.

## New Committees

Around the end of February across the country student societies change their leadership, and the Christian Unions are no exception. This is a great time of year to reflect on how things have gone, praising God for the good stuff and thinking about how the mistakes can be avoided in future. This also means there are hundreds of new leaders across the country, most of whom won’t have had much experience leading anything before, let alone a mission team!

To help them out UCCF runs a new leaders training weekend in each region. The midlands weekend happened on the 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> of February, and just over 200 students came along. The weekend was a massive success and the teaching was superb. Pray that the new leaders would pass on their buzz and excitement about the gospel to the rest of their CUs, and that they would hold tightly to the truth that they can do nothing without God’s help this year. Pray also that the Staff and Relay workers would be able to get alongside the new leaders and support them this year as much as possible.

## Study and Odeh

One of the aspects of Relay which I have struggled with the most has been keeping on top of the study material and general paperwork for the year. It has been a real blessing to have so much time to dedicate to studying, and I have learnt so much this year through the study material. In my first prayer letter I mentioned that I didn’t want the study to be an accumulation of knowledge, and it certainly hasn’t been! I have grown so much over the past few months and it’s pretty crazy seeing how different my attitudes are now compared to what they were. Pray that the study would continue to be exciting and that I would manage my time better and prioritise the study.

I have also thoroughly enjoyed spending time with my supervisor Odeh. As anticipated he has given me some fascinating insights into our culture, and am I constantly amazed at his passion and commitment to the gospel. Pray that I would continue to learn from him, and that I would be able to set aside my often sceptical British mindset so that I can really learn from his passion and openness with the gospel.