

Please Pray

For summer camps and the gospel opportunity that exists through them.

For good health and safe activities amongst the thousands who will visit our centres over the next 3 months.

For staff, who continue to do their job while carrying grief, pain, concern or heavy responsibility. May God protect and comfort them.

For the next generation. Several staff have had or are expecting babies. Please pray that they will grow up to know the Lord Jesus.

For ministers and pastors of our guest churches—as they take some time to relax and recharge over the summer months.

Give Thanks

For the recent staff appointments and the encouragement of meeting folk with servant hearts.

For the excitement of seeing schools in all our centres over recent months and sharing the gospel with them.

For the passion and concern in church leadership to see growth through residential ministry together.

For the life-changing power of the Gospel.

Another brick in the wall

As I write, we are in the midst of curriculum-based school residentials. These differ to the weekend ministry that goes on at Castlewellan, where extra-curricular Scripture Union groups from second level schools come to stay with their Christian leaders.

Spring term is often the 'big trip' for primary schools, as they head off in their final year before moving to second level. Schools will choose a variety of locations, and it is a competitive market.

Quinta has been at the forefront of providing school residentials for many years now, with Thirzah Deakin fulfilling the Schools Worker role, alongside her other centre responsibilities.

As well as the many activities on and off site, Thirzah has developed a range of curriculum-linked activities which present the gospel to the pupils.

Over the past few years, Castlewellan has dipped its toe in the schools market, initially appointing a Schools Worker in 2019, only to be derailed by COVID. Last autumn they re-established the work

with Joanne Heaney being appointed to lead it, and to support the general operation of the Castle.

This has been a journey of faith. Joanne has approached all booking enquiries with a clear communication of who we are, and how our programme will contain a clear gospel presentation. We realised that this may deter even the keenest of principals, but the result has been a season as full as we could cope with.



Cloverley has had a number of historic school residential bookings, but we have always taken them within non-primary purpose limits, as there was no gospel input, or overt advancement of the Christian faith built into their programmes.

Unlike the other two centres, schools using Cloverley designate it as an accommodation base and plan a range of off-site activities, which significantly limits the opportunity for Centre Ministries input to

the groups. This year, Nicky Porter & her team developed a number of activities, with a gospel lesson, which could be delivered in an evening, on the Cloverley site, as the teachers relaxed. This has been warmly received so far and has actually led to better working relationships with the schools.

It has been an exciting year, to hear & tell of the conversations that have taken place between our staff and the visiting children, as they struggle to comprehend how wide is the love of God...and we wonder why Jesus said we need to become like little children to enter the Kingdom?!

We are thankful for the principals and teachers who choose our centres to bring their pupils to. Please pray for them in the many pressures they face, not least in the confusion of our broken world and what is expected to be taught to little children.

We explain our ministry approach to enquiring schools, as simply presenting who we are and what Jesus means to us...

"We don't need no thought control."

...and nor do our kids! That's why this ministry is vital.

A Decade of Friends

Ten years ago I sent out my first 'Friends of Centre Ministries' Newsletter, as I took up this post.

I considered posting before & after photos to show you what working for a charity for ten years can do to a man...but I didn't want to frighten my younger colleagues into early retirement!

This newsletter has been a little reach out to folk who expressed support for me, or for this ministry. It has variously entertained, bemused, informed, bored and challenged readers! I have been able to share triumphs and tragedies, bereavements and blessings.

For someone who works alone quite a lot of the time, it has been cathartic to be able to share with others at times. Your encouragements, spoken or otherwise, have been the necessary spur to press on toward the goal.

Thank you for your continued interest and prayers.

***"To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips
shall repeat
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me" "***

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Quinta Hall
Weston Rhyn
SY10 7LR
or
ceo@centreministries.org

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www.quinta.org

www.cloverleyhall.org

www.castlewellancastle.org

space to grow

You prayed...

Over the past year or so, we have asked you to pray as we sought to fill a number of vacancies at Castlewellan.

We are all very aware that the employment market has been difficult since Furlough, and nowhere more so than in catering. The need for someone to cook and to oversee the related areas of food hygiene, dietary requirements, menu planning and food ordering, on a permanent basis eluded us for many months.

We are delighted to let you know that Karen Blakely has agreed to take on this role from next month.

Karen is no stranger to the Castle, having worked here previously, some years ago. Her husband, Alan, has been on staff for 20 years. She has also worked in commercial catering within National Trust, as well as overseeing the catering element of their family business in the past.

Karen will join Luke Harrison, who has been a faithful member of the kitchen staff since leaving school, and Serhii Kovalchuk, who joined us earlier in the year and is quickly getting to grips with large group catering.

We look forward to seeing the team grow together and learn from each other as they seek to serve God in this busy environment.

*"Pray until you can pray;
pray to be helped to pray
and do not give up
praying because you
cannot pray. For it is
when you think you
cannot pray that is when
you are praying."*

- Charles H. Spurgeon

We are so grateful for your prayers and hope that you are encouraged by the report of answered prayer.

We are also grateful to those who stepped in to ensure continuity during this period, and for the advances that were made in menu choice and processes.

If you are one of those folk who stop by the kitchen and comment on the lovely smells, or thank the cooks for their work - thank you for your encouragement.

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." | 1Thess 5:11

Space to Be

I'm usually quite general in the content of this newsletter, but quite often our managers hear stories of how individuals' lives have been transformed by God during their stay in our centres. Here are a couple of stories shared by groups visiting Cloverley recently:

"We had a truly amazing time. God did more than we could have imagined! 3 people gave their lives to Jesus; an unbelieving wife of one of our members was struck by the peace she felt when she arrived. She went on to accept the Lord and the couple are now working towards restoration of their marriage! Other members were filled with the Holy Spirit and healed of emotional and physical pain - they have testified to the whole church of this in their return home. Our young people enjoyed being together, swimming in the pool and playing hide and seek in the beautiful grounds. Many of our people said they were on cloud nine for several days after their return!"

"This was our first time organising our own weekend away and guest speaker. It has been amazing. Un-saved friends and family joined us for the weekend and Praise the Lord, we had 4 people make first time commitments and 2 more were baptised."

These are personal stories shared with permission, but they are a wonderful reminder that God deals with us on a personal level. The beauty of a Christian residential is that you can have space to share with others and space to be alone with God.

Are these the stories you yearn for in your fellowship? Maybe it is time to come away for a while... somewhere with **Space to Grow!**

New Life & Growth



Alistair shares a recent experience:

"I was pleased to join in with the New Life Conference key-workers day on Saturday 20th May.

"After lunch one of the main speakers shared with those present some words of encouragement for the run up to this year's conference. His main point was that everyone was working hard and planning 'to create an environment that is conducive to new life and to growth'. He had been delighted to see, on coming into Quinta that morning, our strap line was 'space to grow', and he tied the two together.

"I realised that if I am ever asked what Quinta is for, or what we do, or why we do it, the answer is because we want to create an environment that is conducive to new life and to growth. Hopefully you will see that reflected when you visit our Centre."

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace*

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