

Nottingham Youth For Christ News



Issue 7

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Showing that the young people of Nottingham can have Hope Nottingham Youth for Christ are really encouraged to see how Hope 2008 is already making a difference in peoples lives. As a huge national initiative you can sometimes think 'how will this translate to grass roots, local communities?'

Bringing Hope to a city is no mean feat, and if we are being honest it will take more than a year. The exciting thing is that it is already acting as a catalyst for empowering and developing initiatives to make an impact across this city and county.

We are partnering with a number of Churches including St. Nics, Vineyard, The Christian Centre and Cornerstone in empowering young people through a series of events throughout this year, to make a difference in their schools, their Churches and their communities. After 2 of these events it is really encouraging that young people from across this area are building relationships with other people from other Churches with the purpose of changing the place they live.

NYFC's eq course has been focused on Hope this year, with Roy Crowne (national director) as well as other national speakers coming to share with the group of young people. As part of the course we also took them on a social action mission in February, you can read more about that on page 2.

One of our dreams this autumn is to make sure hope is being spoken into every secondary school in greater Nottingham. There are some amazing youth workers and Church leaders already impacting their local schools, but there are still around 15 that have no one going in. Throughout 2008 and into 2009 we are looking to help bring Hope into those schools, working with the local Churches to serve them. One of the ways we are looking to do that is to equip young people to run youth alpha courses in their own school with support from ourselves and their Churches. Find more about that and the training we are doing on our website.

Lets work together at bringing hope to our city.



Clearing a derelict area on the Wirral

Directors Report

After nearly 7 years of Nottingham Youth for Christ, it is really good to see things move on and change. We are thankful for Chris and what he has done in Bilborough and wish him the best as he goes and works for his Church in South Normanton. I do enjoy seeing people grow, seeing them develop and helping them to be someone they were created to be. I think that is why I love our eq course, because there is something about leaving something behind, a legacy if you like. I am really excited that this summer we are bringing back everyone that has been on e-cell (as it was first called) and now eq as it will have been 5 years that we have been running it. We have seen young people grow and develop while making a difference in their schools and colleges. We have seen them set up prayer groups in their schools, Christian Unions, do assemblies and give out crème eggs to every one in their school at Easter time. My wife often tells me she is glad she wasn't on the course when she was at school as I encourage them to do scary things. The truth is they are the ones with the creativity and passion to reach their peers, what a privilege to be able to invest in their lives.

If you get excited about investing in the future or leaving a legacy that goes beyond your days then why not help us to support these young people and others that we work with in the schools, on the streets and in cafes and clubs. On the back page you will find a form that will give you several options of how you can support NYFC working with young people. Whether it be financially, prayerfully or time wise; help us bring the Kingdom of God to young people of this city.

Over the last 2 1/2 years Chris Barrett has been working in Bilborough here are Chris's Final Thoughts

With my time with Nottingham Youth for Christ almost finished I have been able to reflect on the 2 and a half years I've been here.

Taking this role was a massive step not only for myself but a great step of faith for NYFC. I came into the role with little experience in Youth ministry and 200 miles from my comfort zone.

I was both excited but also daunted by the blank sheet on paper which was my timetable. In the beginning my outlook was very different to my outlook now. Within my time here God has challenged me in so many ways sometimes teaching me the same lesson over and over, but with his guidance I am able to proudly look back and see what he has done through me.

It has been a great honour to have been given this time to serve the churches and the young people in Bilborough. I strongly believe that there are really exciting times coming in Bilborough and Nottingham as a whole. My last job will be taking a group of young people away for a night to do some outdoor pursuits. We hope that this will be a time where I can water the seeds that have been sown over the last couple of years with this group of lads.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support you have given me and the team. God blessed me in many great ways and has given me many amazing memories and lessons to take away. I honestly mean that without your continued prayers none of these would have happened.

So Emily What's happening in Chilwell and Beeston?

I help out in PE lessons at Alderman White school. I normally chat to the young people that don't take part in PE and I was chatting to one of the young people and they started to ask questions about my wedding which from that they started asking me questions about why I was a Christian. What church I went to, What things I believed in and Are my parents Christians? It was a really good conversation. Its also been great to share my faith in the devotions at Girls brigade, where each week Ruth and myself are able to talk about what we believe and make it relevant to the girls that come along. It is so easy to think that young people aren't spiritual because they don't seem to do things the way we do them, but I actually think that young people are very spiritual and just have new, fresh and exciting ways in which they do things.



Some of the eq young people for 2008

Emily talks to Beth Freeman about eq

What do you think of EQ? I think EQ is amazing; it acts as not only a place where I can meet with other Christians my age, support them through struggles and be supported through mine, but also puts so much into me spiritually as well. The non-pressurised, fun sessions mean that you can chill out while learning so much about everything from the teaching and by the example of the leaders. What do you hope to gain from EQ? I first came to EQ not knowing quite what to expect, but as I have become more relaxed in the group I've come to expect great things from God. Every EQ session I now expect to see God moving. And what do I hope to gain from it in the future? I hope to gain not only a closer relationship with God but also to see those I love come to Jesus through the knowledge I get during the EQ sessions. The focus on reaching out to those around you really helps you grow in confidence with outreach around your school. Would you recommend it to a friend? Definitely...no question about it. If every Christian youth in Nottingham got the heart behind the guys at YFC and especially at EQ, Nottingham would be a different place.

What has God taught you so far in EQ? God has taught me to value myself as a person and bought me to realise that I don't need to be accepted by this world as Jesus loves me so much more than any human ever could. Another thing God put on my heart has been the verse that says 'let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.' This was the very first EQ session, and it meant a lot...that verse is just inspiring...shine your light...

Team Talk



I'm twenty years old and from Crosby, near Liverpool. Its quite convenient being the second Rich on the team, so I tend to get affectionately known as Little Richard or The boy Richie.

I was doing a business course at university in Loughborough, but it really wasn't for me. I joined YFC for a year as a radical life change and I'm really enjoying being in Nottingham.

Whilst talking to a young lad who comes to one of our youth cafes, he said that he was a Christian because he'd been christened as a baby. It really frustrates me when people dismiss Christianity as irrelevant, or purely ritualistic, so I asked him if he really thought that his christening made him a Christian. He changed his mind and said that what mattered was whether or not you believed.

"Where did you learn that?" I inquired.

"From you." He simply replied.

We've had some really great chats over the last few months and I'm hoping and praying that he'll truly come to believe in, and respond to the Gospel.

Richard Cawdron is working in Alderman White School as well as The Boys Brigade, Pure Sports and café.



My name is Ruth, I'm 20 years old and come from East London. I decided to do a year out with Youth for Christ because I wanted to try doing some youth work and thought that this would be an exciting and challenging experience. Since being in Nottingham I have built some really good relationships with some of the girls that I come

into contact with on a regular basis, especially those from the Girls Brigade. There is one girl who attends a few of the clubs that we run and she has always seemed quite reluctant to talk about God or her beliefs. But a few weeks ago she told me that she had learnt about prayer in a school club she goes to and had been praying every night since, but was unsure whether or not she believed in God. This was really encouraging and I hope to be able to follow this up and to continue to talk to her about God

Ruth Bentley is working in Chilwell School as well as The Girls Brigade, Pure Sports and Boundary Rd. URC's Youth Club

Eq trip to the Wirral

After a 2 hour long mystery minibus ride, in which we desperately tried to deduce where on earth we were going, from road signs and peeking at the driver's sat-nav, we arrived at Greasby Methodist Church. Much to our surprise this small church in the Wirral was to be our home for the next few days. We were welcomed off the bus by Lee Jennings the co-ordinator of Youth for Christ in North Wirral, and instantly ushered into the church for soup and sandwiches. After lunch, still slightly bemused by the whole experience, Lee explained to us why exactly we were there and gave us an outline of what we were going to be doing over the next few days. In short we were there to bless the

community through youth work and a social action project. Social action? I thought. I can hack that- a bit of litter picking? No problem. But oh no! For the days that followed, after a time of worship, word and prayer in the morning we spent the afternoons clearing a derelict plot of no-mans land in a nearby estate. This was no mean feat; the land was hideously overgrown by bushes and brambles and had been used as a dumping ground for goodness knows how long. Three days, a chipper and a lot of serious hard work later the area was completely transformed – much to the astonishment of the neighbours! Many people commented on what we were doing and were amazed to see young people giving something back to the community. However, it wasn't all toil and grind; Rich treated us to a trip across the Mersey by ferry for some sight-seeing and retail therapy in Liverpool and a meal in a local restaurant on the last night! Very nice! We left the Wirral with a host of incredible memories, but above all we left with a great feeling of accomplishment. What we did really was testament to the difference a few young people can make when they work together in the name of Jesus.





Youth for Christ resources
 Nottingham Yfc want to help resource the Church as much as they can in impacting young people. For 11-14 year olds there is Rock Solid and RS2. Rock Solid helps Churches to impact unchurched young people in a fun relevant, way. RS2 looks at the same themes as Rock Solid but helps churches disciple their young people in a creative way. Using bible studies, prayer and illustrations, this resource encourages young people to develop their own faith. For



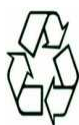
14-18 year olds Yfc produce mettle, a resource aimed at making Christianity relevant for older teenagers. Looking at Biblical principles, what the Bible says about, and big issues, mettle helps Churches connect with an important age group. Finally, we have the crux, a resource for the Church to connect with local secondary schools in the extended schools role. It offers anything from one after school to five after school sessions a week that anyone can run. This user friendly resource has 5 themes for the week: sports, discovery, rock solid, cre8iv and risk it. All connected with the every child matters policy, the crux offers a fresh way that churches can connect and serve their local secondary school.



Raising fitness levels as well as money

On July 13th Richard and Emily, alongside others made up of trustees, volunteers and young people are taking part in the Erewash Triathlon to raise money for Nottingham Youth for Christ. The triathlon consists of a 400metre swim, 10 mile bike ride and a 5km run. The event itself will be based at West Park leisure centre, Long Eaton. If you would like to help raise money for NYFC and would like to join us please contact Richard at the NYFC office. Alternatively, you could sponsor one of the team, if you would like to do that please get in touch with one of us, so we can add you to our sponsors.

Other ways to raise money for Nottingham Yfc:



By recycling your old mobile phones and ink jet cartridges you can raise money for NYFC. For some bags or a box contact the office or go to www.recycle4charity.co.uk and register selecting Nottingham Youth for Christ as your charity.

If you do your shopping online, use this site as your home page or search engine and any shops you go to from this site NYFC will get commission



www.simplefundraising.co.uk/2753

If you would like to know more about the work of Nottingham YFC, or any of the resources mentioned, then please fill in the form below and send it back to us at the address below.

Name

Address.....

.....

.....

Telephone number

Email.....

Church.....

Nottingham YFC is registered charity.

I would like to give towards the ministry of NYFC and impact young people across the city. I would like to give a one off gift of (Please tick):

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
|Five Pounds | Ten pounds |
|Twenty Pounds |Fifty Pounds |
| ... One hundred Pounds |Other Amount |

Please sigh here if you pay tax and would like us to claim gift aid

please tick here if you would like to give monthly to the ministry of NYFC

I would like to know more about::

-Rock solid /RS2/Mettle
-The crux extended schools
-EQ
-Volunteering
-Youth leader network (training and mailing)
- Ignite
- Youth Alpha

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