



baptist union  
of scotland



September 2015

**Tales from the Step Out Team  
Lossiemouth Youth at Soul Survivor**

## Kitchen Tales



What an amazing summer it has been! 32 young people have partnered with 10 churches throughout Scotland sharing Jesus within the communities where they were based. They travelled to Galashiels, Dumfries, Coatbridge, Wigtown, Brechin, Tillicoultry, Cornton, Inverkeithing, Knightswood and Broughty Ferry, some giving up one week of their summer and others 2 or 3.

The children's material this year was Kitchen Tales. They explored stories that are found in the gospels which had a food theme. The children were challenged to do what Jesus tells us to do, to give thanks to God, to say yes to God's invitation, to remember why Jesus died on the cross and to decide if they would follow him. It was great fun to deliver and

included lots of songs, games, memory verses, quizzes etc etc. The leaders particularly loved some of the challenges, especially drinking strange mixtures of disgusting things!

The youth work was different in each of the churches. The material, 'Storylines' focused on the story of characters in the Bible. The youth had great discussions on various topics over the weeks as well as having fun playing games and chilling out together. As I visited one youth night, the young people were given the opportunity to go for prayer. It was humbling to see them going in one after another to be prayed for.

***“One person shared their testimony, testifying about a transforming encounter they had with Jesus a few weeks before”***

As I have travelled about this summer and watched our young people engage in mission in the local church, it has been a real blessing to see their passion for sharing the love of Jesus with those they encounter. I've listened to them being asked the most difficult of questions in group times with the children and sharing their faith with young people their own age. I've heard the testimonies of God's transforming work in them as they serve, and I've seen their excitement in joining the bigger picture with the churches they have worked with. One of my favourite moments was hearing someone sharing their testimony. They were testifying to the encounter they had with Jesus a few weeks previously on another team and the transformation that had brought about in their lives. God has certainly been at work in and through our young people this summer.

Please continue to pray for them and the churches they partnered with this year.

If you would be interested in a Step Out Team in 2016 then please get in touch with Yvonne at [youth@scottishbaptist.org.uk](mailto:youth@scottishbaptist.org.uk)

**Yvonne Faddes**

## In memory of Roberta Hope



September 1st 2015 would have marked Roberta Hope's 30 years of service and ministry with the Baptist Union of Scotland. Normally we do not circulate fundraising information in Connect, however, Jenny Wilson (a Union staff member) will be running a 10K in October specifically in memory of Roberta and is raising money for the Beatson Cancer Charity. If you would like to support Jenny in her efforts you can do so at: [www.justgiving.com/RememberingRobertaHope](http://www.justgiving.com/RememberingRobertaHope)



## Stepping Out in Weakness

**Sam Donaghey of Kirkintilloch Baptist is a second year student at the Scottish Baptist College. He led teams in Coatbridge, Knightswood and Cornton.**



This was my seventh year involved with Step Out and my second year of leading teams. After doing so many missions, there really shouldn't be too much else to test me. Well, if you thought that, you'd be wrong! There were many challenges facing me: a hectic summer schedule; poor personal health; team members needing to be rushed to hospital during the mission; very busy mission weeks; and liaising with a number of people from a number of churches.

Organisation is not my strong point at all. When it comes to organising something, I get a shiver down my spine as I realise how poor my organisational skills are. However I knew that without being very organised this summer, things were going to go pear-shaped.

Despite being extremely aware of my weaknesses, God reminded me that His power is made perfect in weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). God chooses to use weak people and empower them, so that even small weaknesses do not come in the way of His mission on the earth. The comfort, which this truth brought me was immeasurable.

God provided some amazing people to help me along the way, so that organisation never became a massive issue. He taught me so much about such a practical but important skill.



A successful team building exercise

The highlight this summer was definitely the ability to minister to the young people on the team in the power of Holy Spirit. As team leader, with my co-leaders, we were able to encourage and build up the team in God. Seeing God use my spiritual gifts in this way was exciting and has changed my perspective on the way in which I move in the gifts the Holy Spirit has given me.

I can honestly say that these were the first holiday clubs where I could tangibly sense the Holy Spirit moving. There was no great testimonies of conversion nor of signs or wonders, but deep within my spirit there was a knowledge that this was only the beginning for so many of the childrens' relationship with God.

## What did the churches think?

***"Our Step Out Team was excellent: a bunch of committed, hard working young people, who clearly enjoyed being with the kids, sharing their relationship with Jesus, having fun and were willing to do all they could to make the week a success. Our church had a real buzz about it, helped by the energy and enthusiasm of the team. We also just had a great laugh together!"***

**Ruth Kelso, Youth Worker, Knightswood**

**Rev. Stephen Mcgarva, Wigtown:**

***"Past Step Out missions in Wigtown are still talked about years later and 2015 will be too. We were joined by an enthusiastic and hard-working team who provided good fun activities alongside opportunities for testimony and discussion. Our mission went well and we are grateful to all who helped in setting up and running a busy week!"***



## Lossiemouth

At Lossiemouth Baptist this year we have seen a real move of God. It all started when the youth team started to meet every month for prayer, worship and to support each other. The result of this was a youth team more on fire for God and more intentional with all that we did. Our young people responded and one girl started to bring two of her friends along on Sunday nights.

We organised and attended an LZ7 gig put on by Alive ministries in Inverness. On the way home, one of her friends gave her life to Jesus and since then she has continued to be supported by the youth team and grow in her faith. We attended Soul Survivor Scotland as a youth group this summer and were please that the other's friend Chelsie wanted to come along. She fitted into the group well and had been coming along to the Sunday night youth group and had started coming to church.



Photo courtesy of Soul Survivor  
Founded by Mike Pilivachi in 1993. The annual conference has grown to minister to 28000 young people every summer. This year Lendrick Muir played host to its Scottish leg.

On the first night of Soul Survivor Scotland she was the first person to go forward for prayer and to give her life to Jesus. We are very thankful for all that God is doing in the local church and give all the glory to him.

**Matthew Payne, Youth Worker, Lossiemouth Baptist**

Lossiemouth Baptist is one church that was in receipt of a grant from the BUS. If you are a minister wanting to find out more info about receiving such a grant, please visit the finance section of the resource page of our [website](#).

## DNA @Denny



Photo courtesy of Sydney Missionary Bible College (Flickr)

Over the past few years we have been exploring incarnational discipleship and looking for ways of putting what we had learned into practice. At the same time there was a concern that our mid-week prayer meeting was poorly attended and had little impact on the church. Our solution was deceptively simple: we scrapped our mid-week prayer meeting and launched DNA.

In brief: DNA stands for Discipleship, Nurture and Accountability. We invited people to create groups of 3 to meet once a week, at a time and place of their own choosing, for mutual discipleship, to nurture each other's faith and to hold one another accountable in discipleship all in the context of prayer. I want to say quite firmly that DNA is not just a new name for house groups or prayer cells, it is much more focused on nurturing incarnational discipleship in the lives of the disciples involved. We have 20 groups and they have no hierarchy, no leadership structure, and vary in their content, for example: some have a devotional type Bible study, some don't.

All the groups come together 2-3 times a year to share stories of God's presence in their lives. One senior member of the congregation who had served as a deacon for 50 years has said that DNA is the best thing to happen to Denny Baptist. I have run out of word count but if you want to know more email [norman@dennybaptist.org.uk](mailto:norman@dennybaptist.org.uk)

## Got a story?

Please get in touch with good stories to share across our Union. Email us [comms@scottishbaptist.org.uk](mailto:comms@scottishbaptist.org.uk) or phone 0141 423 6169



# September Prayer Link

## Sunday 6th

### Baptist Union of Great Britain -

Our vision as Baptists Together is to grow healthy churches in relationship for mission. The ministry of everyone, coupled with gifts of effective leadership, is an essential part of that vision. Please pray for 'Ignite', our Ministries Review Team who are helping us to re-imagine how we enable the ministries of God's people in the future.

### Lerwick -

We give thanks to our Father that he is providing for all our needs during our pastoral vacancy. We are thankful, too, for the faithfulness of our own lay preachers and those of our sister Baptist Churches and other denominations who have brought us the spiritual food we have needed and the challenge of the Gospel.

## Sunday 13th

### Leslie, James Faddes -

Summer was a busy, exciting time! 30+ children attended our holiday club. Mission and ministry continue in many forms. We're excited to be working with architects to develop our church building. We will soon launch our five-fold vision based on Ephesians 4:11, as we seek God's Kingdom and follow Christ wherever he calls. Please pray for ongoing wisdom and provision.

### Leven, Mark Pexton -

Thanks for praying for Leven Baptist. We are encouraged with the number of new people coming amongst us. We are seeing real spiritual fruit coming from our Foodbank Community Support Project. Keep also praying for the work of our Community Centre and the many connections we have with our community here. This year we are also looking to focus on how to be more intentional

about growing as disciples.

### Linwood, Robert Voysey -

The church has seen some challenging times recently, but we have been encouraged by a recent Alpha course and also the formation of a 'helping hands' craft group which has seen people from the community attending. Please pray with us as we intend to run Alpha again later this year, and as we give thanks for the opportunities we have to share together and in the community.

## Sunday 20th

### Lossiemouth, Rae Mackenzie -

Praise

We continue to give thanks to God for growth both in terms of the making and maturing of disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been delighted to increase the Ministry Team in recent days and have now opened our new ministry centre. We give God thanks for the many opportunities that we have to get involved within the local community and are excited with the many relationships that have been built. We are truly humbled to experience how God is building his Church in these days. To God be the Glory great things he has done.

Prayer:

Please pray for us as we face the challenges that come with a growing church. Pray for wisdom and discernment for the leadership. Give God thanks for the unity within the fellowship but pray that God would continue to bind us together. Pray that new people would get plugged in and feel part of the fellowship. Pray for our children and young people that they would experience Christ and live for him.



## Sunday 27th

### **Milestone Christian Fellowship (Girvan), Adam Oellerman -**

Please pray for God's leading as we investigate purchasing a building for the church's ministry. Give thanks that continuing growth makes this a possibility! Also pray for our young people going up to secondary school, that their faith would be strengthened and sustained there. And please pray for the hope of the Gospel to be visible in us.

### **Scottish Baptist College -**

Students return on 14th September. Please pray for those who are beginning their studies and those who are continuing courses, that their year will be one of continued growth in faith and wisdom. Pray for our new member of staff, Graham Meiklejohn, as he takes up his post as lecturer in theology and communications officer.

## National Team

**Alan Donaldson** - September is an exciting month of opportunities. Our Council will meet at the beginning of the month, marking the countdown to Assembly 2015. I will be visiting the church in Collydean for the first time as well as meeting with the United Free Church of Scotland and Denominational leaders in the Glasgow area. I continue my own studies at Spurgeons for a couple of days and will enjoy meeting European counterparts at the end of the month in Sofia, Bulgaria.

**Jacqueline Primrose** - It feels like I had a busier July and August than 'normal' but I give thanks for all the opportunities I had to get out and about and meet folk over the summer. Visiting Step Out teams is always a great joy - seeing our young people so willing to give up some of their summer holidays to serve God and His church. I have also had the opportunity to visit different churches, and see and hear about the joys and challenges they face in their situations. It is encouraging to see and hear about how we support one another by being BUS together.

Please pray for our September Council meeting and for all the preparations for Assembly. Please also pray for the BUS team, as we welcome Martin, prepare to say goodbye to John, miss Mo and continue to mourn Roberta.

**Jim Purves** - A fully booked first fortnight to the month, looking forward to a holiday with my family thereafter. Give thanks for God's grace at work among us, in our Union.

**John Greenshields** - Much of my time this month will be spent with Martin Hodson in this handover period. Pray for Martin as he seeks to absorb what will be helpful as he ministers among us. Together we will share in Council, National Settlement Team, a visit to the Lanarkshire ministers, and a lot of time in the office!

I have some preaching engagements this month, one ordination and induction (in Kirkwall), and one induction (in Forfar) to attend. Your prayers are, as ever, greatly appreciated.

**Martin Hodson (our incoming Ministry Development Coordinator)** - It has been a real joy to begin serving the churches and ministers in these first couple of weeks. Please pray for fruitful relationships to be built, characterised by a shared love for Christ and enthusiasm for the work of ministry. Pray that I have the wisdom to listen and learn from our churches and their leaders, and to recognise how my gifts and experience can best contribute to equipping the church for the mission the Lord has entrusted to us all.



Martin Hodson

