

September 2018



THE YEAR OUT— SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Andrew Fraser



Swindon
YOUTH
FOR CHRIST



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
ME!!!**

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN SEPTEMBER

ETC

The year kicked off with a week-long training residential in Kidderminster called the Evangelism Training Conference (ETC) where everyone on 'The Year Out' met for the first time for a week of training and worship. This included sessions from speakers such as Mark Greenwood - national evangelist for Elim - and Nick Herbert - a member of the Worship Central team. We also spent a lot of time during the week devoting the coming year to God and a lot of time was simply spent building amazing relationships with each other (mostly through endless games of uno). And of course I also managed to find time to make myself look stupid. >



YFC National Staff Prayer Day

On the Wednesday of ETC we left Kidderminster and headed to Birmingham for a day of prayer and worship alongside many of the staff and volunteers for YFC in the church of St Martin in the Bull Ring. James Aladiran - founder and director of Prayer Storm - was speaking at the event and Elim Sound led worship. The day was incredibly uplifting in that there were so many people crying out with a united voice to God, to see young people's lives changed by Jesus. It became entirely clear in that day that we had become part of something much bigger than just The Year Out - we had become members of the body that is Youth for Christ to whom God has given the mission of bringing the good news relevantly to every young person.



Swindon

Following ETC, we each headed to our placements across the UK, and so both myself and Nathan Nocar - who has come from Baltimore, Maryland, USA to be a part of The Year Out - travelled to Swindon. There I have been living with a host family who have shown me immense kindness by taking me in to stay with them for the year. With the Swindon YFC (SYFC) team, I have been serving in local schools, mainly doing lunchtime clubs, and have served through detached sessions in local parks where I've been involved in running sports sessions where our aim for the first month has been to build relationships with the young people that we will be working with throughout the year. I have also been placed as an intern in a church called Discovery Church - a multicultural, Pentecostal church - where I have been involved primarily in leading at the Friday evening youth group.



WHAT'S COMING UP IN OCTOBER

Commissioning

On the 6th of October, YFC are holding a commissioning event in Life Central Church in Halesowen, Birmingham to celebrate the work of Youth for Christ staff and volunteers and to commission in the new staff and volunteers joining YFC in their mission of bringing the good news relevantly to every young person. At the event, I will be commissioned into the year ahead alongside the rest of The Year Out volunteers. As well as commissioning new staff and volunteers, the service will include a time of worship as well as a message from Andy Hawthorne - founder and chief executive of The Message Trust. The event is open for family, friends and supporters to attend.



HUB training

Once a month for the year, as part of our training with The Year Out programme, all of us on the gap year will gather together at Amblecote Christian Centre in Stourbridge for two days where we will receive training, have the opportunity to share testimonies, encourage each other, disciple each other and refuel spiritually. The first of these is happening on the 16th-17th of October.

Sports café

One of the main initiatives that I am currently focusing on in the coming month is the start of a sports café in Swindon Academy - one of the local schools. Currently at the school, we work alongside the school chaplain to run an after-school football session on the school's astrograss pitch which saw 89 students attend in the first week back from the summer holiday. The session is for 11-18 year olds who attend Swindon Academy and they play football for an hour. Moving forward, we're looking to create an environment where these young people can explore the Christian faith in a way that is relevant to them and so we're currently developing the concept of a sports café. This will involve a time where the young people can come inside from playing football and receive healthy refreshments and chill out through socialising and playing games and using the games consoles we provide. We will then use this time to give a short, relevant, sport-based message about who God is and the gospel and allow the young people time to explore what that means for them. We also want to make the sports café as fun and enjoyable and engaging as possible and so the young people will also be participating in challenges and quizzes and competitions throughout the sessions.

WHAT YOU COULD PRAY FOR

That I would continue to strengthen the relationships that I have already started to form.

That I would continue to receive the financial support that I need.

That my focus would remain on God and his will for me at all times.

That we would have fresh and relevant ideas for our work - particularly for starting the sports café.

That more opportunities would open up to bring God into the everyday conversations I'm having with the young people and that they would be presented with a wise and godly way to live when confronted with the issues they face.

For us at Swindon YFC to continue to be viewed as a safe and relevant and comfortable place that young people can come to and be entirely open and vulnerable.

That the gospel would be so clear in my life that it is impossible to miss.

HOW YOU COULD SUPPORT ME

I am hugely thankful for all the support I've received already! The encouraging messages and prayers have helped to carry me through this first month and have been incredibly uplifting. Thank you so much to everyone who has been a part of this journey with me already! Even you reading this is really encouraging to me - that you would take time out to be interested in my year and so thank you for taking your time to read this!

Your support makes a huge difference to me but not only to myself but also to the young people that I work with and even to the kingdom of God in that the more support that I receive, the more effectively I can share the good news. Whether that is in prayerful support which gives me confidence that God is right alongside me in every step; whether it is in encouragement which is massively uplifting and gives me extra drive to continually seek after the goal of bringing the good news relevantly to every young person; whether it is in reading this newsletter which gives me reassurance that other people are invested in this goal alongside me; or whether it is in financial support which makes it far easier for me to focus on the true purpose of God sending me into this year instead of focusing on money.

If you would like to support me in this year then let me know by any of the provided methods of contact. I will always love to hear what you have prayed for me as it is hugely uplifting; it is an amazing way that we can worship; and it makes me even more aware of God's grace as I will be able to identify answered prayers and how God is moving in those areas. Financial support would also go a long way to helping me and would be an amazing way of investing in the work that I am doing. If you would like to support me financially then please contact me and I can give you the appropriate bank details. In the future it will also be possible to support me financially through the YFC website by searching my name on the website and clicking the support button, however the page has not yet been uploaded but should be uploaded shortly and so I will provide more details on that once that option is available. For now, why not have a look around the website and read about who YFC are, what they do and how you can get involved.

Thank you again for all your support! Be blessed!

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