

Geoff's news and prayer update

March 2025

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine (John 15:4 NIV).



Remain in me

In early December I had four days of spiritual refreshment leave in NW Scotland. During this time I studied the early part of John Chapter 15. The verse above was particularly significant and a great reminder that we need to abide in Jesus at all times and look to him for all things - especially if we are to be fruitful.

This was brought home to me by a fantastic message I received before Christmas. It was from a young person who was in my small group on an SU holiday a couple of years ago. In his email, he shared about how significant the holiday had been and in particular the times spent in the small group. He was contacting me to let me know that he (and a couple of others from that small group) have accepted Jesus as their Saviour and were getting baptised. I was so humbled to read this and was so encouraged that God was at work in ways that I was totally unaware of.

Looking back

Story Explorers



Since my last newsletter, we have made a lot of progress with piloting and developing Story Explorers. This simple initiative involves running a group in a primary school at lunchtime to follow on from

the story the pupils heard in their morning assembly. I worked with Steph (one of my Faith Guides) to run the club for six weeks last half-term. It went really well and we were really pleased with how well the pupils engaged with the stories. They really did have some fantastic insights and asked some brilliant questions. I have now been able to compile everything we have learnt over the past year and we are now sharing this across our region and beyond.

Please pray for the children who came to Story Explorers: that they would continue to think about what they heard. Please also pray that more people would make use of this model and offer lunchtime clubs to other schools.

Volunteer Mission Pioneer

Chenda has continued to settle in to her new role as volunteer Mission Pioneer for Cumbria and I continue to have oversight of her work. Last term we ran three Mission Possible events across the county (although one had to be online as heavy snow was forecast for that particular day).



These events have enabled Chenda to make lots of new connections and she is now busy following these up.

Please pray for Chenda as she makes contact with those who came to the events and discusses with them how she can best support them in their mission.

Shine Films



At the start of January all of the partners gathered near Glasgow for our annual review and planning meeting. This was a significant time as the composition of the group is changing so it was great to be able to chat, pray and plan accordingly. Part of this time together was spent planning the new series 'HOPE' in which we will be exploring the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Please pray for all of the planning and preparation that is needed for this new series. Please also pray for the team as we adapt to the new roles. And finally, please continue to pray for a good uptake for the current series, 'FRIEND'.

Connecting with churches

Over the last few months I have had several opportunities to speak at churches and youth groups. These have sometimes been opportunities to talk about my work and encourage people to pray and sometimes they have been opportunities to work

directly with young people. On a couple of occasions I have used the Shine Films Training videos to help the young people think about Why? and How? they can share their faith with their friends.

At the start of December I was speaking at the all-age service at a church in Ripon. It was fantastic to connect again with a member of the church called Rosemary. She has an incredibly long history with SU and was an SU schools worker in the early 1960s. This photo represents over 60 years of schools ministry in the North of England!



Please pray that the young people would remember the things we looked at during these sessions and be bold as they live out their faith. Please also thank God for the churches that pray for and give towards my work.

Looking ahead

Fusion Faith Guide Holiday

Just before Easter I will be helping to run a brand-new holiday called Fusion. This will be an opportunity for Faith Guides to bring their young people (aged 11-16) on a holiday on the edge of the North York Moors. Through a range of activities, discussion and fun, the young people will be able to explore what following Jesus is all about.



Please pray and join us in thanking God for all that he has provided so far including a wonderful site and cooks. Please pray that each of the young people would have a great time and take steps closer to Jesus.

Young leader development

Once again this summer I am going to be supporting the young leaders at Edale Adventure. It will be exciting to work with these young people again and we will be making use of the latest set of resources and ideas that I have been involved in developing. We are seeking to increase the way that young leaders continue to be such an integral part of our holidays and missions.

Please pray for all of the planning and preparation for Edale Adventure as well as the development of the new resources.

Mission support

I continue to offer support to churches who are seeking to reach out to children and young people. This involves me in providing training, coaching and signposting to resources and initiatives. This is a significant part of my work but it continues to be an area where progress can sometimes seem to be very slow. In contrast to this, the pace of planning and preparation for Lifepath Brinkburn continues to be very fast as we see the summer approaching.

Please pray for me as I support churches as they develop their mission. And please pray for all of the planning and preparation that still needs to happen for Lifepath Brinkburn.

Family news

Joel and Rose were very excited to complete the purchase of their first house just before Christmas. They are enjoying settling in and hosting various family members for visits.



Hannah continues to enjoy life in Leeds and is busy both inside and outside of work.

Sarah is feeling settled at work and is enjoying co-leading the team of Personal Development Coaches.

A recent highlight for us as a family was to celebrate my Dad's 90th birthday. It was a very special and very happy occasion.

Please pray for Joel, Rose, Hannah and Ben as they continue to settle into their respective jobs. And please pray for daily strength for Sarah and for the Lord's equipping as we serve at HTG.

THANKS
so much for
your ongoing
support

Prayer



Please do use the pointers throughout this letter as you pray for the work I am involved with. Additionally, to ensure you have up-to-date information to guide your prayers, please visit this page from time to time: www.su.org.uk/GeoffB

Thank you – your support is enormously appreciated.



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