



on message : September 2020

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Stand in His strength alone,  
The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own;  
Put on the gospel armour, and watching unto prayer,  
Where calls the voice of duty, be never wanting there*

Dear Campaigner Friends,

Do you remember the 'Where's Wally' books that became popular in the 1990s? Each page contained elaborate illustrations filled with hundreds of people. Wally was an ordinary looking chap, identifiable only by his stripy jumper and bob hat, and his main skill, and hence the book's appeal, was to blend in with the crowd.

This hymn, 'Stand up, Stand up for Jesus' illustrates the perfect opposite of being 'Where's Wally' Christians. As Campaigners, we are soldiers on a campaign, on a mission. We rely on God's armour and are encouraged to pray in the Spirit at all times and to be alert! In our prayers this month, let us pray that the Campaigners will continue its tradition of being a bold, powerful and effective Task Force, on a campaign to 'make known the mystery of the Gospel.' That is the battle we face and there are millions of children and young people that God has perfectly positioned for us to proclaim it to.

Jesus had a stark warning for 'Where's Wally Christians' – "if salt loses its saltiness, it's no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out". I don't believe for a minute that is who The Campaigners are. However, we must share more stories from the coal face to maintain our motivation and confidence. We need to hear of lives and circumstances changed through our prayers that are so wonderfully amazing. Stories that can't remain a secret, but rather be ones that we want to shout from the rooftops.

*Tim Greenhalgh*

### **The Campaigner AGM – Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> September**

The Campaigner AGM it is now likely to be held over the internet via Zoom, having been deferred from June. Apart from signing off the accounts prior to their timely submission to the Charity Commission, this is the occasion where we invite nominations for new Trustees to join the team. Please pray for this meeting and that the Lord would call new members to offer the right skills, enthusiasm and youthfulness needed to fulfil our Christian mission and vision.

## The new Campaigner Lifeline



You should have received a copy of the new Campaigner Lifeline recently. This publication is going out to nearly 500 Campaigner leaders and supporters plus another 250 which have been sent to centres to give to each child and young person in Campaigners to take home.

Please pray for the potential witness of this publication. We want it to be filled with news, activities, opportunities and testimonies about the difference the Campaigners is making to young people today. Pray that the circulation will grow and that we will need extra pages to accommodate all our stories!

**St Pauls Slough.** - Maureen Cottrell tells us that they are still not sure if they can re-open Campaigners in September. All the parents of the children have been asked for their view. The Covid-19 safety procedures have been planned and need to be checked with the Church Wardens. Once these are agreed, the Campaigner leaders will meet to plan for reopening. Also news from St Pauls is that their new vicar will be installed in the Autumn.

**All our Campaigner groups** will be planning if and when and how they might safely reopen their groups after a 6 month break. We will give you an update in the next 'on message'.

### **Newton Heath, Manchester Campaigners.**

Sadly, after 60 years, the Campaigners at Newton Heath Evangelical Church closed last summer because the church itself had to close due to an ageing congregation and too few youngsters. Mavis Radcliffe, recently gave us an update of developments for their church.

“The Lord has led us in a wonderful way and we have been able to gift the church premises to another Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches who will continue a witness in Newton Heath. Their main church is in the centre of Manchester, about 5 miles away, and their congregation consists of mainly young professionals and students. They have two Pastors and a strong team of workers so we are looking forward to what the Lord will do through them. There is a promise to start a children's work but I don't know what form that will take at the moment. The services over the past months during this pandemic have been online as most other churches have been doing, together with a series of morning devotions, which have been a blessing. Once the restrictions are lifted we will all be able to worship together at Newton Heath.”

We know that when one door closes, another opens. Please pray for Mavis and the new church leadership. Pray too for a new youth and children's ministry to serve this area and whether The Campaigners might be part of the answer!



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