

“To find God’s will is man’s greatest discovery; to do God’s will is man’s greatest achievement” John Wesley

July 2019

Dear Friends,
Warm greetings from Derby. It doesn’t seem like two months have passed since we last wrote. Time flies!

Family

We are all doing really well. We enjoyed a lovely week’s holiday in Barmouth in North Wales during the first week of June which was a great break for us as a family.



The girls are doing really well at school although Abi continues to struggle a bit in spelling and maths. She has had some extra help this year once a week with a SEN teacher and we are looking at the possibility of doing a full screening for dyslexia as the assessments that have been carried out so far suggest that she exhibits at least some traits of dyslexia. She was getting quite down about her struggles with maths and spelling so we have tried to encourage her in other areas where she is really gifted such as art, science and music. So at the end of May she started violin lessons which she is doing exceptionally well at and which has been considerably less painful on our ears than that we thought it might be! Hannah will be going into reception in September which she is really excited about. She also recently started dance classes in the community hall across the road from our house which she absolutely loves.



Hope City Furniture

In our last newsletter we mentioned the possibility of a building becoming available down near the railway. However, like several other potential properties we have looked at over the past months, it

has sadly come to nothing. So, we continue to operate as best we can from the shipping container. Over the past couple of months we have cleared out a lot of furniture that we were hanging onto for “when we get a building” and we are now just focusing on what we need for the here and now! So that has freed us up a bit of space and consequently makes accessing the furniture we need for referrals a bit easier. We continue to pray and believe that God has somewhere for us. Please continue to pray with us!

Over the past couple of months we have also started distributing Bibles and tracts in various languages to the many different nationalities that we are delivering furniture to. We feel really excited about this - that we are leaving something far more valuable than just the furniture with people! The Word of God is living, active and powerful - we believe that wholeheartedly. We have no idea if or when people may pick it up and start to read, but at least we are putting it into their hands.

We are also now in the place where we have established continuing and strong relationships with a number of people we have delivered furniture to. Most are Muslim women who have been referred to us because of domestic violence. We love delivering furniture and being a blessing to people in need but we know that good deeds and relationships alone do not transform lives. Only the Revelation and Salvation of Jesus does that.

So, we are now looking at starting a small group with these women studying the Bible and Quran together. Through Fiona’s short-lived job at Mahabba last year we have contact with a couple of people who have developed material for this purpose. So we are currently looking at the different material out there and hoping to start a group in the autumn in the house of one of the Pakistani women we have good relationship with. Please pray for open doors and that God would speak through His Spirit as these women begin to read His Word. Again we are so excited at the possibility of getting the Bible into people’s hands and trust that God will speak as they read it.

The Little Shop of Hope

At the beginning of June we moved down a floor at the Derwentside Shopping Mill and are now in a much better location. The Little Shop of Hope is doing OK and we really enjoy the buying and selling side of the charity, especially branching into antiques!

Thank you again for your continued partnership with us. We could not be doing what we are doing here in Derby without your prayers and support.

With love in Christ,
Richard, Fiona, Abigail and Hannah

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