



on message : December 2020

Dear Friends,

There's a signpost near where I live pointing to 'Church End.' I expect you may have seen a similar sign elsewhere on your travels. As a Christian, that's not a destination I recognise although we are led to believe that the church and it's message of hope is not relevant to society today. Whatever crisis you choose, the message of hope and trust in a creator God isn't being heard clearly enough. Instead, we hope for the best from our leaders or whichever 'expert' tells us what we want to hear.

Advent is the beginning of a new church year. We sing the hymn "O Come, O come Emmanuel" - God with us - seen at work today, as He has for almost 2000 years, through the actions and prayers of the people of God who gather as His church.

If I have an overarching vision of the role of The Campaigners on the cusp of it's second 100 years, it's that it models itself as being a genuine 'church' of young people. A real 'Movement' of young folk meeting together, growing together and going out together into the world with the Gospel message of hope, truth and light.

The concept of a CrossTrax Church (XTC) has this vision at it's heart. It's a working title for a project that reimagines youth church under a Campaigner banner and would fit into youth ministry for children who are older than (say) those which Messy Church caters for. I see this as an evolution of what we are doing already, giving groups old and new a fresh identity and purpose whilst complementing being church with weekday activity. For your prayers, I am seeking others, who have a passion for such a vision, to work together and help shape and develop a potential network of CrossTrax churches. It's pioneering, it's ambitious and above all, it's still Campaigning! Please contact me if you would like to join in the XTC revolution!

Finally, thank you for your positive feedback about this regular 'on message' prayer letter. It is published monthly by email to those I have an email address for. Otherwise, on message will be included in this three-times-a-year Lifeline in paper format. I am more than happy to send you the monthly prayer letter by Royal Mail if you contact me and request it.

Tim Greenhalgh 4 Dec. 2020

You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.
Matthew 16: 18 (The Message)

During this advent season, watch and pray...

- Give thanks for a really useful time spent together last month on Zoom with many representative leaders from the Campaigner Clans. Despite the current situation we are facing, there are glimmers of hope and a determined effort being made to keep in touch with as many young people as possible.
- The Campaigner trustees have set aside **Saturday, 20th March 2021** as a Day of Prayer , topped and tailed by a Zoom 'International Prayer Fellowship' opportunity for all Campaigner members and supporters and anyone else who care about the future ministry of The Campaigners. Pray for a great response!
- Pray for the reopening of Campaigner Groups which is still very limited with some centres not having been able to restart at all. Please pray that contact will still be maintained with the children and young people who attend Campaigners. Pray too for group leaders and church leaders as they negotiate their way through the ever changing Covid rules and restrictions.
- Continue to pray for the impact of the Lifeline publication designed to appeal to all Campaigners, including the young people and their families. Pray that more people, especially our younger readers, will engage with the wider world of The Campaigners and send in their stories to share.
- Please pray for the new "Lifeline Grant Scheme' designed to encourage young people to put their faith into action by embarking on a Christian venture or enterprise. This fund also helps with camp fees for those in financial need.
- We are still optimistic that our Viney Hill camp will take place between 24 - 31 July 2021. Please pray for the team involved in organising the camp and the extra work that will be needed to make the camp safe. Pray too for the right opportunities to enable us to run more events and residential times away.
- We have recently been told that Jean Parker and Grace Metcalf have gone to be with the Lord. Give thanks for their lives and the long and faithful service they each gave to The Campaigners.
- Finally, please carry on praying for the vision for a CrossTrax Church network within The Campaigners. There is a clear gap in youth ministry provision for young folk of Secondary School age. Pray that we get a team of people together with a passion for creating a youth church for young people.



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