

Tim Jackson

Relay Update Letter April + May 2018



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Left: Word Alive 2018

Below: Final Living Room of 2017/18 – Picnic at the Park

I'm sorry not to have been in touch for such a long time. A lot has happened since my last update – here are some of the most notable points.

Galatians // Individuals

Alongside looking at the theme of adoption in our Core Study programme, featuring looking at Galatians (This biblical theme is really wonderful news!), I have studied parts of Paul's letter to the Galatians with Jake, Jack and Sam this term. We have been pointed back to salvation by grace, through faith. We have had a good end to the year, remembering this, reflecting on the year, and looking ahead.

Do give thanks for the work of Christ in and through Jack this year – Word Alive was a significant time for him in learning more of God's love for him and responding to this (Thank you for your prayers to this end for the Leeds students at Word Alive!) I then saw him get baptised in May, and have seen his confidence in the gospel grow as he witnesses for Christ. He will go on a year abroad from the autumn, which presents great opportunities and challenges for continued growth in Christ.

Sam will move on to leading a Hall Group next year. Thank God for his willing to learn more about Him, and to serve with the CU through Hall Group next year. Jake serves the CU as the International secretary, and witnesses well to his friends in the day-to-day. Give thanks for the way that he lives and speaks for Jesus. We have worked through some plans for international outreach, particularly the welcome week, for next year – do pray that CU members would catch the vision to form one genuine and meaningful friendship with an international student, in which they can share life and the gospel together throughout the next academic year.

Before he finished for the year, I was able to meet with Alec, to reflect on the year and look forward to his year abroad. Sadly, I did not have an opportunity to do the same with Ben. The year abroad will present challenges and opportunities for these lads – do pray that they are committed to the local church and rooted in Christ, as they experience change in culture and in relationships with friends and family.

In the last few weeks, I have been able to meet with some of the lads from Leeds Trinity CU again – Andrew, Dan and Richard. I enjoy the times we have together – generally discussing football or the Bible! We have been looking at Jesus through Luke's gospel – including the story of the two lost sons, seeing the radical love of the Father going out to invite and welcome the sons back. Do pray that as we look at the Word and see the goodness of God, our lives would be transformed to wanting to live for Him more and more. We will meet for a final time in the last week of June.

Do continue to pray for 'J' from my previous update too. Having committed to Jesus before Easter, he has become less confident since and would no longer identify himself as a believer. While this step has been sad, it was a pleasure to meet and discuss some of his questions before he left Leeds for the summer, and it was encouraging to hear of his keenness to continue to investigate the Christian faith, including going to church and reading the Bible.

CU Committee and planning // Fresher's Week

Thank you for your prayers for the incoming LUUCU committee and their planning for the year ahead. The designated planning day went well – it is exciting to see their conviction in wanting to share Jesus with other students, as best they can. Particular ongoing prayer points would be for Fresher's Week this autumn (Mon 24th – Fri 28th Sept) as the emphasis is placed on CU

members building firm friendships, with the people that they will spend most time around during the year (eg. Housemates, coursemates, bandmates...). Pray for students to appreciate the value of these friendships and for subsequent year round opportunities to share the gospel through them. Prayer for the way that LUUCU uses the new CU gospel project 'Uncover Mark' would also be appreciated, particularly with the exciting potential of the Mark Drama being used alongside it.



ÖSM // International Outreach

I have committed to going to Linz, in Austria from late August, to serve with ÖSM (Österreichische Studentenmission) – the Christian Unions movement there. Thank you for those of you who have prayed and supported me in the decision making process towards this.

I am glad to be able to be supervised and work alongside Rob – a more experienced member of the team in Linz. There are currently 6 staff across Austria – including 2 from Australia and 1 from the Czech Republic. There will be opportunities to meet with individuals/small groups of students to help encourage and equip them in their evangelism, as well as working with groups of international students, and hopefully opportunities to read the Bible with unbelievers – so there will be similarities to the role I have had this academic year. There is work to do over the coming weeks and months – including things like arranging accommodation, and planning travel.

I feel a mixture of excitement and nervousness towards going, and also a combination of sadness and thankfulness as I finish this time in Leeds. Prayers for the practical arrangements – such as accommodation – would be particularly appreciated at the moment. Wouldn't it be an amazing opportunity if I end up living alongside someone who is eager and actively seeking to get to know who Jesus is?

In Leeds, it seemed to be a good end to the year with the international student outreach through the Living Room. During the final term, the Japanese themed evening seemed to attract nearly every Japanese student in the city! This was a lovely occasion to celebrate their culture, through food and dancing – the Bible discussion group that night was the biggest I can remember from all year. Praise God for this, and especially for 'A' who attended this discussion and has been investigating the Christian faith. There were high numbers of international students for events up to the end of the year – such as the meal during exam time, and the picnic in the park – which has possibly been a consequence of more students volunteering and inviting their international friends along. This has been encouraging and is exciting as some of them join in with church groups over the summer as a follow on.

Upcoming Dates

21st + 22nd June : Final Team Days

This will be our final time together as the Yorkshire and North East team for 2017/18 – an opportunity to reflect and celebrate over the academic year, as well as considering Christ our Bridegroom in the teaching.

29th June : Final Supervision // Last day of Relay

This will be an opportunity to reflect on the year, as well as look forwards to life beyond Relay. Do give thanks for the loving input and support that I have been shown by supervisors throughout the year.



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