

Hello friends,

I know you've all been anticipating the first prayer letter of my LCM year and here it is, don't be too excited now!

The team all arrived safely last weekend, we have a total of 11 people on the city vision scheme who are: Matt, Jacob, Jess, Louisa, Maria, Karen, Rachel, Steph, Anna, Sarah and me of course. We have two team leaders who live at base with us, keeping us in check, and they are Paul and Sheila. Please pray for Paul and Sheila that God will give them patience and wisdom as they share life with the team.

The first week of the year was a time for the team to bond and build relationships. It's only been a week but the team is close and everyone seems to be getting on which is amazing. I want to thank God for that and pray that he will continue to be the centre of our friendships and that we will grow together. This is so important because we need each other for comfort and encouragement; we are family for this year.

Today is the first day that we are working on our districts apart from those who are on cleaning duty (i.e. me). I ask you to pray for all the team members as we are taken out our comfort zones and put in situations where we need to completely lean on the Lord. I pray that it will be him working through us, his love and grace reaching the people we are sharing time with. Other things to pray for are strength and endurance to get through the long days, wisdom and a listening ear for conversations and love for the people we meet.

May the passions of the Lord be our passions and may the things that break his heart, break ours.

My placement is working in Café Forever in the Isle of Dogs, where I can see the business empire of Canary Wharf from a community where there are areas of poverty. God willing, I'll be building up relationships with members of the community over a coffee. I will also be hanging out with the kids and youth through clubs, meeting people through art classes and engaging people in Christianity explored classes and bible studies. I ask for prayer that God will provide me with boldness to spark up conversations, that I am an image bearer for Christ and that I can show people I meet the radical love that Jesus showed people when he walked the earth.

If you can also pray for the team that I'm working with at the Café and that we will build good friendships with each other.

To conclude, I ask that through this year I will discover God's calling for my life and the gifts he has given me to use to advance his Kingdom on earth.

Grace and Peace to you all my dear brothers and sisters.

Paul