

HOPE *for* UPDATE - March 2017

Glasgow

Since our last update, just before Christmas, we have had a really fruitful and encouraging couple of months, as you will read below.

SUPPORT & DONATIONS

Heading into this year our most pressing need was to raise funds (**in the region of £30,000**) in order for us **to employ 2 part-time members of staff**. Unbelievably that amount, and more, was raised by **The Tron Church**, my home church, in Glasgow and **Holyrood Evangelical Church** in Edinburgh through the giving of their congregations in their Christmas Offering. We are thankful also for offerings taken at other churches for our work, **Craighalbert Evangelical Church**, **Harvest Bible Chapel** and **Robroyston Church of Scotland**. In addition to this, we are also extremely grateful to the individuals who are supporting us through one-off gifts and monthly giving.

We are deeply thankful and greatly overwhelmed by this amazing level of support and so encouraged that these monetary gifts are a sure sign that the Lord and his people are right behind our ministry.

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

With the generous Christmas donations, we have been able to employ **Kate Airlie** as our **Development Co-Ordinator, for 2 days per week**.

Kate has been working in the voluntary sector for the past 20 years, helping organisations with administration, governance and strategic planning. She recently left the environmental sector in search of work which could be of more direct Christian service. Kate is also currently studying on the **Cornhill Training Course**.

We are still on the lookout for an **Addiction Support Worker** to assist Terry in the day to day delivery of our service. Ideally this man would have a personal addiction background and would also have previous addiction work experience and training

We have now been enrolled with Volunteer Scotland in order to carry out essential PVG checks, which means we can start recruiting volunteers. If you would like to apply to volunteer with us, then please contact us for a Volunteer Application form.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S DAY

These days and occasions are a very important part of the support we provide, support that we pride ourselves on that is all the year round. Most places and organisations, understandably, close for a couple of days or a couple of weeks during the festive period. Yet this is a time when folks need support the most, especially if they are early in the recovery process, it can be a very vulnerable time, a very lonely time for folks especially if family relationships that have been broken and damaged have not yet been repaired. It is very difficult having to spend Christmas alone, apart from your family or your children, but as difficult as that is probably the most difficult thing is knowing that the situation that you find yourself in, in most cases, is of your own making. That is very hard to deal with mentally and emotionally, in fact for many it is the basis for picking substances back up again.

So that is why our festive meals and support are provided, in order that our friends have the opportunity to spend the day in a safe, substance free environment. The food that is served is absolutely top notch, in fact a friend commented "Terry, your guys are probably having a better Christmas dinner than any of the families in the Church." I think my friend is right and added that we don't have any fighting at our gatherings, like most families!

We had about **70 folks** attending on **Christmas Day** and **88** on **New Year's Day**, both days were a great success.

These meals could not have happened without the support and input of others.

- **Doreen and Irene** who cooked on both days.
- **Kenny** at **Grampian Meats in Patrick** who provided all our meat for Christmas Day free of charge!

We are so thankful to **The Tron Church** for giving us the use of their premises in Bath Street and extremely grateful to all in the congregation, too many to name, that provided **soup, puddings** or **money** to enable us to provide these meals.

RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Our new **Drop-in-Service** began on **Monday 16th January**, providing support and group work **3 afternoons** each week, **Monday, Wednesday and Friday**. Our clients have the freedom to attend as much or as little of the program as they desire (This is in keeping with Care Inspectorate guidelines for un-registered services)

We have just completed week 8 of our initial 15 week program, and the time has been greatly encouraging. A total of 15 men have attended the groups, 5 or 6 attend every day, others come when they can. Most are from Glasgow and have a Church connection, though one guy comes all the way from Ayr.

The men are all at different stages, some are Christians seeking to maintain their recovery, some are seeking both recovery and Jesus, and others have been doing well staying clean/sober but their walk with the Lord has not been very good so they are seeking to get back on track during these weeks.

Folks can join the program at any time so if you know any men who would benefit from this support please do encourage them to contact us.

We run the program from our office space at the back of the Tron Kelvingrove Church (Henry Wood Hall, previously the RSNO building). We are so thankful for the use of this venue and, with a bit of work, it has the potential to meet all our ministry requirements. Being based on the outskirts of the city centre enables us to be a city wide service as we are only one bus journey away from everywhere in Glasgow.

Our Tuesday night Road to Recovery meeting for men continues to meet every Tuesday night in The Tron Church, 15 to 20 men are in attendance every week.

Again this support group is open to any men who have addiction issues. We are always looking to have new men along to share their stories with us, so if you know of any Christian men who have a history of addiction to drink/drugs/gambling or all three and are totally abstinent then please ask them to contact us.

COMING SOON - EASTER FOOTBALL CAMP

During the first week of the Easter holidays we will be running a football camp at the **Toryglen Regional Football Centre**. This event is totally free and is open to any **boys age 8-18**.

The event will run over 3 days, the dates are **Tuesday 4th April, Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th April, from 10am-12pm**.

The sessions will be filled with some training, challenges and games, we will also have our penalty kick tournament. A short talk on the Christian faith will be given each day.

Registration forms must be filled in for all those attending the event. Please let us know if you require some forms and please do let folks know that may be interested in attending.

YOUR SUPPORT

We are so grateful for your support, both in prayer and practical giving.

Can we ask that you pray for:-

- Stamina and strength for Terry during the Football Camp week as he delivers all of our support groups as well as the football.
- For all the men who are attending the Recovery programme during the week and on Tuesday nights, that they will be able to strive towards being the people that God created them to be.
- Addiction Worker post would be filled by a suitable candidate

If you would like to support us with practical giving, please email kate.airlie@hopeforglasgow.org for further information.

HOPE *for* Glasgow

EASTER FOOTBALL UPDATE – 4 - 6 April

We are delighted that our inaugural Football Camp took place during the first week of the Easter Holidays at Toryglen Regional Football Centre. Thirty-five boys from all over Glasgow and beyond attended and all had a great time. This was aided by the weather staying dry for three days in a row, something of a Glasgow miracle.

After some moaning and groaning, each day began with the dreaded “warm up”. This was made fun and enjoyable by adding some wee drills with the ball.



We then split into 4 teams to play the Crossbar Challenge, which the boys love.



The aim is to hit the crossbar with the ball from varying distances; the further away, the higher the points. It is so funny to see wee boys who can hardly get the ball off the ground taking their shot from furthest away, failing and then doing it again. Each member of the team with the most points got a chocolate egg for their efforts.



We took a break at this point to get a snack and a drink and to sit and listen to a short talk about the Christian message.



The boys love football but we wanted to introduce them to God’s love for them. Our talks were from John’s Gospel and the last week of Jesus’ life. We kept to the football theme to explain the

Gospel, helping the boys to consider the implications of “The Crowd”, “The Referee” and “The Substitute”.



After the talk we split into two age groups and had a game of football, the boys just love to play and run around.



Every day finished with our penalty kick tournament. Each boy got to take a penalty; if they missed, they were out.



The participants got whittled down until we had our winner for the day, who got a chocolate egg and a place in the Final.

On the last day, the finalists took 5 penalties each and the one who scored the most was the winner and received our "Penalty King Trophy".



FRANCO – THE PENALTY KING!

As they left, all the boys were given a chocolate egg and the Gospel of John to take away and read for themselves.

This Football Ministry could not happen without vital input from so many folks. Our thanks go to:-

- All who support us financially
- Our photographer - Vincent Wake
- Our volunteer coaches and managers - Raymond Barr, Paul Brennan, Richard Clarke, Richard Graham, Malcolm Lowrie, Paul McFadden, Sandy MacLarty & Carl Robinson
- Kenny & Gillian Sewell (ALL the chocolate eggs)
- The Trophy Centre, 385 Aikenhead Road, Glasgow



Our aim is to have these camps three times each year during the Easter, Summer and October school holidays. We hope to give the boys something physically beneficial and fun to do with their time, rather than being caught up in unhelpful pursuits that are so widely and easily available in all areas of Glasgow, not just in the housing schemes. It is very important to us that these camps are free of charge and there are no financial barriers for boys who want to attend. So many families are struggling financially in these days of Foodbanks and zero hours contracts, and just wouldn't have any spare money for activities for their boys, especially if there is more than one.

Please email kate.airlie@hopeforglasgow.org if you would like to get involved in making the next Hope for Glasgow Football Camp possible.

HOPE *for* Glasgow

Letter from America - In May I had the privilege to represent Hope for Glasgow at the Basics Pastors' Conference at Parkside Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Having been to Basics in 2009, the thought of being there again and renewing fellowship and friendships with those at Parkside Church filled me with joy.

BACK TO BASICS

The Basics Conference is hosted by the Senior Pastor of Parkside Church, Alistair Begg, and is now in its 18th year. As its name suggests, it encourages pastors to keep doing the basics of ministry well, and that is to keep the main thing - the preaching of the word - as the main thing. This may sound, well, rather basic, but in a world of fads and trends the Church can be deceived into thinking that something other than the regular staple diet of the word being faithfully preached will build the Church and bring believers to maturity.

The three-day conference had three main speakers, Alistair Begg, Sinclair Ferguson and Al Mohler, President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. All gave three addresses and took part in a Question and Answer session. The conference was streamed live and audio recordings are now available on the Basics Conference website.¹



Attending the conference were 1,300 pastors from 45 states and 9 different countries. The singing of 1,300 men is a beautiful sound to hear. As well as enjoying great teaching, the pastors had numerous opportunities for networking and mutual encouragement, greatly aided further by all the pastors being fed on site at Parkside Church throughout the conference. The volunteers from the Parkside congregation did a tremendous job catering for this huge number.

MY BREAKOUT SESSION

Between the main sessions on Tuesday afternoon, there were optional "Breakout Sessions" or seminars. Usually these sessions are led by those on staff at Parkside Church but I was afforded the privilege of being asked to lead one. I spoke on the Biblical nature and understanding of "Addiction".

Some 250-300 attended the session. In most communities, just like here in the UK, there is a huge problem with men, women and boys and girls in bondage to substances. Heroin would not be the number one drug I would associate with the USA, but it seems there has been an explosion, an epidemic of heroin use, due to the drug being so cheap and so widely available. My session finished at 3:30pm but I didn't get out of the room until after 5pm as there were so many folks wanting to talk about particular issues and circumstances. So many were banging their heads against brick walls not knowing where to begin in addressing these issues, and so I was able to share resources, insights and ideas with them. It was a great privilege to serve brothers in this way.

THE GLASGOW BOYS

Alistair Begg, who invited me to the conference, is himself a Glaswegian and has been Senior Pastor of Parkside since 1983. He is also the Bible Teacher on Truth for Lifeⁱⁱ, which can be heard on radio and online around the world.



When I learned that Sinclair Ferguson would also be speaking at the Conference, to say I felt that all my Christmases had come at once would be an understatement. Sinclair is also a Glaswegian and was my Minister at The Tron Church until July 2003. You will understand that having been my Minister during my formative years in the faith he has a special place in my affections. I remain greatly indebted to him for the personal spiritual growth and understanding I experienced during his Ministry.

PREACHING AT PARKSIDE

Alistair had invited me to stay on and preach at Parkside Church morning and evening on the Sunday following the conference. Sinclair Ferguson had preached the week before me, and Alistair preached the week after, which meant that for three weeks in a row Glasgow boys had occupied the pulpit. What a treat for the congregation to have been fed by two Glaswegian theological heavyweights, and also by Sinclair Ferguson (let the reader understand I am joking).

There are three services in the morning, so I had to preach the same sermon three times. Anyone who knows me will know I have no problem preaching the same sermon again.

During the morning service, to make me feel at home, Alistair wore a green tie, the colour of my team Celtic. He called me “a wee rascal” when he saw I was wearing my own green and white tie. During the evening service, I was interviewed about the work of Hope for Glasgow.ⁱⁱⁱ

Alistair sent this very gracious message: -

“Terry, thank you for coming. Your seminar was a terrific help and your availability to the pastors was a huge encouragement. Your Sunday morning sermon was so good I have decided to distribute it to our Truth for Life Supporters as an upcoming message of the month. It is our privilege to have some small part in partnering with Hope for Glasgow”



SCRANTON ROAD BIBLE CHURCH



I had some spare time so Alistair suggested I pay a visit to Pastor Joe Abraham at Scranton Road Bible Church (SRBC)^{iv}.

Jon Cameron, a member of Parkside Church staff for 9 years, escorted me on my visit. Jon and I first met 8 years ago when we were both young, handsome and single. Since then the Lord has been as good to him as he has been to me, Jon is now married to the lovely Megan and they have beautiful twin daughters, Lucy and Charlotte.

Pastor Joe Abraham has been at SRBC since the late 1980s. The Church is known locally as “The Jesus Saves Church”. The area surrounding the church has the most diverse population in the city of Cleveland, similar to the Queens Park area of Glasgow. The make-up of the congregation certainly reflects that, as does the staff team. In order to reach a community so diverse SRBC have set up their own non-profit organization^v, headed up by Chris Whitmore. They do a tremendous work in the community through after-school programs, youth clubs, job clubs, legal clinics and providing services and training to over 1,000 neighbourhood residents each year. Having seen the work and the set-up at Scranton Road, I understood why Alistair was so keen for me to see the work there - church and charity working in partnership with no compromise on the Gospel. The visit gave me great encouragement for our work in Hope for Glasgow that real Gospel partnership between church and charity is possible.

BACK HOME

The trip gave me so much to be thankful for, too much to list, but it is enough to say I am thankful

- for Alistair and his ongoing friendship and encouragement,
- for being with and hearing Sinclair preach again,
- and for being back home, encouraged and enthused to get on with the work here in Glasgow.

With my love in the Lord Jesus

Terry

ⁱ Audio of all the addresses and breakout sessions from the conference are available at www.basicsconference.org/archive

ⁱⁱ More information about Truth for Life Ministries on their website – www.truthforlife.org

ⁱⁱⁱ The interview is available on YouTube – search for Terry McCutcheon, Alistair Begg and Hope for Glasgow

^{iv} For more information about Scranton Road Bible Church, their website is scrantonroad.org

^v Information about their non-profit organisation is at www.scrantonroadministries.org

HOPE *for* Glasgow

December 2017 – looking back on our first year.

Hope for Glasgow started in September 2016, and through the grace of God we are now into our second year of activity. While it seems like much less than a year, it is amazing that so much has happened in this short time. We will be preparing our first Annual Report once our accounts are finalised, probably after Christmas.

Road to Recovery

At the centre of all our activities is our **Road to Recovery** program. We have developed a 15 week program to provide a Biblical response to addiction.

Three times a week, the men gather for guidance and discussion. There they are supported to understand their addiction and equipped with the tools that they need to break free from a life of slavery to substances and become the whole person that God created them to be.

In our church we are going through Deuteronomy on Sunday mornings. Moses is emphasising to us how God offers us such a clear choice through His word – to obey Him and receive His blessings, or to disobey and to be exiled from His presence and care. And because He loves us, He longs for us to listen to Him, to choose His way, to choose LIFE! **This is the pressing choice for ALL of us.**

In addition to the work we have done to develop the Road to Recovery program, there has been quite a few other activities taking place.

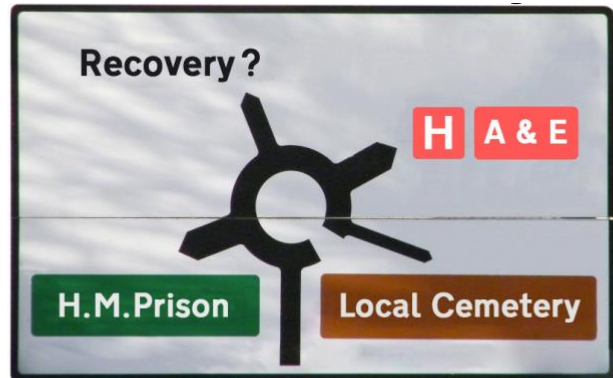
Football Camps

Three football camps – running in April, August and October – provided an opportunity for 115 boys to take part in a fun, energetic and challenging course, while also giving them a chance to do something ever more rare and precious – to hear the gospel explained clearly.

Trip to America

Terry had a very successful trip to the Basics Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, in June. As well as hosting a seminar on “The Biblical View of Addiction” and preaching at Parkside Church, he also had a chance to network with brothers old and new, and to benefit from the preaching and support of some of his mentors.

This choice is equally as pressing for these men experiencing addiction – they are faced with either staying on the roundabout of addiction, which will lead them to hospital, prison or death, or to choose life through Jesus.



The program is now running for the second time, and will be finishing just before Christmas. The third programme will be beginning in the new year – please get in touch if you are interested.

As well as the day program, we also have a **support group** on a **Tuesday evening** that is held **weekly** in the Tron Church. This meeting provides support for a wider community and offers on-going support for those who finish the day program. We plan to plant more of these meetings with partner churches in the next 6 months.

Laying the Foundations

While all of this visible activity has been going on, there has also been a lot of work behind the scenes in this first year - setting up the premises, getting registered as a company and as a charity, organising financial systems to track the incredible level of donations we have received, getting policies and procedures in place – this is not visible, but it is vital and it ensures that Hope for Glasgow is a robust and sound organisation.

We have had so much help in all of this, and we would like to thank all our supporters. In particular:-

- Our board members – Norman Mackay, Bryan Duncan and Eric Macdonald.
- Our volunteers, especially the football coaches (too many to mention) and Audrey Sullivan for her help with our policies and procedures.
- The **many** individuals and congregations who have donated so generously for our work.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MEALS

We are getting ready to provide meals on Christmas Day and New Year's Day again this year. These occasions have been very successful in previous years and they are a very important part of the support we provide, support that we pride ourselves on is all the year round. Most places and organisations, understandably, close for a couple of days or a couple of weeks during the festive period. Yet this is a time when folks need support the most, especially if they are early in the recovery process. It can be a very vulnerable and lonely time, especially if family relationships that have been broken and damaged have not yet been repaired. It is very difficult having to spend Christmas alone, apart from your family or your children. But, as difficult as that is, probably the most difficult thing is knowing that the situation that you find yourself in, in most cases, is of your own making. That is very hard to deal with mentally and emotionally, it can even become the excuse for picking substances back up again.

So that is why our festive meals and support are provided, in order that our friends have the opportunity to spend the day in a safe, substance free environment. The food that is served is absolutely top notch; in fact a friend commented "Terry, your guys are probably having a better Christmas dinner than any of the families in the Church!" I think my friend is right and added to that, we don't have any fighting at our gatherings, like most families!

These meals cannot happen without the support of others, so if you are interested in helping – financially or practically, please contact us.

RECRUITMENT

We were so grateful to have had James Latter working with us over the summer. But since he has had to move down south, we really need a new full-time member of staff to make our service sustainable. So we are now recruiting for an **Addiction Support Worker** to help us consolidate and expand our services.

We are particularly looking for someone with an active Christian faith who has some prior experience of providing support to addicts – either in a paid or voluntary capacity and who is willing to participate actively in personal and professional development. It would also be useful if we could find someone with some or all of the following:-

- A lived experience of addiction.
- Qualifications in health and social care (e.g. SVQ level 3, HNC).
- Group work facilitation skills.
- Bible teaching training and/or experience.
- ICT expertise – particularly social media and web expertise.

The post is full time and will require some evening and weekend work.

Salary will be between £18,000 and £22,000 p.a. – depending on skills and experience.

Please email us (address below) for an application pack.

- As all our services users are currently men, we are particular looking for a male worker at this point.
- As Hope for Glasgow is a Christian organisation, this post **carries an Occupational Requirement in line with Equality Act 2010**. Please note that one reference must be from your church minister or leader to endorse your live and active Christian faith and commitment.

YOUR SUPPORT

We are so grateful for your support, both in prayer and practical giving.

Can we ask that you particularly pray:-

- That all the men using our services would remain abstinent over the Festive period
- That they would grasp a Biblical understanding of addiction and the Biblical solution ... the Lord Jesus
- That we would make the most of all the opportunities that this time of year affords us.
- That the Addiction Support Worker post would be filled by a suitable candidate

If you would like to support us with practical giving, please email for further information