



PHAROS

AN INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN STUDENT SOCIETY IN LEUVEN

Just a Glimpse

It is hard to believe that we are almost half way done with the first term! Time has quickly sped by, but it also feels like we have done so many things since the beginning of the term.

Last evening, the Pharos team met together to reflect on how the year has gone so far and to discuss our plans for the months to come. I would like to share with you a few things that came out of the meeting.

Almost unanimously, we each agreed that one of the greatest blessings in Pharos this year has been the amount of new people who have attended our events. Most of these people have been acquaintances from coffee stall, our street evangelism event, whom we met only once, but agreed to come to our event. In September, at our opening party, we had around 40 people attend, many of them were people we had met at coffee stall that afternoon. At our last women's event, four girls joined us from coffee stall. In talking to them afterwards, they each expressed an interest in hanging out again and getting to know us a little more. It is encouraging to see the Lord beginning to work in their hearts. Now the next step is to pray that they get involved long term!

The second thing that we shared about in our meeting was the



Clare and Kate at Coffee Stall

specific projects that people have been working on. As we all sat together and heard about all that has been going on within Pharos, it was incredible to see each activity start to fit together with the rest and form an exciting plan for the rest of the year.

Above and beyond our normal weekly sporting event, the evangelistic coffee stall, and Wednesday evening prayer meetings or social gatherings, there are many exciting Pharos activities on the horizon. In a little over two weeks, Pharos will be hosting an 'International Quiz Night'. The purpose of the event will be to raise funds for our mission, as well as to meet and get to know more students. Following this event, on the 9-11 of December, we have our Pharos Weekend in Banneux. This year the theme for the weekend is Worship. We are really looking forward to hearing teachings from Stevie Jordan, spending more time

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A Year Set Apart

My name is Daniel Kallassi. I am from Awkar, Lebanon, and I'm a member of the "People of God" community there. For the last ten years, I have participated in scouts, which makes of me a guy who enjoys being in nature, camping, and doing outdoor sports. In my free time, I also enjoy playing football, hunting birds, having fun and experiencing new things.



What were your expectations for this year?

I came into this year expecting that it would be filled with difficult challenges, spiritual growth, and also a lot of fun. Each of these expectations has definitely been met. In terms of challenges, the biggest things for me have been cultural differences, living far from home for a whole year, and living with people whom I hadn't met before- but who turned out to be great guys! Growing spiritually is one of the primary reasons why I am here; I would like to learn more about prayer and build a personal relationship with God. This is been happening through Household morning and night prayers, the Pharos prayer meetings, and personal prayer time. Finally, one of my expectations was to have fun. This has definitely been part of our gap program! It's something that is included in everything we do, especially during our free time, weekends, and sports events on Tuesday nights.

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Just a Glimpse Continued

together as Pharos, and having the opportunity to encounter Christ more deeply through worship and fellowship. Finally, one of the last Pharos events before the start of the new year is the joint prayer meeting. This will be an incredible opportunity for us to join with other Christian groups around Leuven to worship the Lord together.

In the midst of the reflection and expectation that our team meeting produced, it is



Some of the girls during our Women's Night

There is always Hope!

We have a fantastic new team this year! The 4 new *Gappers* (Kate, Marisa, Daniel and Javier) bring a lot of positive energy to our office environment and have surprisingly quickly been able to get familiar with their new home and working environment. Clare is the invaluable link with last year, passing on what she has learned and helping the new Gappers find their way around Leuven. Elisabeth, Simon and Maarten are the students on the team who, in the midst of crazy class schedules and studying, help out with our events and ensure our connection with the local student world.

A couple of weeks ago, during our weekly team training session, we looked together at a passage from Romans 8. It talks about suffering, futility and hope.

'The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.' (v18)

'If we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.' (v25)

We discussed where we experience suffering in our service. Preaching God's word in Western Europe is

incredible to see the Lord's presence in our work and to know that He has so much in store for Pharos.

Marisa Peine

not an easy thing to do. Many people we talk to have no interest or time to listen. The culture around us does not promote a Christian life-style, even discourages it, and the church in Belgium hardly ever makes the news in a positive context. Yet we also see signs of hope. Prayers are answered: getting into Dutch class, finding a venue for our weekend, walking into the person we were trying to contact but whose contact details we didn't have... We were also able to connect with a handful of new students in the first month of the year, who are now regular attendees at our events.

We are convinced that God has called us in Pharos to be a voice of hope amongst students in Leuven. To point to *'the glory that is to be revealed to us'*. To speak truth in times of confusion. It strikes me how every year God sends us a few individuals who literally express that Pharos is 'something they had been looking for but had never found.' We are committed to wait with patience and to actively look for and work for hope with endurance. Thank you for all your support and prayers.

Sam Geleyn

A Year Set Apart Continued

What kind of service and work have you done so far?

I have a full time work schedule during the week. My work is generally split into service time, team meetings, one to one meetings, psalm courses, Pharos events... and household life! For part of my service, one of the events that I am leading is Coffee Stall. The main goal of this event is to meet students on campus, be a witness of Christ's love to them, and invite them to Pharos. We try to accomplish this by handing out free coffee and waffles outside of one of the university buildings during the lunch hour. I have to say that the first time we did this, there was a fear that we wouldn't be able to connect with students and that we wouldn't have the courage to share with them our testimonies. However, since the first coffee stall, we have each felt the fire of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, giving us courage as we approach students walking past, share with them our faith, and listen to their stories. It has been clear to each of us that the Lord has been walking with us as we do this work for Him.

What has been the greatest blessing so far this year?

For me, one of the greatest blessings has been seeing other people doing the same thing as me, working together and supporting one another.

Please Pray for Us

That we would meet new students in Leo XIII and show them Christ's love

That more students would participate in our sports events

That 20 people will attend our weekend

That our team would continue to grow in unity

That the Lord will provide us with new generous benefactors