



Hi Everyone,

'Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks the door will be opened.' Matthew 7: 7-8

For me the above verse reminds me daily of our need to pray for many things and in many ways. As a team of NISCU workers we like to regularly get together to pray and support each other. We have found that prayer is opening doors to new things as schools are asking for more lessons as well as assemblies and clubs.

In February the whole NISCU team have been on a retreat at the wonderful Shekinah centre. Here we were encouraged to go on a journey. Not a physical one, but one to explore who we are in God as individuals and as a team. We spent time with God – I encourage each of us to spend regular time with God to explore what he has in store for us!

What else has been happening?

It's been a busy term and I'm really sorry that this newsletter is so late. Assemblies, clubs (5 each week), meetings, informal chats and this term I have also been in schools teaching more lessons and on a variety of topics. There has also been Rewind to Easter as well as Easter assemblies and lessons.

I have also been looking at ways to involve parents in prayer for the schools, so in four of the schools I work with I held coffee and prayer sessions for parents, governors and whoever else wants to come. The schools were keen for this to happen and although not many attended they were valued and some have asked if they are going to happen more often!

Also Coming Up:

Competition time!

During the last couple of weeks of term as I have gone into schools the children have been given a competition to enter. They can respond creatively to the theme in any way they wish. There will be prizes for different age groups and the entries will be displayed at a coffee morning held in Burton in Lonsdale on Saturday April 28th (details below). Title or theme for the competition is: What is the biggest thing you can give a friend?

Nick Klein (CEO), Debbie Green from NISCU North Lancs. and myself are going to meet the Leeds Diocese Director and Deputy Director of Education in April to discuss how we can work with/ support them in our schools. I have also been in conversation with The Local Authority R.E advisor about the work we do.

Finally

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way at the coffee morning we had at Bentham Town Hall on January 20th. Including the donations we had given on the day we made a fantastic £846.

God Bless

Sue



Dates for the diary:

Wednesday 25th April: 7pm

NISCU network meeting at Bethel Chapel, Clapham

Saturday 28th April: 10 am – 12 noon

Coffee Morning at Burton in Lonsdale Village Hall.

This will also have all the entries from the art competition displayed.

Thursday 12th July: 7pm

NISCU Craven AGM. At St Mary's Ingleton

Prayer groups:

If you would like to join either of our local prayer groups please contact us for further details:

1st Tuesday of every month, 2:15pm – Ingleton

Last Friday of the month, 3pm - Settle

If you would like to receive my prayer points each week please contact me: sue.yardy@niscu.org.uk

CEO newsletter info

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