



July 2008

Prayer room in schools

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Lord Jesus,
Help me to be true
to you,
To be kind to other
people,
And to take the
gospel to the
nations.

Amen

*Prayer from the Order of the
Mustard Seed,
www.mustardseedorder.com.*

*Used daily by members of
Colchester Boiler Room
Community.*

CYO, in partnership with the Boiler Room Community, has been invited to run a prayer room for students and staff in the Gilbert School during the week of 7th July. The prayer room, called 'Sanctum', will be open before and after school and during break times and lunch times and will feature about 9 different guided prayer activities. The room will be overseen by two or three prayer room guides drawn from local churches and the Boiler Room Community.

The vision for this emerged during the early autumn term. Reflecting on our work in schools we realised we're very good at imparting information to young people about Jesus and the Christian faith, but what they really need is an opportunity to experience God's presence for themselves. Our annual spirituality survey in schools shows that over 50% of young people admit to having prayed. And increasingly we're finding many young people are actively seeking God. So Tim wrote a proposal and we started talking to staff to see if there was any possibility of running a prayer room. The response was amazing. Every school we approached was enthusiastic about the idea. So, over the last few months the CYO team and members of the Boiler Room Community have been developing the ideas and resources required for Sanctum.

Sanctum takes people on a journey with two parts. The first part, "Becoming spiritually aware"

enables students to begin to recognise that they are spiritual and to reflect on the presence of God. A 'holy of holies' space half way round gives people an opportunity to be still with God and rest in his presence. The second part, "Becoming spiritually involved" provides a variety of ways of expressing prayer and even prophecy. Students finish by creating a prayer card to take away as a reminder that they can pray any time.

To get Sanctum up and running there is a lot of work still to do, recording and preparing audio and video clips, buying resources and planning how it will all fit into the space we've been given. We estimate that it will cost about £800 to set up, after which we can reuse most of it in future prayer rooms. There is already real interest in running Sanctum in other schools in the autumn. I can now confirm that Alderman Blaxill School have booked Sanctum for the week beginning 22nd September.

In your prayers:

- Thank God for the invitation from the Gilbert School and for the interest from other schools
- Pray for the team as they prepare all the resources required
- Pray that many young people will come to the prayer room and encounter God

For more information, please contact Tim Abbott at CYO
tim@cyocolchester.org.uk
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Through the gateway - TBN

From confusion to success, and £2M in Aid! And a path to success which anyone can use.

The Colchester Transformational Business Group (TBG) had been struggling to find its place in the TBN Vision. In 2006 we set out for Uganda. Faced with an impoverished slum, desperately naive concepts of business and investment (them not us), a lack of funds (both them and us), and confusion about exactly what TBN does offer to help move things forward we stumbled into a few months of confusion and blind alleys.

But with prayer, and time, came insight. Our role was not to provide the money (there are apparently 1500 sources of Microfinance in Uganda, all with better infrastructures than we could consider) but to provide the understanding of how to use it.

And so we began a search of material which could help them develop business. They needed something simple, which could be delivered without an investment in technology, and which was freely available. Unfortunately, everything we found was either costly (for them at least), technology based, or of poor quality, and we gradually and reluctantly realised that if we were to achieve what was needed, we would need to develop and deploy our own material.

We drafted the materials in June 2006, gained feedback on them from the UK in August, and from Uganda in September, and set up our pilot delivery of them for November. Our pilot group of 40 Ugandans in Kampala consisted of about 20 local Pastors and 20 of the active poor. Feedback from the course was very positive, with very few changes required, and so

we began work on developing materials to support them in deploying the training themselves to their own people: – trainer training; flipchart/blackboard outlines; session/teaching plans etc.

Twenty five trainers were trained in four days during February 2007, and in the 12 months following this training those trainers trained a further 360 of their countrymen. During our trainer training work in February 2008 we instigated both an anecdotal survey, and a quantitative survey. The anecdotal survey, conducted by a member of the visiting team was very encouraging, with numerous comments like: "A year ago I was struggling and now I employ 2 people and my brother is coming into the business. We can't thank you enough for your help." But these comments gave us no indication as to whether the cases we were hearing about were in the majority, in the minority, or even the only cases in the 400 people trained.

However, the quantitative survey, conducted on a random sample of those who had attended the training between 9 and 14 months earlier, illustrates that we can be confident in a significant positive impact from the effort invested. Of the 33 people surveyed 25% of people set up a successful business as a result of the training, and a further 25% turned an unsuccessful business around. If these figures translate to the 400 people so far trained, and there is little reason to assume otherwise, we can conservatively anticipate that this means that there will be a further 200 people who are now able to feed clothe and educate their families (conservatively because we know that some of these businesses employ more than one person). This amounts to about £1000 pa income per person, and if we assume they

are able to maintain this for at least 10 years, this equates to about £2M of aid, which is growing at the rate of about 10% per month (due to the continuing unsupported cascade of training). Furthermore, this significant amount of aid was at the sole expense of 8 return flights, 3 weeks of investment, and about £4000 to cover the travel & subsistence expenses of the volunteer Ugandan trainers.

And so now, we want to mobilise as many people as we can to use and benefit from the material, both within TBN and outside. Is this something you feel you can help us with? If so, please get in contact – we can use as much help as we can get. Report by Mike Clargo

Colchester TBG meets on the last Thursday in each month. For more information email: simon@lasky.co.uk

Company of Prophetic People (COPP) training days. Running in Colchester from April to July, these 4 day-long sessions will be about learning to journey together in what it means to pursue the voice of God.

For more information go to www.3generations.eu or Colchester PrayerNet website

Prayer Breakfast: Saturday 5th July

This month's venue: University Chaplaincy. (if you need directions e-mail Joan Davies

joandavie@gmail.com or ring 862070).

No parking fee on Saturdays.

Time: 8.30 am - 10 am

New Neighbour Programme (NNP)

If you listen very carefully you might just hear the wheels and cogs in the Home Office grinding towards the final stages in establishing the NNP pilot project in Colchester!

The other pilot area in Bromley is now underway and 25 family members from the Congo have been identified for resettlement in that area. The only reason for the delay in Colchester is that the family groups have yet to be confirmed and those details have to be incorporated into the contract.

After one or two false dawns the Home Office have confirmed that Colchester will receive 5 Iraqi families. A team from the HO is currently in the UN Refugee camp in Jordan and hope to confirm the families for Colchester by the end of this month. We would then expect to gear up for their arrival in August.

In the near future we will be advertising for our paid workers and sharing the details for the recruitment and training of volunteers

from the various churches who will be identified with the project. When we receive the family details we need to cross reference with the church groups who have expressed a strong interest, with schools and housing possibilities.

We have already received information and offers, through church members, on housing units that may be available in July, and these will need to be considered alongside local intelligence regarding suitability and availability of church neighbours. The pace will pick up considerably over the next 2 months and from the time that we receive details of our new neighbours to their arrival will feel somewhat pressurised!

We are very grateful for those churches who have given a commitment to participate in the project. Please let us know if you would like us to come along and give a short presentation to your church members. We have a short film, made by the BBC, that

demonstrates the valuable role that local churches played in their resettlement.

If your church has said 'yes' to directly or indirectly working with the refugee families it would be helpful if you could identify the volunteers in your congregations and let us know. This would help us plan ahead and organise a training day in the near future. Please contact Enoch with the names of the volunteers.

Not long now! We feel very privileged to have this opportunity to make such a difference to these families' lives and to be able to demonstrate the unique role that the churches can make in our communities.

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Hope on the Streets - 30th August

Hope on the Streets aims to give everyone in the town centre on 30th August the opportunity to find the hope Jesus offers. We are so pleased that already at least 26 congregations and organisations are taking part. We appreciate the united prayer that has gone on before us, which has made this partnership possible.

Our expectation is that anyone who visits or works in the town centre on that day will have the chance to understand God's love more. For some this will be the beginning of a journey, for others it will develop their journey further.

We thank God for this wonderful opportunity, and ask him for his grace and mercy to be poured out. We pray for a rising sense of expectation of what God wants to do in and through us to reach people with his love.

We have planned a number of activities through the day (see last month's prayer guide), each of which will have coordinators. The activities will mainly be outdoors, though we will also have bases at CO1 (Holy Trinity Church) and Colchester Baptist Church, Eld Lane. Please pray for the right people to be in place, and for the steering group (James Collitt,

Alison Finch, Joelle King, Richard Morgan, Marie Morris and Richard Smith).

On July 3rd we have a Hope Champions' meeting, which we are also opening up to anyone who has volunteered to help on the day. There's still time for others to join in so contact James if you want to be involved.

www.hope08.com
www.hopeforcolchester.blogspot.com
www.cpo-online.org.uk/default.aspx
(for Hope T-shirts etc)

James_collitt@hotmail.co.uk
07977 510880
Marie Morris

Street Pastors

Dear Street Pastors (SP) and prayer supporters,

I am writing to send a prayer update and to apologise for not sending any prayer updates for the last few months. Sorry! Thank you for continuing to stand with us in prayer even despite my lack of communication.

When Street Pastors started in December, I hoped it would be possible to send a weekly or fortnightly prayer update/shift reports. Unfortunately for various practical reasons this was not maintainable.

Tim Abbott has kindly created monthly SP newsletters, and I would like to suggest we also use this as our regular written prayer update. I would also like to suggest that the most inspirational and real way to fuel your prayers would be to speak with the Street Pastor you are supporting.

Street Pastors - keep your prayer supporters informed, let them know when you are on shift, ask them to pray for you, and feedback to them during the weekend after your shift.

Prayer Supporters - Find out when 'your Street Pastor' is on shift, pray as you are able, and ask to hear their stories – This

will be the most up-to-date way of informing your prayer times.

At the start we asked if any prayer supporters would be able to come to pray at the SP base. Currently we have one supporter with us every week (Thank you!!), and a few other regular pray-ers who support specific SPs. This is encouraging and beneficial to us, and enables the SPs to do an even more effective job. Please consider again whether you might be able to come to the base (even for 1 or 2 hours), on your own or with a few praying friends. It will also help to give you a clearer insight into the night-culture of our town, and the role of SPs. Please let me know if you are able to do this! Thank you.

Here are a few more prayer points:

Thank God and pray for:

- Ongoing favour from Council, Police, Landlords, Security staff, Door staff and Punters.
- The enormous privilege of working with others in and outside the church to serve our town.
- The nick-names given to SPs – 'Welfare' (from the CCTV operators who recognise the welfare part of our role), other names include 'the angels', 'the

happy police' and 'the helpers'!

- The 2nd group of SPs now in training, and due to be commissioned this summer.

Please pray for:

- The management group (Tim Abbott, James Collitt, Alison Finch, Jim Howard, Katy Smith) – For enough time together, good communication between the 5 of us, wisdom in our leadership of this much needed and fast-growing initiative.
- Enough SPs to cover Saturday nights as well as Fridays (we need minimum 6 SPs per night, and do not want people to commit to more than 1 shift per month – That's approx 48 SPs)
- Sustainability of SP project – we want to be here for the long-haul!

Thank you again for your support and prayers!

Katy Smith

kt_anywhere@hotmail.com
(01206 522781)

Sharers in the Promise will be performed at St Botolph's Church, Colchester, on: **Saturday 29th November 2008**, with the support of Seeking God's Blessing for Colchester (SGBfC).

There'll be an introductory workshop on Saturday 27th Sept, 2 - 5pm, then rehearsals. If you would like to sing in the choir, please email sharerschoir@cantusfirmus.org.uk stating your name and contact details, age if under 18, and whether you sing Soprano, Alto, Tenor or Bass (or not sure), and whether you read music'.
Richard Hubbard

Jesus - Hope of the nations

A celebration of the worldwide church and exhibition of Christian work in Colchester.

Seeking Gods Blessing for Colchester (SGBfC) have organised this event on: **Sunday 13th July 8pm** (Exhibition and refreshments from 7pm)

Venue: St Botolph's church, Priory Street
Speaker: Right Rev. G. Devakadasham, Bishop in Kanyakumari in the Church of Southern India
Geoff Weaver - Editor of *World Praise*

Including **cre8** performance arts team

The Olympics

The Beijing Summer Olympics will be held in August '08, and as part of an international community, we would like to respond to this season of opportunity for the Chinese people. The Games are due to start on 8th August - the eighth day of the eighth month of the eighth year is said to be auspicious for China. With millions of Christians around the world - including the Chinese church - we use this opportunity to pray for the country with:

- World's largest army
- Least debt of any country worldwide
- The world's most profitable economy and the largest currency reserves in the world
- The most common mother tongue in the world; 1.3 Billion people are Chinese—1 out of every 5
- More followers of Jesus than any other nation

We pray for a real transformation in the approach to human rights,

and for all we can give to and learn from the Chinese church. We pray for all those travelling to China for the Games, that the games will become all that God intends them to be.

We also pray for Chinese people living in this country, that they would discover the truth of Jesus.

London Olympics 2012

The London Olympics do not start until 27th July 2012, however 24th August this year marks the day when London becomes host.

Many committees have been set up and buildings started. Colchester will have four training centres for athletes; Leisure World, Colchester Garrison, the University of Essex and SD School of Martial Arts. There will be training centres in other parts of Essex.

We pray:

- That the London Games will leave an even greater legacy than currently expected, as we host the nations of the world.
- For Colchester 2020 LSP and Colchester Borough Council

as they prepare for the 2012 Olympics.

- For continued partnership between church and other organisations to serve the town.
- For the church, for God given initiatives to make the most of this opportunity
- For Christians in Sport and other sporting organisations. For the work they do to represent Christ in sport and raise God awareness there.

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: marie@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

The contributors views are their own and do not necessarily express those of the editors.

Feedback and town news

CYO. We keep hearing about young people who are asking to become Christians. It's happening to us as we work in schools. We've come across churches where young people are just turning up because they know they need to be there. And we're hearing about Christian young people in school whose friends are asking them to pray for them or to explain how to be a Christian.

I have never experienced this level of seeking God among young people in Colchester. God is doing something in our time – turning the hearts of young people to himself.

Is it just a short term thing, or is it the beginning of something greater? I pray that it's just a beginning... *Tim*

Troops in Afghanistan

We pray for the families and friends of the soldiers who died on 9th and 13th June in Helmand province. We also pray for those who worked with them. Nineteen-year-olds Nathan Cuthbertson, Charles David Murray, and Jeff Doherty, and Daniel Gamble, 22, were all privates with 2nd Battalion, the Parachute Regiment.

James Bateman, aged 29, held the rank of Lance Corporal.

We continue to pray for the troops serving overseas and for their families and friends at home.

We pray for the family and friends of Daniel Andrews, 16 years old, who tragically died in a road traffic accident in Greenstead on Friday 13th June.