



“When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset.”

Exodus 17 v 12

Support



Niscu is a 'front-line' ministry, sending schools workers to talk with young people about the good news of Jesus, but this only happens because of the amazing support that we receive!

During the battle Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands so that the Israelites would win. They provided what was needed at the right moment. If you support niscu in any way (and reading this newsletter definitely counts!) then you are a key player in this work and we're so grateful for you!

Niscu relies on individuals and churches to stand with us in prayer, to generously give time to meet with us and come with us into schools, and in providing the finances we need, most of which covers the employment of our schools workers (Jonny, Diana, Sarah, Holly and Abi, in North Lancs).

So, we are devoting this newsletter to highlighting some of the key people who support us in specific ways, why this work is so great, and how you could help us further!



Everything we do begins in prayer - here are some ways you can support us in it!

Week of Vision and Prayer!

Our annual week of vision and prayer returns from 6-12th May. We will have various events, including a new journey around our area, with chances to pray with schools and churches. Look out for more details to come!

Monthly Prayer Meetings:

Garstang, Forton and South Lancaster, contact us for dates & venues.

Or talk to us about starting one where you live!

For more prayer points sign up for our Miracle Monday email! Or invite a niscu worker to visit your church or prayer meeting! We would love to come and share!

PRAYER

1000 pupils in 1 day!

Last term, I had the opportunity to speak to over 1,000 pupils in just 1 day as we took round our Christmas assembly. The first 980 of these were in community schools, mostly of children with little or no church background at all. I'm not sure I can adequately explain the feeling of looking out to 300 children previously unfamiliar with the Christmas story, singing joyfully with their whole hearts, "*This is Jesus, Emmanuel our Lord, He is with us, Give praise forevermore!*"

We have just started our run of assemblies exploring Easter, where I will get to ask more than 3,000 children what they make of the empty tomb and investigate how Jesus can be alive today, as my colleagues talk to many more. Where else do we have that opportunity?

But of course, it is not just about numbers. I have had the privilege of being involved in clubs and lessons right through all the school year groups (again, even within one day)! I've seen young people grow in understanding and confidence in asking their own questions. In two separate schools when taking a Christmas lesson, I had children say to me "*I know now why we give presents at Christmas, it's because Jesus himself is the present!*" This is not something we had explicitly taught in the lesson, but the conclusion they had come to by the end.

Abi

**Alex Fearnhead
(Chair)**

Church:
Garstang Free Methodist
Years on ASG:
6

“Every year of my life, I have gone on holiday in the summer to the same place!”

Lisa Huddlestone

Church:
Caton Baptist Church
Years on ASG:
3

“I enjoy running & cake, even better if I'm running to get cake!”

Helen Simmons

Church:
Trinity Church
Years on ASG:
Less than 1

“I'm a retired secondary teacher who used to run Christian groups in schools where I taught.”

THANK
YOU
😊



North Lancs Area Support Group

These amazing people provide loads of support to the team, including listening ears, wisdom, and encouragement, as well as helping niscu to connect with local churches and other supporters in our area, raising awareness and funds, and praying regularly for all the work!



Steve Elliot

Church:
Lancaster Baptist Church
Years on ASG:
3

“In the '80s I co-authored a chapter in a book about the Computational Analysis of English.”

Jacob Lees

Church:
Trinity Church
Years on ASG:
Less than 1

“I support NISCU because I want children to come to know Jesus for themselves!”

Why Support?

Recently I met four students who were eager to hear more about Christianity. One in particular had some experience of faith though her family, who are nominally Catholic, but she wanted to know more, including where she could get a Bible. Meeting young people like this is rare, but if we (the church) don't reach out there will be many who miss out on hearing the Good News, or discovering what our faith is all about! **Jonny**

The financial position of NISCU North Lancs is sound – but it is also a limiting factor in our employment of schools' workers. We have started 2024 with reduced staff hours compared to 2023. This is because, whilst regular giving has remained largely stable, costs have gone up considerably over the last 2 years in particular, and we find ourselves in a position where expenditure exceeds income quite substantially.

So, we request that you prayerfully consider giving, or increasing your level of financial support to help us. It is not comfortable for us to make this request, knowing that many of you face the same pressures. Even if you are not in a position to give more at this point, we would be grateful for any help you can give us in communicating these needs to other members of your churches.

Please contact Amanda in our Central office (details below) for ways to give.
Thank you!



FUNDING



A Plea from the Trustees

A charity needs Trustees. It cannot function without them and NISCU is no exception. Whilst we have a small group of dedicated Trustees, we are very keen to recruit more at this time.

You can help in three ways:

- Prayerfully consider joining the Board of a very important, worthwhile organisation.
- Have a chat with anyone you think may be suitable for the task.
- Above all, pray for two or three people to come forward to help maintain an ongoing work that enjoys a lot of respect in both schools and churches alike.

Dave Grime (Chair of Trustees) would love to hear from anyone interested in becoming a Trustee and share in the work of telling young people about Jesus, both a pleasure and a privilege.



Local staff team:

Jonny Bayes
jonny.bayes@niscu.org.uk

Diana Stopczynski
diana.stop@niscu.org.uk

Sarah Dodd
sarahjdodd@talktalk.net

Holly Wood
holly.wood@niscu.org.uk

Abi Andrews
abi.andrews@niscu.org.uk

Support Group :
Alex Fearnhead (chair)
alex.fearnhead@btinternet.com
Steve Elliott, Lisa Huddleston, Jacob Lees, Helen Simmons

How to contact us:

Central Office:

Amanda Conner
admin@niscu.org.uk
NISCU 57 Lancaster Rd,
Carnforth, LA5 9LE
(address for giving).

Any cheques sent for North Lancs need to say "NISCU" on the front and "North Lancs" on the back.
Thank you very much.