



July 2007

Street Pastors

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We continue to pray for the Street Pastors initiative. For a full report on Street Pastors in Colchester see May 2007 prayer guide. Here is an update from Tim Abbott.

“Forty people came to the meeting at Eld Lane Baptist Church to find out more about Street Pastors and to decide whether this was something we could get started in Colchester. We were joined by Sgt Chris Barker from Colchester Police and Insp. Glenn Mayes from Essex Police who oversees links with faith-based projects like this. Also there was Peter Carrington who heads up the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for Colchester Borough Council.

The aim of the meeting was to gauge the level of support from local Christians and from the Police and CDRP. A project of this kind cannot get off the ground unless there are enough people to make it happen (we'll need about 32 committed street pastors to get started). We also need to be sure that there is genuine understanding and endorsement from the Police and Council, something that's made much easier for us by Insp Glenn Mayes involvement nationally and the Street Pastors project in Southend which is recognised as an example of good practice.

With 37 people there from local churches (and about another dozen who would have been with us but for other commitments) I think it would be fair to say there is overwhelming support for a Street Pastors project in Colchester. Street Pastors in Colchester is on!

The next step is to get a management

group together.

We can then start sorting out training dates for people who want to become Street Pastors.

We will keep you in touch with developments as they happen and welcome your feedback, questions or ideas at any time. For now, please reply to Tim at CYO.

As a first stage we want to be able to train up at least 32 people who can commit to being a Street Pastor at least one Friday night a month. If we can get more people than that we may be able to have more teams or cover more nights of the week.

If you know more people who would like to be added to the mailing list, please get them to contact me.

Thank you for your support and enthusiasm for Street Pastors in Colchester. Keep spreading the word to others”.



Please pray for:

- People to catch the vision and ethos of SP
- The partnership between church, police and council
- The release of resource, funding and people
- A core team to take this forward
- This initiative to be established in Colchester

The earth is the Lord's,
and everything in it,
The world, and all who
live in it;
For He founded it upon
the seas
And established it upon
the waters.
Psalm 24: 1- 2

Feedback and other town news

Be Exalted—13th, 14th and 15th July. “Worship is all about how we live our lives and not just that small amount of time we leave during our Sunday service to sing along to a band, or bands at a Christian festival. It is about a 24/7 commitment to God, a lifestyle not confined to musical moments”.

This is the mission statement for Bexalted and this weekend will be an exploration of all things worship using a variety of sounds, bands, lights, speakers, seminars, activities and a whole lot of passion.

Bexalted will be happening on the 13th, 14th and 15th July. For more information see the website www.bexalted.co.uk or telephone the Arts Centre 01206 500900

Ramparts Trust Closes. At the AGM on Monday 21st May, members agreed to close down the Ramparts Trust. The Ramparts Trust is a Colchester-based Christian Educational charity, originally set up to oversee the management of the Ramparts Christian School in Colchester, which closed in 2000 due mainly to accommodation difficulties. Planning permission granted for a new site earmarked for a Christian school near the University of Essex expired last year. Members are pleased that we have been able to donate the remaining Ramparts funds of nearly £15,000 to build a Christian school in the slums of Kampala, Uganda. While classrooms are now almost ready for children to move into, additional funds are needed to complete this project. Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so through another Christian charity supporting this build project called Hand in Hand, based in Chelmsford. Contact: Daniel Jones: 01245-421177, daniel.jones@hihand.org.

Further feedback. “I was praying Friday night 15th June as part of preparation for Street Pastors project. I strongly sensed a new season dawning for Colchester. The others agreed with me that a new 'sound' of mission is emerging. All denominations, streams and Christ centred groups are included and this sound is marked with excellence, focused on making Jesus known to Colchester. I believe the days of small one-off projects and events are gone, we're moving on to a lifestyle of mission minded church. The Street Pastors initiative is giving way for opportunities of being, living and working together to build God's Kingdom in Colchester. It's not about each congregation looking to make sure they're doing their part or looking after their own interests. This new season is the church of Christ Jesus sharing life together and doing it well and excellently. Excellence in mission has been on hearts and minds of some people for a long time but now it's going mainstream and widespread. I believe there are people with resources and gifts who have been in the undergrowth or been in hiding because of shyness or feeling hurt but God wants them to come out and be put on display to show off Jesus to others. People have been lying in wait for an opportune time but the Lord is now giving it them. I believe we're going to see a growth in opportunities for followers of Christ to build long lasting meaningful relationships over the coming years. Relationships are important for growth in numbers and in Christ. We have to love one another and look out for one another as we mix together more and more. That is the kind of unity that will literally attract the blessing of God like oil running down Aaron's beard.” (Mike)

We pray for the family and friends of Helen Maughan the woman

murdered in Colchester in May this year. We pray particularly for her children. We pray for the police and all those involved in bringing those responsible to justice.

“We sense a weariness and tiredness coming upon God's people at this time. These are exciting times and there is much work to be done, but we need to be operating in God's strength and anointing. We pray for God's strength for each other, for our leaders, those that are weary in the place of prayer. We pray for a calling back to a place of deep intimacy, restoration and strengthening of our relationship with God as we reflect and meditate on God's word and great works”. Mic 5:4, 2 Sam 2:31-37, Ps 105: 2-4. Col 1:11 (Teresa)

Aglow International

St John's and Highwoods Community Centre, Highwoods
Saturday 7th July
 Meeting 1.30pm -4.30pm.
 Registration fees £3.50 including lunch. Our Speaker this month is Joan Millard, Prayer Chairman for Aglow, who has a passion for prayer and outreach. For further information please call 01206-520228

Prayer Breakfast

Date: Saturday 7th July
 Time: 8.30 am - 10 am
 Wivenhoe Methodist,
 The Avenue, Wivenhoe

*Thank you to everyone who contacts CPn each month. Write to Teresa Lasky at 1, Lodge Court, West Bergholt, CO6 3JL or to **contribute to next month's prayer guide** contact Marie Morris at: info@colchesterprayernet.co.uk The contributors views are their own and do not necessarily express those of the editors*

Christian Community

In 2005 Sharon Stone toured the region of East Anglia. As part of that she prayed for Colchester. Here again, we pray into one aspect of that prayer for our town—the establishment Christian Community. She said: ***‘Colchester has earliest known Christian Community, deserving of more fruit’. Sharon spoke to dormant seeds, ‘Colchester is not hard ground, it is not uncultivated ground and seed is not going to be picked off by “birds of the air” but the seed will be allowed to germinate, to open up, to release the life of the Spirit and we call forth that which has a heritage, call this forth redemptively for Colchester. We call forth not just church but Christian community, the ability for Jesus to be seen and heard in every sphere of society’.***

We give thanks for:

- The established Church as it is positioned at the centre of our communities
- All community based outreach, playgroups, social groups, etc
- Those creating fresh expressions of Christian Community and all that has emerged in Colchester over the last few years
- Those who have positioned themselves within their community, place of work, or social setting desiring to show God’s love and see the advancing of His Kingdom

We repent:

- Where Jesus has been ‘hidden’ by our poor witness, lack of love for each other and our communities,
- Having a form of Godliness but denying the power there of (2 Timothy 3:5)

- Of negative confessions that Colchester is ‘hard ground’

We pray for:

- The establishment of vibrant Christian community in the Colchester area
- Freedom of expression and new shapes of church to emerge
- Jesus to be seen and heard in every sphere of society
- Fresh infilling of Jesus’ presence into schools and other structures where community is established
- God’s spirit to water dormant seeds within our lives and the life of our church
- Fresh belief and expectation of what God may do here
- That prayer would rise up in line with God’s purposes for this town
- Jesus to build His church (Matthew 16:18)
- Restoration of all that has been stolen from us in the past
- The people of Colchester to know the love of God
- Transformation of town values, structures and government,

We are always grateful for the insights of Rev Terry Tennans.

“‘The word became flesh and lived among us...’ John 1:14

Eugene Peterson translates the above verse with piercing application. **The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood!**

Henri Nouwen said "Community is the place where the person you least want to live with, always lives".

Isn't this true for us in our churches, we think "wouldn't it be great if so and so wasn't part of this". In my experience God does a lot of grace

shaping of our hearts by placing our opposites among us. Time and again that has been true for me and I have come out of the circumstance chided and finding a friendship with my opposite I was least expecting.

I wonder how true this story might be for us?

An adult evening class group were queuing for a meal when suddenly the line disappeared as the odour of bacteria enveloped the line of people. Even the husband of this woman moved over to let the street traveller through. This homeless man with his searching eyes entered the warmth of the cafeteria so he had to buy a coffee, which is all he could afford. The woman suddenly noticed everyone watching for her reaction as the homeless man reached her. She prayed 'what now Lord?' So she greeted the man, bought him a sandwich and as he thanked her and shook her hand, she realised she had allowed the Spirit of God to become real... move into the neighbourhood by unconditional love and acceptance.

True holiness doesn't mean we are extracted from the hurting world, insulated from pain and suffering. It means we surrender ourselves to the God who gave himself up for us. We become channels of love and ambassadors of truth and grace.

God has moved into your neighbour, guess who through...?

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and food. If one of you says 'I wish you well; keep warm and well fed', but does nothing... what good is it?faith... not accompanied by action is dead (James 2v15-17)"

Journey into Wholeness (JIW)

Prayer Support for JIW

Monthly prayer meetings are held at Mount Zion Salvation Army Centre on the fourth Monday of each month, (except in August), i.e. 25th June, 23rd July, 24th Sept, 29th Oct and 26th Nov. If you would like more information about these meetings, please contact Paul Jonas, on 520021.

Training days

Our Teambuilding event takes place on Saturday 15th September, 10.00am to 4.00pm. Details later. We are contacting churches in the area to request a short slot at a meeting or service to explain about Journey into Wholeness. If you would like us to visit your church for a Sunday or weekday meeting, to speak about the work of JIW, please let Mike Eavery know. We would be happy to visit for just 10 minutes, if it's a good use of time!

Mind Body Soul Exhibition

This will take place at the Charter Hall on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th September 2007. We plan to have a stall again this year. We have also booked the St Paul's Centre as a prayer room for prayer support from the Friday evening through to the Sunday evening. We are delighted to have the Boiler Room Community to help us organise prayer again this year.

We will be booking one Seminar slot which will be led by Penny Horseman. We will also be holding a follow-up event, on Saturday 13th October 2007, at the Odd One Out pub in Mersea Road, (for all those we have contacted during the exhibition. There will be a separate review event on Saturday 20th October.

Administration

We have set the budget at £1,360, and are looking to the Lord to provide this amount; if

you are able to contribute towards this, please write to Jane, our Treasurer, at 170 Berechurch Road, Colchester, Essex CO2 7QQ. The balance for the stall fee is due in July:

Our progress towards becoming a registered charity is slow but steady. Meanwhile, our prayer is that no-one will misuse the name Journey into Wholeness, now that it's getting known around the country. Our thanks must also go to Sally Coleman, our National Co-ordinator, for her role in spreading the good name of JIW.

Brentwood/Southend JIW group

This is making some progress. We have been having talks with a church in Chelmsford, and are hoping that they will join in with the friends who are already interested in forming this new group.

Beverley Risdon and her autobiography. Beverley has been instrumental in getting the Colchester JIW group up and running, but as we have mentioned before, she was diagnosed with cancer in her oesophagus, and it is spreading rapidly. She is now very poorly and in a Hospice in Southend. I had the privilege of visiting her along with our good friend Joan Davies, and we were able to pray with dear Bev. She has not minded who knows about her condition. Please pray for Bev's family at this time: two daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren.

By the end of June, we will be privileged to have Bev's autobiography available. It is a strong read, giving her account of being drawn into New Age practices and lifestyles, and then gently but definitely rescued by Jesus and firmly planted in the Truth. If you would like a copy, please let us know. It is Bev's wish JIW should publish it and make it widely available – and benefit from any financial income from sales.

*Shalom, dear friends,
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Colchester Group*
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Friends International (F.I.)

Many thanks for those of you who pray for the University and for the work of F.I. Praise God for:

- A good day at Fingringhoe Methodist church recently when we helped prepare some students for 'Going Home'.
- The fact that the International Academy at the university asked Michael and Caroline to represent the staff on a trip to Norwich with about 35 pre-sessional students recently.
- The few students who are attending Bible studies each week. Pray that many more will be interested.

Please pray for:

- The BBQ and trip to Wivenhoe Regatta on the 21st July for pre-sessional students, that it will be a fine day and good friendships will be formed.
- More Christian people to befriend students.
- Adequate finance to come in for all the work of F.I.
- For graduation days 18th - 20th July. For the short services held in the Chaplaincy for students + spiritual encouragement for students as they come back to the UK to visit us.
- Rev Thomas Yapp as he settles in his new role as Anglican Chaplain at the University.

God bless you all. *Joan Davies*



Prayer for Justice

We pray for Colchester to be a place of peace where we understand and embrace God's heart for justice at every level. Here are some thoughts to help us pray.

"Beneath an outward appearance of indifference, in the heart of every person there is a will to live in community and a thirst for justice and peace."

Pope Paul VI

The Word of God calls believers to become "the salt of the earth, the light of the world." The church leaders are called to teach and lead, but unless the Church's social teaching finds a home deep in the hearts and lives of every woman and man, our community and culture will fall short of what the Gospel requires.

Our society urgently needs the everyday witness of Christians who take the social demands of our faith seriously. The pursuit of justice is an essential part of the call to holiness, which is our true vocation: to live "in Christ," and let Christ live and work in us in our world today.

Christian faith changes who we are, what we do and how we think. The Gospel offers "good news" and guidance not just for our spiritual lives, but for all the commitments and duties which make up our lives. Living our faith in the ordinary tasks of everyday life is an essential part of what it means to be holy today. The call to live our faith in everyday choices and actions remains at the heart of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Best expressed in Micah 6:8 "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness and walk humbly with your God." We therefore pray for every aspect of

the life of church in this town. **We pray for:**

1. The church. Christianity does not call us to abandon the world, but to help shape it. Christians are everywhere in this society, from corporate executives to farm workers, politicians and university students, day care workers, union leaders and small business owners. Social justice and the common good are built up or torn down day by day in the countless decisions and choices we make. We pray for those choices to be God inspired, rooted in righteousness and born out of deep conviction.

2. Our families. How we treat our parents, spouses and children is a reflection of our commitment to Christ's love and justice. We demonstrate our commitment to the Gospel by how we spend our time and money, and whether our family life includes an ethic of charity, service and action for justice. The lessons we teach our children through what we do as well as what we say determines whether they care for the "least among us" and are committed to work for justice. We repent where we have been blind to these issues and pray for fresh understanding and commitment in these areas.

3. Workers are called to pursue justice. Work is not a burden, not just how we make a living. Work is a way of supporting our family, realizing our dignity, promoting the common good, and participating in God's creation. This means often doing the ordinary well, making the most of our talents and opportunities, treating others fairly and with dignity, and working with integrity and creativity. Decisions made at work can make important contributions to an ethic of justice. We offer our talents to God afresh and ask

Him to guide our decision making processes.

4. Owners, managers, and investors who face important opportunities to seek justice and pursue peace. Ethical responsibility is not just avoiding evil, but doing right, especially for the weak and vulnerable. Decisions about the use of capital have moral implications: Are they creating and preserving quality jobs at living wages? Are they building up community through the goods and services they provide? Do policies and decisions reflect respect for human life and dignity, promote peace and preserve God's creation?

5. Us as consumers we can promote social justice or injustice. When we purchase goods and services, we can choose to support companies that defend human life, treat workers fairly, protect creation, and respect other basic moral values at home and abroad. We pray for fresh commitment to those who are weak and vulnerable, those that cannot speak for themselves. We chose to prioritise these issues before our own interests, benefits and desires.

Proverbs 31:9, Psalm 10:17, 18. Isaiah 1:17.

Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester. A meeting of Church ministers and other Christian leaders from across the town. The date of the next meeting for lunch, fellowship and prayer is **Wednesday 18th July**. Please continue to pray for unity in the Body of Christ in Colchester.