

The Australians and NISCU!

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!" Ps 133:1



Hello Friends,

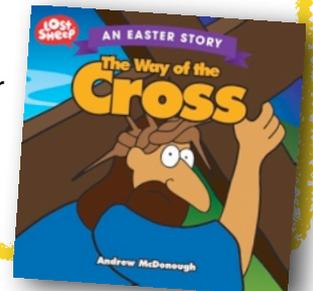
My Name is Andrew McDonough. I'm from Australia. I draw, write and create resources for sharing Jesus with kids in the church and out in the community. Last month, while visiting the UK, I popped in on the NISCU staff retreat. We ate scones and swapped stories. The scones were good and your NISCU team are fantastic. I loved hearing their stories of serving the schools, teachers and students with respect, honour and this long term relationship-building wisdom.



It sounds like schools are doing it tough in the UK with shrinking funds and increasing responsibilities. Yet, I'm sure that like in Australia, each community is genuinely concerned for their local school. They're just not quite sure how to provide support. This is where the NISCU crew are so good. They saddle up alongside a school and listen to the staff. They sit down with the church to explore what it has to offer. Then trusting Jesus, who loves the kids & teachers and works through His body the church, the NISCU team help shape that work. It may grow into a big program or quietly nurture individual children. In every case, the community and the angels in heaven notice. "Hooray for NISCU!" (That was the angels cheering while the community nodded in agreement even though they weren't quite sure where the cheering came from.)

We're in this together. The NISCU staff bring their gifts of supporting children, creative teaching and organisation. My small bit is providing stories and resources. Maybe your role is to volunteer, to help finance the work, to pray or to help cheer on NISCU and your local school.

Blessings, Andrew McDonough
You'll find all my stories at www.lostsheep.com.au



Our own Aussie is off....

The past two years working for NISCU have been an incredible blessing from God, from being able to work alongside fellow Christians to being able to see Jesus working in children's lives. I have had the privilege to teach lessons, run assemblies and clubs, be a part of the famous Christmas puppet team, running prayer space days, helping out with spirituality days in schools and so much more. Highlights, there have been so many, but I will choose a few:

The Halton Jam club has to have a mention with the 45-50 kids attending each week after school, hearing their prayers and seeing them engage and learn about Jesus is amazing. The key stage two Slyne lunch club which I set up has been a highlight although it is only small with 6 regular girls attending, being able to spend those 25 mins together learning and reading more about the bible and just listening to them about their days and lives is so special. The puppet roadshow is a definite favourite as I had the task of narrating which meant I could watch the children as they took in the real story of Christmas, and also our latest assembly on courage with myself and Debbie has been wonderful to do. I could go on for pages and pages about all the amazing work God is doing in schools and allowing us to be apart of, however I will end it with a massive thank you to the NISCU team for taking me on as an intern and allowing me to stay. I will keep you all and the work that is going on in my prayers as I take on the next task of raising my own little bundle of joy. **Rachel Carling**



How to contact us

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Mrs R Robinson, NISCU, 57 Lancaster
Road, Carnforth, LA5 9LE (NISCU on
front, North Lancs written onto back of
cheque)

NISCU's Walk Through Easter

is a multi-sensory approach to teaching the Easter story, hosted by local churches for local schools. Last year, when we did the Walk Through Easter, I remember two wondrous, watery eyes looking up at me as I nailed the sign, 'Father forgive them' onto a wooden cross and explained how important forgiveness is for Christians. That child then came along to an Easter holiday club I was helping with and wrote me a handwritten note wrapped around a rubber (a gift for me!) to say thank you to me for his school trip.

Often at NISCU we throw out seed and don't know where it will land, we can only pray it will be planted in good soil, that the children we work with will grow in the soil of God's marvellous love and come into more contact with Christians and churches. When one child hears the good news in a NISCU-led activity and then signs up to hear more of it in a church holiday club, we are so glad that we are partners with you for His Kingdom. **Lou Mosey**

Walk Through Easter Church Visit Dates

15th **Dallas Rd and Willow Lane** at Priory Church

19th **Morecambe Bay and Poulton le Sands** at Morecambe Parish Church

20th **Torrisholme Community and Great Wood** at Torrisholme Methodist Church

21st **West End Primary** at Stanley Rd Baptist Church

Also Garstang Free Methodist Church have invited the Bible Encounter Trust to set up an amazing Easter Trail at their church for 6 local primary schools which ran from 13th to 16th March. Please pray for them.

Regular CUs

Mon Skerton (Diana)
Wray (Margaret Wright)
Halton (Amy, Paula, Rachel)
St Tees Pre-School (Sallie, Jessica)
Caton Community KSI (Suzanne)

Tues LGGS (Lou & Rachel)
Hornby (Jane)
West End (Ruth)
Dallas Rd (Mary & Mrs Scott)
Grosvenor Park (Diana)
Ripley Yr9-11 (Adam & Jonny)

Wed Lancaster Rd (Diana, Karen & Leah)
Christ Church L/C (Lauren & Sallie)

Thu Caton Community (Suzanne & Julie)
Ripley Yr7-8 (Jonny & Adrian)
Ridge (LBC & Diana)
LRGS (Jonny & staff)
Poulton le Sands (with Parish Church)

Fri Trumacar (Diana & Rebecca)
Caton St Paul's (Julie)

MIRACLE MONDAYS

Sign up for your weekly term time emails. Please email Jonny to add your name to our growing list.
jonny.bayes@niscu.org.uk

Pray Days

Thank you for your prayers for the schools. It's not too late to get in touch if you want to know more about praying for your favourite school. It was great to hear about schools like Scorton with their Prayer Tent for the children and Garstang St Thomas's who encouraged their children to write prayers. Almost all of our 70 schools have had folks praying for them this term.

Prayer with NISCU Team Monday 30th April

10.00am NISCU NL Office Torrisholme Methodist Church
7.30pm Garstang St Thomas's Primary School
Everyone Welcome

If you work or volunteer in a school you are invited to our next **Encouragement Evening. Mon 18th June** - meal at 6.30pm speaker Jonathan Halsey (New Director of Capernwray Hall and once a NISCU pupil on our Summer Camps!). **Book your place with Jonny.**



Finances! We are so grateful to all our generous supporters. If you have been considering giving it would be great to hear from you - we have particular opportunities from September that we currently cannot commit to due to a lack of money. Please contact Ruth Robinson admin@niscu.org.uk or go to our website www.niscu.org.uk to get started.

Next term we will be in touch about "Data Protection". In the meantime, if you are receiving this newsletter but would rather not - please get in touch and we will make sure your details are removed from our system. God bless. If you get snail mail and would like to be emailed instead we'd love to hear from you.

Hello again,

I will save you, and you will be a blessing.
Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong

Zechariah 8:13 (NIV)

Thanks to God!

He has saved us, and so we can be a blessing! As last year, we are finding that more and more schools are asking us to do more and more in their schools. God continues to open doors into our communities in our schools. This year, we have continued our clubs, lessons and assembly work across our areas. We have also been asked by schools for more support with their pastoral teams, and specialist RE teaching, and so we are now delivering listening services and 'Understanding Christianity' training for teachers in a few schools, pray for us that we may be able to meet the demand as more schools ask for these services.

These are doors that are being opened to us, and thanks to God we are in a position to help our schools in this way, let us be a blessing.

Thanks to you!

And the reason we can be a blessing, is simply because of your support through 'giving of your time to pray', 'giving of your time to be in school' and 'giving of your finance', we continue to be able to reach more children and young people with the hope of the gospel of Jesus. Praise God, and a sincere thank you, to you.

Let your hands be strong.

I am regularly humbled by how much you, our supporters give. But, the cry of my heart this spring, is that we would 'not be afraid', but that we would 'let our hands be strong'. In speaking with school leaders across our areas, the urgency for help in schools is reaching a breaking point. We know that we live in a climate where budgets are being cut, talk to a head teacher and you will quickly see the reality of this pressure on them, and their staff in their schools. This is a huge burden and can be easily supported by people who care for their children and schools' communities. So, I say to you, and please pray this back to us 'Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong'. As we see the size of the task at hand, God reminds us that we need to do our little bit and together we can make a big difference.

What can you do to help?

We really value your support, and if you are not already on your local prayer list, then that is a really great place to start. Also, we are working with Prayforschools.org to try and support local people praying specifically for their school. If you would like to join this, see the information on our website. www.niscu.org.uk/pray4schools/. Finally, if you know somebody who doesn't know about our work, then why not share with them what we do...their little bit can really add to a big difference!

God bless you all,
NISCU Management team