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PrayerMatters

November/December 2008

CYO exists to share Jesus with young people in the Colchester area

Part of their journey...

My mentoring role at Alderman Blaxill School hasn't always been a 'success story', with one young person opting out after 2 months, another being excluded 5 times, and one managing to break her jaw resulting in her being off of school for 6 weeks. Throughout all of this I have been there every Wednesday morning (whether they have been or not!) for the past 6 months and have had the absolute privilege of going through all of this with them.

One girl, now year 11, started meeting with me 6 months ago due to her 'behavior and attitude problems'. She admitted to getting angry easily and struggling with the authority of the teachers. Since then we have had positive discussions about her attitude and our relationship has become one of encouragement and honesty.

This week she came into our meeting with great enthusiasm, sat down and immediately started talking – 'oh, guess what happened to me this week!' The night before had been the parent's evening, which had previously been a negative and discouraging experience for this young person. Instead, she sat with her parents through meeting after meeting of positive comments, teachers talking of their 'pride' in her improvement and then heard both parents tell her how much they loved her and were proud of her.

As well as a huge encouragement, there are two important points to come out of this story:

- She felt that this was something to share with me. Her enthusiasm to tell me shows that our meetings have some sort of significance to her and that it is important that I am included in the positive experiences she has.
- Not everyday is as positive as this. There are very hard times, when I feel anything but helpful. But the time we put in is honored. Young people appreciate commitment and consistency from those around them and they value integrity.

Please pray for two key things:

- That we'll have more opportunities to give significant time to young people
- For the relationships we have with young people to grow as we share in their good days and bad days.

Amy

Prayer Diary

w/b November 17th

Tues 18	Tim meeting with Colchester Boiler Room Community
Wed 19	Amy continuing student mentoring at Alderman Blaxill School Collective taking an RE lesson on 'Abortion' at Colchester High School
Friday 21	Lunchtime group at the Gilberd School
Sat 22	Tim flies off to India for 10 days with his mum for her 72 nd birthday

w/b October 24th *Tim is away all this week*

Wed 26	Mentoring at Alderman Blaxill (Amy)
Friday 28	Gilberd lunchtime group

w/b December 1st *Amy has two Uni deadlines this week*

Tuesday 2 nd	Tim back from India
Wednesday 3 rd	Colchester Sixth Form College meeting about having a Sanctum prayer room there next term (Tim) Mentoring at Alderman Blaxill (Amy)
Friday 5 th	Gilberd lunchtime group
Sunday 7 th	Collective and Tim at Marks Tey

w/b December 8th

Monday 8 th	Tim at Area Youth Advisor meeting
Tuesday 9 th	Tim meeting Dave Wuyts.
Friday 12 th	Collective final ever Concert at Woodbridge
Saturday 13 th	Collective final ever performance as part of a youth event in Thundersley

w/b December 15th

Monday 15 th	CYO Team and Friends Christmas Party
Tuesday 16 th	Collective's last day with CYO
Wednesday 17 th	Collective go to Manchester Amy mentoring at Alderman Blaxill

The CYO team will be on holiday from Saturday 20th of December - 5th January 2009.

Although we can't go into details just yet, please continue to pray with us as we explore some exciting options regarding the team following Tom's departure.

Have a great Christmas.

Thank God for Jesus.

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The latest edition of PrayerMatters is also available to download from the CYO web site at: www.cyocolchester.org.uk Click on 'latest news'