

Free Gospel Project

The last and possibly most exciting bit of news is that this year UCCF is launching a new gospel project. UCCF have produced 500,000 copies of Marks gospel, along with a host of other publicity material for Christian Unions to use to advertise their events and get the gospels into the hands of students.



One of my aims this year is to get students in Leicester confident in handling the book of Mark so that they can go through it with their friends and use it to explain the gospel effectively. This is really exciting because when we grab the Bible and share it with our friends it makes a difference, no matter how skilful we are, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword" - Hebrews 4:12. Pray that students would have a confidence in the power of God's word, and that they would be bold in sharing that with their friends.

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Dear supporter,

This afternoon has been set aside in my diary to write a prayer letter to all of the people who are supporting me. This is both an exciting and a slightly daunting task. Exciting because I am so pleased to know that I have a whole bunch of fantastic people supporting me in prayer this year, and because I know that my year is going to be full of amazing things which I want to share with you. Daunting because I have never written a prayer letter before, and I'm not really sure what to put in it.

I guess the first order of the day is to say a big thanks to you for getting and reading this prayer letter. I'm really looking forward to getting stuck into my study and work with students this year, but I know none of it would be of any use without God being at the centre of what I'm doing. Your prayers throughout my year and a really precious thing, and I want to honour that by keeping you in the know about what I'm doing. I would also love to hear back from you, especially if there is anything you would like prayer for, my contact details are at the end of the letter so don't hesitate to get in touch.

Beyond that, I'm only just beginning my year on Relay and I'm pretty nervous about what is coming my way. I hope you are encouraged by the news I have to share, and I look forward to hearing from you!



RELAY

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What is Relay?

Since this is my first prayer letter, it seems like a good idea to actually explain what I'm doing for the next year. Relay is a 10 month scheme run by UCCF for recent graduates. As a Relay worker I will be working alongside a Christian Union Staff Worker being disciplined and trained within the context of a Christian Union. There is a program of study which I will follow through the year, and I will also be getting alongside students in Leicester and helping them out in various ways.



My staff worker is Odeh Akatu, he has been in the midlands already for a year and I will be the first Relay worker he takes on. Pray that we would have a really strong relationship this year and would be able to learn from each other. Pray also that I would be inspired by Odeh, he is a man totally in love with Jesus and he shares the gospel with people all the time. I am really looking forward to seeing the world through his non-British eyes this year.

For more information on Relay, visit <http://www.uccf.org.uk/relay>

Relay 1

To kick off the year all of the 63 Relay workers from around the country met together for a week of teaching and training to prepare us for the year ahead. This was a really fantastic week and I was reminded so much of just how great God's grace is. Pray that I would hold on to those important lessons as I go through the year so that I don't rely on my own strength to do the work, nor discount myself from anything because of my own rubbishness!

It was also really encouraging to meet so many other guys who are about to embark on the same journey as me. Pray that I would remember throughout the year that I'm not alone, but that God has placed me in his family with other people to spur me on.

Forum

After Relay 1 we had our first taste of actual student work, which came in the form of Forum. Forum is the national Christian Union leaders conference, where student CU leaders from all over the country gather to be taught and equipped for the year ahead. This year John Piper was speaking in the main sessions through the book of Ruth.



During the week it rained quite a lot, which wasn't ideal as most of the students were camping and our main meetings were in a marquee. It rained so much in fact that many of the tents had to be abandoned and students slept on mats in a couple of big halls. To quote Rosemary Grier, a midlands staff worker, "what I'll remember this Forum for is the joyful Spirit-ful gospel response of the students to their circumstances". It was just great to see a bunch of students really living out what it means to be joyful. They were hearing about God, so what did a little rain and mud matter?

Pray that the 750 or so student leaders would go back to their universities in the next few weeks and continue to demonstrate that joy to their campuses.

My Study

As an introductory topic I'm spending some time this week looking at why theology is important, and why I should bother studying it for the next year. I really want the time I spend studying this year to be productive and more than just accumulating knowledge. What I learn will be useless if I don't let it change the way I live, so pray that my studies would have a deep impact in my life and that over the course of the year I will grow as a Christian.