

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

September 2019

Dear Friends,
Warm greetings from Derby. We hope this newsletter finds you well.

Family

We can hardly believe the school holidays are over. Over the summer we closed the referral side of Hope City Furniture so we could focus on spending time with the girls and also catch up with visiting people, maintenance, admin and jobs around the house that never seem to get done when we are busy carrying out furniture referrals. So we spent most of the holidays visiting family, spending time with people we have delivered furniture to and built up a relationship with, doing stuff around the house and going on a number of day trips. We had a good summer but by the end the girls were looking forward to going back to school!

We are so blessed to have the opportunity to send our girls to a Christian school and we are so thankful for the truly amazing and miraculous ways in which God has provided the fees to enable them to continue there.



It’s also a new season for us having both girls at school full time so as we move forward into this new season we have established a timetable for our week to make sure that we are maintaining a healthy balance between family and ministry - which has been a challenge in the past couple of years and not something we have always got right. It is hard when you are working with people in crisis as there is *always* going to be a crisis. But having a clear timetable for the week with time allocated for different areas of the ministry and our family life should hopefully help us to maintain a healthy balance. That’s the goal anyway and we would certainly appreciate prayer as we continually adjust and re-adjust and seek to get it right!

Hope City Furniture

As we stated before our heart for HCF is not just to deliver furniture, but to see people’s lives transformed by a living relationship with Jesus. Therefore it was good to slow down a bit over the summer and take some time to invest in some of these relationships. We always pray with people who we deliver furniture to and we distribute Bibles and tracts as appropriate. All of these are little seeds that we pray will take root, grow and bear fruit!

Please continue to pray for God’s provision of a build-

ing. We continue to operate out of the shipping container which we are hugely grateful for but we are aware that we inherited the usage of the container from the Hope Centre and an agreement that was made between the previous director and someone at Derby Homes where it is situated. At any point in time this agreement could be revoked by new personnel at Derby Homes. We have also very much outgrown the container and really just long to see God provide us with a “land of our own” where we can grow and further develop the charity.

In our last newsletter we mentioned that Fiona was looking at starting a small group with some of the Muslim ladies that have been referred to us who have been rehoused due to domestic violence. We looked at various different ideas and materials over the summer but feel like it is not quite the right time for this. Instead, on the 26th September, Fiona will take three women to the Alpha course which is being run at our church. Please pray that these three women would indeed attend and that they will come to know Jesus through the Alpha course.

We are really grateful to God for the provision of a couple who live in Derby who are hugely supportive of the work of HCF and who want to get involved and start volunteering with us. The husband will be working with Richard on deliveries every Thursday and the wife has already made beautiful New Home cards for us and is willing to be involved with the women’s group once we start it after the Alpha course has finished.

Emmanuel School

With all that has been going on with HCF over the last couple of years we have failed to mention our involvement with Emmanuel School which has over the past year become a big part of our ministry here in Derby! The school has gone through a huge transition in the last year coming out from under the church it was a part of and being relaunched as an independent company and charity, of which Fiona is now a Director, Governor and Trustee of!

Over the last year or so we have both increasingly felt that the school was becoming more and more a part of our calling here in Derby as well as our involvement being a crucial part of our ministry to our children. As Fiona has been spending a lot of time in discussions, organization and meetings, Richard has been practically supporting the school by painting classrooms and keeping on top of property maintenance (no mean feat!).

We both believe that Britain more than ever needs education based on Christian principals and that to support our children and others through a Christ-centred education is deep within the heart of God. Please pray for wisdom for Fiona and the other Directors as they lead the school forward into a new season, and please pray especially for financial provision for the school.

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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