



# May 2004

## Week 1. On The Move

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### Scriptures: -

- Rev 3:8
- Is 60:1
- Eph 6:7
- Phil 1:18
- Mark 16:15
- Micah 6:8
- Isaiah 58
- Romans 1:16,17

**On The Move** is an evangelistic initiative planned to take place in Colchester in the summer of 2005.

Although this sounds along way off there is much to be done in preparation and we want to support this in prayer right at the start.

Next term a team will be visiting churches to present On The Move and encourage the Church to unite and get involved.

### What is it?

“It is a free barbecue! Team members from local churches take to the streets with several worship bands. Other team members go up to passers by and offer them an invitation to a free BBQ. An average of 600 people a day may come to the BBQ, perhaps 100 at a time.

The BBQ runs from 12.00 -2.00pm, normally four days running. Team members act as host and talk to guests at tables.

### The experience to date.

Between 1998 and the present, On The Move have undertaken 87 such BBQs in various cities and towns. Altogether some 219,000 have been fed (nearly all un-churched people). Just over 9,350 team members have taken part.

We collected about 8,500 response cards from members of the public

who wanted to know more about the Christian Faith. About 1,950 of them from people that told us they gave their lives to Christ at the BBQs.

Recently in a mission in Nigeria 1,500 gave their lives to Christ in three days!

Generally there has been a groundswell of excitement amongst church members and leaders—feeling they have started to fulfil a call from God to 'Arise and shine for your light has come'; that church unity has taken a great leap forward; that the public has responded very favourably to the church 'coming out'; and that 'God has set before us a door no-one can close'.

### Please pray for :

- The working party who will co-ordinate On The Move for Colchester.
- Unity as we work together
- Promotion and buy-in from congregations to provide team members, worship groups, finances, prayer etc
- Permission from the town authorities.
- For God to guide us in effective mission and make us, His church fruitful.

## Week 2. Beacon House

'Beacon House Ministries is an interdenominational Christian Trust that was established in 1996 in response to an increasing demand for primary health care facilities for those who found themselves homeless or in insecure accommodation in Colchester.

The centre opened in a converted three-storey house (90, East Hill, Colchester) close to the centre of Colchester. It originally opened for just three days a week with a paid staff of three and four volunteers.

Since then the opening times have extended to four days a week and a staff of 15 with 9 volunteers working alongside them. The range of services we offer has also increased. To start with we offered simple health care along with clothing, laundry

and toiletries. To these have been added a team of counsellors, a hairdresser and the Life Skills programme.

We now have 1600 clients registered and regularly have 300 client visits per month.

During 2003, through the generosity of our supporters and grant trusts, we have been able to double our size by purchasing outright the house next door (No.91).

The Mayor of Colchester, Dr C. Hall, officially opened the new building on July 1st 2003. The extra space has enabled us to increase the services we offer to the clients and our storage areas.

During 2004 it is planned that the centre will increase its opening hours to five days a week. We will obviously need a number of new

staff members and volunteers to cater for the extra work.

Prayer Points:

- The ongoing day to day work of Beacon House.
- For staff and volunteers as they meet and talk with clients.
- Thanks for God's faithfulness.
- For continued provision for the projects – funding applications, donations.
- Additional staff members and volunteers needed for 5 days
- God's guidance as we explore ways to expand and develop our services.

Thank you'. Peter Birdseye

### PRAYER BREAKFASTS:

**Saturday 1st May**

8.30- 10 a.m.

**Castle Methodist Church**

For more details contact:

Dennis Codd, 01206 395792

## Christian Youth Outreach (CYO)

'We are preparing for a mission in Thurstable School, Tiptree for the week **10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> May**.

### Prayer points...

- Praise God for all those who have chosen to follow Jesus and are sticking with him.
- Thank God and pray for all the youth leaders who commit so much time and energy each week to these young people.
- Please pray for the continuing witness of the Prettygate Youth Café to the young people of the Prettygate area.
- Preparation for the mission in Tiptree. For the churches as they work together establish a united follow up work.
- Please pray for more opportunities to do schools missions in the Colchester area. Our heart is to make mission an ongoing

feature of the life of young people in our town.

We're still praying for people, workers for the harvest.

We are also exploring the possibility of having a gap year team in partnership with local churches. We would work with the 'DNA' discipleship year scheme run by Pioneer.

Good applications are beginning to come in for the Schools Worker position. We are praying release for the additional finance needed to allow us to take someone on. With the promise of funding for Xtra Time to support another person half time we are starting to talk to people who may be suitable for this role.

### Prayer points...

- Praise God for the many opportunities that we have to

take the good news of Jesus to young people.

- Praise God for the offer of half time funding to develop our sports outreach.
- Please pray for a new Schools Worker, and for the extra giving we will need to cover this.
- Please pray for wisdom as we look into having someone new work with Xtra Time to develop this ministry.
- We still desperately need someone who could join us part time to be administrator and PA to the team. Please pray with us that the right person will come forward.'

Thank you .

## Week 3. Harwich Road URC

John Carrington at Harwich Road URC sends this for our prayer:

### Harwich Road United Reformed Church

'At Harwich Road we were faced with a crumbling building and a dwindling membership. We were advised to close, but we were determined, with God's help, to maintain a witness in the area.

We looked for a solution. Now, about three years later, plans are bearing fruit. Planning permission has been granted for demolition of church and hall, the construction of a new multifunctional church, and the building of houses on our land at the back so that the project will be self-financing.

We pray that with the new building and our renewed efforts but mostly God's help, we may serve our Master and our neighbourhood.

- **Hebrews 13:17**
- **Isaiah 61:1-3**

*Please forward words of encouragement to Harwich Rd URC or those at Gosbecks via Teresa at Colchester PrayerNet*

## Gosbecks Christian Fellowship

Thank you to Rev. Dave Wuyts who writes: 'These are very exciting and also very challenging times for us at Gosbecks. Last year was a difficult year for us, the loss to cancer of two special people, one of whom was David Fletcher, one of the elders here. We decided to review all we were doing as a Church and came up with a new Vision Statement:

**This is "To love the Word, Live in the Presence, and be Light for the world".**

It has been very exciting seeing the Lord opening up opportunities for us to begin to move in this vision. We are so blessed in our relationships with Prettygate Baptist and Plume Avenue URC. The Lord has spoken to many in all three Churches about working together, and we are finding

more and more ways of doing so, whether by sending joint Easter and Christmas cards, regular prayer together, SoundNation Cafe, or "the Noise". (In March we redecorated the Straight Road Youth Centre, and in June we will be in Gosbecks School working in the grounds, and being treated to a BBQ! ).

We continue with the Neighbourhood Prayer watch (Light in our own streets) and will periodically have one-off Evangelistic events. New teams can be formed as vision increases. We are convinced that the future of mission is in Churches working together and look forward to more!

Please pray for:

- Rock-like Christians - not hard but firmly based on Jesus, and able to stand.

- Christians filled with the presence of God - That we might become true ambassadors at work, home, everywhere!
- The Light to increase - that more and more people might be brought in touch with Jesus
- Salvation - that this all might result in people being saved
- Protection of the Unity - that we can be different as Churches and yet become more united as we get to know each other better.
- God's provision to do more - both people and finances.

Thanks for your prayers and support 'Dave & Sarah Wuyts Dennis & Steph Codd

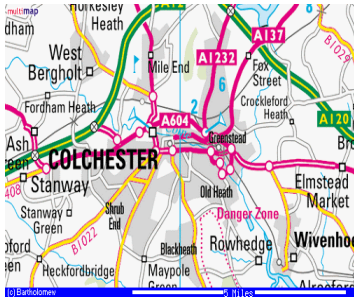
## Feedback—The passion of The Christ

The passion of the Christ has been showing at the Odeon Cinema and the Church in Colchester has been available to speak with people attending the film, offer leaflets and support: 'We are experiencing many responses. People are often shocked by the violence and want to simply take time to reflect on this. One lady came out confessing how selfish she felt and that she knew she must change - she said she was a

believer but did not "do church". I encouraged her to take this step. I believe that Christians are being "woken" to the reality of their faith and the cost of their salvation - myself included - and I pray that this will bear much fruit. I believe that the numbers attending are steadily increasing and the impact building - keep praying!' - Keith Barrett  
'I had a rather emotional prayer time this morning when praying for 'The Passion of the Christ'. A deep

Sense of God drawing people, although they never intended going. A sense of God speaking into peoples lives as they watched. Sense God calling His people, His Church back. I felt this film is having a profound effect' 'Please pray for Tina's son who is 22 years old. They both saw the film and he went home to read the Bible quotes from the film. He read his Bible for four days pretty much non-stop!'

1, Lodge Court  
West Bergholt  
Colchester



24 Hour Prayer for Colchester

Thank you for your continued commitment to pray with others on the Colchester PrayerNet (CPN). Please keep in contact by writing or emailing:

- **admin@colchesterprayer.net** with feedback, requests etc.
- **info@colchesterprayer.net** if you would like more information to share with your congregation or would like me to speak with your Minister about CPN.
- **admin@colchesterprayer.net** if you would like to borrow books or tapes from the CPN library
- **watchman@colchesterprayer.net** for information

Please check out the Colchester PrayerNet web site at:

- **www.colchesterprayer.net** We hope to develop this further with links to other sites such as CYO, TBN, Alpha etc and also to united church events in the town. Please tell us what you think!

*Thanks to Simon Musgrave who gave his time to construct the site for us.*

## Week 4. Church in the town

As we look at God's Church in Colchester is it wonderful to see His people united in prayer and action. We focus our prayer this week on the Church in our town.

### Thanks giving for:

- Every way in which the church is strong and active in mission, social concern, work with the homeless, mentally ill, the counselling services, those working to support the family, the elderly and the disabled,.
- Outreach to young people. Youth groups, CYO, holiday clubs, schools work, Xtra Time, school assemblies, Prayer into Schools, Christian Unions, Youth Alpha etc.
- Church leadership. We want to acknowledge the faithful service of the church leaders. Also thank God for leaders in the Council, hospital and business sector.
- Unity— for opportunities to work together. Pray for strong unity amongst leadership. Thank God for unity at grass-roots. Pray for humility and openness in all of us for the sake of those we are trying to reach.
- United prayer, for the many years of united prayer in this

place. The foundation of prayer laid by those before us. Every answered prayer.

- The encouragement we have received from God to continue working together— for the many Church ministries now firmly established. For the beginnings of 'Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester' and planned events like 'On The Move'.
- Salvation. Thank God for all those who have become aware of God in a new way during the last few months. May they have a deepening understanding of who He is.
- Alpha—ongoing in the town. The many that have come to faith through it.
- Mission. For the work with international Students at the University. For the work of COSCI. For the Colchester business men working to establish new business In war torn and less developed countries. Pray for those Missionaries sent out from congregations in this town.
- Those that work with the soldiers and families at the Garrison. Pray that God may comfort those living in uncertainty and fear.

### Please pray that:

- God will continue to cause us to be salt and light. To shine brighter and lead people to the Truth.
- We remain faithful in prayer, true to pray the will of God.
- That we are bold in prayer and in action until we see this town transformed
- God will move us on to see His Church revived, prayerful, active in our faith.
- We will see His Kingdom advance through His church in this place.
- As we look we will see only One Church, One Body working together and serving each other faithfully.
- We will not grow weary but will learn to wait on the Lord, renew our strength, knowing that He uses the weak things to confound the wise. Willingly doing things His way.
- That His Kingdom come, His will be done - here as it is in Heaven.
- We see a mighty harvest of souls.
- We will unite in the simple truth of loving Jesus and wanting to reach others with the good news of the Gospel, and not divide over doctrinal differences.
- That God's name will be glorified in Colchester!