

Andy Giles' Prayer Update

13th October 2006



Well hello,

This is the first of what hopes to be a long line of prayer letters. When I was in Montenegro over the summer, I appreciated having prayer supporters back in the UK so much, that I didn't want to give that up. I am on as big a mission whilst at university as I was in Montenegro and for this, I need the support of my brothers and sisters in Christ. I am very thankful to know that I have the support of many in prayer already, but these letters aim to give you some things more specific to pray for.

For those who don't know, I've just begun my 3rd and final year studying computer science at Warwick University. I am also the evangelism secretary of the Christian Union (CU) here at Warwick. This means that I head up the evangelism which the CU does here at Warwick and I also aim to equip the members of the CU to live evangelistic lifestyles whilst they are at university and beyond so that as many can be won for Christ as possible.

So what's in store for this prayer letter? Read on to find out.

The largest thing on my mind is my role as Evangelism Secretary. Please pray that in my planning and preparation that I would remember that I am doing this for God's glory and not my own. Pray that I would be encouraging to the members of the CU and not burdensome – I desire to see all of them take hold of the Great Commission and run the race God has laid out for each of them. Praise the Lord that many already are. And pray that through the outreach of the CU and through peoples' personal evangelism, we may see people come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

God has been providing me personally, with many ways to share my faith. Last Monday night, I met **Adam and Kathy** whilst handing out free hot drinks outside the students union (this is something the CU does weekly to provide for people, show them love and also to seek opportunities to share our faith). I spoke to Adam and Kathy for about 90 minutes sharing the gospel and discussing many things about Christianity. They both took copies of John's Gospel and expressed interest in meeting up again. Pray that I would be bold to contact them and follow up this initial conversation and also that when I do, that I would get another opportunity to challenge them with the Gospel. Pray also for **Calyn** (pronounced Kay-lin). He is from Canada and is studying for one year at Warwick. I met him during International Students' Orientation Week and helped him carry his 80kg of luggage to his room. We have now begun to play squash together weekly. Pray that I would have opportunities to talk about my faith and that Jesus would be an unavoidable issue. He always asks me if I got drunk lately, pray this may lead to avenue to discuss my faith.

My third year project counts as 15% of my entire degree. So it is quite a significant piece of work. I aim to produce a bookings system for a gospel preaching childrens' holiday centre called The Oakes (this is where I worked on my gap year – for more info go to www.oakes.org.uk). To make it worthy of a 3rd year project however, I am using a form of software modelling called Empirical Modelling which has not been investigated for software development before. To be honest, I don't know where to start. I know that God

will lead me as he does with all my studies. Pray that I work at my project “as working for the Lord, not for men.”

I have also begun to disciple two friends from the Christian Union along with my best friend/accountability partner, Andy (it provides much amusement to our friends that we have the same name). Andy and I have been discipled since last Christmas by some people from a Christian organisation called Agape. And now we have started our role as disciplers. They are called **Guy and Travis**. We aim to encourage them to live a life glorifying God by seeking to know him and to make him known in every area of their lives. Pray that as Andy and I meet with them and share our lives with them that they would grow and fall more in love with Jesus. Pray also that Andy and I would grow through this experience and that we wouldn't mess up (even though this is likely since we are human, male and proud – so I guess a better prayer would be for us to learn *when* we mess up).

Well I guess that's about it for this first letter. I would like to end all of my prayer letters with what I am currently learning from my personal bible studies. So if I don't end subsequent letters with this, then you can ask me why I haven't been learning anything. These past few days, I have been learning about hope. 2 verse have struck me particularly.

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; **set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.**” (1 Peter 1:13)

“May the **God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may **overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**” (Romans 15:13)

We have such an immense eternity ahead of us. “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind had conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9). Yet we still choose to place our focus on the tiny trinkets which this world offers which pale into such unimaginable insignificance when compared to our future glory. Imagine the impact the gospel would have on this world if we stopped living for this world and set our hopes and sights on the world prepared for us since before time. In 1 Peter 3:14, Peter says we should always be prepared to answer people who ask why we have hope. If we truly lived in hope and with our eyes set on our true home, eternity with our Father in heaven, then people would be desperate to know why we hope and in whom we find our hope – Jesus Christ. Please pray Paul's prayer in Romans 15:13 for me, as I pray it for you too.

Thanks for praying,

With love in our eternal Lord Jesus,

Andy Giles

Ephesians 3:20-21

PS. I would be really encouraged to know exactly who is praying for me regularly. If you do decide you would like to regularly pray for me, then please let me know. You can tell me if you happen to see me, by contacting me on the details below or if your receiving this at South Sheffield Evangelical Church, you can tell my parents. I am looking to form a list of prayer supporters to support me not just in my ministry at university but also in my ministry when I leave. But more about that next time...