

PRAYER FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS

A prayer resource from Colchester
Prayer Net, to fuel a season of prayer
across Colchester in October and
November 2011



This prayer resource is compiled by Colchester Prayer Net, working alongside other churches of various denominations. We exist to facilitate fervent, united prayer for the town of Colchester. For more information please visit our website. www.colchesterprayernet.co.uk

This picture was given to Richard Smith in Colchester during 2011:

“There are reservoirs of Jesus’ living water in every neighbourhood in Colchester. There are people who are thirsty for this living water. This water is separated from people by earth banks. These banks will be broken through by people praying for each neighbourhood, to allow the living water to flood out.”

In response to this picture, we are inviting people from across the church in Colchester to pray in pairs or groups for their neighbours during October and November 2011.

This resource is to encourage prayer during each week in October. We hope this time of prayer will lead to more prayer and action in each locality.

Feedback

Please feedback your experiences as you pray together to the ‘Prayer for our Neighbours’ Facebook page, email admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk or call Richard and Katy Smith on (01206) 570361.

(Your feedback will help us compile the resource for November.)

- Visit someone, write a card, bake a cake, email or make a phone call to someone who needs encouragement from you.
- Ask God to give you an opportunity to talk to someone in your neighbourhood who you do not know very well. When that opportunity comes (God will for sure give that moment!) make sure to encourage that person and plan to meet with the person again.

Romans 1:11–12

¹¹ I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong ¹² that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.

Psalm 10:17

¹⁷ You, LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry.

Enoch Kunarajah, DNA Networks, working with Colchester Prayer Net



24 – 30 OCTOBER 2011

Called to be sons and daughters of Encouragement

Acts 4:36 *The apostles give a nickname.*

Acts 9:26–28 *The role of Barnabas at the start of Paul's (Saul) work when faced with opposition.*

Acts 13:2–3 *God chooses Barnabas and Saul for a mission among the Gentiles.*

Acts 15:36–39 *Barnabas disagrees with Paul and they go their separate ways. Barnabas does not give up on John Mark and mentors him. Later on Paul finds the same John Mark he rejected to be useful in the work God had called him to (2 Timothy 4:11).*

Reflection

- Read the Bible passages and take time to reflect on the character of Barnabas.
- Pray to God to make us encouragers in the places where he has placed us (schools, jobs, neighbourhood, families etc).
- Think of the people who we know that need encouragement today (you may want to make a list and make a plan to call, write or visit them soon).
- Think of the one person you could pour your life into mentoring, caring and helping them in their walk with Christ (just as Barnabas did with John Mark).
- Pray for people who knew God at some point but have rejected him now.

Group activity

Agree together about the about the people that you are going to pray for and encourage during the months of October/November and beyond. Identify the issues and barriers that stop people from following Christ.

During this week

- Pray for the local church to have a gift of encouragement and if possible as a prayer group think of ways to do something that would bless someone in the community.

3 – 9 OCTOBER 2011

Luke 5:17–26

Friends who brought a paralysed man to Jesus

Reflection

- Read the Bible passage and take time to reflect on it.
- Think about the friends who brought the man to Jesus, the barriers that they overcame, the hope that they had, and the joy of seeing their friend forgiven and healed.
- Who are the friends that you know who need to be brought to Jesus?
- Pray for these friends. (If, as a group, it is difficult to identify anyone, pray now and ask God to show you.)
- What do you see that gives you hope that Jesus could help?
- What barriers did you have to overcome to enable your friend to reach Jesus? Pray about these about these barriers.
- How would you feel if these friends were forgiven and healed?

Group activity

Agree the area that you are going to pray for during October and November. Define the area. (A map or pictures or description may be helpful for this.)

During this week

Look for signs about what your neighbourhood is like. For example, news of good things happening in the local newspaper, or ask some of the people that live there what they think of the neighbourhood. Share these the next time you meet.

Richard Smith, Colchester Boiler Room Community, working with Colchester Prayer Net

10 – 16 OCTOBER 2011

2 Kings 4:1–7

God's miraculous provision

Reflection

- Read the Bible passage and take time to reflect on it.
- Thank God for his provision for us. Think about 'what we have in our house'? At this time of national recession let's repent of our own hidden desire to preserve what we own.
- Repent of fear, future slavery and lack of trust in God for His provision for us and our family; rather than seeing our households as God's 'provision' in our neighbourhood.
- Think about the friends and neighbours we know that have needs, physical, financial, and spiritual – how can we pray and act to be true representatives of the Body of Christ today?

Group activity

Agree together about the needs in your area that you are going to pray for during October and November. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your prayers and acts of kindness.

During this week

Focus prayer on the areas of the community God has highlighted. Does God want you to bless a struggling family or charity?

Teresa Lasky, Colchester Prayer Net

17 – 23 OCTOBER 2011

John 2:1–11

Jesus changes water to wine

Reflection

- Read the Bible passage and take time to reflect on it.
- Who in the story do you most identify with? (Some suggestions are below.)

Mary – Asking Jesus to do something/meet a need. Are there things you are praying about for your neighbourhood, where you are waiting for Jesus to respond?

A Servant – Struggling to fill the huge jars with water, perhaps questioning His use of the 'ceremonial water'. Do you ever struggle to do what Jesus has asked? How would you respond if Jesus asked you to do something different to your usual habits or routine at home, work or church?

The Banquet Master – Surprised by how good the wine tastes. Are there good things God is already doing that you haven't noticed yet? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal these to you.

Guests – Appreciating the good wine even though they don't know where it has come from. Ask God to show you those in your neighbourhood who already enjoy the good things he gives. Ask Him to reveal himself to them, and to show how you can help with this.

Group activity

Identify and agree together who you will commit to pray for as a group. Cut out a row of paper-people each, and write their names on the back as a reminder to pray.

During this week

Invite a friend or neighbour to share a meal with your household or family. Ask God to open up opportunities to pray with these friends or for you to offer practical help. Is there a chance to throw a party or celebration for friends and neighbours in the coming months?

Katy Smith, Colchester Boiler Room Community, working with Colchester Prayer Net