

International Students Annual Report

(for year ending 30 September 2008)

Area of Responsibility

International Student work at P's& G's has two aims: supporting and encouraging Christian students and attempting to reach out to non-Christian students. We do this by organising outings and indoor events in No 40 and in team members' homes. Contact is made through the international student intranets at Edinburgh and Queen Margaret Universities, language schools and the Wee World Café organised under the auspices of Friends International.

We are showing God's love to the large number of people from overseas who are studying in Edinburgh and stimulating in them an interest in the Christian faith

Summary of preceding year

An increasing number of students have attended our events and it is always encouraging to see people coming regularly and bringing their friends. On a few occasions we could not meet the demand for places and had to start a waiting list. Countries represented include Poland, Australia, Botswana, Rwanda, China, S Korea, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, France, Ukraine, USA, Canada, Russia.

After the Activity Fair last November, we had a good response to our request for more team members.

We organised 5 outings, 4 indoor events and a barbecue. Although the outings are popular, students really enjoy being welcomed into a Scottish home and the hospitality, provided by the McDowell's (Christmas Tea), the Hornes (At Home), the Martins (Easter Play lunch) and the Snellers (Barbecue), seems to make a lasting impression on the students and is a tangible way of expressing Christian love to the stranger.

In July, David Jeffrey led three walks which involved climbing the 7 Hills of Edinburgh. Hopefully these will be a regular feature of our programme as walks provide a chance for more in-depth conversations with the students.

In January, the team lost one of its most faithful members when Gwyn Higham died. Gwyn was a willing driver and could always be relied upon. Her pawky sense of humour made very popular with the students and the others in the team. Gwyn is greatly missed.

Targets for this year (Where we're going...)

To continue to provide outings and hospitality
To encourage team members to link up with students on an individual basis
To run a bible study where there is a demand.

Resource Implications for the coming year

None

Marjory Horne