



on message : October 2020

Dear Friends, Thank you for praying for the mission of Campaigners. In this October issue of 'on message' we ask you to pray for the ongoing efforts of centres to reopen their groups and looking forward, for the Leaders Forum in November, our Camps 2021 programme, for the impact of 'Lifeline' initiatives and a fresh look at CrossTrax (Inters). Should you feel you've received a Word from the Lord, please do share it with us. Tim Greenhalgh 6 Oct 2020

Psalm 34: 1- 14.

David finds himself in a grim situation. Hiding away from King Saul in the Cave of Adullam, he writes this acrostic psalm as a reminder of God's faithfulness. 'I will extol the Lord at all times... taste and see that the Lord is good... I sought the Lord and he delivered me from all my fears... seek peace and pursue it...'

In the current difficult times, we too should have the confidence to sing, 'I will extol you at all times', even if the outlook appears grim. Singing this song helps us to focus on what God has done, what He is doing today and He will do in the future.

Indeed, we do give thanks for our past. It's a fact that the membership of The Campaigners grew at its fastest rate during and immediately following WW2, when anyone who wore a uniform would have felt rather cool. Whilst it is in no way reasonable to compare the Covid-19 pandemic with the war years, nevertheless, the country is facing a national emergency the consequences of which will especially affect children, young people, students and parents for years to come.

Currently, we may well be keeping the world at a safe distance, metaphorically hiding in our Cave of Adullam – in our homes, our family bubble, in our Zoom groups or keeping 2 meters apart in our Socially distanced churches. For David, his time in the cave became an opportunity during which he gathered a large following that led to him becoming the greatest King in the history of Israel.

For such a time as this, we pray that The Campaigners will be at the vanguard of Christian youth ministry, echoing and demonstrating the words of Psalm 34 – 'Taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him. Fear the Lord, you holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.'

Please pray for:

- The reopening of all our Campaigner Centres. Pray that the limited contact maintained during the closure would not affect the resumption of groups.
- The issues causing concern including limiting contact, the older kids not wanting to wear masks, the unavailability of premises to meet and the list of rules and regulations and risk assessments that weigh heavy on leaders.
- The Eagle & Juno group at St Mark's, Sheffield who had to temporarily close in 2015 because the leaders' circumstances changed adversely. We now hear that the vision for children and young people at St Mark's continues and the need is for new leaders who are 'in the Lord and with a heart for the work.'
- The proposed Leaders Forum via Zoom being planned for November. All current leaders will be invited to join in via a separate letter shortly. Our prayer is that together we can share our needs and aspirations for The Campaigners as we look forward to a far wider reach within the country.
- The two new initiatives under the Lifeline banner. The first is our new publication going out each term to every Campaigner member and supporter where our prayer is for more content and engagement with young people.
- The second is a newly created "Lifeline Fund" which will be launched in the December issue of Lifeline. We will be inviting young people to apply for grants towards a Christian venture or enterprise they may wish to undertake.
- Our 2021 Camp programme currently being planned should the Covid-19 situation permit. The Viney Hill Camp is already booked for 24 - 31 July and we want to add more camps into our programme if possible.
- Give thanks for an inspirational Trustees AGM meeting recently. By the wonders of Zoom, we were joined by Dorothy Brown from Canada whose 70+ year involvement, zeal and prayerful support gave everyone a boost.
- The Campaigner Trustees: Bob Slade, Maureen Cottrell, Iris Challis, Joy Howell, Sheila Armstrong, Doff Alexander, Laurence & Julie Witchalls & Tim Greenhalgh
- Finally, please pray for a fresh vision for the Campaigner CrossTrax age group (that's Inters, aged 10 - 13). Of course, all our age groups are important but we have a specific burden to re-vision CrossTrax because of its strategic bridge between the younger Junos and the older Delta.



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