



# February 2008

## New Neighbour Programme

### Inside this issue:

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| "New Neighbour"        | 1 |
| National Marriage week | 2 |
| SMILE Puppets          | 2 |
| Feedback and town news | 3 |
| Journey Into Wholeness | 4 |
| University of Essex    | 5 |
| Fairtrade Fortnight    | 5 |

***"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."***

**Matthew 25:35-36**

The New Neighbour Programme is an exciting opportunity for the Church to reach out to refugees.

The underlying principle of the new scheme is "private sponsorship", with local church members welcoming, befriending and helping refugees to settle into their local community.

The families that are given the opportunity to start a new life in the UK are unable to return to their homeland and often face persecution even within the refugee camp. They may also be facing extreme medical, psychological or security need.

The project is funded by the Home Office, and it was very encouraging to hear of a number of senior officials who are committed to providing new hope for refugees.

Up to five families will be resettled in the Colchester area as part of a pilot project.

### Aims:

- To provide newly arrived refugee families with a warm and supportive welcome to their new home

- To carry out a holistic settlement of the needs of each individual and to help refugees access appropriate accommodation, services, employment and education
- To work with refugees and local organisations to help refugees integrate, become independent and to participate in their new communities.

The project is looking for churches who can provide volunteers or other support. New Neighbour volunteers:

- Welcome a newly arrived family
- Accompany the family on key appointments to register for school work or the GP
- Explain the use of any unfamiliar services or pieces of equipment e.g. gas, electricity, how to contact emergency services
- Help the family in getting used to the area including amenities
- Meet regularly with the family for a year

Among the prayer needs:

- The relationship with Colchester Borough Council is critical
- Obtaining the right housing stock. It is difficult to rent properties without knowing the size and needs of the family, but the Home Office will not allocate families to Colchester until they can be sure they will be adequately housed! The housing also needs to be close to other amenities such as schools, doctors' surgeries and so on.

## Marriage

**7th February to 14th February** is National Marriage Week. Paul and Karen Carr from Colchester are part of the National Couple Support Network, and their work covers four main areas:

- Marriage Preparation courses. Many couple prepare for a wedding but have no marriage preparation. 70% of couples who marry do so at a registry office where there is no marriage preparation given.
- Marriage courses - where couples who are already married can strengthen their relationships.

- Wedding Fairs - to attend wedding fairs and so to encourage people to invest in their relationship, not just "the big day". At a recent Fair in Colchester they spoke to and gave marriage preparation packs to 130 couples.
- Raising the profile of marriage at Government level

Paul and Karen have many opportunities in their work. They especially need to see more finances to enable them to attend Wedding Fairs. To contact Paul and Karen  
Tel: 07849 452128  
Email: info@pandk.co.uk

### We thank God for:

- The gift of marriage
- For every marriage we know.
- The many examples of long and happy marriages

### We pray for:

- Marriages to be strong and to be examples of kindness and love.
- All marriages that are under pressure, particularly financial or where someone in the family is unwell.
- Forgiveness and healing where needed.

## Smile Puppets

2007 was a busy year for Smile puppet ministry. We currently have 19 members in the team.

We took part in a mission to New York to Metro Ministries with Bill Wilson to equip us further. You can see our newsletter on our website [www.smilepuppetministry.org.uk](http://www.smilepuppetministry.org.uk).

We also did a mission to Sri Lanka, during which we:

- ran a Smile Mega Kids Club programme for 3 days
- were given a slot at a women's conference
- and prayed around the provinces all over Sri Lanka

Last year we also did an outreach event in Westminster Chapel to mark the start of the 'Tour de France'. This was an amazing time and many people were asking questions. The follow up to this was our Christmas production in Westminster where we had fantastic feedback.

The team and Ella individually with ventriloquism applied for Britain's Got Talent. We should hear this

month how we have done, but if nothing else it was exciting to see so many people clapping and singing to "I believe one day I'm going to heaven". It would be good to get a Christian team getting through at least the first round.

Smile Mega Kids Club continues to run. The aim is to reach every child in Colchester with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are offering the hour long programme "Bash Gordon Saves the Creatures of the Universe" to churches as an outreach event.

This year we are planning a conference to equip children's leaders, and then we are touring Sri Lanka for two weeks. If you would like further information on either of these, DVDs are available.

Currently, Paul, Ella, Beth and John go into schools in Colchester preaching the good news through puppets, stories, object lessons, songs and ventriloquism. We praise God for three or four

schools that Smile are able to go into each week

### We pray for:

- The strength of the team
- New inspiration
- Finances
- Ella to successfully complete her advanced level of ventriloquism (she will be the first European to get to this level)
- Ella as she shares her testimony in the Princes Theatre Clacton for a Women's Breakfast.
- Ella and John as they decide whether they need to get more of Ella's book 'Living Behind the Mask' printed
- More doors to open in primary and secondary school
- The art of puppetry course that starts in Holy Trinity School this month
- 'Jesus at School' clubs in Holy Trinity, Fiveways and Montgomery schools



**Feedback.** Thank you to Richard, (Colchester Boiler Room Community) for giving us the following feedback from the 24/7 Boiler Room Networking day.

"There was a time of prayer for Colchester. I remember two words being given in particular;

One was a picture of a town surrounded by a wall. And out of gaps in the wall came arrows. And these arrows were very directed and very effective.

Another was a prayer for Essex Men. And a prayer for redemption of Essex Men. That their talents as entrepreneurs, energy, doing new things and telling others would be redeemed and used for God's kingdom".

**Street Pastors Launch.** "We had an amazing evening on Saturday 8th December. It was the commissioning service for the Colchester Street Pastors. These are Christians who are being sent out on Friday nights to help people and bring the love of Jesus to the streets. There was prayer and worship in the Mayors parlour, Colchester Town Hall. And the Mayor (alongside the Police and local church leaders) commissioned the Street Pastors with these words.

"Will you undertake your work as Street Pastors faithfully and to the best of your ability? Will you pray for the work you undertake and for the people with whom you come into contact?"

To which we replied. "With God's help. We will."

**First night.** 18 Street Pastors went out on Friday 14th December, and we were backed by many friends in the church who were praying for us.

Thank God He gave us a spirit of boldness to go out. I did feel nerv-

ous, because it was the first night out in our Street Pastor uniforms. But I was also really excited and buoyed by having so many friends around me.

During the night we were able to help many people; we reported a girl who was missing, we stopped a girl getting bullied by her friends, we treated an injured woman and called an ambulance, we encouraged a group who were looking after a distressed woman. There was one incident of threatened aggression against us. However, that amounted to nothing".

**Colchester Street Pastors**  
Please continue to pray for the Street Pastors who are out to help people 10pm - 4am on Fridays. Contact Prayernet if you would like to offer prayer support.

**Colchester Garrison.** We pray for our soldiers who will travel from our Garrison to Afghanistan in the next few weeks to serve there. We pray for their families and loved ones left here in our town. We pray for the soldiers safe return, peace for army families and for the church to minister effectively in this situation.

**Through the Gateway.** Courtesy of the Nightwatch for Europe we pray for the European church from the following paragraphs of the Archbishop of York's statement in the British press.

*"The world we live in is our inheritance, so value it. Demonstrate about issues of ecology, boycott businesses that support corrupt regimes, campaign for justice for those denied it, befriend the lonely, visit the sick, feed the hungry and transform the world.*

*The Christmas message does not set up two alternative worlds - it does not ask us to leave the real, immediate, compromised and un-*

*comfortable world, and enter some sort of 'spiritual' alternative. The movement of God is precisely in the opposite direction, for in Jesus, born for us, God says an emphatic 'Yes!' to the world, and invites us to join him in transforming both it and ourselves. God trusts and believes in us implicitly. His love affair with us is such that he longs to transform us into those people we were made to be with each of us as a sacred stand-in for God."*

Consider your attitude and the attitude of the church and Christians that you know in the light of this statement. Humbly confess our lack of involvement in God's world and pray and work for genuine change in the orientation of the European church. Let's pray:

- For the body of Christ in our town, this nation and Europe.
- Repent for and take a stand against the divided mindset that puts spiritual and material things against each other.

Let's pray for the understanding that everything proceeds from love and the Spirit, but that this does not make material things less important, rather it invests everything with significance, even the most mundane. See Matthew 10:29-30.

**Kenya.** From Hudson Mukunza (Kenya House of Prayer). "Calm is returning to the country but the healing and resettlement of people will take more than a few years. We would urge you to pray with us: that Kenya will emerge from this crisis stronger and better. Pray for deep healing, dealing with tribal altars that have held the population in bondage. Pray for the healing of the land as much blood has been shed. Pray that tribal repentance that has begun among believers will be deep and will extend to national leaders".

# Journey into Wholeness

Dear Prayer Supporters,

## The Boiler Room Community

We thank God for their creativity and sensitivity in supporting us at the Exhibition in September 2007. This led to an enjoyable evening in October, which gave us opportunities to review what happened (including the Follow-up Event at the Odd One Out) and what we can think about for the future. The St Paul's Centre has already been booked for this year, Friday evening 26th September through to Sunday evening 28th September.

## Mind Body Soul Exhibition

The dates have been published for this year's exhibition but have not been confirmed to us as applicants for a stall. Do pray that this will be clarified so we can pray ahead to a theme etc.

Beverley's book 'Maze of Deception' is available through us at a suggested donation of £6.00 each. If you would like a copy contact Howard Gardner at:

[howard@journeyintowholeness.net](mailto:howard@journeyintowholeness.net)

Our application to the Charity Commission has been successful: we are now Registered Charity, number 1121530. This means we can now reclaim tax from the Inland Revenue on all donations from UK tax-payers. These can also be backdated to gifts as early as 15th June 2007. However, we now need a volunteer with experience of administering Gift Aided donations: do you know of anyone who could do this for us, perhaps just twice a year.

## Our Website:

Typing 'journey into wholeness' into any Internet search engine brings up similar named but entirely different organizations / beliefs / ideas.

We would therefore welcome any help in developing, maintaining and keeping our website up-to-

date and would like to hear from anyone who feels that their expertise could be used in God's service in this ministry. Meanwhile, we appreciate the help from our friend Chris Locke.

The Brentwood/Southend JIW Group is now making progress, and we are pleased to report that a stall has been booked for the Mind Body Soul Exhibition in Brentwood, in March 2008. There is much to do, including contacting other churches in the area to enlist support. If you might be able to help, please let us know, or contact Gail Harris direct: [gail@mole-end.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:gail@mole-end.eclipse.co.uk)

Some years ago a very successful conference was held for Journey into Wholeness Groups across the country. Now there is some talk about holding a national conference in 2008. This would need considerable planning, prayer and support. Would you pray about this, and let us know what you think.

**Prayer Points** Please pray for

- More Committee members, especially a Treasurer
- For wider vision for the work of JIW and involvement of new people in it.
- For the Colchester Group health, protection (physical and spiritual) in the ordinary events of everyday life.
- For opportunities to share the vision of JIW with local churches.
- Wisdom regarding a possible national conference of JIW and other like-minded groups in 2008
- Wisdom for a theme, the stall, music, prayer, seminar for the 2008 MBS Exhibition

We praise God

- For contacts made last year, new opportunities open to us at

Brentwood and elsewhere, for involvement of the Boiler Room Community and Colchester Prayernet

- For Beverley's autobiography *Maze of Deception* and for wisdom in promoting it, that it may be used to bring help to those who read it.
- That all of our expenses for putting on the Journey into Wholeness stall have been covered.

The next monthly prayer meeting is **Monday 25th February 2008** and thereafter on the fourth Monday of each month. All prayer meetings are at Mount Zion Salvation Army Centre, Ipswich Road and begin at 20.00hrs. More information from Paul Jonas on 01206 520021.

Shalom, dear friends and prayer partners, Journey into Wholeness, Colchester Group

[www.journeyintowholeness.net](http://www.journeyintowholeness.net)

**CYO open evening.** Monday 3rd March 2008, Plume Avenue United Reformed Church, Plume Avenue. Please note new date!

## **Prayer Breakfast**

Saturday 2nd February 2008

Time: 8.30 am - 10 am

Venue: Abbeyfield Community Church, Abbeigate Street,

*Thank you to everyone who contacts CPn each month. Write to Teresa Lasky at 1, Lodge Court, West Bergholt, CO6 3JL or email her at:*

*admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk*

**To contribute to next month's prayer guide contact Marie Morris at: *info@colchesterprayernet.co.uk***

*The contributor's views are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors.*

Many thanks for your prayers for Friends International over the Christmas period!

Here is just one of the grateful e-mail that we have received.

" I just want to say thank you very much for your wonderful hospitality on 25<sup>th</sup>. Christmas day this year became great and unforgettable day for me. The present I got from you is also quite meaningful for me. Since I began to pray saying that Jesus, please guide me towards right way and help me accomplish my mission in this world so I was surprised to get the present of the magnet saying "The Lord will guide you continually." My wish seems to reach God.

Through Bible class provided ...I learned important things in my life. I really appreciate that. I will continually learn from now. " Y.

### **Praise God for...**

- Those who made Christmas a great memory for international students!
- That the Christmas parties went very well. The students who came included those from many different countries. e.g. Azerbaijan.
- That 4 folk from Friends International were able to help with the University party for students on Boxing day.
- The outing we had with about 25

students on 2nd January. We made good relationships and answered lots of searching questions.

### **Please pray for...**

- All the precious seed sown during the Christmas period that there will be a harvest and many more students will join the Bible studies.
- The Christianity Awareness week from January 24th - February 1st mainly run by the CU with help from different Christian groups.
- Unity amongst the Christian groups on campus.

God bless, from Joan Davies

## **Fair Trade Fortnight**

The aim of Fair Trade is simple: to give disadvantaged producers in the Third world a fair price for the good they produce, a price which covers the cost of production and guarantees a living wage.

Often a little more is added to fund local developmental projects. If a product carries the Fairtrade mark you can be certain that it meets international fair trade standards.

In March 2007 UK Fairtrade sales passed the £300m mark, over the past five years the annual growth rate has been 40%, enabling around 7 million people – farmers, workers and their families, to have a reasonable standard of living and a brighter future. Most supermarkets now stock a range of Fairtrade goods which include bananas, tea, coffee, cocoa, chocolate, sugar, honey, snacks, cola, Christmas puddings, underwear etc, etc, etc. There are also Fairtrade cookbooks and other publications on the subject.

A number of towns, schools and churches have pledged themselves to be Fairtrade.

As Christians we know that there are numerous references in the Bible to helping the poor and underprivileged and making sure that workers receive fair wages. So Fairtrade is something we can all support. Fairtrade fortnight is from 25<sup>th</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> March this year and there are a whole range of resources and publicity material available including a 5 foot long inflatable banana (I'm not quite sure what one does with it but I'm buying one!)

What you can do:

- Pray (either individually or as a church) for Fairtrade and similar schemes. Get more information for your prayers by logging onto [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)
- Look round your local supermarket to see what Fairtrade

goods they have for sale. If there's a lot write to the supermarket and congratulate them, if not, politely ask why not.

- Send off for information about Fairtrade Fortnight.
- Encourage your church to become a Fairtrade organisation (or at least serve Fairtrade tea and coffee after services).
- Put up a Fairtrade display in your church or write an article for your church magazine.

*Brian Ford,  
Abbeyfield Community Church*

### **Colchester Boiler Room Community (CBRC) Feast on Saturday 9th February 2008.**

There will be a chance to hear news from 24-7 Prayer nationally and locally, and to join in. If you are interested in attending please contact Richard Smith at [mail@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk](mailto:mail@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk) or 01206 522781.