

PSALM 40:2



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## **February 2016**

Trees falling over in Hugh's garden has become a regular occurrence. Fortunately, they have been falling away from the house. Psalm 1 talks about two different kinds of people. Those who embrace God are like a tree planted by streams of water, and those who reject him in favour of popular opinion face destruction. Hugh's tree looked perfectly healthy from the outside but inside it had been rotting away for many months and we need to be careful not to fall into the same trap. Christians are well trained at putting up a front whilst inside they are actually far from God. Please pray that all involved in the Trust would be like the tree beside streams of water. That staff, volunteers, and those who join us each week would delight in the Word of God, meditating on it day and night. Also pray that Hugh would have discernment as he makes decisions both large and small in the moving forward of the Trust.

## **Street work**

We continue to thank God for the street work. On any given night we can end up debating the pro's and cons of methadone scripts, the political temperature of the country, or whether Kilmarnock will avoid relegation this season (Euan is a Kilmarnock fan). But we also have the opportunity to talk about God and to share with the men and woman the reason for the hope we have in Christ. Our volunteer numbers have been down of late, so pray for some new recruits in that department also.

## **Christianity Explored**

We thank God for the team of volunteers who join us on the Tuesday and make this Bible study the success that it is. Their involvement in our weekly discussions of the scriptures are every bit as integral as Euan's presentation of the groups. Numbers are down slightly since we last wrote but we still have between 8 and 12 men and women coming along each week hungry to learn God's word. Pray that more people will come from the Monday night to the Tuesday group. Many people express an interest but only a handful actually make this transition.

## **Discipleship**

We have achieved our goal of doing a thorough overview of the entire Bible in two years, and this year it is our intention to study a number of Old and New Testament books in much greater detail, starting with 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy. Continue to pray that we will equip the group with a faith that will stand up to any challenges that might come into their life.

## **Mothers and children**

Last year we started a useful (albeit short lived) homework club, which we have plans to start up again should the need arise. If nothing else it was fun watching Euan feign interest in doing homework. We also ran a Christianity Explored course with the help of one of our volunteers. This had mixed results but has definitely shown that some sort of biblical input is possible. Pray for wisdom as to how best to present this. We still need a mini-bus, but we are grateful to Queens Park Church of Scotland for the use of theirs to ferry people to and from the Tron on Christmas day and New Years day. One of our youngest mums is pregnant again and sends mixed messages when support is offered. You'll appreciate it's difficult to talk about these sensitive issues in a public letter, but please pray about this complicated situation.

## **Barlinnie**

Hugh was leading a study Barlinnie earlier this year and one of the men was contradicting everything he was saying. Eventually Hugh was forced to question the sincerity of this man's interest and so asked, "Are you actually interested in the Bible?" The man replied, "No!" To which Hugh asked, "So why are you here?" "I'm here for the chocolate biscuits." "Really?" said Hugh, "In that case you're not getting one!" With that the man then left. I tell you this story because I think it sums up our philosophy. We haven't got a lot of resources and so we are careful not to waste them chasing after people that are not interested. We pray for them and hope seeds have been planted that will one day grow into genuine interest, but, as Hugh would say, "We don't try and scratch people that are not itching."

## **Prayer meeting**

"Prayer is fundamental, not supplemental." We are always looking for God's people to join us in praying for the work. I know I've said this before but I believe passionately that it is because of our weekly prayer meeting, and the prayers of the wider church throughout Scotland that God has been blessing our ministry. We continue to meet every Thursday from 11am to 12pm at 162 St Vincent Lane. Press the bell on the left. A light lunch is provided.

## **Website**

You may have noticed our website has been out of commission of late. We have got it up and running again at the new location of [www.chananglasgow.org](http://www.chananglasgow.org). It is a work in progress so any helpful suggestions would be appreciated. Check it out at your leisure.

Finally we would like to thank all those who pray for us throughout Scotland, with particular mention to Glasgow City Free Church, and the churches that meet in Skye for their support and hospitality.

**Yours in Christ,**

**All at Chanan Glasgow**