

North East Scotland YFC Newsletter

2007 Issue 3

Welcome!

The past few months have been quiet on the face of it - but behind the scenes we've been kept quite busy. The Breathe team in particular have a busy few months ahead, with a youth event at Encounter07 on top of the normal programme. The next training day is also just around the corner. This newsletter's resource focus is on the recently revamped Art of Connecting; a short course designed to help your young people share their faith through stories. We hope you'll enjoy reading what God's been doing with us!

In Brief

YFC One / Project Scotland

This summer YFC had the hugely disappointing news that ProjectScotland is unwilling to fund the YFCOne gap year volunteers because they promote religion. Having had assurances that this would be no problem in the past, to have lost support at such short notice is a huge blow. Please pray that alternative funding can be found for this year and that this will be resolved in time for next year's teams.



Changing Faces

The past couple of months have seen some changes in the NESYFC team. Cat Lawson and Sandy Brownlee have swapped roles on the executive committee, so that Sandy is now chairperson and Cat is vice-chair. Having graduated from university, Emma Drane has now moved on from her job as publicity coordinator but keeping that role in the family is her brother Ben. Thanks to God for helping us keep these important roles occupied.



Imagine 2007

NESYFC joined up with YFC in Scotland to run a stand at Imagine's marketplace this year. It was great to be part of such an amazing festival - if you can possibly be at next year's event, make sure you are!



Website Relaunch

The NESYFC website at www.nesyfc.org.uk has undergone a bit of a makeover - check it out today! Also, don't forget to point your young people to our Bebo page at nesyfc.bebo.com.

New Scottish Director

Director of YFC in Scotland Ed Jeffrey moved on from his post earlier this year. We were sorry to see him go as Ed's time has seen a great growth in the relationship between NESYFC and "National YFC"; but God's got some great things lined up for him as he engages on a career in life coaching. Graeme Brooks (former director of Inverclyde YFC) will be taking over as Scottish Director in the next month or two - please pray for both as they take on new challenges.

Breathe Update

Jay and Sandy Brownlee bring us up to speed on the latest 'Breathe' news



This session of Breathe is shaping up fast and we can't wait to get stuck in! While some of our volunteers have moved on we've new ones coming on board and we've had a great summer bonding as a team and preparing for the year ahead. We're currently focusing on preparation for Encounter07 where we're partnering with the Souled Out team to stage an alternative programme for 11-13 year olds on Saturday 29th September. This is a great opportunity to reach a potentially much larger number of young people, as well as more of God's people working together for His glory.

In October we're heading to the north coast for Breathe at Whitehills (a change from that previously advertised), then in November we're venturing up Deeside to Mid-Deeside Parish in Torphins. Then in December we're in Newmachar. After Christmas we've got a few dates to confirm - more details to follow on those.

We've already been down to Arbroath to help with Gener8 again, which started its new session at the end of August. The best part for us is starting to train local volunteers in the techy skills we've been helping with so the event can sustain itself in the future. If you're in the Angus area make sure you check out www.gener8.org.uk!

Dates for this session

29 September - 7:30-9:30pm
Youth Programme at Encounter07

07 October -7-9pm
St Brandon's Centre, Whitehills

18 November -7-9pm
Mid-Deeside Church, Torphins

09 December -7-9pm
Newmachar Church

Also, though we've had a couple more volunteers for the Breathe team over the summer, we can always use more help. We'd love to see enough capacity on our team to either run or support more than one event a month. If you or someone you know has a gift for working with young people, is interested in tech stuff, has a creative flair, is musically inclined or passionate about prayer we'd love to hear from you. All our volunteers get support in training and are free to get involved wherever their gifts and passions lead them.

Volunteer Spotlight



First, our humble apologies to Jay Brownlee who was under the spotlight in the last newsletter, we forgot to tell you her name! This issue, we speak to Cat Lawson.

What's your role within with YFC?

Volunteers coordinator. I am vice-chair of the Executive Committee too. And I often play the fool.



How did you get involved with YFC?

Someone invited me to a Powerpoint event when I was a student in Aberdeen and I got involved as an occasional volunteer after that. This sort of volunteering grows on you!

What's your favourite sport?

Sailing. Sounds posh but I go on my friends' boat so it costs me next to nothing. It's the best feeling when you put the engine off and the sails catch and you drift along before a breeze...

When did you become a Christian?

I remember as a wee girl realizing it wasn't enough to go to church with Mum and Dad and deciding to accept God for myself. I decided to get baptized when I was 16.

What's the best thing about God?

He is completely trustworthy. Always.

Do you prefer Chick-flicks or action movies?

Both! Favourite films: Hot Shots Part Deux and A Rather English Marriage.

What colour are your socks today?

Black (boring!) but soon it'll be boot wearing weather and I'll get out the stripy smiley-face toe socks! Yay!

What was your most embarrassing moment?

<blushes> I don't think I could possibly say! It wasn't tonight when our youth group covered me in lipstick and hair mousse! Photos to come on Bebo!

What's the most tragic CD in your collection?

How about a cassette tape of Take That and Party? :EEK:

What's your role in your local Church?

I help with the Sunday School, sing in the choir and we're talking about starting some youth stuff again so I will be in on that.

What's the best thing about working with young people?

They never leave me bored! They challenge and inspire me, make me think about what I really mean, not just spout jargon and they surprise me with their insight and understanding of God every time! Working with YFC has taught me loads about myself, God and people in general.

YFC Resources in Action



Introducing a great resource to help you help your young people to share their faith: The Art of Connecting. We hear from YFC Scotland's Resource Co-ordinator, Sandra Blair.

I think that you would agree with me when I say that we all love a really good story, especially if it is a true one! Looking at the continued interest and success of shows like Big Brother and Castaway it proves that people love looking into each others lives, we love to see what makes each other tick!

When it comes to talking about our faith and that word that strikes terror into some people hearts.... Evangelism, we tend to forget that it's just stories! Stories of God, stories of us and God, stories of our friend's lives and how God can meet them where they're at!

Well, The Art of Connecting resource is all about stories, three stories in particular! 'It's about making life-changing connections between you and God, you and your friends, and your friends and God – three story living!' This new look resource comes with a leaders guide, split into 3 streams, it can be adapted to fit all ages and will guide you and your group through the 7 week course and includes all DVD clips needed to run the course.

Along with the leaders guide there is also an Art of Connecting journal for the young people. It allows them to daily reflect on how God is involved in their own lives and how He can powerfully use them in the lives of their friends. They can write their own notes, write out their prayers for their friends and so much more. The journal is a bright, well set out book and encourages readers to really think about sharing God's great story with those around them, it guides them to the answer of 'how you link your friends lives to God'? I have yet to come across another resource like this – it encouraged so much discussion from my young people and really made it sink in that their stories are important! The confidence in telling their stories now we have finished the 7 weeks is fantastic!

As Mike Pilavachi, Founder and Director of Soul Survivor says...

"This fresh approach will excite young people about God's story and the stories of their friends' lives and prompt them to want to make a difference! A key resource for your Youth programme"

If you're interested in The Art of Connecting, Rock Solid or any of our other resources, just give us a call or email resources@nesyfc.org.uk - we'll be happy to talk with you and can send a sample pack to try out.



Summer Retreat

It might seem like a long way away - especially given that we're still in the tail end of Summer 2007 - but we're already looking to Summer 2008. A number of years ago we ran summer retreats, bringing young people from several groups together to enjoy a week together in a youth hostel in the highlands. It was a really powerful experience for everyone involved - growing in faith and bonding with other Christians. We're considering running one next year but need to know soon whether anyone would like to be involved. You don't have to be using a YFC resource to come along (though we may well offer a discount to those who do). We'd plan the week and all the logistics, though unless you're only sending one or two young people we'd look for at least one adult to come along and take part. We're particularly keen to develop this as a resource for the smaller youth groups out there who can't justify organising a retreat for such a small number.

If it's something you might be interested in, please contact our resources co-ordinators Alasdair and Edna on 01771 644228 or email resources@nesyfc.org.uk

Publicity Spot

God's word can be spread all the more effectively when His people work together. We're really keen to help Christians in the North East to collectively focus on young people, and one way we can do this is through our mailing list, which now reaches something like 200 youth leaders and ministers in the area. So if you have a youth or training event, youth worker vacancy or something else related you'd like publicised just get in touch and as long as it's appropriate we'll make sure it goes into our newsletter and our website. We'd look for a donation if you can afford one to help cover our costs - but it's not essential.

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Thanks to DeLane McCurry

11-09-1998

I'M NOT SURE WHO WAS ALL PASSING NOTES TODAY, BUT THIS RED WRITING LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS WAS IN ON IT

Project Update

Over the summer things have been moving very slowly with the youth project in Mastrick. We're praying hard for God's guidance on this and whether we're going in the right direction, please keep this in your prayers too. There's more potential partners to meet with and the steering group is coming together. We've also been able to help out with the Summer Madness run by Sheddocksley Baptist Church. We remain convinced that there is a desperate hunger for God among the young people in this community and when the time is right God will get the whole thing moving again. Acts 1:7-8 (NIV): "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Training Day

We've another training day lined up for **15th September**, last minute bookings are welcome!

Do you find yourself asking:
How do we reach them?
What do they need?
Why aren't they in church?
Where can we get help?
What are other groups doing?
What can we do about challenging behaviour?
How do I get involved?
We can help!

Cost: £5 per person, free to YFC resource users.

Email Cat on volunteers@nesyfc.org.uk for more information.

Prayer

Prayer co-ordinator Jay Brownlee has a few points for prayer



Breathe is going to Encounter at the AECC at the end of the month. Pray that the message is relevant and engaging. Pray that God has prepared the hearts of those young people who come. Pray that the team speak the words that God wants and pray that God energises the team and the young people. Also pray that those who attend make a real and lasting connection to God.

Pray that the NESYFC team can be expanded - pray that new volunteers will come on board for all areas from Breathe to the project and even for our Exec. Pray that the people who come forward are those chosen by God and pray that we can be guided as to who should take on which positions.

Pray for the young people that have recently gone back to school. Particularly pray for those starting secondary school or going to a new school. Pray for those young people who are Christians - pray they stay true to their faith and beliefs. Pray they don't fall to temptations because of peer pressure. Pray also that these young people can be shining lights for Jesus and they can be a positive influence for their friends and teachers.

Pray that Jesus' name can be spread through all the North East of Scotland. Pray that young people will appreciate just what it was that Jesus did and what that means for us - both in terms of the amazing gift we've been given and what that gift demands of us. Pray that all people, young and not so young will stand up for their beliefs and be beacons for Jesus.

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Supporting Us

Please pray for us and the work we do. If you or someone you know would like to get involved in NESYFC, please contact us.

Please also consider supporting us financially; you can make a secure one-off donation on our website, or call us about regular giving - as little as £5 a month can make all the difference.

Next Issue...

Reports from Encounter and our training day

Youth Alpha

Further news from Mastrick