

IN THE SCHEME OF THINGS

February has been a super busy month for us at 20schemes. We had, what we call, raj week (crazy week) at the beginning of the month. This ran from the 10th to the 18th.

It started off with Candidates week. This is the time when those who have applied to work for 20schemes come from around the world to see what its like. They are placed in different church plants and given tasks to do and told to serve. They are observed all week, interviewed and assessed at the end of the week to see if they would be a good fit for working in the council estates of Scotland. As interns, the different candidates were buddied up with us so we could help them out and “show them the ropes”.

Towards the end of the following week, we had a vision trip. This is specifically for people who are partnered with 20schemes or those who are looking to partner with us in supporting the work going on here. I never actually saw much of the vision trip team as their trips are generally shorter and much of their time is spent in different church plants.

The final weekend of raj week culminates in the 20schemes weekender. For us, this is a massive event. Its a weekend of preaching and teaching meant to build up and encourage those in the UK and across the world in their ministry of church planting in hard places. All of our planters and teams come with their families, the vision trip people and candidates come, along with any randoms who come from the UK and abroad. Its also live streamed on the internet so those who aren't able to come can still gain from the conference. As you can imagine this kind of thing takes a massive amount of work to setup and run so everyone was busy with their own jobs, whether that was doing childcare, cooking food for everyone, teas and coffees for break time, running the sound and lighting and cameras, running sessions or participating in Q&A panels, and



The Clemens

Sarah and Rick Clemens are interns for 20schemes who arrived in Scotland just a few weeks before I got here. They have finished their internship on this side of the ocean and are moving back to the states to be with family and work for 20schemes stateside. They have been a big part of my life here for the last year and a half and I am really going to miss them. That is Sarah in the picture above. Please pray for them as they integrate back into life in the US and continue serving the Lord both in their personal lives and in their work.

7nUP

7nUP has been great the last couple of months. The kids have adjusted well to the newer routine of coming in, sitting down, having lunch and bible time, and then going off and doing their own thing to have fun. The behaviour has been so, so much better and recently it has been super encouraging to see the kids engaging in the bible time and asking questions (even if they are asked disbelievingly and condescendingly—they're asking questions which means they're thinking about what they're hearing). And because of the improvement in behaviour, the leaders have much more time to have meaningful conversations with the kids.

Prayer Points

Please continue faithfully praying for the needs in Niddrie and add Gracemount to your list. Some are the same because they are continual needs:

- Pray that the Lord would provide a male youth worker for Niddrie.
• Ultimately that each of the kids in both schemes will come to know Christ as their Saviour and treat Him as LORD of their lives.
• The physical protection of the kids.
• Wisdom for Natasha, myself, and others who help with all the youth stuff.
• Encouragement and perseverance for both the Niddrie and Gracemount teams. They have their own separate discouragements and trials.
• Their are some dodgy drugs circulating in Niddrie that have resulted in deaths and scary medical situations for some individuals. Pray for those affected and their families. Pray for the dealers. Pray for conviction of sin and repentance and belief in the gospel.
• Niddrie's church weekend away is coming up. Pray for believers to be built up in the gospel and for unbelievers to become believers through the worship of this weekend.
• You could pray for me and Charlie. We have decided that after we're married we will both be living and working in Gracemount. Niddrie has become home to me so leaving is going to be hard.

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

organising everyone and everything else.

The point: church planting is HARD. It takes time, money, energy. It takes your whole life. But it is what God has called us to do. Jesus said for us to go out into the world and make disciples of all nations and we can see over and over in the New Testament that He has used the church to do that. Without a healthy church being planted, their may be evangelism, but there will be no long lasting discipleship.

The following weekend, I was in charge of a group going to help with childcare for another church in the city called Grace Church Leith. See, many churches over here do a church-wide weekend away with each other. There are loads of old mansions that have been renovated to accommodate large groups of people so the church will simply rent it for a weekend of fellowship and worship. For Niddrie's weekend away (coming in a couple of weeks), you're looking at organising about 100 people with accommodation, food, childcare, transport, and worship sessions. Last year was obviously my first time doing this but it really was great. I'm looking forward to ours coming up at the end of the month.

But back to the childcare that I was in charge of. We have a partnership with Grace Church

Leith in which we organise childcare for their weekend away and they organise for ours. This weekend gave me a lot of practice with my organisational skills and it was only



Me, Daphne, and baby Abi during a Toddler's meeting (you cant tell in this photo but I'm wearing my pjs).



childcare. I had to recruit volunteers, make sure they were PVGd (had background checks), sort out lifts, and make up the lessons and the crafts for each age group. It doesn't sound like much (and for most people it wouldn't be) but for someone as unorganised as myself, this was a massive feat. But praise be to God, I was well prepared and well organised overall. That's called growth, people. Growth.

Then, on the 27th, we had our monthly women's training day in the scheme of Gracemount. All the women come together once a month to fellowship and listen to a devotion and a training session on different, relevant topics for working in a scheme. This month was on eating disorders and how to counsel women who struggle with them.

Another highlight for February was the snow! And I tell you, I have never seen so much snow in my life. The picture above isn't even the extent of it. With all the snow, the schools shut so we had kids in the building all week long, pretty much all day. It was great! They sat in the cafe with us and chatted or played games (football or dancing typically) in the big hall. It really was good just having them in the building and getting to know them better and build on relationships.

Everything I have talked about so far are just the highlights or unusual things that have happened this month. All of this had gone on along with our normal weekly schedule. The usual ministry stuff still ran for the most part.

Thanks so much for taking the time to read this. And thank you for all of your prayerful and financial support.

I'll hopefully see you soon!

Gracemount

Gracemount, like Niddrie, is a scheme on the outskirts of Edinburgh's city centre. And it, like Niddrie, is full of people lost and dying. The people in this scheme share many of the same struggles, alcohol, drugs, crime, sexual immorality. But their biggest and most desperate struggle is their sin and their denial of its existence. They need Jesus. And that is why a church has been planted in Gracemount by 20schemes. They need witnesses to the gospel getting involved in their lives and being apart of their community. And God has sent His workers into the harvest to reap what He is sowing.

Like I have already said, church planting is hard and draining work. The plant in Gracemount launched on Easter Sunday almost a year ago. In that year, there have been many difficulties and trials. Family members have died, children in the community have died, mothers have committed suicide, and everyone has suffered. The team has been hammered and bashed about by Satan. But there have also been many encouragements and the team continues to press on in the hope of the gospel. People are coming to prayer meetings, social events, Sunday morning and evening services, the kids ministry is still flourishing. Just a couple of weeks ago, Gracemount Community Church had its own baptism service and three people publicly professed their repentance and faith in Christ Jesus in front of their unbelieving family and friends and their new Christian brothers and sisters. Pray for these new believers, that they will hold fast to Jesus as He holds fast to them. Pray for the team, that God will strengthen them and they will persevere for His glory. Pray that God will continue to reap a harvest in the scheme of Gracemount.