

NE Scotland Youth for Christ **Annual Report** 2009

Welcome!

In 2009 NESYFC's ministry has continued to develop with people coming and going and God doing great things. There's been a number of Breathe events and resources like Rock Solid have continued to help churches in their mission work. The project in Mastrick, Middlefield and Northfield developed considerably over the year, with a visit from British YFC's NOMAD team in May then two year out volunteers working in the area from September. Joanna Molek stepped down as administrator in January, following which we've had two administrators on contracts of a few months each; Sarah Maiyo and Timwa Lipenga. All have been a huge help keeping things running

smoothly. Anne Laird will step down as treasurer at the end of 2009 to focus on coordinating Breathe - we have still to fill this vacancy. Finally, we were disappointed that we were unable to find the right person to appoint as director. Our exec have spent a lot of time over the year in prayer evaluating the ministry and have determined that the best way to honour God in our ministry is to focus more on the quality of our existing work; to this end we've begun discussing employing a worker to support our existing ministries, and are continuing to seek God's will for what we do. It's a real privilege being able to help share the Good News with hundreds of young people in the North East; please pray for our ministry and read on to find out more!

Training & Volunteers

Youth Leader Training

We have decided for the moment to focus our efforts on other ministries and while we will continue to support other organisations running training with our volunteers' experience, we won't be running further training events in the near future (except for internal volunteer training).

External Training

A number of our volunteers took part in the Deep Impact conference in Aviemore.

Volunteers

Our ministry needs more volunteers to function! We have various jobs from front line youth work / evangelism to behind the scenes work like pushing buttons and stuffing envelopes. If you know anyone who might be interested please contact us.

Accounts

The accounts for the year are available on request. Although again we are in surplus, much of this is coming from one-off income and clearly regular giving will need to continue increasing to sustain any future employed staff. As always we are hugely grateful to Crown Terrace Methodist Church for supplying a rent-free office.

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Prayer

Our monthly prayer bulletin in addition to our quarterly newsletter reaches nearly 200 (and growing) Christians in the North East. With this publicity there's more chances than ever before to pray for NESYFC's work and young people in NE Scotland.

Aly Brown moved from being prayer coordinator to take over volunteers in September. Prayer is now being coordinated by Tim Still.

Keswick in Buckie

We ran a mission alongside the Keswick in Buckie convention on 1-7 August. We employed Dave Brown on a short contract to act as team leader; with the team made up of our own volunteers and some friends from Glasgow. They used a mixture of music and sports ministry through the week, supported by a football cage borrowed from a church in Leicester. There were good conversations with young people during the week and we've had a lot of positive feedback from local people since. Pray for the ongoing work there.

Church Visits

We've again visited a number of church groups to talk about our work and seek supporters, and are continuing to look out for more.

Breathe

During the year, Anne Laird has taken over from Sandy Brownlee coordinating Breathe. There have been eight events in 2009:

We ran Breathe in **Oldmeldrum** twice (February and May) and in **Montrose** (March). The events were based on the themes of "Love" and "Breathe's Got Talent". The former was looking at different kinds of love (it was around Valentines' Day) and how God's love is different. The latter provided some brilliant moments looking at different giftings of the team and how God can change a person's life. Though crowds at the three events were small they really engaged with the team and God certainly spoke to the young people at them.

We were really happy to be asked to run Breathe on a lunchtime at **Banff Academy** (July). The programme was even more fast paced than usual, with lots of games linked to the theme of individuality. Some of the pupils from Banff helped set up the event and showed the team around the school, giving us the opportunity to meet the young people. The event was a great success, and well over 50 children attended.

In September Breathe visited **Kemnay**, with young people from there joining with some from Kintore and New Deer for another great night. The final three events were in Laurencekirk (October), Sheddocksley Baptist Church **Aberdeen** (November) and in **Macduff** (December). All were well attended, with young folk participating in the fun and games and engaging with the worship and teaching. In Macduff it was encouraging to catch up with those who attended Breathe at Banff Academy and friends from Buckie's summer mission. In Macduff we gave away UCB Bags of Hope as a lead up to Christmas.

Supporting other events

For the past couple of years some of our volunteers helped with the video at the Gener8 youth event in Angus, which came to an end this summer as the local leaders consider possible new ministries. Some volunteers also helped at the Imagine festival in August.

Resources

During the last year British YFC has put the material online – accessible via clubs own passwords. This new development means we can access all the material giving freedom of choice to clubs to use any or all of RS, RS2 or Mettle.

We currently have 12 clubs accessing them, Oldmachar, Inch, New Deer, Kemnay, South St Nicholas Kincorth, West Holburn, Chapel of Garioch, Mid Deeside, Fyvie, St Columba, Elgin, Sheddockley, this looks fewer, but both Oldmachar and New Deer previously had 2 clubs. We have lost 1 club this year – Cove.

The material continues to be good to use, we have been promoting it by presentations whenever we can and are hoping that with the easier access more churches will be interested in starting a club.

The Project

The project has developed a lot over the year. We had an amazing visit from the NOMAD mission team in May. They worked with around 250 young people spending daytime in Northfield Academy (with the cage in the playground at lunchtimes and helping with PE + RE lessons in afternoons) and evenings in a number of places around Mastrick, Middlefield and Northfield - you might have seen them in the P+J pictured outside the shops in Mastrick.

Speaking with the team at the end of the week, the best thing that happened for them was a chat between them and a group of five girls at the school, sharing testimony and answering questions. From this came their most memorable quote of the week - "can you become a Christian if you're not one already?" Questions like this made the week what it was and the team's biggest encouragement was how open and honest the young people were willing to be with them. It is obvious that they are desperate for things to do and for people to be interested in them.

The last few months have been very hectic as we've had two year-out volunteers (Tom and Laura) on BYFC's ETA programme with us, doing a mixture of schools work, detached work and support for local church groups and clubs (as well as helping at Breathe). Speaking with Laura, she said "People are becoming open to us. Lots ask us if we work for the church, if we pray etc so we get chances to speak to them". Relationships are being built and there's a lot of potential for God's work here.