

July 4th 2009: Valedictory, and Independence Day for the level 3's. Three years of studying for what was to be a huge step of faith into ministry.

I finished college ready to move not to my home five miles away in Poole but to uproot and move to Larbert, Scotland. My level three placement had resulted in God opening the door for me to work in a Pentecostal AOG church in Scotland. This was exciting as I could put into practice what I had learnt. When applying for jobs naturally you look at the location and salary, no matter what job you go for, you want to know its location and if you can live on what is on offer. For me, God told me to work as a part-time volunteer in the church! I didn't expect it to result in a huge step of faith, as my jobs fell through to support me financially but God didn't, he stepped in, enabling the church to help me with gifts and people in church supporting me, by what can only be said to be "God's prompting".

Being called into training as an assistant pastor at 22 is scary, I didn't feel like a 'pastor' and still don't. My title as Pastoral assistant is just a title, unless I act and work in that capacity, it's just a job, living and working in that title is a calling. My role in the church involves preaching, teaching and heading up 'Connect', our church's 18-30's group for singles. It's an opportunity for us to come together, chat, pray, eat ridiculous amounts of food and share what is going on in our worlds. We recently took on John Burke's 60:60 challenge. This calls us, for 60 days, every 60 minutes to be in touch with God and be open to his will, a book and challenge which will step your relationship with God to a whole new level!

Recently the Pastors' daughter who leads worship moved to Sydney to study at Hillsong college, leaving a gap in the worship team and midweek meeting. So another area I have been called into is worship, I love playing but as for leading? My comfort zones in church work are shrinking fast!

My year has seen people I have come into contact with make decisions for Christ, and go through waters of baptisms. But it's not always easy, I have seen people walk away from church life, kids see parents break up and move out. This is where we can't do anything and I have realized it is as these times our words are nothing. Its at these points I have found myself saying, "God I need your wisdom and words" and he has been faithful to provide words, actions and possibilities! Situations change when God is invited in.

So, my first year of working voluntarily has resulted in being asked onto the Leadership team for another year as a paid staff member. Currently going through my probation period with the Assemblies of God UK. Church life is such an adventure, the people keep you busy, but we need to keep ourselves going in our walk. "Draw near to me and I will draw near to you," James 4:8 is an invitation by God to have a relationship. We have to take the first step. So as leaders we are to feed his flock with words of teaching and encouragement, but don't neglect yourself either. Keep pressing on!

Be Blessed,
Andy Campbell (2009 Graduate)