

Weekly Newsletter: 25 February 2025

Reflection: Caring Well for Children's and Youth Ministers in Your Local Church

From Growing Young Disciples (for the full article go [here](#))

There's a group of people in our churches who rarely get the recognition they deserve. They don't stand in pulpits or get their names on big boards outside churches. They aren't usually the ones the congregation thanks at the door after a Sunday service.

But week after week, they show up. They pour their energy, creativity, and compassion into discipling the next generation. They listen, teach, pray, and encourage. They lead games, answer tough theological questions, and sometimes even clean up after spilled glitter and runaway toilet rolls.

They are the volunteer leaders in children's and youth ministry. And they are doing some of the most eternally significant work in the church today.

This is How the Gospel is Passed On

The calling to disciple the next generation is not optional—it is at the very heart of God's design for His people. Psalm 78:1-8 paints a vivid picture of why this work matters so deeply:

"We will not hide them from their children,
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and His might,
and the wonders that He has done." (Psalm 78:4)

God commands His people to teach the next generation, recounting His mighty acts so that children would not forget but would set their hope in Him (v.7). This is a generational relay race of faithfulness—one in which volunteer children's and youth leaders are a significant part of the team.

They are not just helpers—they are entrusted with the sacred task of telling of God's mighty works.

They are not just entertainers—they are spiritual guides, leading young souls towards Christ.

They are not just filling time—they are planting seeds of eternal significance.

It's time to recognise that what they do is not childcare or crowd control—it is soul-shaping kingdom work.

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

The beauty of children's and youth ministry is that it's full of moments that don't feel significant—until they are. A leader listens to a child's worries about school. A teenager asks an unexpected question about the gospel. A memory verse gets tucked into a young heart, ready for the day they'll need it most. A leader

prays for a struggling young person, and no one sees the spiritual battle being fought in that moment—except the Lord.

Much of this work is unseen. But God sees. He sees every moment of patient listening, every Friday night youth group, every whispered prayer for a young soul. And He tells us plainly: “God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people” (Hebrews 6:10).

Faithfulness in the Small Things Leads to Eternal Fruit

One of the greatest challenges in children’s and youth ministry is that progress can feel slow and invisible. Teaching small children can seem like scattering seeds on hard ground, wondering if they will take root. Discipling teenagers can feel like speaking into the silence, unsure if anything is truly sinking in. But Psalm 78 reminds us that our calling is to sow faithfully—and to trust that, in God’s timing, those seeds will bear fruit:

“So that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God,
but keep His commandments.” (Psalm 78:7)

The goal of children’s and youth ministry isn’t just behaviour management or moral instruction—it is to cultivate a generation of young men and women who put their trust in the living God. Every Bible story told is building a foundation. Every prayer prayed is a plea for God’s Spirit to be at work. Every relationship formed is a means of showing Christ’s love. Even if you don’t see the impact today, eternity will reveal the fruit.

Why This Work Matters for Eternity

If you serve in children’s or youth ministry, you are shaping souls for eternity. Think about that for a moment. The Sunday School lessons you teach may be the truths these young people stand on when they are adults. The way you model faith may be what helps them persevere through doubt. The verses they memorise may come flooding back in a crisis. Some of the children in your group today will one day be leading churches, discipling their own families, or taking the gospel to places you will never go. And your faithfulness will have been part of that story. One day—maybe years from now, maybe even in glory—you may hear, “You helped me know Jesus.” That’s why this matters.

To Those Who Serve: Thank You

To every leader who turns up even when they’re exhausted...

To every Sunday school teacher who prays over their class by name...

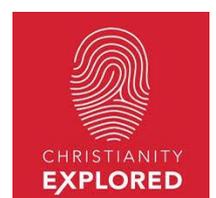
To every youth leader who keeps investing in that one teen who barely speaks...

To every volunteer who wonders if what they do really makes a difference...

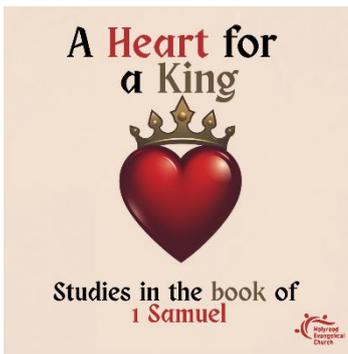
Thank you. Your work is precious in God’s sight. Your labour is not in vain. The seeds you plant today will bear fruit for generations to come.

Christianity Explored – this Sunday

Christianity Explored continues this Sunday from 5-6pm in the church. If you’re new to the Christian faith or have questions, please come along – this course is for you! This week we’ll be looking at the identity of Jesus in Mark chapter 3 and contact Sam for more details (sampeterallen@gmail.com)



1 Samuel – this Sunday



On Sunday evening we will finish the first block of teaching in 1 Samuel. It would be a good time to think harder about what we have learnt so far. Therefore we are going to have a Q&A after the service for those who want to stay around and think more.

To submit questions you can Text Questions to **07451 287890** or go to askquestions.live/ask/598- this is using a software platform and no mobile phone numbers or IP addresses will be disclosed or stored.

New Member – Gillian Stark

It's a joy to welcome Gillian to the church family. Here's her story so far – 'I was born in Edinburgh and when I was 24 I moved to Canada. I separated from my husband back in 2002. I came back to Edinburgh over the years for lots of holidays and I have always wanted to come back to Scotland to live.

Working as a hairstylist I had a client and we became friends. She invited me to the church that she went to and I started to attend regularly. One Sunday morning back in the spring of 2017, I was heading to church and I felt that I needed to go to a different church. I decided to go to Calvary Baptist Church and after the service the pastor announced an open call to baptism. 27 people got baptised that day and I was one of them. I do believe I was saved that day because of God's grace.



I moved back to Edinburgh in June 2022 and started attending HEC shortly after that. One of my favourite Scriptures is Ephesians 2:8-9- For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourself. It is the gift of God not by works so that no can boast.'

Women's Bible Studies - Online

Starting on **Tuesday 4 March** we're going to do four Bible Studies in the last couple of chapters of Luke's gospel as we prepare our hearts for Easter. We'll meet on Zoom from 7-8pm with time for prayer in small groups, please join us if you can.

Book Group

This month's book group will be held on **15 March at 3.30pm** and will be at 1 Dalrymple Crescent, Musselburgh (note change of date and change of venue!). We are reading 7 Myths about singleness by Sam Allberry. Please speak to Anncris if you need further information.

Act Like Men – We Believe

Join us at Hope Church Bingham on **Tuesday 4 March** for an evening men's conference to encourage men to live for King Jesus in Edinburgh and beyond. The speaker is Jeremy Walker and it's from 7-8.30pm. To reserve a place and for more details go [here](#).

OMF Conference - Japan: across the street and across the world

On **Saturday 26 April** we're hosting the OMF Conference 'Japan: across the street and across the world'. Lorna Ferguson will be speaking about the work in Japan and her plans for her next term there. Jude Tindale will share about the work that's happening amongst Japanese people in Edinburgh.



Doors open at 9.30am for a 10am start. The conference will finish at 11.30am and everyone is warmly welcome.

Church Calendar

For your info and prayers:

- Wednesday: Home Groups
- Thursday: Men's Bible Studies at 10.30am in the church
- Sunday:
 - Morning service at 10.30am – Joe Barnard preaching (live streamed)
 - Christianity Explored from 5-6pm in the church
 - Evening service at 6pm – Jon Gemmell preaching (live streamed)
- Monday:
 - Baby & Toddlers Group 10am – 11.30am
 - Warm Space 12 noon to 3pm



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