

## Hank's Panel

Again my services as Cage mascot, super-supervisor and mega-master were called upon for this summer. Our popularity is increasing, and I am afraid I had to turn down several events due to over-booking! So do book early!



It was a great summer for sport and my world-cup predictions were revealed to be perfectly right! (I should add that this is aided by the fact that I am a fictional character and I am allowed to make predictions after they have already been fulfilled!)

After school sports days at Cults and Ellon, I went down to meet my friend Clyde ahead of the busy Commonwealth Games, just to give them some tips from my expert position. While down in the Glasgow area, we were involved for a couple of days mission in Barlanark with the local Church of Scotland, supported by a team of Americans and Hillview Community Church of Aberdeen. Even if it was just 2 days it was a great start of the mission week and built on the contacts there.

It was also great to be part of the Soul Survivor week at Thainstone – the highlight being meeting a bunch of Finnish people wanting to play in the Cage well after dark!

The Cage and I made the trip back up to Shetland this year – it was nice to get rid of Steven for a week! – and once again it was a great time – with about 10 young people coming for prayer also at the soccer school.

We ended the summer with a mission week at Newmachar: the number of young people coming improved each day and it really created a good buzz in that community.

## Young Volunteers

*Nehemiah Somevi on our volunteer team...*

An important part of our work is training, discipleship and mentoring of our young volunteers. Our mission work allows them to contribute to outreach, and grow in their faith. As part of this Steven and I have been reviewing support for volunteers.

Steven noticed that over the years many different people signed up for YFC, but there was a lack of consistency in the way the volunteers were managed and followed up. So he suggested that it would be a good idea to split all the volunteers into different categories and re-launch the work of Youth for Christ in the North East. Steven and I met to discuss the lists of volunteers on the database in order to sort through them and split them into various categories. Steven during his youth work has been meeting up with some of the volunteers to discuss what ideas they could bring to the table. The next step would be to incorporate the volunteers into the work of NESFYC and see what programmes can be launched.

This reassessment will take another month or so, including the new batch of students. We are aiming to set at least one ministry team and supporting structure before the end of this year. If you know of anyone who would like to be involved with this, please let Steven know. We're looking for people with any gifts, including sport, music, drama and technology. Please get in touch!

## Contacting Us

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North East Scotland

Youth for Christ taking good news relevantly to every young person in north east Scotland



# NE Scotland Youth for Christ Newsletter

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free of charge

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## Welcome!

This newsletter is a little late as we've had a very busy summer, so there lots to squeeze in! Steven has now stepped down from full-time work, moving to a volunteer position, and we are still looking for a new worker. Although the current time is uncertain, we continue to have faith (Mark 11: 22-23). We're eternally grateful for the new people that God is always bringing to this ministry. More crucially, we are grateful for the young people we work with and the many who have come to know God.

## Prayer

Please pray for:

- Thanks for all Steven's work and young people he worked with
- New volunteers, and finding the right person for the youth worker post
- Young people who made a commitment in the summer
- Young volunteers and leaders as they grow in faith and their God-given gifts
- Thanks for the help of partner churches & schools



## Help us!

You can help us reach young people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. **Pray** for us and the young people of the North East. **Volunteer**, working with young people or in background support. **Give**, in your will, a few pounds a month or a one-off. All makes a difference!

## Tillydrone outreach worker: your prayers appreciated

The last few months have kept us on our toes! In our search for a new youth worker for the Tillydrone area and St Machar Academy, the candidate we felt right for the role at this time was offered the position. One by one, the obstacles for the move were being overcome. We felt sure this appointment was right. However, he then said he was unable to come.

After the initial disappointment, we have been doing some reflection. Isaiah 28:16 says *'therefore, thus says the Lord God, "behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation stone in Zion, a stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: whoever believes will not be in haste."*

Other translations say - whoever trusts in me ....will never be dismayed, ...shaken... disturbed...in panic...worried...give up.

On our knees, we realised it is all under

God's control: we need to wait on Him, listen for His direction, and keep on with the work. We still feel called to Tillydrone, and so continue the search. We also need a director – Steven will cover as a volunteer, but is not sure where he will be led next - it could be away from the area. We also have the option of 3-5 days a week (as the Lord leads us) for the outreach worker instead of two, which requires a bigger step of faith.



**We really need your prayers on the right direction to take according to God's will.**

**Also, we still need more people behind the scenes, if you, or anyone you know, can spare a few hours a month, e-mail [office@nesyfc.org.uk](mailto:office@nesyfc.org.uk).**

*Alasdair Brownlee (Chair, steering group)*

## Mission Work

Steven Hamilton (Director)

### End of term

June was quite busy wrapping up for the year, looking ahead to our changes over the summer.



It was fitting to end our time in Ellon Academy with the Cage present at the school's sports day. A grey and wet morning soon turned to glorious sun-shine! We were very glad of the new addition to our kit bag: sun cream! It was nice to engage with the young people we'd seen over the year and meet new ones. Also a good opportunity to keep the networking going with the school, parents and local churches!

- Please pray for Thomas, Cat and the other school chaplains who will carry on the work in the academy.
- Praise God for raising up 2 girls, pupils, with a heart to start an SU group! They had over 20 girls at their first meeting!
- Give thanks also for the work in St Machar Academy with the School Pastors.
- Pray for a new batch of School Pastors to sign up and get involved in the school.
- Pray for the Lighthouse project "B-friending" that is starting in the Tillydrone area; a great way for young people to meet some positive role models and make lasting friendships!

### Thank You

NESYFC has been so far the most important experience of my life. Looking back I can only be thankful.

I think of a week of mission in Northfield as a volunteer in 2009; I think of the job interview in June 2010, and then being offered the job! I am so thankful for NESYFC giving me this opportunity.

There are many I would like to thank, but I

only have space for some individual names. I'd like to thank Sandy, Gillian, Tom, the rest of the exec, CoR and National YFC staff for all your help and support from the start, up until now. I could have never managed without your help at various stages and in such practical ways.

Special mention must go to Alasdair. I have found in you a great example of service, passion and dedication to the heart for young people that the Lord has given you. Seeing your faithfulness and care will be things I always hope to carry with me. I am honoured to have fought the good fight next to such a soldier for the Lord!

I also would like to thank all you volunteers. Special mention goes to friends and brothers in Christ that I have seen grow so much in their love and work for the Lord: Matthew Milne, Ross, Darren, Nathan, Nehemiah and Josh. Thanks lads! Keep going! Oh and Hank too!

I would like to thank the young people. I have met some great characters along the way, have seen hurt, but also salvation and hope! A lot of this work is just a wee part of a bigger chain, and I invite you to join with me in handing them over to God's care, every day.

I want to thank you too, dear supporter, partner in the gospel, friend. The Lord put you in a position to bless me personally and in this work. May He reward your faithfulness and that you may see the fruit of your generosity.

At the interview I was asked to do a presentation of where I would take the job description. Looking back on that presentation today, I smile. I talked about church partnership, disciple making and gospel preaching. Those things have not changed.

So finally I would like to thank my Lord, Jesus that I know as my Saviour and my King! And His Gospel, that I may continue serving it.

## Will You Help Us?

In Matthew's gospel chapter 9 verses 36 - 38 we read, "When he (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field"

We are blessed to live in one of the most affluent areas in Scotland and the UK. The sad truth however is that many are struggling to cope with life in much less affluent lifestyles and areas. Tillydrone is one such area and over the last year Steven Hamilton's work has shown the great need among young people there. We are convinced that this work should continue. Working with others, we desire:

- To create a community in which young people can walk together with adults in a journey of faith. Ultimately, that the young people would meet and get to know God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That their lives would be changed by contact with this community of faith and that this community's love would have lasting influence in the lives of the young people and in Tillydrone.

We believe that there is more than enough work in the long term to justify employing a youth worker on a part or possibly full-time basis. We also know that if it is the Lord's plan, then He will provide the cost of whatever manhours and resources are needed.

However, with our known income, we could only financially support a worker for two or possibly three days per week, and God expects us to be part of the additional financial provision.

We have been greatly blessed by a core of long term partners, supporting the ministry in prayer and finance: for that we are extremely thankful to our Father God. We have also seen amazing provision by Him, on more than one occasion, when we felt finances 'getting close to the wire'

As Alasdair said elsewhere in the newsletter,

we are as a ministry seeking and waiting on our Father's guidance. It is however obvious that for the ministry to move forward and work to meet the very real need that exists that we need two very important things – **ongoing prayer support and increased financial support for the ministry.** Knowing the extent of our regular income makes it much easier for us to plan ahead. A realistic estimate of the cost to employ a full time centre director and a part time youth worker would be in the region of £15,000 per year above our current regular income.

I leave the ministry of North East Scotland Youth for Christ to your prayerful consideration. If you feel led to partner with us in this exciting and important work in Tillydrone, please contact me at the email address below. To support the ministry financially, all that would be necessary would be setting up a standing order with your bank and completing our donation form which is required for accounting purposes and the reclaim of gift aid in the case of donors who pay income tax. All donations are kept strictly confidential, the names of donors being known only to myself.

Yours in our glorious Saviour Jesus Christ  
Tom Cowie, Treasurer ( [treasurer@nesyfc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@nesyfc.org.uk) )

## Deep Impact

Deep Impact conference runs on Fri 16 - Sun 18 January 2015 at MacDonald Highland Resort, Aviemore. If you're working with young people this is definitely worth attending. Last January saw over 380 paid and volunteer youth and children's leaders gather for teaching, training, fun and refreshment, so book your place (and for your team) to ensure you join us. You will benefit from almost 30 seminars, great worship and teaching, wonderful hotel facilities and a chance to meet and chat with hundreds of others who share your passion for the young people in our nation. Conference fees for early bird rate will be £155 per person if booked before 17 October 2014, after this and up until the bookings close on Tuesday 6th January 2015 the full price will be £180 per person.

See [www.deep-impact.org.uk](http://www.deep-impact.org.uk) for more information.