

Stuart & Bethan Scammell - Newsletter December 2023

If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. - John 8 v 36

Dear praying friends,

Although we put out a prayer letter just two months ago, it seems appropriate to write another as December especially has been so busy as many opportunities have been afforded to us and with the help of others many have heard of our Saviour.

2024 no doubt will have many challenges and blessings; we continue to value your prayers greatly.

Christmas markets were visited in the areas around Cardiff and although very cold it was good to see thousands of people attending these events, many of them accepted John 3 v 16 Bags and Christmas literature and some stopped to have conversations. Many were out to celebrate Christmas without thinking of Christ, it was good that some stopped to think of Him, even if just momentarily. Pray that some will continue to think about what they heard and read.



11 local schools were visited during December for a Christmas Assembly, all the schools were very grateful for this special assembly and a good team of people worked hard to make sure that the children had a memorable experience and were left in no doubt that the Baby of Bethlehem was God's Son sent to be the Saviour. Please pray for blessing and that these doors will be kept open for us. Pray that Headteachers and staff will be enthusiastic about our visits.



Happy Christmas



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Stuart had the great privilege of going into a local school to take a lesson with three classes of 4 and 5 year olds telling the Christmas story with its true meaning using the medium of Christmas Cards. With all that they do over the period and in all their excitement, it is great to have the opportunity to tell them something about God's great gift to all.

The gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Romans 6 v 23 (The Bible)

The Assembly at Bethesda took many opportunities over the Christmas period to tell people of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and how the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. We had carol services on the two Sundays before Christmas, in the Tuesday Coffee Morning and on Christmas morning too. The ladies had a Christmas lunch and also invited friends and colleges along to make Christmas wreaths.

A good number of people were in the hall for the very first time and each time the opportunity was taken to tell them of God's love in sending His Son as Saviour. Please pray

for these new contacts that we will see them again and that



they will come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

The 30,000 'What a star' books have all been distributed, these have gone to various assemblies for their children's works, many schools around the UK and some have gone to India where they have been given out to children. An extremely kind donor paid for the books, for which we are very grateful. Please pray that these 30,000 books will be read and that the message will be understood. Pray that these books will help to foster relations with schools, and parents, and keep doors open into schools and homes for many years to come.



A big thank you to Mrs Egginton's father, Roderick Barton who is an Elder at Quarry Lane Gospel Hall in Northfield. He has gifted a copy of this wonderful Christmas Story book to every child at the school. Children have brought these home this week.

So many people donated chocolate bars that were wrapped as Christmas presents. This year, we had over 200 of them. This meant that we were able to do extra

'homeless runs' over the run up to Christmas. The homeless people that we meet are not used to receiving gifts and this made many of them emotional and this gratitude allowed us the opportunity to explain the Gospel. On one of the extra runs, where we gave out the chocolate bars, we were asked on three occasions why we did it. We didn't need a second invitation to explain that it is response to what Christ has done for us. It was a great opportunity to spread the Gospel.





On some of these Christmas homeless runs, we saw just how much danger and hardship our homeless friends face. We saw the devastation that drug addiction brings and just how depraved man's heart is. We experienced gang violence around us, although we were always kept safe.

We were able to have many conversations with those we regularly meet and some that we met for the very first time. Homelessness is definitely on the increase and although we would love to see these desperate people all housed, it does afford us many opportunities to tell them of our Saviour.

Many of these people were touched by the generosity of believers that had donated the sleeping bags, blankets and hot food, and to receive a Christmas present also was even more moving for them and for some changed their attitude to the Gospel. It was great to meet John, who was so pleased to be given a John's Gospel and recalled how he had been saved in a Gospel Hall in Cardiff a number of years ago.



A man named Troy was leaning on a bus stop observing us feeding and chatting to someone and approached afterwards and thanked us for what we were doing and asked us if we were Christians. He was a lawyer and was bothered that in the line of work he did, he made people homeless. He also commented that we were trying to put right what he had caused. It was a wonderful conversation; he was very open to the Gospel and very happily took a John's Gospel that he promised to read. He is about to emigrate to Australia, but was definitely touched by what he saw and was seeking.



We had a wonderful opportunity to sing Christmas carols in Cardiff City Centre, 26 people turned up to sing, we gave out about 220 John 3 v 16 bags and some of the remaining children's Christmas story books. Stuart gave a short Gospel message, please pray for those that heard and those that stopped to listen to the singing and for the conversations that were had.

We prepared a Christmas food parcel for Stuart's Sunday School friend Andrew, he is putting on a little weight and looking a lot healthier, please pray for him that he will



continue to improve his health and that he will come to know the Saviour that he has heard about since his childhood.

We were able to all be together as a family for an early Christmas celebration at Emily & Josh's home. It was good to be able to spend a day together, something that doesn't happen very often. Joe has been with us over the Christmas period, next year he will be married so it's been nice to have him home for a while.

We trust that this gives you an insight into some of those activities we have been involved in for the Lord in 2023. Thank you for your prayers for us, these are greatly appreciated and thank you for taking the time to read this update.

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God bless,

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