

Update

January 2012



Welcome!

"And the child grew and became strong, he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him." Luke 2:40

These familiar verses, talking of course about Jesus, are a brilliant way to pray for children and young people as they go to school.

We want pupils to gain maximum advantage from the education system we have here in Scotland, *growing* in knowledge and understanding, fulfilling their potential. We also want them to grow physically, protected from sickness and harm.

We long for Christian children in particular to be *strong* at school; not weak, following the crowd, but with an inner strength that sustains them through times of doubt and difficulty.

We also want them to be *wise*, able to discern the difference between truth and lies, making good decisions and right choices.

And of course, most of all, we long for the *grace of God* to be upon them. What does that mean exactly? It means that they might be aware of his goodness, his love, his favour, his blessing. What a prayer!

Seeing that prayer answered is thrilling. Maybe a young person you know is flourishing at school, or growing as a Christian. Praise God! Or perhaps someone comes to mind who isn't, and needs your prayers.

It is particularly encouraging in this issue of *Update* to hear of young people demonstrating that particular '*grace of God*' in the school context – but more of that inside!

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Booking now....

Inside this issue:



Peterhead Academy: prayed-for by pupils... 2

... and prayed-for by older folks too! 2

Lanarkshire child prays in classroom 3

A prayer for school 3

New schools registered for prayer 4

Online help with schools prayer 4



Pray Any Way is an exciting prayer celebration for children and their families. Come as a family into the presence of your Heavenly Father... Experience his love and care, share together in fun games, worship and prayer activities and listen to him speak to you as a family.

Sunday 29th January: 2.30-4.30pm, Houstoun House Hotel, EH52 6JS

Booking details: www.suscotland.org.uk/prayanyway

God wants to speak to young people, but how can they know what he wants to say? What is he saying in the Bible about their life in 2012? When they hear what he is saying, how will they respond?

Bring your youth group or SU group to *Strictly Come Praying* and expect to engage with God!

STRICTLY COME PRAYING

'Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.' 1 Sam 3:9

Sunday 4th March: Grangemouth, 3.00-8.00pm

Sunday 11th March: Aviemore, 3.00-7.00pm

Peterhead Academy: prayed for by pupils...

A group of pupils meets to pray every Tuesday at lunchtime in Peterhead Academy.

Lawrie Fairns, teacher of RME says,

“The pupils have organised this prayer group all by themselves. There are between 5-10 pupils in total who meet from all year groups and it is really encouraging to see the gospel breaking down barriers that would normally stop these kids spending time with each other.

They take it in turns to prepare a little ‘thought for the day’ about what God has been saying to them or about what they have been learning about in church/SU. Many of them also come to the SU group which meets on a Thursday and they regularly pray for this group and for the teachers and school in general.

They have said they really feel like a family and it certainly is a safe place for them to share their hopes and fears.



One particular S3 girl who has recently become a Christian volunteered to do the presentation at the SU group one week. I am sure this was as a result of being encouraged and strengthened from the prayer group as she admitted she finds it really hard to do talks in front of people.”

And from a pupil’s perspective?

Emma Morgan, an S4 pupil, answered some questions for us:

How do you get pupils to come? Do you advertise it?

We get people to come by inviting our friends.

Has it made any difference to those who come, or to the school?

It has given the members an opportunity to come together as Christians within the school environment. We have made new friends through the group and it has strengthened our relationship with God.

Have you seen any prayers answered?

Yes, but we are still waiting to have a few of our prayer requests answered!

... and by older folks too!

Eddie McLaughlin is a faithful schools prayer supporter. Originally registering four Borders secondary schools for prayer, Eddie contacted the office a few months ago asking if he could also pray for schools in Aberdeenshire. He prays for Peterhead Academy and Ellon Academy now as well as their associated primaries—a total of 21 schools! He explains why.

Can you tell me something about yourself?

I live in Nottinghamshire. I went to a Bible college in Peterhead in the mid-1980s training to be a children’s evangelist. I used to visit many of the local villages on outreach ministry and Boddam

was the first village I went to. I woke up a few months ago about 3 o’clock in the morning, and this is when the Lord laid it upon my heart to pray for the schools in Scotland.

What motivates your prayers?

For those who know Jesus it is a wonderful experience and this is why I feel led to pray for Peterhead Academy and its primaries. The school has a total of ten associated primary schools which were not registered for prayer and I am praying earnestly for each of these schools. As I pray for the schools it is very much in my mind and prayers for each of these schools to have a prayer group for the pupils to have somewhere to go where they can find out about Jesus.

Is there anything you would like to say to encourage others to keep praying?

For all those who are already praying, or wanting to pray for schools, I would recommend reading Matthew 9:37-38, where Jesus speaks about the fields being so ripe and the reapers so few. This means that as we pray for the schools we become like reapers bringing the schools to Jesus, the true Lord of the harvest. God bless each of you.

Eddie’s testimony is a challenge to us all. If, like Eddie, you feel the Lord calling you to pray for a school in another area from where you live, do get in touch! Many rural areas are not covered in prayer.