



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



Psalm 9:1 declares, 'I will give thanks and praise the Lord, with all my heart; I will tell aloud all your wonders and marvellous deeds.' This scripture portrays fully my heart of thanksgiving as Growing Through celebrates thirty years as a charity. Its founders, Jewell and Dale Erickson established the charity in Birmingham back in 1995, and there have been many changes and transitions since then to help grow and build the charity to what it is today. I personally have been involved for twenty years,

and we have so much to give thanks for, so it was only fitting that we decided to incorporate a public celebration into our AGM on 2nd September. We were so overjoyed and thankful to see so many people join us to support us and mark the occasion, making it an enormous success! We also were able to set up zoom links for others who were geographically unable to attend and to allow Jewell and Dale to participate and have an input into the evening as well. We invited a guest speaker, Lynda Gould, who is head of Faith engagement for NICVA, and has been so supportive and helpful to me, as a lone worker, to help assist, advise and encourage me how to navigate and steer the charity with good governance and with so many other projects. As always, she was extremely encouraging with the Board and those who attended, giving plenty of insights and wisdom to keep us going for another thirty years!



Additionally, the AGM was a wonderful opportunity to launch and showcase our new leaflets, for Growing Through, Pot of Gold and Rays of Light, designed by Grit & Grace Designs, which turned



out amazing. Personally, after working on them for so long and coordinating with the designer, Danielle, it was immensely satisfying to see them finally in print! Surprisingly, the public celebration also had some unexpected benefits in that there was substantial donations given of £385 which will help offset the cost of the printing of the leaflets, so we were incredibly grateful. Since the celebration, I have also had four people

approach me to volunteer to help with the groups and hopefully come on to the board as well. I am currently evaluating their skills and where I think they will fit into the equation of either direct support with the groups, or as new members and trustees of the board. One of the main roles we are looking for as a trustee, is someone who can do fundraising and apply for funding and grants on our behalf. If you feel you have skills in this particular area and could spare a few hours a week to support us,



please contact me on the details below. We had already welcomed and trained a new volunteer recently, Karen, who is going to help with Rays of Light, but it looks like there will be additional training to be done in the near future, which is always very exciting!

Leading up to the celebration, I had been praying and enquiring of the Lord for Growing Through for some weeks, and I wasn't disappointed with his replies and encouragement to take us through the next chapters in the life of Growing Through going forward. He shared some beautiful words of encouragement with

me, but there was part of his discourse that I would like to specifically focus on that I feel is appropriate to share. He told me that Growing Through was a kingdom building giant with massive potential and possibilities and he wanted to build a kingdom enterprise. He continued, endorsing that we were kingdom-builders carrying a national treasure of Gods' word, love and care to these precious children and bringing it to the nations. He reassured me that even though in the natural, its development may seem slow, comparing it to the mustard seed parable, that this was important as it is such a specialised ministry that we needed to take great care in its development as these children are vulnerable and hurting. Again, the lesson here is gaining balance and being content in the 'in-between period' of our exponential circumstances of the 'now' and learning to stand on the promises of the positional truth of God's word over Growing Through, that He will 'watch over his word to perform it and bring it to the fulfillment that he has purposed it for.' Certainly, over the years there have been many people who have been kingdom investors and builders in Growing Through, with each one contributing bricks like 'living stones' in its foundation and building its infrastructure and helping it grow. If you are reading this, you have been partnered with us in some way over the years and I want to thank you wholeheartedly for all your financial contributions, prayers, support, personal involvement, for whatever period of time that you have invested in Growing Through. You are valued beyond measure, and we at Growing Through are so grateful for your investment in whatever form.

Moving forward into the next season and chapter, we are about to commence Rays of Light teen group with eight confirmed teens registered, which is an unprecedented number of compliance for a teen group. Most of these referrals have come from the regional family support hub that I attend every month. Our next big project is to update Rays of Light, which is long overdue, so we plan to

evaluate its content as we run the group and hopefully get some valuable insights from the teens as to how to connect with them therapeutically in a relevant way. Please keep us in prayer as engage with the teens to bring God's comfort and wisdom into their pain and personal circumstances, and for divine inspiration as we refine and update the Rays programme.



As we acknowledge this amazing landmark and milestone in the life of Growing Through, let us commemorate its progress and development to date and dedicate its potential and future to God in thanksgiving and for His glory. Phillipians 1:3-6 (AMP) collectively epitomises my heart at this trajectory point in its history and going forward saying, 'I thank God in every remembrance of you, always offering every prayer of mine with joy (and with specific requests) for all of you, thanking God for your participation and partnership (both your comforting fellowship and gracious contributions) in advancing the good news (regarding salvation) from the first day you heard it until now. I am convinced and confident of this very thing, that he who begun a good work in you will (continue to) perfect and complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.' I want to acknowledge the value your partnership as faithful supporters of Growing Through and your investment in its growth over so many years.

Your sister in Christ,

Mary Gault



To make a donation:

www.growingthrough.co.uk/donate

For further information contact:

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