

Emma de Paula

Prayer Letter

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“It’s so worth sticking at!”

Last week we took time to look back over the past year of CU mission in Edinburgh. At a very exciting guideline-compliant in-person city-wide thanksgiving service we were able to gather with some of the CU students from across Edinburgh for the first time in over a year! Across the evening we heard from a number of students who shared a little about how God has been at work through them and their CU this year.

We heard from a Heriot-Watt student who saw one of his school friends become a Christian a few years ago after reading through Mark’s gospel together. Now together they are carrying on witnessing to their friendship group. They brought one friend, R, along to an event during HOPE 2021 in January. R fell asleep during the talk and afterwards discussion was dry. He had heard enough about Christianity to say things that would appease his Christian friends but was unaffected by its message. His pals then asked him if he’d be up for reading through Uncover Mark with them. They’re a few studies in now and we heard how much more fresh and honest their discussions had become by looking together at Jesus in his word. R is now more seriously considering who Jesus is and what that means for him.

We heard from a QMU student, K, who shared about the Explore Group they have been running this year which gives a space for students who don’t know Jesus to look into Christianity. Two people have been coming along consistently and have read through Uncover John and some of Romans with some Christians from the CU. K told us a real friendship has come from those meetings together in which they are able to help these girls keep exploring the truth about Jesus.

We also heard from a few final year students who told us about their experience of evangelism over their time at university. They expressed such a joy in holding out the gospel to their campuses, year on year, and seeing lives transformed by the Lord. Both had taken so much encouragement from standing shoulder to shoulder with other Christians in this in their CUs, “it’s so worth sticking at!” they told us. What an encouragement that all these students really have stuck at it throughout all the challenges of this past year. A fitting response to a faithful, sovereign God.

Easter and Exam time

Just before Easter, Gala CU held their last event of the year, a virtual bake along. We were so glad to have a couple of guests join us, both of whom we’ve been praying for as a CU long before. Elise, Gala’s Relay Worker, shared a short talk on Mark 7 while our cookies were in the oven. We’re praying on for those guests to take to heart their need for cleanness before God which only Jesus can provide.

Students are towards the end of their Easter break now and will shortly start exams. Often at this time of year students tend to disappear into deadline time and summer, but this year lots are arriving in Edinburgh for the first time this term. It’s likely that the gradual easing of restrictions will give students more opportunities to reconnect with friends they haven’t seen in a while. To keep spurring us on to witness in these friendships, Heriot-Watt CU have started a weekly book group reading through Sam Chan’s *How to Talk about Jesus (without being that guy)*. Gala will be meeting on Tuesday nights during May to pray together for their outreach to friends.



Tues 30th March,
7:30pm

VIRTUAL BAKE ALONG!

Grab your mixing bowl, laptop, apron and head into the kitchen for a virtual bake along followed by a short talk. More details to follow!

Looking ahead



Both Heriot-Watt and Gala CUs are starting to look ahead to the next academic year. The committees are doing really well and are now assembling leaders for other roles in the CU. We'll have a few days together reflecting on the CU and how it's reaching out to students on campus, and planning how best to do that over the coming year. Gala will do that on 12th and 14th May, and Heriot-Watt on 31st May to 2nd June.

I'm so pleased to say that Rowan Logan has been appointed as the Staff Worker for Heriot-Watt CU, starting in August. Rowan became a Christian during her time as a student at Heriot-Watt. Since then she's served alongside the UCCF team in Edinburgh as a Relay Worker and served St Columba's Free Church as a ministry apprentice. Rowan will also be looking after Stirling CU. From August, Esther Dickson (Staff Worker for Edinburgh University CU) will also become the Staff Worker for Gala CU. Esther is a gifted Staff Worker and will be a wonderful help in taking the gospel forward in Galashiels.

Support Update

Thank you to all of you for partnering with me in it in so many different ways over my time with UCCF! In the Lord's kindness you have enabled so much good work to happen amongst students, an investment in eternity.

As we look towards finishing up in a few months' time, perhaps you would consider giving a one-off gift towards this ministry or continuing to support the work of CUs in Edinburgh longer term. If so, please feel free to get in touch with me, or give directly here:

www.uccf.org.uk/give/emma-de-paula



Prayer Requests

- Give thanks for God's sure plans for his gospel to go out and the ways in which this has happened through the CUs in this past year.
- Pray that the CUs would keep marching on steadily in sharing Jesus, throughout the summer, in the coming year and into the rest of their lives.
- Pray for all who have heard about Jesus through friends, Uncover studies, online events and explore groups. Pray that they would come to trust Jesus with all they are.
- Give thanks for the appointment of Rowan and pray for her as she prepares to start as a Staff Worker.
- Give thanks for the provision of Esther for Gala CU and pray for her as she adjusts to taking on this additional role.
- Pray for wisdom and boldness in CU planning for the coming academic year.
- Pray for the right students to be put in place to lead different parts of CU life and for joyful, willing service of Jesus and his mission
- Pray for us as a team in these coming months to be continuing to grow in godliness and serving with joy. Pray for our Relay Workers now in the last few months of the programme. Give thanks for them and pray for their ongoing growth in Christlikeness
- Pray for good perspective and joy in the gospel for Davi and I as we start wrapping up our work with students in Edinburgh which we'll finish in August. Pray for wisdom in using our time and handing over well.