



Ventures Update

Summer 2011

Foundations of prayer

www.ventures.org.uk

VENTURES

Life changing holidays for 8-18s



In our house when we have something which we don't know whether to keep, it almost always finds its way into our garage. This works well until the small path I try to maintain from the door to the bikes at the end becomes impassable. It's at this point that I spend an afternoon filling the car with stuff that had previously seemed essential to keep, but can now make its way to the tip. Clutter has a tendency to accumulate – in our house anyway!

The Israelites had spent 40 years in the wilderness picking up clutter on their way from Egypt to the Promised Land. And in Joshua chapter five as they ended their time in the wilderness they were ready to de-clutter and put themselves right with God.

What they did was full of significance. They demonstrated their obedience, remembered their redemption, offered God their very

best, and ate yeast free bread to show that they were ready to leave their old life behind.

The preparations for Ventures can be full of practical planning and sometimes it's difficult to find the time to prepare one's own heart and mind for the work of proclaiming and living out the good news of Jesus Christ.

For the people of Israel, spiritual preparation was vital. It was a time for them to get things right with God. The results were impressive: their enemies lost courage. This was particularly amazing since on the surface the Israelites were a bunch of refugees.

Certainly there will be hard work for leaders on Ventures in the weeks ahead. But with God on our side the possibilities of what can be achieved are truly inspiring.

For those who are not leading we have an opportunity to stand alongside those who are. As we pray for those who are leading we can support their work of proclaiming God's message of hope and salvation.

So, as we prepare for the fantastic, fun filled, life-changing holidays let's prepare our hearts and minds for the work that is ahead of us. Your prayers are vital for the success of all we hope to achieve. I hope we can count on you to stand alongside us in prayer to enable children and young people to meet Jesus Christ, get to know him better, and in turn lead others to him.

David Hart
Director, Ventures
and Falcon Camps



Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until they had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.

Joshua 5:1, TNIV



Join us in praying for this summer's Ventures.
Visit www.ventures.org.uk/praying
for resources and ideas.

They asked, God answered

What's the link between a Swiss ski slope and a Surrey boarding school? They both played host to Venture holidays this Easter!

Despite the diverse locations, feedback from the holidays has been pretty consistent – young people had a huge amount of fun, learnt new things about themselves and others, and met with Jesus in surprising, challenging and life-changing ways.

Easter Haslemere

'Easter 2011 has just given me such an amazing knowledge of God and what he wants me to do with my life. Everyone at Haslemere has been amazing to me and encouraged me all the way. Recently I had a long prayer session with God on the way to work to be more like Christ in everything I do. From the moment I got to work I noticed a difference in me and I am so thankful.'

Richard, aged 17

Ski Switzerland

A great week despite a distinct lack of snow! Some answers to prayer:

- Hearing older members sharing how significant the Venture has been in their journey of faith.
- Seeing members engaged and challenged by the worship and teaching.
- A great sense of community on the slopes.
- A strong team of leaders who worked very well together.

Bridgwater

Bridgwater was excellent!

Answers to prayer include:

- Deeper relationships with God.
- Seeing young people grow in character and confidence.
- An inspiring programme.
- Brilliant new leaders.

'I first started coming to these camps back in Easter 2010 and now I've been on four and each one gets better and better. I brought a friend along this year, knowing that he'd fit in fine. I really want us both to get stronger in our faith and join God.'

Kieran, aged 15



What else is God doing? Share your own answers to prayer on this year's Ventures. Contact us on ventures@cpas.org.uk or 01926 458456.



Playing your part

Whether you're taking part in a Venture this summer or not, the importance of immersing this ministry in prayer cannot be underestimated to prepare the way for young lives to be changed on Venture holidays.

... on your own

Cut-out and keep the prayer bookmark on pages 7-8 to help you pray. CPAS also produce a quarterly Prayer Diary, available from the Ventures office, which focuses on Ventures during July and August. You could also use both the bookmark and Prayer Diary with your small group or prayer triplet.

... with your church

From including a Ventures prayer or showing a PowerPoint presentation, to ideas for creating a Ventures slot in a service – whatever works best for you, we can help you motivate and equip your church to pray for Ventures.

Get in touch or have a look at the Ventures Sunday section on the website for more information.

There's loads of stuff to help you pray at www.ventures.org.uk or contact the Ventures team.



... in partnership (investigation required!)

Find out if there are any adults from your church going on a Venture as a leader and offer to pray for a specific individual during their time away. Find out where they're going and when, what they're most looking forward to and most apprehensive about.

If you can't find anybody involved in Ventures, visit the 'Praying' page on the website to download a summary of all the dates and leaders for this summer's Ventures – choose a specific holiday and get praying!

... in cyberspace

We'll be posting up-to-date prayer requests and feedback on the Ventures Facebook page over the course of the summer – 'like' CPAS Ventures to stay in the loop! Also go to the CPAS Twitter page for daily prayer points during the main Ventures weeks in July and August.



Find us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/cpasventures



Creating an atmosphere of prayer

Bob Clucas is the main overall leader on Fulneck Venture. He explained the impact of prayer on his Venture, and the effect it has on the lives of all those who take part.

'I still remember the prayer life of the leaders on the first Venture I went to, 40 years ago. I was from a non-church background, but the leaders created an atmosphere of prayer which was really powerful to me.'

On the Venture, the team meets for a voluntary prayer meeting each day, which a number of the members choose to go to.

'The easiest way to appear to be a caring, praying community is to actually be one, added Bob. 'We show God is real by talking to him and, as I found in my own experience as a member, this can be very compelling for a non-Christian.

'We want these young people to see prayer as the most natural thing in the world, so we pray about everything – and talk about the answered prayers, giving thanks for them.'

A key aspect of the daily prayer meetings is simplicity and freedom. Bob explains: 'Everyone doesn't have to assume a prayerful pose! We encourage the young people to pray in their own way, but being real is more important than creativity. Sometimes we will introduce flip charts, pens and ambient music to allow people to express themselves in other ways, but we want to make sure that nothing distracts from God himself.

'The best meetings are those where people want to pray. It's very refreshing to hear young people, non-Christians or new Christians, starting to talk to God themselves.

'We want to see lives changed on the Venture, but we have no mandate to do that! So it is vitally important that we pray with authenticity, and through that, we see God changing lives.'



This year's Fulneck Venture takes place on 22-29 August. Please pray that all the preparations will go smoothly and that more young people will discover the reality of God during the holiday.

When leaders pray

This summer, hundreds of volunteer leaders will have the opportunity to share God's love and the message of the gospel with thousands of children and young people. Leaders praying for God to equip them – and ultimately transform young lives through their teaching and witness – is fundamental.

Jason Roach, overall leader for Bredon 1 said: 'As a leadership team, we feel God has called us to pray for the 14-18s on our camp. We meet a day before our Venture starts to pray for the week ahead, and every day during the Venture.

'Dorm leaders pray for those in their dorm, and we try to pray for everyone by name daily, asking God to lead them closer to him. We also meet after the Venture to give thanks for all that's happened, and pray for God's continued work in the young people's lives.

'We've seen many prayers answered – every year we put our Venture into God's hands and see more young people coming to faith in him. We regularly pray that Christian young people will bring their non-Christian friends, and praise God that this has happened. God often seems to be answering our prayers before we've even prayed them, which is amazing!



PRAYER BOOKMARK

A week of prayers

A lot happens on a Venture holiday – here are some phrases to guide your prayers throughout an entire week.

SUNDAY Arrivals ... new friendships begin ... sharing food ... time together.

MONDAY Fun to overcome sadness or homesickness ... meeting with God ... wonder of worship.

TUESDAY Safety and enjoyment in activities ... praying with each other.

WEDNESDAY Open and honest relationships ... tough questions ... grace and truth.

THURSDAY Praise God for new faith ... young people responding to God ... celebrate new life!

FRIDAY Rejoice in whatever God has been doing this week ... courage to share faith at home and school as well.

SATURDAY Finishing well ... mutual support to follow Jesus together ... protection ... nurturing faith ... safe travel.

A season of prayers

Please use some of these words and phrases to shape your prayers for the young people and leaders on this year's Ventures.

JUNE Teams of Venture leaders meet ... young people talk to friends about summer holiday plans ... sessions are written and prepared.

JULY Final preparations for leaders ... first few Ventures begin this month ... no late cancellations ... excitement and anticipation ... no disruptions.

AUGUST Young people meet Jesus ... explore God's word ... encounter the Holy Spirit ... what more can we ask for?!

SEPTEMBER Members return to school and life at home ... regular connection with the Bible ... individual prayer ... prayer with others ... leaders rest and recover!

AND BEYOND ... New Christians face doubt, fear and challenge ... settling into local church life ... youth groups ... and planning begins for next year's Ventures!



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thank you!

Your prayers are hugely appreciated by all the amazing volunteer leaders on Venture holidays, helping young people discover the good news of Jesus on life-changing holidays this summer.

news from CPAS

Visit www.cpas.org.uk to find out about the rest of CPAS' work developing leaders to enable local church mission.

Sign up for the monthly CPAS e-bulletin and biannual Catalyst magazine at www.cpas.org.uk/stayintouch or email supporter.relations@cpas.org.uk.

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