

Hello everybody from a Cold and windy Scotland,

It is just a little over a month since I returned from the States. I must admit it took me almost four days to get back into the swing of things between jet lag and getting just a little bit older, I hate admitting that but it is the truth. The trip to the States was a success and I thank you all for making it such a pleasurable time.

I have been busy since getting back; between the normal everyday things and catching up with everybody since I have been gone, time just seems to have slipped away.

The first big change on returning was the New Kirktonholme Primary School; the facility is spectacular in comparison with the old school building. I have had one meeting with Sandra McKenzie to discuss the new religious education curriculum so that we can have lessons prepared that follow along with the laid out education syllabus.

I have also had a similar meeting with Helen Nicol who is the head teacher at Greenburn Primary to discuss the education curriculum for the next year. I have asked Helen to allow me to spend more time during the week at the school. I want to take the opportunity to get to know the staff and the children better.

The youth club continues to grow and this past month we have had five new members. The new Kirktonholme Primary School building has made such a difference, we have been given more space and that has allowed us to do a lot more activities with the children; our outside activities at the youth club have stopped for the winter, it is absolutely freezing outside.

The Tuesday craft club took a different direction last month. The women decided that it was time that the men took a hands on role in the club, so George Pendlebury and I planned a craft activity for the children, I must say I really did enjoy the experience. I even helped with the painting.

The Tuesday Bible class is continuing to do well and I have had a lot of positive feed back and input from the class members. The discussion time has proved to be very fruitful and several people have opened up and asked that we pray for them.

The Lord has blessed us, last month Helen Chapman decided to place membership at West Mains. Gillian and I have known Helen for most of our lives and she will be a great asset to the church at West Mains. Please keep her in your prayers.

Hopefully I will have some good news on the building situation. I spoke to our local government official three weeks ago and told Alice that we were actively looking for a building of our own. Alice Mitchell has agreed to take up our case and she is currently trying to find us a piece of land that will suit our needs. Please pray that land will become available, there are so many other outreaches we can get involved in within the community by having our own place.

At this point in time all our AIM students have returned home and we are waiting to hear if we are to get another team next May so I would ask you to keep this in your prayers also.

As always, I thank God for your continued friendship, support and your prayers for the work in Scotland.

In Him
Alex