



# January 2008

## A declaration of hope for 2008

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This declaration has been circulated by the *World Prayer Centre*.

It is their vision that at the start of 2008 prayer networks, churches and individuals will declare across the nation the following declaration. Let us agree together in prayer.

With God's help:  
 I affirm that in 2008, I intend to bring:  
*Harmony* in place of discord  
*Opportunities* out of challenges  
*Praise* instead of criticism  
*Encouragement* to replace despair.

We affirm that in our Church, 2008 will be a year of:  
*Holiness* and wholeness  
*One purpose* for many people  
*Prayer* that leads to action  
*Everyone* finding a place to belong.

We pray that for our community, 2008 will be a year of:  
*Healing* for those who are broken  
*Order* where there is chaos  
*Protection* for the vulnerable  
*Enterprise* for all.

We pray for our nation, that 2008 will be a year of:  
*Health* of body mind and spirit  
*Open-hearted* attitudes  
*Passion* for justice and mercy  
*Expectations* and visions fulfilled.

### A Declaration of Hope for 2008

We pray that the God of all Hope will give us the faith and courage to live lives that will release HOPE this year. I make this declaration and pray this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**Romans 15:13**

### Prayer Hearing in Chelmsford Cathedral.

**Saturday 26th January 2008.  
10:00 am—2:00pm**

"A year ago Bishop David Hawkins invited us to accompany him in the adventure of 'listening to God in places where prayer is less common'!"

Since then groups have gathered in Harlow Civic Centre, Newham Council Chamber, Great Dunmow Village Hall, Lakeside Shopping Centre and The Railway Hotel Southend.

Following on from the Prayer Hearing at Alderman Blaxill School here in Colchester, we are invited to attend the above gathering in Chelmsford Cathedral.

The Bishop of Barking says "We gather to celebrate the extraordinary contemporary pilgrimage which has featured prayer in these towns. We gather to hear the experience of others and to hear God Himself— for our communities, our Diocese and our lives"

If you intend to go please RSVP  
Revd Paul Bowtell, Barking Lodge,  
Verulam Ave, London E17 8ES.

Tel: 02085097377.or Email:  
pbowtell@chelmsford.anglican.org

## The rock, by Graham Stevens

*We are grateful to Graham Stevens for sharing this with us.*

"I have been thinking and reading recently about the Hebrides Revival and some of the amazing events that took place when the glory of God descended on those islands. Whenever we read of such things a hunger and thirst is awakened in our own hearts. How I long for the Lord to come like a mighty river, ever deeper and wider, flooding every street and part of Colchester and the villages around. As I was reflecting on these things and preparing for this Sundays sermon (November 18th) the Lord planted a very vivid image into my mind which has not left me. Here it is:-

*There before me was a huge rock, covering a large area of land. It was just there, seemingly immovable, solid; people were trying in different ways to move it because it was for some reason hindering and blocking their progress. They could not move it though occasionally it appeared to budge a*

*little and the odd beetle would scurry out. Suddenly a shaft of light came on the rock and a hand reached down and lifted it up. And hundreds and thousands of creepy crawlies and bugs just dispersed in all directions, as the light hit and showed up their dark and safe world.*

### What does this mean?

*The rock is what covers this town and keeps safe in the dark all kinds of evil, wickedness, crime and occult practices, witchcraft – addictions etc. The people around are the churches seeking in their various ways to bring in the light in order to dispel the darkness and wickedness but with little success. The shaft of light and the hand that reaches down to remove the whole rock is of course God and his glory. And in such presence all that is evil and of the devil is dispersed and defeated. And the Lord impressed on my mind his willingness to do this very thing but that which will bring it to pass and bring such glory and power dispelling the wicked-*

*ness across this town is for God's people to truly pray, repent, intercede and worship. My thoughts went to 2 Chronicles 7:14 "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." Consider and get excited about what would happen if all selfishness and pride were gone from our lives and if every barrier between us and God was removed, and the presence of God & the glory of God comes and settles on this town".*  
*Graham Stevens, Pastor, Abbeyfield Community Church*

**24/2 Prayer Room.** St Luke's and The Ark Methodist church will be running a 24-2 prayer room at The Ark, Jack Andrews Drive, Highwoods Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 7pm – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 7pm. If you would like to visit the prayer room please contact Daphne Digweed on 01206 523744 or e-mail at [daphne.peter@ntlworld.com](mailto:daphne.peter@ntlworld.com)

### **Prayer Breakfast**

Saturday 5th January 2008  
 Time: 8.30 am - 10 am  
 Venue: Stanway Evangelical Church, Chapel Road, Stanway

*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](mailto:admin@colchesterprayernet.co.uk) To contribute to next month's prayer guide contact Marie Morris at: [info@colchesterprayernet.co.uk](mailto:info@colchesterprayernet.co.uk)*

## Through the Gateway

"Revd. Colin and Penny Horseman will be working at St. Andrew's Theological College, Kabare in the Kirinyaga diocese of Eastern Kenya for three months. Colin will be lecturing in Systematic Theology and Church History. Penny will be undertaking some consultancy projects, catching up with those who she taught on a previous clergy course and generally getting around the area as well as doing whatever the college want her to do!. She will also be hoping to visit Church Army's College in Nairobi and the street children work in Wanguru. Pray for safe travel and deepening of fellowship and links.

Please pray for the parishes of Great Horkesley and West Bergholt while Colin is away, that they will grow in confidence, develop new gifts and see God at work. Pray for those Penny works with in the Diocese of Chelmsford, especially those who will be covering her work in training Evangelists."

We hope we might be able to update you during our time away but we will see!!!

Thanks and best wishes"

*Sister Canon Penny Horseman C.A.*

*Colchester Episcopal Area Evangelism Adviser.*

## Out for Good

"The aims of 'Out For Good' are borne out of Frontier Youth Trusts and Time For God's concerns for young people who have offended leaving prisons and having no accommodation or worthwhile activities to be involved in. Time For God initiated the Jacob Project to engage with young offenders and place them into gap year residential volunteering opportunities. It became clear that the needs of young men and the responses required to deal with the issues facing these young men were beyond the capacity of the agencies we were using.

The Jacob Project is now evolving into an accommodation based work, and locally it is called Out For Good, and is supported and partnered by DNA Networks. Currently all the volunteers involved coming from DNA ranks. We would like to see the wider church community come alongside us in this work. We have a close working link with Colchester Night Stop which has host families offering temporary accommodation for

young people in crisis.

A house has been acquired and two volunteers have moved in to deal with a young man referred from the church community who has been in prison and was released homeless. He is a Class A drug user, and no one else in the housing arena will accommodate him. He is therefore vulnerable but also at a high risk of offending.

Out for Good seeks to accommodate and mentor as well as encourage individuals back into the wider community through work, training, or college, as well as introduce them to our faith. We are also mentoring young men who have their own accommodation, but require support.

Thankful as we are for the progress and protection we have had to date we have further prayer needs, they are as follows.

1. More mentors from the wider community to come forward - particularly those that would be prepared to live in for a time.

2. Property to be released either for rent or lease, and Out For Good will manage the tenancy
3. Employers to come forward who would be prepared to take on a trainee or apprentice, or offer work either part time or full time
4. An allotment or large vegetable patch that needs managing - and volunteers to host families who would work with us and Colchester Night Stop in providing temporary accommodation for young people in crisis
5. An individual who could write a realistic business plan, using young ex offenders.
6. The financial resources to form a work that will be sustained.
7. Churches to catch the vision of Out for Good and Nightstop

God Bless" *Peter Hope, Frontier Youth Trust.*

## 'New Neighbours' Refugee Pilot Project

'New Neighbours' is a refugee project being piloted in Colchester. The Home Office has formally contracted with ECSR (Enabling Christians in Serving Refugees) to develop a new model to receive and integrate families currently living in refugee camps. Colchester has been chosen as a pilot site (also Bromley in London, where the ECSR office is based).

Based on models that are successfully operating in Canada and USA, ECSR has developed a 'New Neighbour' approach

that enables local churches to take responsibility for settling and supporting new families into their communities.

The model allows for five families to be brought to our town. They are likely to be Congolese families who have been on refugee camps for a number of years. The Home Office undertakes to meet benefit and housing costs and ECSR will employ project workers to provide specialist services and to support churches who have committed to the programme. The families are likely to arrive in March 2008!

ECSR has invited all Church Leaders to the 'New Neighbours Colchester Event' to hear about the pilot project, to explore how churches could get involved and to pray together. This event is on **Friday 11th January at Elim Christian Centre, Greenstead 10:30 am —12:30 pm.**

Please pray as the Church in this town continues to unite and embrace together opportunities such as these.

Isaiah 58: 6—11

## Poverty and Homelessness

**Poverty and Homelessness Action Week 2008.** For Homelessness Sunday 2008 the Homelessness Sunday Partnership of Housing Justice are joining with Church Action on Poverty and the Church Urban Fund to run a week long series of events highlighting the experiences of poverty and homelessness in Britain today.

Events for the Week could include a local poverty hearing, hosted by a church or community project or a full day town/city hearing organised by several organisations. They could stand alone or be embodied in a church service. Some Churches Together groups may wish to take the lead. The aim of the events will be to enable people living in poverty the opportunity to tell their stories, though advisers and intermediaries might also contribute.

Poverty and Homelessness Action Week will run from **Saturday 27 January 2008 to Sunday 3 February 2008.** It will represent a major opportunity to raise the pro-

file of poverty, housing and homelessness related issues within local churches – and more widely within rural communities, towns and cities across the UK.

Please continue to pray for:

- Those homeless in our town and the issues associated with it, health, employment, poverty, social exclusion etc
- Open Door, Beacon House, Soup Run, Night Shelter, Nightstop and many others helping homeless people on a daily basis
- Local Housing Association, the Borough Council, Police services, Social Services and health professionals that have influence and work tirelessly to help vulnerable people
- Increased awareness of the problems of homelessness and those living secretly in poverty
- Wisdom and creativity for those responsible to deal with these problems long-term.

### Cre8

An opportunity for children to develop their creative gifts in a Christian context.

For 8 - 15 year olds

**Saturday 23rd February 2008**

**9.45 am - 5.15 pm**

Workshops including dance and drama

**Booking ahead essential**

Contact:

Richard Hubbard 564216

cre8@cantusfirmus.org.uk

**CYO open evening.** Saturday 1st March 2008. The next best thing to actually joining us in our work with young people is this unique "inside view" of the ministries of CYO and Collective. We'll be interviewing special quests representing those we've worked with, there will be examples of the kind of things we do in school, songs from Collective, worship, coffee and gateaux. Book the date now, more details soon.

## Boiler Room Community News

Colchester Boiler Room Community are hosting a visit from 24-7 Prayer UK as part of a UK Tour.

**We'll be holding a 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're interested in attending please contact Richard Smith at mail@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk or 01206 522781.

Colchester Boiler Room Community have been invited by a church in Turkey to gather a team and set up a **prayer room**

**9th - 16th March 2008 in Izmir, Turkey.** Please pray for:

- Richard as he puts together the plans.
- The right people to join the team.
- The team as they prepare together, learn a little Turkish language, and devise creative prayer activities... in Turkish!

Mike Holden, from Kingsland Lexden and Colchester Boiler Room Community, is planning to go on mission to North Africa with Operation Mobilisation in

Autumn 2008. Please pray for Mike as he gathers prayer and financial support, and that he will find opportunities to use his English teaching and artistic skills in North Africa. Please also pray for his trip to North Africa in April 2008 to do work with the children at the Operation Mobilisation conference.

And there'll be info from the recent 24-7 UK Network Day - including some words for Colchester - on our blog.

Love, *Richard Smith, Colchester Boiler Room Community*

[www.colchesterboilerroom.blogspot.com](http://www.colchesterboilerroom.blogspot.com)