

CIS Newsletter

(Summer 2019)



Christian
Initiative to
Schools



in partnership with



Scripture Union

Registered charity no 1104698.

“That’s not Pontius Pilate, that’s Mr. Baker!”

Wisdom and Courage

We thank God that we have good access to our schools in this area, so that we can offer a Christian viewpoint to so many young people. **Wisdom** and **Courage** are two themes that Christopher Baker, our Schools Worker, has spoken about in assemblies in our schools this term, with great responses from both the pupils and the staff.

I recently met two very young pupils from a Junior School in Letchworth. In the course of our conversations I asked if they knew Christopher. Their eyes lit up. “Oh yes, we know Mr. Baker!” He had evidently made quite an impression on even the youngest ones.

Young and old alike are bombarded these days with difficult choices to make and some minority pressure groups try to force us all into making the wrong choices. It is good to be reminded that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of **wisdom**” (Proverbs 9:10) and that, through Jesus’ work on the cross and the Holy Spirit’s power, God gives us the **courage** to speak and work for Him.

Please pray for wisdom for Christopher as he challenges and encourages our young people.

Pray too for the CIS Trustees who are responsible for supporting Christopher. We have recently been given a generous gift and we need wisdom to know how God wants us to use the money.

(Roger Aldridge, Trustee)

Christopher Baker's Report

As I write, we've only 4 weeks to go until the end of another academic year. A year that has seen us able to continue involvement in primary, junior and secondary schools in Letchworth and District as the doors remain open to us. And God is opening new doors as schools are asking for more involvement within their assembly and RE programmes, something we can really praise God for.

The Hubs and CUs have continued to meet each week with numbers attending of up to 10. With one particular Hub I will be saying 'goodbye' to a number of pupils who have been coming along since they were Year 7s. They have been regularly attending over the past 6 years, with only exams preventing them from having a 100% attendance! Within that group has been a Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl and Prefects. I've seen them grow and mature in their Christian faith and be a witness to their peers. I will miss them as they leave and go on to University or Gap Year, but know that God goes before them and will be with them as they take the next step into all that He has for them. It's been a privilege to have been able to serve them and know them.

The SPACE mat is coming together and hopefully will be in action in the Autumn Term. We are hoping that this will create more opportunities for involvement in schools alongside the already existing work.

The It's Your Move Presentations have been going well with the Year 6 pupils in the primary and junior schools in our locality. This year we have an updated book to hand out and we pray that the children will benefit from all that is written within it, particularly the testimonies of pupils who have moved up to secondary schools in previous years.

A few weeks ago we celebrated Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the early followers of Jesus as recorded in Acts 2. Through the Holy Spirit at work within them they were empowered to speak out boldly to the thousands of people from all over the world who had gathered to celebrate in Jerusalem. As Peter spoke about Jesus, of what He came to do, His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, those listening, Luke records, were 'cut to the heart.' The Holy Spirit convicted them of their sin and their need to get right with God. About 3,000 repented and were baptised on that day, and the early church grew and flourished.

In Disney's new film version of Aladdin there is a song that is sung by Princess Jasmine called 'Speechless.' The words are incredibly powerful, as powerful as the words from the song 'This is Me' from the Greatest Showman. Here are just a few:

I won't be silenced
You can't keep me quiet
Won't tremble when you try it
All I know is I won't go speechless

Even though Peter, John and the early followers of Jesus were told not to speak about Jesus they were unable to keep silent. In Acts 4, after healing the beggar who was lame on their way to the temple, they explained what had happened to the crowd. When the rulers called them to account for their words and actions they were told not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. However, Peter and John said this:

"Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:19-20)

The disciples were not silenced. They were not speechless. Although they were arrested, persecuted, even executed, they continued to speak and teach in the name of Jesus. The Good News of Jesus spread over the known world and continues to do so as followers of Jesus continue to serve and minister in His name. In Acts 4:12 we read these words of Peter: "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Jesus is the only one who can save us from our sin, bring forgiveness to our lives, and give us new and everlasting life, life in all its fullness and richness through our relationship with God. As followers of Jesus that is the message we are to communicate with those who don't know Jesus. And that includes within our schools. We have to be wise in how we put the message across, but that message is being communicated. We are not silent or speechless. God has entrusted us with a task and with your practical help and prayers we are fulfilling it.

Thank you again for your support for the work of CIS.

Christopher Baker
(Schools' Worker)

Events to pray for:

July Assemblies at:

St. Francis College Prep. - 8th July (including leavers' assembly)
Etonbury Academy - 9-11 July (KS2, KS3, KS4)
St. Mary's C of E Academy, Stotfold - 16th July
Grange Academy - 17th July

July It's Your Move Presentations to Year 6:

Grange Academy 3rd; Stonehill School 4th; St. John's Baldock 9th

Christopher speaking at New Life Church on 28th July.

The SPACE mat resource - self-discovery lessons for Secondary Schools. Hoping to be ready for the Autumn Term.

Staff and pupils - that they will be able to rest and relax with their families during the Summer break.

Rest and refreshment for Christopher.

CIS Barn Dance - Saturday 7th September at St. Paul's Hall

see the details on a separate flyer and put it in your diary!

CIS Concert - Friday 13th September (Baldock Methodist Church

see the details on a separate flyer and put it in your diary!

The CIS Annual Celebration - Tuesday 15th October at Grange

Baptist Church - see the details on the separate flyer and put it in your diary!

CIS Quiz Night - Friday 1st November at LGCC - put it in your

diary!

Data Protection Statement

Christian Initiative to Schools (CIS) will use the information you provide to send you relevant news of our work, and sometimes about our needs. We will treat your information with respect. For more information about our privacy practices please contact the Data Protection Trustee

at dpt@cisletchworth.org

Safeguarding

You can see our safeguarding policy on our website at <http://www.cisletchworth.org/contact-us/4585639654>

