

CHRISTMAS NEWLETTER

FREEDOM IN CHRIST UK 2024



A big highlight of 2024 was launching the brand new Grace Course - here's the presenting team: Leisha, Josh, Nancy & Rob

Thank you for your incredible support this year! You've enabled us to go wider, go deeper, and go global proclaiming Jesus' freedom! Here are the highlights...

It's been an eventful year! We kicked things off with our Online Freedom Courses, which have become a firm favourite for those involved. It's such a privilege to invite Christians in leadership to embrace Jesus' freedom for themselves, and this year saw our 1,000th leader sign up since we started running them in 2020. As well as finding the courses transformational for themselves, many then go on to run Freedom In Christ courses in their churches, ensuring more and more disciples are free and fruitful in Jesus.

In March 2024 we launched a new initiative: "Freedom Talks" - a chance to gather leaders and talk about hot topics, hosted by Jess, our New Resources Director. Dr Mary Wren kicked the series off, speaking on a First Aid Kit for Healthy Leaders and emphasising the importance of self-care and resilience. Rod Woods, author of Freed To Lead and Chair of our International Board, was next up in June. He spoke from his upcoming book "Freed to Flourish Together" on corporate identity, maintaining unity without losing integrity, and defeating shame with honour. Last, but by no means least (!), we had Steve, our International Director, sharing from his own experience on a Strategy for Effective Discipleship. It was wonderful to welcome nearly 200 leaders across the three events, many of whom were new to Freedom In Christ.

In May, Freedom in Christ hosted its first Africa FIC Leaders Retreat for five years in Uganda, bringing together an impressive assembly of leaders from across the continent, showing just how much Freedom In Christ has exploded across the continent. The Kenya team came out in force and were joined by representatives from Nigeria, South Sudan, Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia, and more. For me personally, it was such a privilege to return to Uganda, and discover ways the UK can support our African counterparts. I was particularly excited to meet James, who had rather randomly emailed the UK office last year from a North Sudan refugee camp, had since signed up for Transform, and was proudly holding a translation of the Steps to Freedom in his local language.



Africa Leaders Conference

Back to the UK, and the summer saw us turn our attention to the different regions in the UK. Both Sue, our Director of Prayer and I, sensed the time was right to focus on praying for Freedom In Christ in Scotland, to see Jesus' freedom embraced wider and deeper, and to raise up a Prayer Team. A 3-part Prayer Event followed, with monthly prayer meetings through June, July and August. It was awesome to be joined by people passionate for prayer from all over Scotland and beyond including Fife, Dunoon, Isle of Skye, Dundee, Glasgow, Cumbria, Wales and the South! We worshipped, shared testimonies, prayed together and declared God's promises over the nation. We were thrilled to appoint Fiona as our new Prayer Co-ordinator for Scotland, and to see a regular "Prayer40" established, praying for doors to open across the land for the freedom message.



Freed to Lead Leadership Retreat

In July, we hosted our first ever "Freed To Lead 2 Retreat", entitled "Leadership for the Longhaul". Building on the Freed To Lead principles, we dug into some tough issues, like tackling disappointment, promoting well-being, and navigating those tough moments when it feels like you're at your limit. It was an amazing experience for everyone involved, as we embraced Jesus' freedom at a deeper level, ready to lead from a place of rest in Him.

Then came the highlight of the year! After years of hard work, the next few months saw the office buzzing with excitement as we prepared for the new Grace Course launch! Websites were created, invitations were made, and videos edited for the launch in late September.

The big day arrived and we held a series of YouTube Live Broadcasts, showcasing the whole project- which really is quite vast! Along with the updated Grace Course itself, with it's Leader's Guide, Participant's Guide and all the usual attendant materials, there's an introductory film series called Wonder of Grace, a whole series of Daily Devotionals, and two accompanying books. The Grace & Freedom Project as it became know is easily the biggest resources we've every produced, and was only possible because of a wonderful collaboration between RightNow Media, YouVersion, Bethany House (in the US), and Freedom In Christ Ministries.

That same week, we had the great joy of filming new retreat material for "Transform" - our 9-month journey for leaders into greater personal freedom. Over two days, we filmed talks on "Position", "Rest", "Prayer" and "Fruitfulness", accompanied by the dramatic calls of red kites and a thunderstorm —nature's own soundtrack to our work! The picturesque setting of my home church, Mortimer West End Chapel, provided a beautiful and fitting backdrop for the filming. We're so excited to see how this resource will bless those attending future Transform retreats!



Art chatting about resources at CRE!



Filming new sessions for the Transform Retreat

And hot on the heels of the retreat filming, we were off to the Christian Resources Exhibition, for the first time ever. It proved an amazing opportunity to connect with nearly 100 church and ministry leaders from all over the country, and explore the potential for some exciting new projects. Please pray for much fruit!

This November marked 25 year anniversary as Freedom In Christ UK! We held a special Celebration Day, sandwiched between our first Freedom In Christ Team weekend since before Covid. Friends old and new joined us to reflect on God's incredible faithfulness, and transformation. A special highlight was hearing from Steve who shared the inspiring story of how Freedom In Christ began all those years ago. It also offered a poignant moment to remember those that had gone before us as heralds of the Freedom In Christ vision - particularly Jenny, our awesome East Midlands Regional Leader who died suddenly in April this year; Claire, a long-standing team member who had been so instrumental in setting out guidelines for using the Steps who died in June; and Tim, our Norwich Rep and key member of our intercessors team for years, who died in July.

As December begins, we sense God is inviting us into a great place of trust in Him as a ministry. We're so grateful for your support in 2024, and we're excited to invite you be a part of what He does in 2025! We have launched our Christmas Campaign to raise £25,000 in celebration of 25 years, to set us up for 2025 to go wider, deeper and more global than ever before. With a generous £5,000 match fund already secured, the first £5,000 donated will be doubled! This Christmas, you can give the gift of freedom, helping us to continue equipping leaders to make free and fruitful disciples!



Claire, Jenny, Tim



25 Years of FIC UK!

Throughout this year, I have been incredibly mindful of Psalm 127: "Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted... it is useless to work so hard... for God gives rest to his loved ones." Christmas offers the perfect opportunity to remember it's all about the One who has won us our freedom - and in Him, Jesus, we can see great fruit for His kingdom. I want to thank you so much for your support - it's made an awesome difference. May God bless you!

Rob