

31st August 2016

I love my work, but.....

I love the grass roots children's work, teaching the bible and applying it to where the children are 'at'.

I love the planning and scheming I do with other like minded children and family advocates, where we find ways to equip and encourage other children's and family workers.

I love the chance I get to speak up on behalf of children and families to those who lead in churches and organisation.

I especially love the work I do to help and support vulnerable children, and the networking I do to encourage/train others to do the same.

There are many other facets to my work that facilitate and train children's and family workers, advise leaders and raise awareness. I feel priveledged to be able to do it all!

I love being able to work along side my hubby in the practical grass roots children's work too.

It's a great job! But it has lousy pay...

Please forgive my stark honesty in the next paragraphs. It's not our usual style, but those who regularly pray for us need to be aware of the following.

A good proportion of the work I do comes without pay and no expenses.

Having finalised my accounts this week I found that in 12 months I spent £1,200 on travel expenses that were not reimbursed. Looking at my diary for the next year, this will rise as I have to do more trips to London.

Then there's accommodation for conferences. Most conferences now expect your organisation to sponsor you - that is, pay your accommodation. Plus you rarely get paid a ministry gift, because they expect you to have a salary from your organisation. We don't work 'for' a particular organisation. We are member of one, and Kay serves various other organisations - none of whom can afford to sponsor us for conferences - therefore all of this comes out of our own pocket.

I have had it said I should refuse to do conferences who won't pay.... but ministry doesn't work like that. If you want to be taken seriously - you have to go. If you don't have 'name' and a reputation, no one listens (Sad I know!) So I have to be present, just so I can continue to make a difference and be heard, continue to raise the profile of children and families - and equip those who work with them. I also owe it to the organisations I represent to represent them well.

Although we have enough money to live on, and someone gives us a gift so we can go on holiday, the week by week money we have coming in does not cover the travel/accommodation expenses I incur. Having a disabled person's rail card helps, as this gives me $\frac{1}{3}$ off the cost. Without that the travel expenses would be astronomical. Even with that card, one return trip to London can be anything between £85 - £110 (East Midland Trains are known to be the most expensive)

Over the last 6 years, we have lost over £250 in individual support for our work - all for very good reasons.

Raising just another £100 per month would help considerably in covering the basic travel expenses. More would mean I can do even more networking to improve the reach of the various projects I'm working on. (You can see the biggest of those projects [here](#) - an ongoing and exciting collaboration that should continue for at least five years).

So, could you pray with us about this?

If you feel, after praying, you would like to support us (via Stewardship) I have a 'giving' page [here](#)

(The page is only for me, as this was the way it was set up before Steve went full time alongside me.)

You can also support us through Children Worldwide where they will process gifts with gift aid.

Gifts via both these routes can be anonymous.

ACCOUNTABILITY

If you don't know us personally, you probably want to be sure we are adequately accountable - very wise!

We are accountable through two linked routes:

We are members of Children Worldwide, who insist on good working practice, a council of reference, and active membership of a sending church.

Our council of reference links between our sending church (Knighton Free Church) and Children Worldwide.

Our church is also very active in keeping us accountable, where we have a link elder keeping a very close eye on us.

Plus, Stewardship have recently rechecked and approved my accountability status so I can continue with my account there.

For more info about my work, go to the [About Me](#) page.

Thankyou for reading, and please keep praying!

Kay and Steve x