

TYM Youth Church Weekend Residential – Report Ashford, Kent. 24th - 27th May 2019

It is always a pleasure to write a report after our youth church weekend residential. This year's trip was special in many ways. It was a new venue, different facilities, and improved accommodation. And sadly, it was my last trip with the young people. We had a fantastic three days of worship and prayer, teaching, fellowship, and loads of activities and games. Twenty-two people from TYM plus our speaker went on the trip.

We arrived in Ashford, Kent on Friday 24th May at 7:15 pm. Being a new venue young people explored the area for a while. Later we had our dinner and then allocated rooms to young people. To set the scene for the weekend we had late night worship – sang few worship songs, read the bible and prayed. We went to bed around midnight.

Saturday was a very packed itinerary. After breakfast, we went straight into our worship and teaching session. Our speaker Josh Smith did the first of his two talks. He spoke from Luke Chapter 15. Talked about the Kingdom of God and focused on the parable of the Lost Coin, and did an amazing work relating the story to young people's experience. The adult leaders were asked to do a skit to illustrate the point Josh was making in his talk. It was very funny and helped the young people to connect with the story. After the talk, we continue singing more worship songs and gave young people a chance to respond to the talk. And I'm pleased to report that four new young people gave their lives to Christ that morning. Praise the Lord!!

After worship, we went straight into two activities (High Equilibrium and Abseiling). This was followed by a lunch and three activities (Buggy Build, Nightline and Football game). We then had our second teaching and worship session. And Josh looked at the Prodigal son story. In response, a lot of the young prayed for a deeper walk with God. Dinner was followed by one more activity (Scrapheap Challenge). After this, we were all knackered and had free time to chill –playing board games and chatting until bedtime.

Sunday morning we had our own worship service and one of the young adult (Emma) did the talk. The young people led the service – they did the prayers and Bible reading and it was beautiful and encouraging. Our first activity was Archery and after that a chill out time and then lunch. In the afternoon, we had two more activities (Orienteering and Swimming). Next was Dinner and after that was Campfire where we enjoyed lovely toasted marsh mellows. Later in the evening, we had short worship followed by one of my highlights of the trip - Circle Time. We all sat in a big circle and with one big candle at the center, we lit a candle for each person. We prayed, listened and encouraged one another. It was lovely and deeply moving to hear the young people speak so positively with 'prophetic' and encouraging words to each other. We finished at 1:00 am. I love this part so much and, oh we paused for a short break, and had hot chocolate and some nibbles.

The final day was Monday. After breakfast, we had our two last activities (Aerial Runway –Zipwire and Aero ball). This was followed by lunch and after that, we departed for home arriving in London at 3:30 pm. What an amazing trip we had. We give thanks to God and are very grateful for your amazing support and prayers. On the feedback sheet, we asked young people to share what they have learned and experience of God during the three days. Here are a few quotes some of the young people wrote down. And also below are some photos from the trip.

"When I listened to 10, 000 Reasons, I felt like I experienced God and He was telling me to forget the past"

"I felt like God has touched me this weekend and that He is with me for the rest of my life"

"I've learned that no matter where you are, who you are, God will always be there for you"

"That I know He is in my heart"

"That God really moves people emotionally. Yea I emotionally felt connected to God"

"That God is always here for us and we just have to let Him in".

"In the circle time something was put in my head and without telling him, Leon said it"

"He is like the rope to the abseiling"

"He helps his children"

"That God loves us and always there for us"





Nicholas Lebey

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