



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



God is about to give birth to His plans, purposes and promises over Growing Through as He continues to encourage me to keep expanding the vision, though it tarry, and expect the unexpected! We have certainly been in the birthing pains of Growing Through for several years now. If you've ever given birth in the natural you will know that when the pain is intense, and you want to give up, (even though you can't), you

keep reminding yourself that it is a productive pain and it will be worth it in the end! I can totally relate to this intense period of labouring that I have been in, with so many development projects ongoing, refining and deepening the roots of the infrastructure of the charity to make it future proof.

It is with relief and joy that the development plan for Growing Through, which will outline how we grow in the next 10-20 years has now been completed. I want to thank Lynda Gould from NICVA who assists with faith engagement charities, who was such an amazing help and encouragement to me. She kept me on track and challenged me to expand and clarify the vision and expect more than what we were expecting! We can so limit ourselves when we don't visualise our purposes and plans through GOD given lens of the impossible! It will be a living document, which is a term that can be used to describe a document that will be continually referred to as the framework of your charity/business. However, it will be subject to regular revision due to the ever-changing environment of our culture that we are exposed to. In our case it will be utilised at our annual general meeting, which meets in September, to review and plan forward and set goals for the following year.

We are also now moving into a long-awaited harvest season following our partnership with the Action for Children which has resulted in seven confirmed referrals for the next Pot of Gold Support Group, with



another possible two more children in the pipeline. We plan to recommence the group in Greenisland Baptist on 1st October and it will be so good to get back and do the groups face to face, instead of online. The pandemic really knocked things off our normal pathway and routine with the kids' groups, so it will be strange being back, but exciting and full of great expectations of what God is going to do with the kids. Please pray the Lord will be in our midst ministering to the children in His own personal and special way and that we as a team would be in tune with His spirit.

We do have referrals through the hub for Rays of Light, but none have been confirmed as yet so please do pray that they will bear fruit, and we can get at least four to five teens who will commit to coming. However, we will have to run with this group in the new year as it would be unwise mentally and emotionally for me personally to run three groups at the same time. But I will look forward with anticipation to renewed beginnings with teen group in 2025.

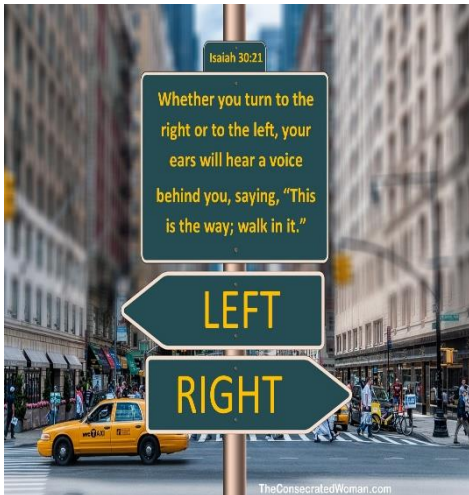


I mentioned in my last newsletter that I had been invited to set up another GriefShare support Group in Carrickfergus Elim. This has been in full organisation mode for a number of months now as I needed to update all my documents in line with the new updated version of the programme that they had. I'm happy to report that I have been able to formulate a team of three people to help me and that I took them through the paces of facilitator training at the end of July. There has been good interest so far and I have six confirmed pre-registrations prior to it starting on the 23rd of September. I'm really looking forward to embarking on this new journey in the Elim with GriefShare and seeing how God shows up again to minister to the broken-hearted. I'm always amazed how God turns up in this group and connects with people where they're at in their grief journey to bring comfort and hope.

Even after nineteen years of doing GriefShare there are always new revelations that even I get each time. Thirty years on from the death of my husband I have to acknowledge that I'm astounded that God continues to use me with this group. Although it is such a privilege, it doesn't stop me from asking myself how I can relate to people so far down the line! However, God always proves me wrong and gives me those



special moments when I can connect and counsel on a deeper level with people and bring revelation, breakthrough and hope. God is so good and so faithful, even when I doubt myself. Please pray for GriefShare that Gods presence will bring comfort, strength and hope in the midst of pain and emotional distress. Also pray for the new team that they grow in confidence and feel comfortable as the programme progresses.



God has been speaking to me lately through Isaiah 30v21

‘And your ears shall hear a word behind you, Saying, “This is the way, walk in it”’

It certainly seems that God is making a way and opening doors on lots of levels. These last few

months of hard labour have borne much fruit, and I give glory to God for His direction, wisdom and grace as we have ploughed the field for bereavement support and reaping the harvest of all the hard work. He has prepared the way in so many creative ways as Colossians 1v17 declares: ‘And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.’ Along with your partnership in prayer and support, God is the backbone fabric of our work that weaves His precious word and grace thought all the programmes and it all certainly holds it all together. Bless you abundantly for your faithful hearts and persevering with us and I pray you will reap a harvest of blessings for your all your support.

Your sister in Christ

Mary Gault

PRAISE POINTS:

- Thank you for doors opening up through the Action for Children to get referrals for Pot of Gold and Rays of Light.
- Praise The Lord for all the help from NICVA to extend our vision and the completion of the Growing Through Development Plan for the next 10+ years

PRAYER POINTS:

- GriefShare Adult Support group and Pot of Gold are all about to commence in the next few weeks so please pray that God will undertake and bring His comfort, peace and wisdom as we engage with everyone and bring the message of hope!

CONTACT DETAILS:

- mary@growingthrough.co.uk to make an enquiry or a referral
- www.growingthrough.co.uk to check out our resources or make a donation to our work.

