

North East Scotland YFC Newsletter

Autumn 2006

What a summer!

While the summer period is quiet for some, it's been an extremely busy time for us! We've been taking part in the Imagine and Encounter festivals - both of which were great times with God and well recommended for when they come around again next year. We've also been setting up new links with churches using YFC resources like Rock Solid, getting ready for another year of Breathe and seeing God reveal more of His plans for us over the coming year.

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Did you see our stand at Encounter?

The most exciting thing for us is what we're imaginatively calling "The Project". It's seen so much confirmation over the past months; and we're itching to share it with everyone. Imagine that every single young person in North East Scotland (both in and out of Aberdeen City) is reached by a Christian worker. Every school and community has input from one of God's people, and not just in the sense of a traditional church or school assemblies; right at the heart of what young people are doing on a daily basis. That's what we'd love to see; there's already a number of places it is happening but there's much more to be done. "The Project" is a starting point which we aim to grow into fulfilling this vision.

We currently have a growing number of churches in Mastrick and the surrounding area of Aberdeen partnering with us in this venture. It will see the appointment of a full time youth worker, a YFCOne gap year team from British YFC and a group of existing local workers and volunteers working together to bring God's people into schools in the area and a number of other places within the community. The workers will help the young people taking part to learn life skills, basic values of mutual respect and team working. From a Christian perspective this project is about sharing a Christ-like love for others; in building lasting relationships with young people they will be able to see what God means to us. Being immersed in the wider community we are able to pray



for and talk with people who would never come in to a traditional church setting. It will also see us building on the existing youth work and system of visits to the families of children currently taking part in the group at Mastrick Church, reaching hundreds of people each week.

We are currently pursuing funding from a variety of sources to get this project off the ground (it will cost over £100k spread over 3 years). Please pray that God leads us to the right sources of funding, that we can find the right people to do the work, and give thanks that we've had so much blessing in the form of positive support from potential partners.

This is great God stuff, and it's exciting to be a part of it!

Breathe Update



Jay and Sandy Brownlee bring us up to speed on the latest 'Breathe' news

Another year and Breathe is already in full swing once again. Aboyne's event followed the theme of "the G-Factor" as we're being treated to Mr Cowell and company on TV once again. We were treated to some excellent miming, some not-so-excellent singing from our volunteers and some peculiar dressing up. The message was that we don't need to do anything to go to heaven except have the G-Factor; God in your life. There were about 40 people there from a number of different churches in our first venture up Deeside for a couple of years. Following the night God's calling us to go back to the area so stay tuned for more on that!

We've already got a few dates lined up for the rest of the year:

8 October (Sun) - Kintore CoS

4 November (Sat) - Kemnay Church Centre

3 December (Sun) - Newburgh Hall (Foveran CoS)

There will also be an event in Stonehaven in late February. Still to be confirmed are dates in March, April and May - if you're interested then get in touch asap! NESYFC is also sending some of the Breathe team to help with the new locally-organised worship event Gener8 in Montrose and Arbroath. The first one will be on 21st October in Arbroath; contact us for more information.



Prayer

Our prayer co-ordinator Jay Brownlee has a few points for prayer

Youth clubs starting out, particularly Methlick Rock Solid. Pray for the leaders, that they are spirit filled and have the words to say to the young people. Also pray for the young people that they have open hearts and are prepared to make a commitment to Jesus.



NESYFC as it embarks on its biggest project for some time. Pray that we find the right people to manage the project and that we can reach many young people who may not hear about God in any other way and that we can make a real difference in their lives.

Young Christians as they try to share their faith with others. Pray in particular for those on gap years with YFC over the coming year.

In Brief

Training Day

We've another great training day lined up for youth leaders. Like last year there will be a number of local and guest speakers, as well as workers from the national YFC team. It's provisionally set for Saturday 10 February 2007.

Deep Impact 2007

Highlands and Islands YFC have run the Deep Impact training weekend in Aviemore the past few years. Now the Scottish Christian Youth Work Forum are at the helm; it's running on 19-21 January 2007. Visit www.deep-impact.org.uk for more details.

NESYFC on Tour

Want to hear more about our work in person? We'd love to present NESYFC's work to your church or group. Just give us a call.

Website

Our website is the place to be for information about NESYFC! Dates, prayer points, contacts and other information can all be found there. Make sure you check out our forum with discussion areas for youth leaders and young people.

Join us at www.nesyfc.org.uk

Interview with the Kick Team

Kick is one of the exciting new mission teams from British Youth for Christ. Part of the YFCOne gap year ministry, it sees teams of young people passionate about God and football bringing the two together to reach others. The volunteers each take a year out (often just after finishing school or university), and often find their own funding to pay towards the necessary training which includes an SFA coaching qualification and YFC youth work training. They are then placed with a church or YFC local centre for 11 months, who look after them by providing pastoral support and a place to stay. It's a great opportunity to build relationships with young people, make a positive difference in their lives and share God's love.

Oldmachar Church has just taken on its third Kick Team. Together with other volunteers, workers and a gap year band they take part in classes, assemblies and other youth work in the area. We spoke to the team from 2005-2006: Carl, Brian and Pete.

Carl For Carl the gap year was so good he's doing another one as part of "The One" band at Oldmachar Church, taking God's music out to young people. Best part of the year: building relationships.

Age: 18
Home: Rugby
Favourite fruit: Pineapple

A typical day...

Morning: Meeting with Jim and Bill (church Pastor and Administrator)

Late morning / afternoon: Taking part in classes at school

Early evening: Running Rock Solid club in the church

Late evening: Prayer meeting at church

...phew!

"Best part: building relationships"

Pete

Age: 18
Home: Inverness
Favourite fruit: Kiwi

Coming straight from school into his gap year, Pete is now off to Glasgow University to study business. One of Pete's best memories is near the end of the year when the Oral Roberts choir were touring Aberdeen and 15 of the kids he had been working with became Christians. He would also like to endorse Kick's great line of tracksuits - which all volunteers get for free!



Carl, Brian and Pete

Brian

Age: 20
Home: Irvine
Favourite fruit: Doesn't eat any, but if it had to be anything, Granny Smith apples

Building on his calling over the past year, Brian's now away to Bible College. His best moment of the year was at Frenzy with a group from Oldmachar.

"The year was challenging, fun, and helped us know God so much better"

Are you interested in volunteering for a Kick or other YFC gap year team? Is your church interested in hosting a team? Just contact NESYFC for more information; you can also go to: www.yfcone.com for more on YFCOne and www.oldmacharchurch.org for more on Oldmachar's work.

YFC Resources in Action



Hazel Ryan reports on the Mettle group at City Church in Aberdeen

We've had a great few months at City Church working with the new YFC resource for teens, 'Mettle'.

As a busy youth leader, using prewritten resources has been a joy – it has meant I have more time to focus on building quality relationships with my young people, rather than spending hours preparing material. Of course, it's not entirely a lazy option! You do need to carefully assess each topic in order to select the games and discussions that you feel are most relevant to your group – yet that's one of the best things about it. The resources are written in sections, with each section targeted at different faith levels. This means you can choose which bits to use and which bits to ditch, according to where your group are at in their relationship with God. There's also lots of suggestions for games and multimedia clips that you can use to keep things fast moving and fun.

I am always keen to try and bring on young or inexperienced leaders, and using the YFC material is an automatic boost to their confidence as they don't need to worry about what to prepare, what games to choose, what multimedia to use etc as it is already suggested for them. It provides a kind of safety net for these younger team members, which is really encouraging.

We have also found that Mettle provides a sweet balance between studying theological concepts e.g. salvation, and also lifestyle issues such as money, and even tackles difficult subjects like how to respond to other religions. Just before the summer, we spent a few weeks studying evangelism, which has set a brilliant precedent for our group as we are launching Youth Alpha this term.

YFC also produce some Mettle bible reading notes that follow the same kind of themes as the material so that your young people can dig deeper into these things at home.

I would definitely recommend Mettle as a resource for youth leaders, it's been really helpful not only for our group but also for growing a team. Get in touch with NESYFC if you're interested in signing up!

If you're interested in Mettle, Rock Solid or any of our other resources, just give us a call or email resources@nesyfc.org.uk - we'll be happy to talk with you and can send a free sample pack to try out.



Supporting Us

Please pray for us and the work we do. If you or someone you know would like to get involved in NESYFC, please contact us. Our details are to the right.

Please also consider supporting us financially; you can make a secure one-off donation on our website, or call us about becoming a partner by giving regularly.

Contacting Us

You can visit our website at: www.nesyfc.org.uk, email us at office@nesyfc.org.uk, call us on 01224 213495, or text us on 07913 059728.

You can even write to us at:
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c/o Methodist Church
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Aberdeen
AB11 6HE.



Next Issue...

Progress on The Project

Further Training Day details; who's coming, what's happening

Focus on an RS2 club; how can your church build on the success of Rock Solid with YFC's sequel resource

Meet a NESYFC volunteer

And of course, much more!