

# SPURGEON'S COLLEGE

Spurgeon's College, South Norwood Hill, London SE25 6DJ

Tel: 020 8653 0850 Email: [development@spurgeons.ac.uk](mailto:development@spurgeons.ac.uk)

Principal: Dr Roger Standing

December 2014

## Your gift this Christmas can help students follow God's call

I am writing to you this Christmas to ask whether you can make a gift to help Christian leaders in training at Spurgeon's College to avoid financial difficulty.

### Students give up so much to follow God's call

As the Business Manager, it's part of my job to chair the Bursary Committee, which has the joy and anguish of deciding who will get financial help from the College towards their fees and living expenses. It's a joy when we can relieve some of the burden of debt, but anguish when we simply haven't got enough money to go round.

### Falling into the hands of loan companies

One student, about to pay their fees, told me they were borrowing money from a loan company to do this. I spoke to them about the dangers of pay-day loans and told them to take their money and pay it back. Another student, applying for a bursary, wrote on the bottom of their form that they were going to sell their car as they needed the money to pay their way through College.

### Struggling to make ends meet

Time and again in my current role, and when I was a student here at Spurgeon's College, I have seen students who struggle not only to pay fees but also to make ends meet. They have often moved house, left successful careers and all their support structures behind, to come to College. The need is there, the desire to follow God's calling is evident, but the financial resources are not available.

### Student loans are not enough

As you may know, the government will not let students who study with us have as much money in their student loan as those going to public universities. So, even with a loan, **every full time student has to find at least £2000 extra per year just to pay their fees.** And for those who already have a degree, loans are simply not available.

*Continued overleaf...*

Spurgeon's College is associated with the University of Manchester, a member college of the Baptist Union, a member of the Evangelical Alliance and a member of the Micah Network. Registered charity no 1096721 and a company limited by guarantee no 4418151 registered in England.

## Yes, I'd like to give...

### YES I'd like to give a **REGULAR GIFT** to be part of God's provision for students at Spurgeon's College

I want to give a regular amount of

£20  £30  other £  each month/quarter/year  
*please delete as appropriate*

#### Please update your details if necessary

Email\*

\*Data protection. We would like to keep you posted with news about our work; this might include publications, e-newsletters and fundraising mailings. Please only include your email address if you are happy to receive electronic mailings. We won't pass your details to other organisations and you can opt out at any time. If you'd prefer not to receive updates from us, please contact our Development Officer at the address on our letterhead.

**If you are a UK taxpayer, please complete the Gift Aid declaration overleaf so we can reclaim 25p for every £1 you give, at no cost to you.**

### BANKER'S STANDING ORDER - Instructions to my bank

Please pay Spurgeon's College £20  £30  other £

Amount in words

Every month  quarter  year

starting  /  /  until further notice

Please complete the name and full postal address of your bank:

To: *your bank's name and address*

Postcode

Bank sort code  -  -

Reference *for College use only*

Your account number

Your account name

Please pay to NatWest Bank plc, South Norwood Branch (51-50-02) for the account of Spurgeon's College, account number 26900939

Signature  Date

Registered charity no 1096721 and a company limited by guarantee no 4418151 registered in England

**A bursary can relieve the burden**

When Remi first heard God’s call he was applying for courses in Electrical and Vehicle Engineering and applying for apprenticeships. He had studied a foundation course in theology at a bible school soon after he became a Christian, but as he admits: “I concluded that I didn’t want to study theology. One day I went home weeping, because I didn’t want God to call me, and I sensed it was going to happen.” By the time he got the last rejection from engineering courses at university, God had changed Remi’s mind. “I was rather late applying for a place at Spurgeon’s College, but I filled in my application form, went for interview and for the first time everything went smoothly. I felt godly peace. Spurgeon’s was where I needed to be.”



“I was able to get a student loan, so that went straight away to pay my fees. But I also had to use my maintenance loan – that’s the government loan for living expenses – to pay off the rest. I was so grateful to be living in College, because it was less expensive than renting elsewhere, and I calculated every penny I spent. But it wasn’t enough. As soon as I had paid my rent and fees I was already into an overdraft.”

**“Having a College bursary made a huge difference. I was able to pay off my overdraft. It took away the burden of worrying about debt.”**

Remi struggled for two years to keep going. But in his third year, thanks to supporters like you, we were able to award him a College bursary.

Remi was able to complete his course; he graduated in the summer and is now in talks with a local church with a view to taking a leadership role.

**Your gift this Christmas can help us offer bursaries**

I guess like me, you would not want to see Christian leaders in training falling into debt because their money has run out. Our Bursary Committee has assessed their situation carefully and equitably. We know those who are most in need of support. But I need more money in our Bursary Fund to be able to offer students like these help with their finances. Together, we can help relieve the burden of financial hardship for them, something they will be eternally grateful for.

**Please be generous this Christmas to help those who are training to serve**

We believe that where God calls He will provide and I am asking if you would prayerfully consider whether you could be part of God’s provision for these students. Please send your Christmas gift today, no matter how large or small. You can use the response form below, or donate securely online by visiting our website at [www.spurgeons.ac.uk](http://www.spurgeons.ac.uk) and clicking on the Giving button.

With warmest thanks and Christian greetings

**Helen Stokley**  
Business Manager

**YES** I’d like to give a *SINGLE GIFT* to be part of God’s provision for students at Spurgeon’s College

£30  £75  £175  £500  £1000

or my preferred gift of £

I enclose a cheque/charity voucher made payable to **Spurgeon’s College**

Please debit my MasterCard/Visa/CAF card £

Card number

Issue Number  *Maestro only*

Start Date  /  Expiry Date  /

Signature  Date

Email\*

\*Data protection. We would like to keep you posted with news about our work; this might include publications, e-newsletters and fundraising mailings. Please only include your email address if you are happy to receive electronic mailings. We won’t pass your details to other organisations and you can opt out at any time. If you’d prefer not to receive updates from us, please contact our Development Officer at the address on our letterhead.

**Please return this form with your gift in the envelope provided. You can also donate securely online at [www.spurgeons.ac.uk](http://www.spurgeons.ac.uk) and click on the *Giving* button on the front page.**

*giftaid it*

**Would you like to increase the value of your gift by 25p in every £1 at no cost to you?**

If you are a UK taxpayer you can – just tick the box and fill in the form below

Please treat as Gift Aid all donations I have made to Spurgeon’s College today, in the last 4 years and in the future. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Gift Aid declaration  Date

**NB:** the taxpayer must sign the cheque or make the card payment. You can cancel this declaration at any time. Please let us know if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. All Gift Aid reclaimed will be used for the general purposes of the College.

Registered charity no 1096721 and a company limited by guarantee no 4418151 registered in England.