



July 2005

On The Move

JULY 27th-30th

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On The Move prayer gatherings:
Thursday July 7th,
Time: 8 pm.
Eld Lane Baptist Church. Please come and join with others to pray for this event.
Saturday 23rd July,
Time: 7.30 pm
Castle Methodist church, a gathering to launch the week of 24/7 prayer.

On The Move is an evangelistic initiative taking place in Colchester from **27th-30th July 2005.**

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 -2.00 pm**, for the four days, **Wednesday 27th to Saturday 30th.** Team members act as host and talk to guests at tables.

We give thanks for:

- Those serving in various ways, over 250 Households
- The number of supporting Churches and the unity that this expresses
- The follow up options available
- For the team, a good balance of musicians, inviters, cooks and hosts
- Financial provision, thank God that all the money needed has now come in

Richard Morgan and the team organising this event asks for the following prayer requests:

- Good weather
- Moving of Holy Spirit. For the guests, that God puts the right guests next to the right hosts, and that the hosts are able to listen well and to be sensitive to our guests and to the Holy Spirit in all their conversations.
- For the worship groups to work well together.
- Safety/Security
- For the follow-up. The right people, churches and seeker courses are available for those who come to the barbeque and want to take things further.
- Continued unity
- Permission for us to have use of Culver Square for worship. Also for Eld Lane, that the local traders might receive this well - especially the ones providing food!
- That God would use this to put people back in touch with church who have stopped coming in the past, and to make faith in Jesus available to those who have never even thought about it.

Thank you

Work Dynamics

“They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations” (Isaiah 61v4)

As we listen to crime statistics in our communities and reputations of neighbourhoods can we hear the prophetic call of Isaiah (above). Can we the Christian church be part of rebuilding the ancient ruins? Can we restore the towns and rural areas left behind in marginalisation?

The promise of Jubilee is what sparked the 2000 Jubilee campaign to end global poverty through reducing debt repayments and the Chancellor's determination to make a lasting difference to end global poverty. What are the OT promises of Jubilee? Freedom, restoration and reclamation.

In Leviticus 25v10 **‘In this way you shall set the fiftieth year apart and proclaim freedom to all inhabitants of the land’.**

Slaves were released from their obligations to their masters, land was returned to its former owners and family relationships were restored.

When Jesus stood up in the synagogue and read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, he announced the fulfilment of Jubilee

‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has annointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the

blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour’ (Luke 4v18-19)

Freedom, recovery and release no longer take place once every 50 years; the sovereignty of God is re-established; Jubilee is hear to stay. What does Jubilee mean for our lives and communities? Or what does freedom, recovery and release look like today? No two responses will be the same.

The biblical challenge is how can we all as Christians integrate our response to these questions into our lives? How can we make choices in our workplaces, homes, and lifestyles, wherever we may live or work, that reflect our commitment to be people who bring both personal and social transformation through freedom, recovery and release?

1. **Spaces of grace** - how we use our church buildings... whom we welcome alongside us... lifestyles embodying acceptance and love.

2. **Lives centred on Jesus** - so often Christian use words wanting others to conform to a particular lifestyle. Churches and lives centred on Jesus move away from meeting orientated expressions of faith, but instead become intimate with those in our communities. Authentic worship is something done outside the church walls, its 24/7!

3. **A people of hospitality** - the biblical expression of hospitality is welcoming strangers, inviting them to a meal, spending time and resources on people we do not know. A small Methodist Church in North

Lincolnshire welcomed an Iranian couple into the Sunday service, made them part of the Church family. Within a year there were 40 more and people within the congregation were discovering the joy and blessing of **'not forgetting to entertain strangers for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it'** (Hebrews 13v2) Our call is to be about the King's business and His kingdom offers freedom, recovery and release.

PRAYER

**Lord open our lips,
and our mouth shall declare
your praise
Lord open our eyes,
and our seeing shall behold
your glory
Lord open our heart,
and our feeling shall know your
love
Lord open our minds,
and our thinking shall discover
your wonders
Lord open our hands,
and our giving shall show your
generosity
Lord open our lives
and our living shall declare
your Presence**

Revd Terry Tennens
www.dnaneetworks.org

Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester.

The next meeting for the Borough church leaders and clergy will be on **12th July 2005** from 12.30pm to 2.30pm. Revd Geoff Wright, the Country Ecumenical Officer will be coming to speak. Venue: Plume Avenue URC

Other town news, feedback etc

Important opportunity. 'Prayer For the Nations is organising a breakfast meeting in Westminster. The aim is to offer MPs the support of a local prayer group.

As part of the work of CPn I am hoping that I may have an Invitation to breakfast with Colchester MPs Bob Russell and MP Bernard Jenkin at this event on **Tuesday 12th July**. Please pray'. Teresa

Regional news. You may be aware that Sharon Stone in the process of visiting the ancient counties to share a word she feels God has given her. This is called the 'Distinct Sound County Tour' and the Essex County Meeting will be held on July 20, 2005. (Meeting starts 7.00 pm)

Venue: Christian Growth Centre
Unit 3, Hanbury Road
Widford Industrial Estate
Chelmsford, CM1 3AE

For more information please contact CPn or go direct to;
alison.macklin@christiangrowthcentre.com
Tel: 0124 525 5775

Apologies that we have not been able to print the Bishops address from the recent SGBC gathering. I hope we can pray into this next month!

CHANGING SEASONS

For the last six years "Groundbreakers" holiday club has run each summer holiday. The aim has always been to give children the opportunity to learn about and meet with Jesus whilst having a lot of fun.

In this year, its seventh year, we are making the club available to those who would like to gain experience in running holiday clubs. God has blessed us greatly over the years with enthusiastic volunteers, children responding to Jesus, and openings into providing Christian input into schools. In 2006 and beyond, we are making this team available to assist any churches who would like to run a holiday club in their locality but are not sure they have enough time, resources or experience to make that possible. We are expecting this year's "Streetwise" Groundbreakers to be the last area wide holiday club as we get excited about God's purposes for 2006.

As you pray please:

- thank God for his provision over the years and for the many children who have responded to him
- pray that every children in every area of the town will have the same opportunity
- thank God for the doors that have been opened into local schools to allow weekly equivalents to holiday club through lunchtime and after school clubs
- for new opportunities in 2006

If anyone would like to be involved in this year's holiday club or would like to talk to us about helping getting a new club started, please call Steph Neill at on 01206 508947.

The "Streetwise" holiday club will run each morning from the 1st to 5th August at Alderman Blaxill School.

Colchester Prayernet has a new website. Visit us at www.colchesterprayernet.co.uk

PRESENCE welcomes Godfrey Birtill—a worship workshop
Date: Saturday 23rd July
Venue: Kingsland church Lexden
Session one: 2-5 pm
Session two: 7-9 pm
Both meetings are for those that love the Lord and love the Colchester area
Contact details: 01206 508948

Following on from three days of On The Move: **SONGS FROM GOD SPELL. BRINGING OUT THE MESSAGE OF THE MUSICAL**
Date: Saturday 30th July

Venue: Colchester Arts Centre
Presenting *Songs from God spell*, led by the Brightlingsea Operatic Society and Friends, with Peter Adams narrating. A clear presentation of the gospel message concluding with an evangelistic invitation.

PLEASE PRAY

SMILE MEGA KIDS CLUB
Date: 1st July 2005
Please note change of venue for June and July only
Venue: Philip Morant school
Time: 7-8 pm
Age group: 5—11 years
Around 150 children attend this event, many with their parents.
Please continue to pray and see January prayer guide for more information

Colchester 2020

Colchester 2020

We continue to pray for the work of town leaders involved in Colchester 2020. Dee Evans who is presently the chair of C2020 writes:

'Since taking up the post of chair in October last year, I have experienced a number of interesting and sometimes challenging conversations with variety of people who, quite clearly, have the best interests of Colchester and its' people at heart.

The Borough is undergoing a great deal of change through the exciting regeneration taking place. Change brings opportunities but also many challenges which can

sometimes be misunderstood.

We aim to send out clear messages and try to dispel myths. We are not adverse to criticism and can assure you that each one of us is committed to our vision for Colchester to develop as a prestigious regional centre. We would therefore encourage creative solutions to the many challenges that are being put before us.

Let's work together to achieve this aim and be proud that we have been part of these very exciting times'

Dee Evans, chief Executive, Mercury Theatre.

Date of next assembly meeting: Friday 7th October 2005

St James the Less

Thank you to Valerie Quinleven from St. James the Less who offers this for our prayers.

'I would like to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the arrival in Colchester of the Sisters of the Community of the Resurrection. New Hall, near Chelmsford, has been the home of this Community for over two hundred years. Now the sisters will take temporary residence in the Convent of Mercy in Priory Street while they search for more permanent accommodation.

I pray that they may feel a warm welcome in the town; that Colchester will be graced by their ministry of prayer witness, spiritual formation and ecumenical outreach; that

our town will be blessed by their finding a permanent home with us.

I pray for the work of the St. Vincent de Paul societies in various parishes, particularly in St. James the Less in Priory Street: may their ministry with the housebound, the sick and all those in need, be blessed by willing hands and sufficient resources.

I pray for the different prayer groups in the parishes, from the charismatic to the silent meditators. May all the different ways the human heart can turn towards God in prayer be blessed and fruitful'.

Valerie Quinleven

Transformational Business Network (TBN) meetings: Thursday 7th July

Venue: April Cottage, Seven Star Green, Eight Ash Green, Col.

An opportunity to hear updates about businesses in Albania and Rwanda and share the latest plans for trips in September, November and Spring 2006.

Visit from Chris Page. On Saturday 30th July there will be two events with Chris Page from YWAM who is our "man on the ground" in Rwanda. Chris will be with us for a breakfast meeting and also a evening bar b q. Please contact Robin Cotterill for more details on 01206 212421.

PRAYER BREAKFASTS:

Saturday 2nd July

Venue: MALDON Rd. CHAPEL 8.30- 10 a.m.

For more details contact Dennis Codd.

Tel: 01206 395792

Thank you to everyone who contacts CPn.

Please continue to let us know how God leads you in prayer.

By post to: 1, Lodge Court, West Bergholt, CO6 3JL or email Teresa at : admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

The prayer guide is edited by Teresa Lasky. (The contributors views are their own, and do not necessarily express those of the editor).

Sanctuary Project update

'The Colchester Sanctuary

Project is a dream, carried in faith for more than three years.

Isaiah 61:1-2 tells of a time when God's favour will be poured out on the poor, broken and destitute of our society. God's heart is crying out for the people of Colchester. He wants us to work in partnership with Him – standing in faith as we reach out to the damaged lives around us. We believe He is calling us to provide homes for the homeless and to bring hope and healing to those trapped in addiction and poverty. God chooses to work in partnership with people. We believe the Colchester Sanctuary is part of His response to the cries of hurting people in our town. The Sanctuary Project is made up of three phases:

Sanctuary One

A place where people can go when all other refuges are closed to them. Some rules would be essential...e.g. no weapons, drugs or alcohol but the aim is to keep the doors open to all who are willing to abide by these most basic of rules. Provisions will be basic too. Sanctuary One will be somewhere out of the elements where rough sleepers can unroll their sleeping bags on a dry floor, sleep without fear of being robbed or attacked, use the toilets or washroom and stash their belongings during the day. Hot drinks and breakfast will be provided.

Sanctuary Two

Sanctuary Two will be open to both men and women and will be run along the lines of a rehabilitation Centre. Individuals will live as part of a family unit along with

dedicated Christian staff. Admission to Sanctuary Two will require a commitment to dealing with addictions at the point of entry. Substitutes such as methadone or subutex will not be permitted and transitional medication will only be allowed in cases where sudden withdrawal would be dangerous.

Residents will take part in a programme of learning and work activities designed to help get their life back on track and introduce them to the saving power of Christ. They will work towards personal development goals and undertake a course of Bible-based teaching and mentoring. New arrivals undergoing withdrawal will be introduced to the programme as they feel up to taking part.

Living as part of a loving family will be a completely new experience for some and individuals will learn a great deal from the ordinary give and take of daily life as they tackle problems, resolve issues and learn to relate to and care for others. Gradually they will be helped to start taking responsibility for their own behaviour and substitute direction and constructive activity for their previously chaotic lifestyle

It is important to note the Sanctuary Project will *not* endeavour to duplicate provisions already available elsewhere. It is primarily a Christian ministry which seeks to bring the broken and hurting into contact with the saving love and power of Christ. External provisions and study programmes may play a part but it is Christ who will transform lives and ultimately provide the direction, meaning and purpose they need.

Sanctuary Three

For some - we hope many, of those accessing Sanctuary Two's provisions, the outcome will be full rehabilitation and integration back into society. Regular jobs, new relationships and a drug-free Christ-centred life plan will be clear signs of a life back on track. For others however, this may not be a realistic goal - people who because of age, disability or the need for on-going healing are likely to need a supported family environment for years - maybe indefinitely. Sanctuary Three will be based on the same principles as Sanctuary Two and will provide a permanent home, along with workshops and other income-generating activities. Our vision is for a network of such communities, each providing a place where people feel loved and able to contribute according to their ability.

Finances

Our goal is for the Sanctuary Project to be self-sustaining, with income generation at levels Two and Three, ultimately funding level One and the Outreach Programme. We realise this is unlikely to be a realistic proposition from the outset but we will seek to identify a strategy for achieving this within a reasonable timescale'.

Want to know more?

For further details please telephone Sally Stephenson by calling me on: 0791 462 9078
Or visit Open Door, Eld Lane