

Tim Jackson

Relay Update Letter Nov + Dec 2017

Relay Worker in Leeds

66 Queenswood Road
Headingley
Leeds
LS6 3NS

timjackson1994@hotmail.co.uk

0744 356 1094



'...good news of great joy that will be for all the people.' (Luke 2v10)

It is a pleasure to be involved with international student outreach in Leeds. Recently, I have really enjoyed spending time with my friends 'F' from China and 'M' from the Czech Republic. On Saturday 2nd Dec, we went on a trip to Grassington in the Yorkshire Dales with a group from 'The Living Room' (a weekly gathering for international students run by Christian volunteers, which I help with). We had the chance to talk and laugh together as we explored the Dickensian Christmas market and then walked through the beautiful countryside. The day ended with us eating together before going to a contemporary carol service at St George's Church in Leeds, where we were joined by our friend Phil. It was their first and second time at a UK church service, respectively, and they were struck by how contemporary the evening was, with the music being led by a slick band of keyboards, guitars, drums.

We attended the Leeds University Union Christian Union (LUUCU) Carol Service the following Monday (4th Dec), with some other friends from The Living Room, where the talk emphasised how everyone worships something, and that Jesus Christ is the only One truly worth worshipping.

The hat-trick of carol services will be completed as we attend the Carol Service on 17th Dec at South Parade Baptist Church. As these lads hear and experience the Christmas story in a variety of ways, please join me in praying that they would see the goodness and the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ for their own lives, and in particular that they would know their need for Jesus.

'F' and 'M' will finish studying in Leeds in January 2018. I would appreciate prayer as to how best I can serve them for the gospel as they move on, as well as prayer for opportunities to share the gospel with other international students through the Living Room. I have got to know 'K' and 'S' from Japan a little, as well as 'S' from Angola. Do pray that they would learn more of the fullness of life that God gives, as I get to know them more. Further prayer for me being catalytic in the international outreach of LUUCU would be great - a particular step will be encouraging more CU members to volunteer at The Living Room next term.

CU Students

It has been a pleasure to meet with Jack and Sam consistently throughout this term. Having finished our studies in Colossians, we have begun reading through *Get Real: Sharing your Everyday Faith Everyday*, which we will continue in the New Year. Another first year lad, Ben, is joining us for this too. Pray that together we would grow in our skill as we reach out to those around us with the good news of the gospel, but also that we would crucially grow in our own delight in Jesus too.

Jake, Alec and I have started to read *When People are big and God is small*, with the aim of growing in godly character. This could be significant for them as CU leaders (and potential future church leaders in some way). Prayers that we would honour God in the way we live would be wonderful.

I continue to meet with some lads from Leeds Trinity Christian Union (LTCU) too: Dan, Andrew and Richard too. We have looked at some parts of John's gospel, helping us to see and delight more in Jesus. Continued prayers for these lads would be great, in particular: for Dan, as he likely takes on leading the CU from spring for the next year; for Andrew, that he would see and trust more of the goodness of Jesus and following Him; for Richard, that he would know and love Jesus more, making the most of remaining opportunities to share him with fellow students, as he finishes his studies.

York

On Monday 20th November, I joined the University of York Christian Union (UYCU) as they ran an events day on the theme of 'Science vs God'. They hosted two really nice events, one at lunchtime and the other in the evening, at which leading physicist Professor Tom McLeish spoke. The day was catalytic as people agreed to look at John's gospel together (using the Uncover resource), through the events. The hope is that it will have been a further catalyst in inspiring more similar events, particularly lunchbars, for the future. I am planning on joining UYCU as a CU Guest in February 2018, for their week of evangelistic events, so hope that God can use me in further ways there this academic year.



Professor Tom McLeish speaking to a roomful at the lunchtime event

Northern Biblical Evangelism Conference

Thank you for your prayers regarding the Northern Biblical Evangelism Conference (NBEC). I really enjoyed the conference, as we heard the gospel many times and in differing ways through each other's bible-based evangelistic talks.

We were also led helpfully by Greg Downes in sessions based on public evangelism and preaching. During the final session, we were challenged by the question "What will you do with what you have learned?" Pray that I would glorify God as I use and share the skills I have developed, and for the other fantastic potential of fellow Relay Workers and students at the weekend (including Jake who I meet with regularly).



Jacob (Relay Worker in the North West) and myself at NBEC in the beautiful setting of the Yorkshire Dales

LUUCU Carols

Monday 4th December was the day of the LUUCU Carol Service. There was an approximate attendance of 450 people, which is a considerable crowd though lower than the 800-1000 hoped for. Of course, these events are not solely about the numbers of people there, but there are lessons to learn for future events.

Do pray that the gospel message will continue to ring in people's ears, that their interest in the person of Jesus Christ will be raised considerably, and that seeds sown will come to bear fruit for the glory of God. Thank you for your prayers regarding this event already.

LTCU Events week

Thanks too for praying for the LTCU Events week which ran from 4-7th December on the theme of Joy. A mix of people came along to different events during the week, including a theology student, who has been involved with the Catholic Society, but is seriously considering Reformed theology; a first year 'Philosophy, Religion and Ethics' student with a good friend who is a CU member, who seems to be close to committing her life to Jesus; and a young lady doing teacher training who seemed to be looking for friendship.

Pray that the love and grace of Jesus Christ would shine in to each of their lives, as well as giving thanks for the faithful CU members who helped to organise and run the events, which will have been significant in them growing in their faith too.



LTCU's Acoustic and pudding evening as part of their week of events on the theme of Joy

Yorkshire and the North East Team Days

14-15 December were the final Team Days of 2017, where Dave Bish led us as we read parts of Song of Songs. I was struck by the deep, intimate and passionate love of God for his people.

Christmas Break

I will be spending time in the south of the UK over the two week Christmas break. Please pray that I would rest well; reflect well on the term gone; be gracious to my family as I spend time with them; and rejoice in our Lord Jesus.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and a great start to 2018!

Financial Support

Give thanks for further, generous financial support I have received in the months just gone. Pray that I would use what I have received well.

Upcoming Dates

2-5 January - New Year Training Conference

I am looking forward to this time with UCCF Staff and Relay Workers from across the country. There will be great teaching sessions and the opportunity to discuss and process what I am learning. Sessions about work and life beyond Relay could be significant, as I think about what I do next.

8-12 January - Study Week

With many students either not in Leeds, or completing essays/exams, this week is set aside for study. I will be listening, reading and responding to content on 'God in Christ: Atonement', among other topics.

22-23 January - Team Days

Ian Jones will be speaking to us on the topic of work. Building on what is shared at the New Year Training Conference, this could be helpful and influential as I think about future roles, and how I will use what I am learning through Relay in the future.

19-23 February – LUUCU Events weeks: “Taste and See”

Next term, LUUCU will host a week of evangelistic events (lunchtimes and evenings), with speakers coming from the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics. More news to follow in the New Year.



CONTACT

UCCF: The Christian Unions
Blue Boar House
5 Blue Boar Street
Oxford, OX1 4EE

01865 253 678
info@uccf.org.uk
www.uccf.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 306137

uccf:thechristianunions
making disciples of Jesus Christ in the student world