

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

November 2019

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

Family

Since Hannah started school in September and we implemented a clear timetable for the week with time allocated for different areas of the ministry and our family life etc., we seem to be maintaining a healthy balance. We are greatly encouraged and feel like we have made much positive progress in this area. We are very grateful for your prayers for this.

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. As we pray for people and distribute Bibles and tracts, we want to see God move in power and meet with people. We meet so many broken people and have so many wonderful opportunities to witness and to share with them the Hope we have, as we deliver furniture. We absolutely love what we do! Please pray for increased boldness and courage as we share and for the anointing of the Holy Spirit as we pray. We have both been hugely impacted lately by reading Smith Wigglesworth’s books.



Please continue to pray for God’s provision of a building for Hope City Furniture. We long to have a space for furniture storage which would mean we could accept so many more donations and carry out referrals so much easier; and to set up a restoration workshop. We would also love to have a space where we can run an open café / social space each week to which we can invite the many people we deliver furniture to. Loneliness and isolation are massive issues for almost all of the people who are referred to us and we would love to facilitate the building of community.

In our last newsletter we mentioned that Fiona was going to be taking some ladies to Alpha. However, this has not really worked out for a number of reasons. We have instead started the Al Massira course with one Muslim lady (<https://www.almassira.org>) which is going really well. And are looking at taking another lady who has been through domestic violence to a course called, “Celebrate Recovery” which our church runs as we feel this would be more appropriate for her at this time rather than Alpha. We have quite a number of people now who we have built up good relationships with since they were first referred to us and with whom we have

ongoing contact. The challenge now is to try and connect them in with others who can also walk with them and continue to support them in other ways that we do not have the capacity to do.

We are not doing what we do for human recognition, but it is a real encouragement when it comes. Last week completely out of the blue we received an email from Derby Homes (the housing arm of Derby Council) to say that Hope City Furniture had been nominated for and won the Lionel Massingham Partnership Award 2019. Each year, Derby Homes staff are asked to nominate partner organisations who they feel have worked well with them over the past year. The nominations are then judged by a panel of staff and board members and a winner is selected. Seeing as we have only been operating since January 2018 and officially as a charity since December 2018 this was a real encouragement to us. Especially as our storage container is currently on one of the Derby Homes sites. We mentioned before in a previous newsletter that we were a bit worried we may be asked to move the container. But if they have recognised us with this award then hopefully they will be less likely to turf us off their land!

Emmanuel School

Please pray for wisdom for Fiona and the other Directors of the school as they make decisions regarding the future of the school and try to lead the school forward into a new season. We have recently received a wonderfully positive inspection from the Independent Schools Inspectorate which is the official government body for inspecting independent schools. The key findings of the inspection stated that the all the standards for the compliance inspection were met; the quality of the pupils’ academic and other achievements was good and the quality of the pupils’ personal development was excellent.

In particular, the report stated - *“Pupil’s outstanding self-esteem is developed through the staff’s highly effective use of encouragement and praise, and through strong pastoral support which is tailored to their individual needs.”* What an amazing statement from a secular inspection body! Praise God!

Please pray especially for financial provision for the school and that we would find a way to keep school fees low thus making the school affordable to all, while at the same time making it financially viable - which is a challenge indeed!

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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