



# A Season of Reaping

It's been a lively start to the new academic term. The first week of January was spent up in Birmingham at the UCCF New Year Conference hearing from Christopher Ash on Ruth and many wonderful teachers helping us as a team to be equipped for the following year.

Katie and I then jetted off to the warm climate (kind of...) of Northern Ireland for a week as we caught up with family and friends before getting back to Canterbury to see students settling in after the Christmas break.

We've spent a large amount of time this term planning *STORY Canterbury* and trying to push harder than ever before on making this the best possible platform in which students can hear the gospel. The excitement is building as we look forward to evangelists Michael Green and Michael Ots leading us in engaging with the campus' biggest questions. There is a big launch night next week (28 Feb) as we look to get word out there about what's happening on campus.

This past month has also seen Sam Allberry from the charity Living Out come and engage with 150 (16-30s) on the Bible and same sex attraction. This event was hosted by local churches and was a joy to be a part of. The last week was then spent with the University of Essex CU; it was a week of great fun and fruit as I got to lead my first missions week. I've explained more below but it was a week of great joy.

Now the attention turns to Bournemouth CU's mission week (next week) and then Canterbury the following week. These are exciting weeks but we will need to be embedded in much prayer!



## The Bible and Same Sex Attraction

Sam Allberry, a leading speaker on the topic of same sex attraction came to Canterbury a couple of weeks ago to equip us on the Bible's take on it. It's become such a large topic that churches across Canterbury decided to come together and put on this event. It was a wonderful evening in which around 150, 16-30s, came and enjoyed Sam sharing from the Bible and his experience followed by an extended Q&A.

We are very grateful to him for spending the time with us as we came away with a much clearer view of what the Bible has to say about same attraction. The prayers are that as a city we will be able to be a light on this issue and be a real blessing to the communities we find ourselves in.



## Something More - Uni of Essex Missions Week

I had the privilege of partnering with Essex CU as they hosted their mission week entitled 'Something More'. At the end of January I spoke at their weekend away on Philipians before joining them last week.

We looked deeper into the theme of 'something more', engaging with the big objections to the Christian faith in the afternoon and pointing back to Jesus in the evening. We saw around 10-11 people express a belief in Christ over the three days of mission with around 20 more wanting to know more from the CU about the Christian faith.



## STORY Canterbury

The week is almost upon us; from 6th-10th March, we will see the largest student mission week in Canterbury that we'll have seen in a number of years. The days will start with morning prayers in Pret at 7.45am followed by handing out flyers on university campuses at 9.30am. The lunch events will be tackling the big questions on campus such as 'What would Jesus say to Donald Trump?'. We will then have international events at 6pm with a dinner, allowing them to enjoy a simpler English version of the talk.

This will then be followed by evening events in Westgate Hall, looking at the life of Jesus. We are really excited about all that lies ahead. Please do message me if you have any further questions or if you want to partner with us further in prayer or by helping practically.





Top left: The lovely morning frost up in Birmingham! A joy



Top right: They're a praying CU and I love that they make it a priority as we look to see the Lord moving in STORY Canterbury.

Bottom right: I got to go to SENT 17 with UCCF and help equip people in Uncover and also see student workers united around it as a resource.

Bottom left: The wonderful Essex CU at their weekend Away. I loved my time with them.

## Prayer & Dates

- Bournemouth CU mission week (**27th Feb-3rd March**). It's our UCCF South East team mission week, as we will all head to Bournemouth to help equip their CU and serve them practically throughout the mission. I speak on the Monday evening on 'Convinced I know how to be happy'.
- STORY Canterbury (**5th-10th March**). Starting on the Sunday evening, we will see students gather to hear from evangelist Michael Green before starting our week-long mission.
- FORUM South East (**10th-12th March**). New CU leaders are taking over and we will take them to Basingstoke to equip them in their new roles.
- Committee Planning Weekend (**17th-19th March**). A chance to get thinking on the vision for the next year as we take a back step from the week to week running of CU.
- Team Days (**22nd-23rd March**). A chance to gather as a team again after a busy period

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