



# September 2007

## Justice

### Inside this issue:

Justice	1
Street Pastors update	2
Colchester Boiler Room Community	3
Alpha Equip and Refresh	3
Feedback and answered prayer	4
Colchester Business Community	4

We continue our prayer focus on issues of justice. Many thanks to Rev Terry Tennens for this article to help our praying.

### SEEK JUSTICE FOR THE OPPRESSED

#### International Justice Mission (IJM)

IJM is a Christian human rights organisation that seeks to fulfil the call in Isaiah 1:17 that tells us, "Learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan and plead for the widow." This mission is driven by a massive need in the world and a clear Biblical mandate.

The massive need is manifest in the suffering of those who are hurting not because they lack access to the Gospel, food, medicine or shelter – but those who are hurting because they have oppressors who abuse their power to take from them the good things that God intends for them.

These abuses include: forced prostitution, bonded slavery, sexual abuse, gender-based violence, police abuse, illegal detention and torture, illegal land and property seizures.

The Scriptures speak with unmistakable clarity in calling God's people to meet the need, Micah 6:8 tells us, "He has shown you O man what is good and what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

#### An IJM case - Gitumbi free at last - by Joe Kigubu, Director, IJM Kenya

"Reason and law suggest that no one should be arrested without probable cause. Yet, on the evening of 19<sup>th</sup>

March 2004, Kenyan farmer Joseph Gitumbi and his housekeeper, Bernard Muchiri, were arrested by a group of plain-clothes police officers. The officers had no warrant for the arrest of either man.

Upon arrival at the local police station, 42-year-old Gitumbi was locked up in a holding cell. Shortly after, he was dragged from his cell to an interrogation room where he was ruthlessly beaten by the senior police officer. The officer then left the room without a word. The cruel officer later returned and continued to beat Gitumbi with a baton, ignoring his pleas for mercy.

Later that night, a hastily convened court took Gitumbi's case, with the senior police officer acting as the court prosecutor. Gitumbi was charged with seven petty offences. He pleaded not guilty to all charges and was kept in custody.

The next day, Gitumbi's housekeeper, Muchiri, was told that he must record a false statement against Gitumbi if he wanted to be released. Muchiri recorded the statement and was allowed to leave. Three days later, Gitumbi fell unconscious, was admitted to the hospital and stayed there for a week. He was then transferred to another hospital, where doctors attributed his illness to the beating he had received, and was sent home in April.

Gitumbi's plight was brought to IJM's attention two months later. IJM investigators uncovered that the senior officer had been making

**He has told you , O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?**

Micah 6:8 NASB

## From page one.....

sexual advances toward Gitumbi's wife. Her refusal had provoked the officer to arrest Gitumbi. IJM took the case evidence to the Kenyan Director of Criminal Investigations on Gitumbi's behalf. Thankfully, the senior police officer was suspended from the police force and charged with assault.

IJM lawyers then took on the challenge of defending Gitumbi on the seven charges. The prosecution failed to prove his guilt and Gitumbi was acquitted of six of the

seven charges against him on 28th July 2005. The court acquitted him of the remaining charge on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2005".

### What can you and your Church do?

**Expose:** Educate others about the biblical mandate to seek justice

**Explore:** Investigate issues of injustice locally and globally

**Engage:** Pray – Pay for the rescue the poor cannot afford – Participate in IJM – Pursue a career in human rights. Rev. Terry Tennens

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*"For too long we have ignored the overwhelming mountain of scripture that commands God's people to care for the oppressed. Justice is in the heart of God and is a significant part of our mission in the world".*

*Dr Rick Warren*

## Street Pastors update



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 the last management meeting.

Thank God for:

- Support from Colchester Borough Council and the Police.
- An active response from the Church, shown by more than 30 people volunteering to be trained to become Street Pastors.

Please pray for the following:

- Ongoing good relationship with Colchester Borough Council and the Police.
- Wisdom for the management team as we plan and communicate before the

official launch

- An early start date for training for Street Pastors – we hope to launch by New Year 2008, and would like to begin training as soon as possible, in order to be ready for this.
- A treasurer.
- Funding for all 30 volunteers to cover uniform and training.

### Prayer Gathering for Street Pastors Friday 21st September, 8pm – Venue TBC

The aim of the night will be to gather together to pray for the Street Pastor initiative before training starts. We will pray for the town, the Council, the Police, specific venues in the town centre, and for those volunteering to become Street Pastors. Please join us! You are also welcome to stay for 'Street Prayer' 11pm onwards at Eld Lane with the Colchester Boiler Room Community

For further info contact [katy@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk](mailto:katy@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk)

**Prayer Breakfast.** There is no prayer breakfast in September

### ALPHA Equip and Refresh Saturday 8th September

9:30 am—4:30 pm. See page 3 for details.

### Mind Body Soul Exhibition Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th September 2007.

See page 4 for details.

### Transformational Business Group Colchester

Thursday 27th September at 7:45 pm at the Tollgate Hall. See page 4 for details.

*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](mailto:info@colchesterprayernet.co.uk) The contributors views are their own and do not necessarily express those of the editors*

## Colchester Boiler Room Community

### A developing rhythm of prayer

People connected into Colchester Boiler Room Community have started praying the following prayer as a daily prayer.

***“Lord Jesus, please help me to be true to you, kind to people, and take the Gospel to the nations. Amen”***

We pray this prayer wherever we are at 12 noon. (Although some people chose another time of the day). If you would like to join us in this daily rhythm of prayer please start. And let Katy or Richard Smith know on 01206 522781 or [mail@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk](mailto:mail@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk)

“Personally, I am finding this daily prayer challenges me to look to take the Gospel wherever I go.”  
Richard Smith

Our early prayer has changed from Monday to Wednesday. We now meet from 6am – 8am at Colchester Baptist Church on Eld Lane. We then have breakfast together at a local cafe.

### An upcoming prayer room.

There will be a 24/2 prayer room at the St Paul's Centre, St Paul's Road, Colchester from **7pm Friday 28th September to 7pm Sunday 30th September**. This prayer room will provide prayer support for the Journey into Wholeness Christian stall at the Mind, Body, Soul exhibition that weekend. You can get involved in the following ways:

- By booking in to pray for a 1 hour slot that weekend, at the St Paul's Centre.
- By helping to plan and design the layout and activities for the prayer room.
- By setting up the prayer room on Friday 28th September and
- By packing up the prayer room on Sunday 30th September.

If you're interested and/or able to help with any of these, please contact Richard Smith at [richard@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk](mailto:richard@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk) 01206 522781.

**Street Prayer.** We continue to meet at Colchester Baptist Church (Eld Lane) and prayer walk from 11pm every Friday night. We believe this is significant in preparation for Street Pastors. There is an ongoing sense of openness in this 'twilight zone' in the town centre, and a need for the reality of the life of Jesus to be made known. Every week we see many 'normal' people just wanting to celebrate. Worshippers without a God to worship. Sheep without a shepherd. Each week we are moved with the compassion of Jesus for our town and these people. We are reminded that 'the harvest is plenty but the workers are few' – (Matt 9v37). Please pray for us. For further info or to join in with Street Prayer or Street Pastors contact [katy@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk](mailto:katy@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk)

## ALPHA Equip and Refresh

Equip and Refresh is a 1 day conference. It is designed to help you run Alpha effectively and is a great opportunity to meet and share ideas with other people running Alpha locally.

Who is Equip and Refresh for?

- Everyone involved in running Alpha, including church leaders and helpers—the more people who share the vision, the better the course will run.
- Leaders in local churches and individuals who would like to find out more about Alpha. It will help explain what Alpha is

about and how to begin running a course.

The day runs from **9:30 am—4:30 pm on Saturday 8th September** at St John's Church, Ipswich Rd, Colchester. Come and meet the team from HTB, pray for the courses starting in September and worship together.

The Equip and Refresh day will have two tracks, one for those who are new to Alpha and one for people looking to improve their courses. It provides opportunity for you and your team to hear about ways in which you might:

- Run more successful courses
- Attract more people to your courses
- Learn from the experience of others running Alpha
- Hear suggestions about what happens after Alpha

Cost for the day = £5:00. For more information and registration forms contact Paul and Karen Carr: 34, St Augustine Mews, Colchester, CO1 2PF.

Tel: 01206 791986

## Feedback and answered prayer

**Collective.** Thanks to those who prayed for Laura (Collective) to find somewhere to live. "We were able to find a new home for Laura at the end of June." Tim

### **Transformational Business Group. "Bringing spiritual and physical transformation to the poor".**

Over the last 4 years this group of Christian business people have been involved in; business training in Uganda, selling computers in Albania, and helping a greeting card business in Rwanda. There is an open meeting on Thursday 27th September at 7:45 pm at the Tollgate Hall to find out what we have been doing, our future plans and opportunities to be involved. All welcome. Free admission. For more information contact Simon Lasky 01206 242235 or [simon@lasky.co.uk](mailto:simon@lasky.co.uk)

**Thanks to those who prayed for Bexalted last month.** "It was a real privilege to worship and pray together at the Arts Centre with Bexalted on Saturday night. After Xalt led a wonderful time of worship 50 people or so stayed on to pray for Colchester. People were ready to give up their evening to pray for the streets of Colchester, making prophetic declarations, calling for the prodigals to come home, declaring Colchester a "city of victory" again, pronouncing blessing on the streets and the Arts Centre. It felt so good to be able to do the stuff in such a significant place and we trust that some things have shifted. The very fact that Xalt were able to hire the hall in the first place was such an answer to prayer. Thanks to everyone who turned out and prayed and well done to Xalt for

pulling the weekend off so well! It would be great to think we could use the place again". Rob. There are some snippets of the prayers and songs at [www.myspace.com/presencetheband](http://www.myspace.com/presencetheband)

**Mind Body Soul Exhibition.** Will take place at the Charter Hall on **Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th September 2007.** Journey Into Wholeness (JIW) have a stall again this year. See page 3 for details of prayer support. JIW are holding one Seminar slot which will be led by Penny Horseman. They 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.

## Colchester Business Community

*In the last few months we have focussed our prayers on the business community. It was encouraging to see this new initiative.*

### **Six trailblazing specials join police family**

A new batch of volunteer police officers were sworn in at a special ceremony at Colchester's Town Hall.

The six recruits had three weeks of gruelling training in a bid to become the Essex's very first dedicated business specials.

The public-spirited officers will be freed by their employers for a certain number of hours a month to fight crime near their place of work. As special constables they will also be able to carry out reassurance patrols, police events and target shoplifters, pickpockets and troublemakers in their

spare time.

The attestation was attended by several dignitaries including the mayor of Colchester Roy Gamble. The town crier oversaw the ceremonial proceedings as each officer was called upon to swear their loyalty to Queen and country. They were Damien Keane, of Bluestone construction, Cassandra Fallows of Colchester Borough Council, Simon Ford-Townly and Scott Harris of Asda supermarket, Carole Dade of Woolworths and Jemma Vile of Sainsbury's.

Mr Gamble told the volunteers: "As mayor I would like to thank you very much on behalf of the whole borough of Colchester for giving up your time for the benefit of the community." The new business specials will come under the umbrella of employer supported learning which is

a Home Office backed scheme. The new officers will be used to patrol and fight crime within Colchester's bustling retail centre.

Eastern Division's Chief Supt Dave Hudson said: "I see these officers as trailblazers. From small acorns might oaks grow and we hope they will form the vanguard of the business special scheme in Essex.

*Please pray for this pioneering scheme, and for the business community in Colchester.*

