



Winter 2020 **press**



Challenges and Opportunities

God's Faithfulness Throughout Changes

facebook

The Cambuslang and Rutherglen Christian Reachout Charitable Trust Scottish Charity Number SC022459



A Fresh Perspective



Two of the pictures on this page are of a beautiful tree from my Garden that displays different colours throughout the year, each stage represents the different seasons. At points I wish I could freeze time for that tree and enjoy that particular stage a little longer. Then I realise that every season brings a different kind of beauty. In Ecclesiastes 3:1 it says, "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven." This tree is a reminder that everything has it's time.

For the last 12 years I have worked in partnership with local ministers to support schools and provide young people opportunities to reflect and consider what life is all about. This year has been very different. We haven't been in any schools since March 16th. At times this year has been tough for all of us. Schools being closed meant we were all put on furlough for nearly 4 months. When we eventually came back, we had no idea what we were going to do as we were still not allowed to go into schools.

Thinking back to my tree, another bible passage from Matthew comes to mind. It talks about not worrying because God (who provides for the Birds and wildflowers) cares for and provides for us. It is hard not to worry when everything around about you has changed so dramatically and you need to totally rethink all that you do. Trusting God seems obvious but sometimes it's easy to miss that he is dependable, unchanging and always provides for our needs. Our way of working has changed

but we are still able to support our local schools and provide opportunities for young people to reflect and consider what the Bible has to say about different subjects that are relevant to them.

Yes, life is different, but we have been provided with opportunities that we may not otherwise have had. Our new project Boomerang, has been written, filmed and used by many of the primary schools. We are providing two video assemblies a month to every primary school in the area. We have also managed to take part in a class discussion and deliver our Buddy project Google Meet with one class and are hoping to do another in December.

This year there will be no early starts for Christmas unwrapped or trying hard not to laugh as Kirsten or David go off script as the Nutty Professor. However, the work goes on. God remains faithful and thanks to technology we are still able to support local schools and provide opportunities for young people to stop and reflect. As this year draws to a close and we look forward with hope to 2021, let us not look back and remember all the challenges or difficulties but reflect with a smile on the blessings and new opportunities that have been given to us.

As I finish let me take this opportunity to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New year.

Ross Murray
Senior Youth and Schools worker.

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Members of the Management Committee and Trustees

Management Committee

Alan Thomson (Chair), Stuart Ross, Kieran Wardrop, David Samson, Susan Reader-Harris, Stephanie McBride, Valerie Sim and William McIntosh.

Trustees

Alan Thomson, Lynn McClhery, Jackie Cathcart, Steve Loomes, David McTaggart and Jen Robertson.

Letter from The Editor



Hello and welcome to the Winter 2020 edition of Xpress. It hasn't been too long since our last publication however we still have lots of news as well as some exciting articles to share with you. In this edition, we hear from both the former and current Scripture Union Regional Worker and offer an update from the Reachout staff and volunteers.

While compiling the articles for Xpress it struck me that in each person's life God, despite the chaotic circumstances, remains faithful and the one constant we can always rely on. I hope this issue also fills you with hope in the knowledge that God's plan and timing are indeed perfect.

Editor Greg Senior



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The Cambuslang and Rutherglen Christian Reachout Charitable Trust Scottish Charity Number SC022459

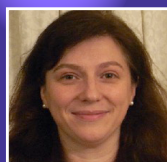
Meet the REACHOUT team



Alan Thomson
Chair of the Management Committee



Ross G Murray
Senior Youth and Schools Worker



Valerie Sim
Scripture Union Regional Worker



Alison Kennedy
Youth and Schools Worker



Greg Senior
Admin Assistant



Kenny McKie worked for Scripture Union Scotland for 43 years. In many roles over the last 10 years he has served as the west team leader as well as a regional worker. Part of Kenny's job was to support volunteers and staff, but his main passion was schools work and residential.

He was Ross's line manager and the SU link to the trust for the last 4 years before he retired in August. Let's take a moment to find out a little more about him and his plans for retirement.

(Briefly) Tell us a little about your family.

Alison is my wife of 42 years, and we have 4 children: Stuart, Gordon, Laura and Karen and 3 grandchildren. All live within 10 miles of us.

Apart from church and the Bible what are you passionate about?

I'm passionate about sharing the gospel with children and young people – I believe my calling was to be a young peoples evangelist and discipler.

You will no doubt have many highlights from your 43 years in ministry, could you please share one or two?

I've led many camps over the years, but a highlight has been leading one at Kingscross since 1978 and seeing many young people own their own faith and going on to be significant Christians in the church worldwide. Another highlight were Christian Focus weeks in schools around the country with Rod and Marco and John Mackinnon – they allowed us to reach the whole secondary school with the Good News through drama and song and class work.

How have you seen God at work?

God has changed many young lives over the years, and it's been a privilege to be part of that. God has spoken through many volunteers at camps and in school groups, including some of my own family. He has moved to rescue many thousands of children and young people through our camps and schools work as we opened up the Bible to them. God has rescued these young people to eternal life and transformed them. In the words of a young person who was tragically killed as he embarked on a year of full time service "He alone can rescue, He alone can save".

Thoughts of a retired SU Scotland Regional Worker



What will you miss most?

Working with colleagues and large teams of volunteers and visiting many SU groups and volunteers to encourage them to follow Christ.

What are your plans for your retirement?

Caravanning all over the UK and visiting friends when we're allowed. We have time to meet with loads of friends we've made through SU over the years. Active in our church at The Tron, Kelvingrove. Enjoying the family – more time to spend with them all. Reading lots of stuff including The Times and The Guardian on our Kindles. Knitting business (Alison only). A month in Australia next August, if we're allowed.

Railway Modelling in the loft. Developing photography skills. Gardening. Painting the parts of the house that need it. Cycling. Involvement in local SU group. Following Partick Thistle with Stuart and Gordon. Playing Chess with Stuart and others. Tropical Fish Breeding. SU New Year Break – if we are allowed in 2021

What is your prayer for SU and Reachout in these difficult times?

Stay faithful to the Gospel and to reach young people with the Good News. Along with Paul to the Ephesians in chapter 3:

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you **to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being**, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church **and in Reachout** and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

It's all change; but things remains the same

One of the most striking aspects of life at present is the difficulty in making plans: whether it is plans for seeing family or friends, plans for church services, plans for holidays, plans for just going somewhere. We make plans the one day and by the next day or the next week the guidance around the Covid-19 restrictions changes and we have to change our plans. What we took for granted last year has certainly not been our experience this year.

This is no bad thing. James in his letter speaks about making the assumption that we know what tomorrow brings and corrects it by saying that we ought to say "if the Lord wills it, we will live and do this or do that".

So, with this constant change it has felt very much like a time of new beginnings for Reachout as we have had to learn new ways of doing the work. It has meant planning differently (yes, that still has to happen!) because, instead of arriving at a school on the day with all the materials for a particular project to be delivered to a class or an assembly, everything has to be prepared in advance. The talks have to be videoed and edited; the bags of accompanying materials have to be made up and delivered in advance in a safe way; and the instructions have to be emailed to the school. What then happens is beyond the control of Ross and Alison – they have to trust that the schools will be effective in the presentation of the project.



We have had some amazing responses from the schools who have been very appreciative of the materials which have been produced and the support which Ross and Alison have been able to give them. Even so, doing "Christmas Unwrapped" is going to be very different this year because Ross and Alison and many volunteers will not be in the schools and able to interact with the children. I, for one, will miss that!

In the midst of all this change, many things remain the same, most of all the good news of Jesus. We are thankful that the work of Reachout to make the good news of Jesus known in the schools has continued, and perhaps been more demonstrably acknowledged than previously. God's faithfulness remains the same and he has blessed the work over these recent months. The need for young folk to hear the gospel hasn't changed – and it is probably greater than ever in these uncertain times.

On a practical level the need for funding hasn't changed. Our Vision 20:20 fundraising project (see the back page) lost traction because of everything coming to a standstill at the end of March. We would be hugely grateful if some reading this felt able to respond to that project by giving for the first time or by increasing their giving in our current financial year.

Thank you for your support of Reachout.

Alan Thomson, Chair of Management Committee.

Virtual coffee with Kirsten Leitch

Kirsten has been on the team for KX1, several weekends and helped out at last year's Christmas unwrapped. She is larger than life, lots of fun, loves God and is our second favourite nutty professor. Ross asked her some questions to find out more about the real person behind the big personality.

Could you please tell us a wee bit about you and your current job?

Hi, my name is Kirsten and I am a youth worker for Falkirk Baptist Church. I started just before lockdown so it was definitely not the most ideal start, but thanks to zoom and my newly found incredible video editing skills we made it work! We've started meeting again in real life the past few weeks so that's been good!

What do you like to do when you're not working?

I like to rock climb, go to the gym, travel and pretend I don't spend hours a day on TikTok.

What are you passionate about?

Chicken Nuggets. Kidding (Kind of). I am really passionate about creating safe spaces for young people to grow, learn about themselves and God and have fun.



What role have Reachout (Ross & Alison) played in your journey so far?

First of all, Alison is the best and looks way too young to be a gran! Seriously though, they have both been nothing but supportive in my journey to becoming a youth worker. They have always been encouraging, given me more and more responsibility, and pushed me to be better. Ross also always really laughs at my jokes (even the ones that aren't very funny) so I also really appreciate that.

How have you seen God at work this year?

This year, God has been teaching me to trust His plans. With the world so unknown just now and everything closed, it's been difficult to do anything other than trust God. However, I have found that by trusting God, things I have wanted have fallen into place, just not always the way I might have expected.

What is your hope and prayer for 2021?

I hope and pray that there will be some sort of normality for 2021 and Covid will be under control. I also pray that young people will not forget what they have learnt this year and will be able to positively adjust their lifestyles.



PRAYER BREAKFAST

ZOOM MEETING ID: 876 3514 4276

PASSCODE: 252710

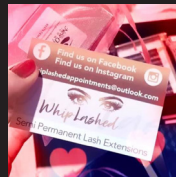
SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER
08:30 - 10:00 VIA ZOOM

Join us for prayer, fellowship
and an update from Reachout

 vibrant



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Vision 20:20 fundraising project

The 2020 Project aims to encourage new or increased donations towards our work of £20.20 per month. You can help us by speaking with friends, family, colleagues and spreading the news among your congregation of our work and this project. If you feel you can increase your current donation you could help in that way too. A heartfelt thank you to all who have already generously given.

TRAINING
PRAYER
MISSIONS
ONLINE
HOLIDAYS
SCHOOLS



**Scripture Union Scotland
is a Christian charity working
in partnership with local churches.**

Everything we do is governed by two core values: dependence on God and deepening relationships. We want to see children and young people exploring the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus. Across the country there are a number of associate worker schemes.

The Reachout Trust was the first of these schemes, where a partnership is formed between Scripture Union Scotland and groups of churches, to employ youth and children's workers.



SU Scotland

Valerie Sim

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