

Andy Giles' Prayer Update
16th June 2007



Hello once again praying friends,

Apologies first of all for the length of time it has been since I last wrote one of these letters to you. Life has been a little one tracked since then – revision and exams – it's not been the most of exciting of times if I am being honest. But more about that in just a moment. I just want to thank you once again for the prayers and support that you have given me over this past year. I feel truly blessed and encouraged by it, more than you could know, so please do continue.

I HAVE FINISHED MY DEGREE!!! After 3 years of study at Warwick University I have completed my computer science degree. My final exams finished just over a week ago and it is such a delight to wake up and not have to get down to revision. Even though this term has been a hard slog, I've had a great time because my housemates and I have been able to spend lots of time together which has just been immense fun. Thank you for all the prayers through this exam period – God really helped me through daily. The exams went generally well with a couple of tough ones thrown in to keep us on our toes. I find out my results on the 27th June.

I think most of you heard of the student who committed suicide a few weeks ago. It was certainly a shocking event and I don't think anyone knows why he decided to take his own life. On the surface of the campus, it seems that very few students were affected by this event, which I found quite strange finding it personally quite hard to deal with. But as time has progressed and more students have escaped the self focused exam season, it turns out that quite a few people have been struck by this event. I've heard of several people having a gospel related conversation on the basis of this. Also I was discussing the death with a friend of mine called Damon and God lead the conversation where I got to share the gospel with him, and my two housemates Adam and Chris whom many of you have been praying for for a while. So this is just another example of God taking a bad situation and getting his message of reconciliation out through it. Please continue to pray for the family and friends of the student who committed suicide (I think his name was Patrice, he was a student from Malaysia). Pray also that many more people would be challenged to think about the meanings of life and that they would be lead to the cross of Christ to find saving grace. Also pray for Adam, Chris and Damon that I may get to talk to them more about the gospel before the end of term (which is in 2 weeks).

Next week, the Christian Union are holding a mini-mission-week called Project PETE. PETE stands for post exam training and evangelism. As the name suggests it is a week of training on evangelism and then lots of actual evangelism taking place after the exam period when students have oodles of free time. Pray that many Christians would be involved and would dare to come and share their faith at the end of the academic year. Pray also that seeds would be sown, grown and harvested over the next week so more people will get to be with us in front of the throne in heaven.

So what does the future hold for me? Well over the summer, the Lord has decided to give me a brand new challenge with a new environment in which to share my faith.

I am hopefully becoming a barman in a pub in my home town in Dronfield. I was originally going to spend my summer at the Oakes (where I worked on my gap year) but God had other ideas. Please pray that as I apply for this work that God would direct my steps and lead me to the place where I can be most effective. The idea is to share the gospel with as many patrons as possible – in a friendly barman like manner. No doubt my uncle and granddad will also visit the pub where I will be working, so especially pray that I would be able to share the gospel with them as they do not yet know Jesus.

Then in September I will be beginning my year of evangelist training with the association of evangelists. I have written briefly about this in previous letters and as yet know little more than what I have written there. Basically the year will involve me travelling around with the 7 members of the association of evangelists experiencing the broad spectrum of evangelism and hopefully sharing the gospel with lots of different people in lots of different contexts. Please pray for the plans as they are fleshed out over the next couple of weeks. Pray also that the summer would be a great time for me to prepare spiritually for this intense year of training. More details of the year will hopefully be in my next prayer letter.

Finally I would just like to share what I have been revelling in during my bible study over the past couple of weeks. I have been studying Hebrews and have just been overwhelmed by the greatness of the new covenant we have in Christ compared to the old covenant with the law. My favourite verses are:

“Now there have been many of those [Levitical priests], since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”

The law of the Old Testament was not able to make anything perfect and therefore couldn't save us. But because Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice, the old law is removed and we are now counted righteous by God if we come to him through Christ. How brilliant is the Gospel?!?! We have to do nothing to gain this or to keep hold of it. Jesus will save us completely because he can always intercede to God on our behalf because he lives forever. Hallelujah!

Thanks again for all your prayers and support,

Your fellow ambassador for Christ,

Andy Giles

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