

January 2018



Dear Friends...

From the GROW Management Team

Dear Friends,

By the time you receive this newsletter the New Year will be well under way but I'm still going to take the opportunity to wish you all a blessed 2018. This season is always a time for reflection and for planning, for filling in some of the pages of a diary that still has some blanks in it! We are no different at GROW so before looking forward let's look back at the last few months.

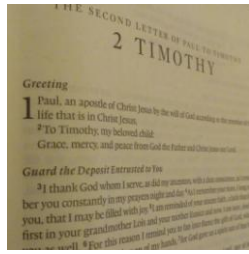
The Management Group have commissioned Chris Hinton from the Salvation Army with his IT and website expertise to create a new website for us. We are currently in the process of looking at the detail of the content – narrative, photos and links. We have also asked Gwyneth Duff, who many of you will remember as our first worker, to use her graphic design skills to update our original logo, developing the designs proposed by Sandra Davie, a member of our management group. This will allow us to use the artwork on all social platforms. It is a great testimony to the artistic skill of Catriona Weatherstone that our logo, created in 2003, is so well recognised in the area and we want to build on that success.

In October Karen Provan agreed to take on a secretarial function for GROW. We also thanked Craig Higgins for minute taking at management meetings.

During December there were 2 fundraising events for GROW and we are very grateful to Glenrothes Baptist Church who raised £250 for GROW with the Salvation Army Christmas Concert and to St Margaret's where the Bruce Davies concert raised £228. In 2017 there were several church fundraising events and together with the tremendous regular contributions we receive they genuinely keep the project going.

To look ahead into 2018, we are excited about the inter-generational work planned for Glenwood High School, the continued development of Soundwave, the coffee drop-ins and groups at the High School together with the launch of the website.

In Isaiah 43:19 the prophet warns the Israelites not to limit God to the way he has worked in the past for "see, he is doing a new thing." May we be open to all that he has in store for us in the coming year.



Hello...

Oskar Forbes – GROW Outreach Worker

Hello and Happy New Year!

There is so much to look forward to as we begin 2018. It's an exciting time for us in GROW as we begin to re-launch certain aspects of our work and as we embark on some new adventures for the New Year. Not only are we preparing to launch a new website and a new logo, we are also in the process of updating our Facebook page and have now opened accounts on Twitter and Instagram. To follow us on Twitter or Instagram, simply search *growyouthwork* and you'll receive regular updates (like the photos above) of what's happening.

One of the most exciting new ventures for 2018 is a new nine week intergenerational project; I am expecting to start *The Gener8 Course* in the next few weeks. The hope for this pilot scheme is to bring together a small group of younger and older people to build bridges between the generations, challenge stereotypes and to promote understanding and respect for one another. Intergenerational work has many benefits, including reducing the effects of loneliness in the two generations most at risk of experiencing it. There is still space to join the project and if you feel you would like to be involved (and are aged 65 or over), please get in touch.

Back in August we launched *Soundwave* a series of acoustic nights to be hosted by different churches throughout Glenrothes over the course of the academic year and in January we held the third event at St. Columba's Church. One of the greatest blessings to come from *Soundwave* is a growth in fellowship between different youth workers from across the town's churches. Youth workers, who did not know each other, have become friends, are regularly supporting and encouraging each other in their ministry and inspiring each other to use their gifts in different forms of ministry.



Please continue to pray for *Soundwave* and to encourage young people to attend. Our next event is planned for April and the venue will be confirmed in the near future.

In November five young people from Glenrothes came with us to Lendrick Muir for SU's Fife, Perth & Kinross Weekend Away. The weekend was the first experience of an SU residential for all of them and they thoroughly enjoyed it, with highlights of archery and ice skating amongst other activities. I am pleased to say that some of the young people will be joining us again at Lendrick Muir for the February weekend away where we will also be joined by a host of primary pupils from Glenrothes, for whom, this will also be their first SU weekend. Please pray for the Weekend in February and for the young people who are coming along from across the region. Pray for lots of fun, friendship, laughter and for a real sense of God's presence as we explore the book of Nehemiah together with a bit of help from the wonderful world of Lego.

In December our Christmas assemblies focused on news. We looked back at some of the headlines of 2017, examined the increasingly worrying rise in fake news and even dispelled some popular Nativity play myths. Our main message, however was that we can take great joy and encouragement from the real and good news of Jesus' birth. I hope and pray that as we continue on in 2018 that we will all find strength and hope in the truth of the Gospel and that we will grow in our understanding of our great and glorious God.

Upcoming Events

GROW PRAYER MEETINGS

Tuesday 13 February: Glenrothes Baptist Church – 7:30pm
Monday 26 March: Thornton Parish Church – 10:30am

RESIDENTIAL WEEKENDS

Perth, Kinross & Fife Secondary Weekend: Friday 2 – Sunday 4 February

If you would like to be notified on a monthly basis of GROW items for prayer please contact Oskar by phone on 07598804183 or by email at youthworker@grow-trust.co.uk