



At the Crossroads

For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose Phil 2:13

Dear Friends,

It has been an eventful and interesting year for us at Good News Family Care, and we now find ourselves at a crossroads. Our remaining *Supporting People* service is to go to tender next month. We have a meeting next week with the officer responsible for the tender process, which will help to inform our consideration as to whether or not we will put in a tender for a new contract. Following that we will meet with two other providers with whom we have discussed the possibility of a collaborative tender.

However, we are deeply committed to not in any way compromise the Christian foundation and ethos that runs through all of the work of GNFC, so we would value your prayers for wisdom in this decision.

You may remember that we were notified that our Family Centre contract has been extended until September 2012. There have been no cuts, which, following all the notifications to say cuts were imminent, is a miracle in itself.

For that we are very grateful. The truth remains, however, that it is very unlikely we will be tendering at all, so we will need to increase our income by more than £11,000 per month by September next year in order to continue the current level of support in the Fam-



ily Centre. This is *in addition* to making up the extra £4,250 each month that we no longer receive for the *Community Support Recovery Outreach Projects!*

We strongly believe, however, that we are not to think of decreasing the level of support we provide, but continue to press forward to help even more people in more effective

ways in these difficult times.

Please continue to pray for the development of our Skills Projects and that income generation will increase steadily. We strongly believe in helping people to help themselves by supporting them in developing skills for work and in reaching their God-given potential. Without God in the picture, many people with broken lives will be unable to find the strength to move forward and believe that they can achieve something worthwhile. This is why we know that the work of GNFC is different and why it is so fruitful in helping people rebuild what has been broken or destroyed.

God is the key to the impossible becoming possible for those who dare to put their trust in Him.

THANKSGIVING

At our anniversary thanksgiving service on November 19th there will be opportunities to see and hear more about the different areas of the work of GNFC. Those who came

Recovery programme closes

Sadly, after a year of operation, we have had to close the residential recovery house. It proved to be an extremely costly property to run and after having two deliveries of heating oil stolen within 3 weeks, we decided to call it a day. Having resident staff on site would have reduced costs, by limiting working hours to daytime, with on-call overnight, but it was not possible in this property. Ensuring safe running of the premises necessitated extra sleep-in staff hours evenings and overnight, as well as qualified staff (recovery co-ordinator and support worker) to concentrate on running the programme effectively during the day.

Remaining residents were offered a place in the residential family centre, since we considered that they had moved on sufficiently in their recovery.

Out of the nine, eight women remain free from their dependency on their substance of choice to-date, for lengths of time ranging from 7 to 17 months. This is an amazing achievement for them all, and a further demonstration of the success of our methods. With the help of a team of able and dedicated volunteers, we were

last year will remember some of the testimonies that were shared. This year, God willing, there will be an update from one of the young women who shared very personally about how she had found God through many hardships, challenges and struggles. She asked for prayer regarding an extremely difficult challenge she and her husband were facing. I am sure you will be thrilled to hear the answers to those prayers!

You will be able to purchase Christmas cards, greetings cards and other project items as usual, but this year you will also be able to sample our delicious farm-reared bacon, sausage and pork, as well as our free-range eggs. There will be tasty filled baps on sale at

lunchtime; also hot pork sandwiches with stuffing and apple sauce—together with a variety of desserts—mostly prepared by residents and participants in the projects. We hope you will join us in celebrating 17 years of ministry and in giving thanks for all that God has accomplished.

Thank you for your prayerful support, for your encouragement and for all that you do to enable the work of GNFC to continue.

With every blessing

Hazel Guest

**Open Day & Thanksgiving
Charis House,
Hardwick Square East,
Buxton. Sat 19th November.
Doors open 10:30am**

A BIG “THANK YOU” FROM HELENA

Hello, my name is Helena Moriczova, I am from Slovakia, I have been in the United Kingdom for 6 years.

At first I worked as a live-in nanny in London and Birmingham and then in 2006 I came to live in Buxton to be with my partner. I came to stay at Charis House in July 2009 because my relationship had broken down. I was not able to receive any benefits which made life very difficult.

I have two little girls called Jasmine, age 4, and Vanessa age 20 months.

After six months at Charis House I was able to find a job in Buxton, which helped a lot. I kept looking for work and now have another job too. At first

I wasn't able to see Jasmine because she stayed with her dad which was very hard for me. Gradually, though I have made good progress and now she comes to stay with me at weekends and in the week. She has got to know her little sister and they get on well together.

Now I have my jobs and can see my children, I feel much better in myself and happy. After two years I have finally found a lovely house to live in which is great news and I shall be moving in a couple of weeks.

A big “thank you” to everyone at Charis House and everyone who has supported me.

Helena

The community support team are having an exciting year! No longer in receipt of *Supporting People* funding, and therefore no longer restricted to delivering purely housing-related support, we have branched out!

One of our existing groups, the Wednesday drop-in lunch group continues to provide lunch, arts and craft activities, and the chance to talk to friends, and staff. Lately it has been enhanced by the superb culinary skills of our lovely Brazilian volunteer Cida, who can turn a small amount of ingredients into a sumptuous banquet for thirty people! We are also delighted to have the expertise of Tracey, who has transformed our craft making efforts, and Lizi who is studying for a Masters in Community Arts. Lizi joins us on Wednesdays to run some of our arts activities. We have a wonderful group of people who come to join in and generally have lots of fun. A recent event was our Harvest Lunch, which was particularly exciting because the ladies had grown all the vegetables and fruit eaten at lunchtime, in the horticultural project on the farm. We also had a beautiful display of squashes, runner beans, carrots, courgettes, tomatoes etc. Mary Washbrook kindly came and led a thanksgiving service after lunch.

Community Support

It was great to be able to thank God for all his goodness to us.

So successful has the Wednesday group been that we started another group on Tuesdays. Tuesdays already boast the great ladies' group coffee morning at Sandy's house. Now however there is also a Tuesday drop-in, which is quieter than Wednesday, with a simple lunch (e.g. soup and sandwiches) and a really lovely time of fellowship. Prior to lunch, we have been running short courses. Sue and I ran a successful Listening Skills course over the summer, and are now running a Sleep Hygiene course. We have been fortunate to enlist the skills of Marion, a retired GP who has been volunteering for us, in the sleep course.

We have also been able to access the Freedom programme run by Derbyshire Wish, helping people who have experienced domestic abuse.

The other exciting development in the community is that we now take clients to the farm project for two mornings during the week. The farm is such a glorious place—even when it's raining! The general opinion amongst the people who come to the farm is

that “you always leave feeling better than when you arrived!” People have an opportunity to work with Carol, our enthusiastic riding instructor who volunteers twice a week to teach Stable Management and Riding. The three lovely horses are the star attractions but recently Mabel the pig has been giving them



competition in the popularity stakes—her antics keep everyone amused.

As well as the equestrian project our horticultural project has become well established this year. Working with very little knowledge, donated seeds and some good advice, we have been rewarded with a bumper crop of

fruit and vegetables. In the spring we sold tomato, strawberry and runner bean plants, which has enabled us to buy materials such as pots and compost. Our drop-in sessions benefited hugely from the abundant supply of runner beans, courgettes, tomatoes, peas, squashes, carrots, sprouting broccoli and even pak choi and the odd chilli pepper! Over the winter we want to develop an area where there are raised beds so that more people will be able to help. It has been so exciting to see things grow – people have been involved at all stages of the work - from clearing the ground and planting the seeds, to tending the plants, harvesting the produce and preparing and eating the fruits of our labours.

One of the most exciting things about the groups and projects is the way in which people begin by coming along, perhaps tentatively, to one of the lunchtime groups, and before long they are collecting eggs or harvesting runner beans or riding the horses at the farm, helping out with preparing lunch and joining in with arts and crafts at the drop-in, and best of all, making friends.

We're looking forward to what will happen next!

Chriss Norman

PUT AWAY PRIDE

These past few months have been tiring and yet peaceful during my recent treatment for prostate cancer. I have been focusing on being more thankful to God for his faithfulness in all situations—not just when times are good. I found this to be of great comfort as I walked through The

Christie Hospital in Manchester where everyone - regardless of race, gender, or status in life - was there to be treated for various forms of cancer, but all loved by God.



I cannot begin to say how much I appreciated the encouraging words, prayers and phone calls received from family, friends and even those fellow sufferers who are walking,

or have walked this same path.

One lesson I have learnt is to put away pride. I would urge all middle-aged men who are experiencing symptoms of a 'sensitive nature' to simply ask their GP for a PSA test. Who knows what this might prevent?

So, here I am, treatment finished and faithfully believing the cancer has been cured. Life back to normal and thankful to God for bringing me through with little after effects — but

ever more aware that life is precious and our time here on earth is never to be wasted.

Malcolm Prestidge

Adventure Garden open



County Councillor Robin Baldry declares the nursery children's adventure garden open.

Easy-peasy!



Rattle those pots 'n pans



Cake break!



CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

Please let Gill know if you change your address, phone, email etc.

gill.gnfc@gmail.com

Work-related Skills

In the current climate, we are placing even more emphasis on helping our service users to acquire work-related skills. We are achieving this by developing the Projects: cards, crafts, woodwork, horticulture and farm skills. In the long term this should also help financially, as such projects can generate income. Also, funding bodies are looking for charities who help people towards work.

To this end I have been making links with Adult Education, Surestart and local schools, so that Matthew and others can run courses at the farm with these organisations.

It is early days yet, but already we

have had positive conversations with Adult Education and Matthew has begun to teach some men for Surestart.

I have also been looking into setting up the farm as a centre to run courses but it seems sensible to actually run some courses first, before affiliating to, for example, the Open College Network.

I am only working a few hours each week and also help Roger with administration and paying the never-ending stream of bills, but I have been greatly encouraged by the number of people I know who are interested in GNFC and want to support us.

Ann Ridgway

Recovery programme closes

Contd. from page 1

able to offer an excellent provision that clearly changed the lives of all of these women to different degrees.

Our belief in the programme remains undiminished as it deals with root causes and addresses lifestyle issues with an approach that empowers people to rebuild what has crumbled and lays solid foundations for the future. Christian faith is the key element. Participants begin to understand that we are motivated by the love that God has for them, and recognise that their need is beyond their own capacity to deal with.

We must now consider how we can realise this vision

without putting too great a financial strain on the charity. In the light of these challenges, it has been gratifying to know that these women, at least, received the help that they needed to move forward in their thinking and lifestyle and were empowered by God to maintain the progress they have made.

In total, Recovery Support was provided for 32 clients during 2010, and a total of 82 individuals over the past three years.

Away with the Manger!



Last year, supermarkets were accused of 'airbrushing Christ out of Christmas' after it emerged that less than 1% of cards they stock have religious themes. Stores displayed hundreds of different Christmas cards yet offered only a handful featuring traditional Christian scenes. Some had no cards at all with religious references. Out of 5,363 designs sold individually or in multi-packs in Asda, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Morrisons, only 45 featured Christian scenes such as the Nativity. The worst offender was Morrisons, which had only 6 out of a range of 973 cards. Second worst was Tesco.

Dr Don Horrocks, of the Evangelical Alliance, said supermarkets were 'airbrushing Christ out of Christmas'. He added: 'There has been a rise in cards that say "Season's greetings" or "Happy holidays" which is evidence of the speeding up of

the trend of stripping the religion out of Christian festivals.'

Stephen Green, of Christian Voice, said: 'The situation is caused by managers subscribing to political correctness and the idea that in some way Christian cards are offensive to other re-



ligions. This is simply not true.' Anas Altikriti, of the Muslim Association of Britain, said he was 'worried' at the increasing secularisation of our country. He added: 'People who are looking

for proper choice of Christmas cards should raise it with the store manager.'

We have a better idea! Instead of adding to the fat profits of the supermarkets, why not purchase your Christmas cards from us? ALL our cards celebrate the true meaning of the holiday. Please take a few minutes to visit our website and look at our range: www.gnfc.org.uk (click on the 'Shop' tab).

If you do not have access to the internet call me on 07813 449521 and I'll send you a leaflet and order form* by post.

Keith Jones

**For those who prefer to order by post and pay by cheque, the leaflet/order form can also be downloaded from our website.*

If you know someone without internet access who might like to order some of our cards, why not print a copy for them too?

The A Team is a group of residents who meet each month to organise activities for all who live at Charis House to enjoy.

For example, the team worked hard contacting local shops and businesses, asking for donations of items for a Pampering Evening. The response was very encouraging and a lovely collection of items are ready for the Pizza and Pampering evening arranged for later this month.

In the summer a trip to Tittesworth Reservoir, a local beauty



spot, was arranged and everyone who came had a really enjoyable day out. At the last Open Day the A-Team had a cake stall and raised £107 to help to finance or subsidise activities.

The A Team also want to reach out to the local community and at our next meeting we will be planning a coffee morning for local people.

We all enjoy meeting together and are looking forward to our second year of being the 'A Team'.



You can now raise funds for us simply by shopping at online stores such as John Lewis, iTunes and British Airways. In fact, thousands of stores have signed up to donate money to Good News Family Care when

you shop with them online. Help us raise money, at no cost to you, every time you shop online. Find out more at:

<http://www.gnfc.org.uk/giveasyoulive.html>

I'm training to become a Social Worker. A few months ago I was 'whinging' to Ann Ridgway about how little experience I had, compared with my fellow students. Ann suggested that I might find it "interesting" to spend some time at Charis House, where she is on the Admin Team. After talking with Hazel (and sending off my application for a 5th CRB!) I started volunteering at Charis House in August.

Since then I've been spending time with residents around the house; looking after and playing with the children (I think sometimes I enjoy playing with their toys more than they do!); help-

ing with the apparently endless cleaning!, answering the phone and door (desperately trying to conceal the fact that I keep forgetting people's names); accompanying residents to meetings; drinking tea; trying not to buy chocolate from Tracey's tuck-shop; and thoroughly enjoying Katie's [our new cook] freshly cooked lunches!

I'm really privileged as a volunteer in that I'm able to spend time with current and former residents but not have

MEET JOSIE



to worry about the bureaucracy that would normally accompany it.

I really enjoy volunteering at Charis House: it's brilliant to work in a Christian environment where the decisions - the big ones and everyday ones - are made prayerfully and where the work is committed to God. It has been both a blessing and a challenge to me to see people who have handed over their lives to serve God's purposes

and have been willing to make massive lifestyle changes in response to His calling.

Much of the literature and research around social work and social care identifies that consistency, reliability, relationships and love are lacking in the provision of so many services. Interestingly, it is precisely these things that GNFC does so well!

I'm now helping on a Thursday and every other Friday evening. If I've not already met you, come and say hello! Hopefully I'll remember your name... if not, I'll just call you Mary!

Josie Mudd