



Spirit & Saltire

Good News from the ICCM Church in Scotland – Summer 2018

Together!

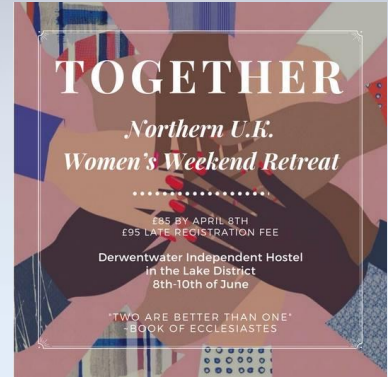
Highlights from the Northern UK Women's Retreat

In June, the Glasgow, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Manchester, Leicester and Leeds churches joined forces to put on an excellent women's retreat in the idyllic town of Keswick of the Lake District. Women from across the northern U.K. came together to worship God, and grow in bonds of friendship. The theme, "Together," was inspired by a common desire for strong relationships with our sisters, and we were reminded how worthy of an investment that truly is. As we fight the spiritual battle together, we gain a clearer picture of God's love for us through our love for each other. The power of coming together was illustrated in one lesson that compared our Christian relationships to tree-root bridges found in northeast India. Discovering that the

Sisters from Scotland and England came together for a weekend of unity and encouragement.

aerial roots of the rubber fig tree could be tied and twisted together to create a bridge, locals could create natural walking paths over the waterways. Our whole weekend centered on this example: we are stronger when we bond together, build up each other, and create "bridges" for relationships that God can use to benefit others as well.

Throughout the weekend, the women also enjoyed exploring Keswick town centre, hiking or swimming in Derwentwater, a high-energy dance party on Saturday night, and a Q&A session with representatives from each church. We were able to learn a great deal from all our speakers reflecting the diverse life stages and situations we face as sisters. Though we are fighting the good fight in different cities, we are united in the cause for Christ. And we are excited to see how God will bless the bridges built from this amazing time in the Lake District.



Northern UK Women's Retreat



Lovely Lake District provides an ideal setting for retreat



Unique living tree-root bridges of India illustrate the power of unity and growing together.

Bravehearts: Taking the One Year Challenge

"Here am I. Send Me!" – Isaiah 6:8

Dre'Shawn Frencher moved to Edinburgh in May to begin a One Year Challenge. Dre comes to Scotland from the Los Angeles Church of Christ (Inland Empire Region) in the U.S.A. He will serve primarily with youth and students and shares about his experience so far.



Edinburgh disciples welcome Dre'Shawn (middle-right)

Marcus: You've been here three months...how is it going for you thus far?

Dre: Man, it feels like it's been much longer than three months- in a good way! I feel very comfortable and at home in the city. I forget that I'm living in a different country. Edinburgh has definitely become my home.

Marcus: Why Scotland?

Dre: I always wanted to go abroad. I prayed that God would help me with my decision. Applying in and of itself is intimidating- when I connected with Marcus he

made me feel at ease. I felt like it was God answering my prayer- it was nice to have someone to talk to. I felt like I could be used in Edinburgh. When I got off the plane, Marcus and I hugged each other. It was like "I've been waiting so long to meet you".

Marcus: What have you enjoyed most about the Scottish culture and/or Edinburgh?

Dre: Everywhere you go you can hear a bagpipe (haha - I'm kidding). The culture is so rich here. Everything has history and everything has a purpose. It feels like nothing in this city is there by accident or "just because". Knowing this makes the city special.

Marcus: What are some of your favourite things about the Edinburgh Church?

Dre: The love that my new family has shown me has been awesome. I feel so welcomed here- I think that love is the main reason I feel so comfortable in Edinburgh. I also love hearing about the lives of the disciples here. As a young man hearing stories from older disciples is inspiring.

Marcus: This summer you served at the UK Teen Camp. Please share highlights.

Dre: Well my team won teen camp (Shout out to The Six!) It was great to connect with everyone. Being in a new country can be lonely and being able to meet the teens and other young people from across the UK was exciting.

Marcus: Freshers' Week is coming. How are you feeling heading into that new experience?

Dre: I'm stoked! I'm a few years removed from the campus ministry, but my fondest memories from the campus was the energy we brought to the church. Keep Edinburgh in your prayers- God's going to do amazing things here.

Marcus: What inspires you the most about Jesus?

Dre: It would be the love that Jesus has shown us. I think of John 13:34-35. If I truly think about the love that Jesus has shown humanity and the fact that he calls us to love others in that way- it scares me. That is a testament to just how much love Jesus has shown us- the fact that replicating that love seems almost impossible and intimidating.

Inspiration from a New Brother in Christ

Allen Anderson Shares his Testimony



Allen Anderson was baptized in May 2018, inspired by the faith of his wife, Michelle, who joined the Glasgow Church months before, Born and raised in Glasgow, Allen joined the RAF and served in the airborne infantry, including combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. Coming out of the military, Allen wrestled for years finding faith and hope in life. Beginning a family with Michelle and three boys only emphasized Allen's need for the love and guidance of God.

He recently shared about the personal changes that took place as he sought and found Christ. Here is the testimony he shared at a Sunday worship service:

I chose Jesus this year as there was always something missing in my life. I had always felt the feeling of no hope. When I started doing Bible studies with some people from Michelle's (my wife) church, I started to feel different about my life. I could

see where I was going wrong in my life. As I read scriptures I could relate to their message in my life and started to see where I was sinning in my ways. How could I change this was the big question. My answer has been reading the Bible every day, repenting from my sins and getting together with other guys in the same boat who are all seeking the same thing - the love of God. I got baptised in Loch Ken on the 27th May, 2018. It was a beautiful sunny day; we had a service by the loch shore followed by Jesus washing away my sin in front of our congregation. This journal is for me and what I believe God has in store for my life. One of my favourite passages is Isaiah 41: 10, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." This is a very powerful passage to me at this time, as I am trying to run a business and hold everything together. My children are still young and need myself and Michelle to guide them. This passage gives me strength as no matter what I know God has my back, and I know I don't need to stress too much about things as it will all work out. The Lord has a plan for me.

He guides me and in turn this will give my children, who I love, the best start in life. They will grow up to make their decisions with the strength of God leading them down the right path.

As a combat veteran, Allen also shared a "Soldier's Prayer" that carries a lot of personal meaning for him. In the spiritual battle, we are all soldiers for Christ. We can keep these words in mind to encourage us to keep fighting the good fight and always pray!

O God, kindly watch over those exposed to the dangers of the soldier's life. Give them such strong faith that nothing may ever lead them to deny it or fear to practice it. Fortify them by your grace against the contagion of bad example, so that, preserved from the vice and serving you faithfully, they may be ready to meet death, if it should. Most sacred heart of Jesus, inspire them with sorrow for sin and grant them pardon. Christ will be with them in battle and should they be called upon to make the supreme sacrifice, obtain for them the grace to die in the love of your divine arms. In Jesus' name we pray for them.

Amen.

UK-Nordic Student Internship

My name is Shona Tootill, and I am a student at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. This summer, I had the opportunity to participate in a student ministry training internship with our churches in London, England and Stockholm, Sweden. This incredible three week program started in London.

Most days began with an inspiring lesson to prepare for the hard work to come, followed by two periods (split by lunch) of campus evangelism. Each day culminated in a Bible discussion. Those two weeks in London were packed to the brim; there was so much to learn! The overall message I took from those two weeks in London was to be bold and give *anything* a shot. Even if I

made mistakes, it was in front of people who could give me the advice I need to grow and learn. It was incredibly faith-building to try out things like preaching, which I had never thought I do.



Shona (kneeling in white T-shirt) and the interns bond in Stockholm

Arriving in Stockholm was a bit of a shock to the system. Suddenly, I had to find the motivation to keep giving with the same heart and spirit in a new foreign place for another ten days, but God helped me to persevere. There was more learning to be done, but this time the lessons focused on a series of

apologetics Bible studies to help a person come to faith who had never considered it before. It was truly a great opportunity to reach out to people with this background. A smaller part of the London group went to Stockholm, so we became close friends over the several weeks together. Forming those deep friendships through our love for Jesus and our shared experiences was one of the best parts of the internship.

I feel so grateful for everything I received in this experience. Prayerfully, God will grow the seeds that we planted in the hearts of people in London and Stockholm. As for me, I cannot wait for this next year where I can live out my faith boldly and with love on my own campus. Please be praying for the student ministries of Scotland.

This newsletter is a cooperative effort of the Glasgow Church of Christ and Edinburgh International Church of Christ, members of ICC Missions.

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Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter. Please stay in contact with our churches!

Paolo & Cara Ugolini – Evangelist & Women's Ministry Leader – Glasgow Church of Christ

paolo.ugolini@iccmissions.org / carajugolini@gmail.com / glasgowchurch.org.uk

Marcus & Amy Overstreet – Evangelist & Women's Ministry Leader – Edinburgh Church of Christ

marcus.overstreet@iccmissions.org / amy.overstreet@iccmissions.org / edinburghchurch.org

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