

Latest update from Nick Blanch: August 2024

Hi all,

It's been a crazy busy term and I just want to say a massive thank you for all your support. Knowing you have been standing with me, praying and giving towards my work at Youth for Christ has meant so much.

I've really found my feet now and I've been pushing ahead with so many things in my team. Here's a few highlights:

- We've fleshed out our 'Urban' strategy for our outreach projects. This means we have a clear plan for London to establish several youth work projects in partnership with churches. Our first project has already launched in Earlsfield, working with a group of girls who are disengaged from school and showing anti-social behaviour in the community. Meanwhile in Glasgow, we have some solid youthwork going on already, so in the next 12 months we have made plans to launch Glasgow Youth for Christ as a new centre. And we are looking to launch a national online community for young people, joining resources with other Youth for Christ centres.
- We've refined our plans for church support and ways we can engage with churches. Making sure we are not waiting for a cry for help but being much more proactive at contacting people and offering our team of Regional Pioneers to help them. I'm working on the training now so we can be ready to deliver this in September.
- We've had 4 young adults complete a gap year with us and as a final bit of training, I led a John Maxwell leadership course with them. They had a final couple of days training at head office with some of our staff but to say thank you for their hard work, I took them on a little camping trip too!

But perhaps the big focus has been on what we call 'Focus Tour'. This is where we tour around the country to connect and support our local Youth for Christ centres. Over 3 weeks, I made it to Rowley Regis (Birmingham), Leeds, Glasgow, Perth, Taunton, London and Cambridge. At each venue, I was able to hear about the latest successes and challenges that each Youth for Christ centre is facing. We used our 'Learning Community' material to help them reflect on their current reality, where they would love to be and then come up with strategies for the future. Finally, it was a real privilege to spend some time praying for them all. Here's a few pics!





Then at the end of the term, I had something amazing happen! Every very week I go to a local secondary school to run a short bible session for students. It's nothing fancy with only a few who attend but we have some great conversations both with Christians and those who are just curious. On my last visit of this academic year, one of the students told me they had bought a bible, been reading it and decided to follow Jesus! It was a wonderful moment for me and shows that even a small club like this can make a big impact to someone's life.

So once again, thank you. You enable me to work with my colleagues at Youth for Christ to reach and impact the lives of countless young people across this nation.

As a team, we recognise that this is a pivotal time for change. The good news for this generation must centre on Jesus, and we believe that this message is more crucial now than ever. With your prayer and your support you are standing with me to deliver a transformative and life changing strategy that we are excited about.

Over the next five years, we aim to:

REACH 10,000 CHURCHES:

We are committed to collaborating with 10,000 churches, empowering them to engage with young people in meaningful and transformative ways.

EMPOWER SCHOOLS:

We will support schools in speaking about Jesus, aiming to equip 5,000 RE (Religious Education) teachers with the resources they need to effectively share the gospel.

EQUIP YOUTH LEADERS:

Providing 1,500 youth leaders with top-tier resources is a priority. These leaders will be better prepared to connect with young people in communities, schools, and churches. We have developed and launched new resources designed to equip youth leaders with the tools necessary to foster spiritual growth and engagement amongst unchurched and churched young people.

MOBILISE PULSE GATHERINGS:

We are initiating 100 Pulse Gatherings - where local churches come together to collaborate in youth ministry, fostering unity and shared mission for the purposes of reaching unchurched young people with the gospel.

SUPPORT YOUTH FOR CHRIST CENTRES:

Continuing our support for 60 Youth for Christ centres remains crucial. These centres are hubs of activity and outreach, vital to our mission in reaching

young people.

NATIONAL VISION FOR CHANGE:

Our vision extends to direct engagement in deprived areas. Here, we will work to feed, educate, and pastorally support young people. By addressing their physical and spiritual needs, we aim to introduce unchurched young people to the love and truth of Jesus.

Together, we are on a journey to make a lasting impact on this generation, ensuring that the message of Jesus is accessible to all.

Thank you for all your support and encouragement. Without you, many young people would not hear the Good News and please, keep praying!