



# November 2008

## Imaginative Mission

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**You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**

**1 Peter 2:9**

**We continue to pray for the work of the Church in this town and in our Nation.** The following is a summary of a challenge given to the Church here in UK by an Australian Evangelist, Rev. Mike Frost.

Mike Frost laid out a bold challenge to the British church to think outside its four walls and make imaginative mission its goal.

Frost, professor of evangelism at Morling College Sydney, Australia, carried out a whirlwind tour of the UK, speaking at events in Southampton, Bristol, Oxford and London about mission-shaped churches in the 21st century.

A broad cross-section of evangelicals and emerging leaders heard how the Church's life has been predominantly organised around worship, with Mr Frost challenging the Church to organise its life around mission.

Mr Frost spoke forcefully about the need to think outside of traditional boxes and cited examples as diverse as a water skiing based church in Western Australia and a church planted in a resettlement compound in Vietnam.

Dr Krish Kandiah, Churches in Mission Executive Director at the Evangelical Alliance said: "Mike gave an uncompromising challenge to church leaders to stop simply trying to please people in the pews but to allow God's mission to shape our

vision for the church."

Keith Hagon, Chair of Bristol and District Evangelical Alliance and Chief Executive of the George Muller Foundation said: "Mike's thesis has the potential to turn the Church upside down. This is the way to break new ground and re-evangelise the UK, but it depends on us listening to God and being bold enough to go to the lost rather than hoping they find us."

At each day conference, attendees had an opportunity to rediscover what a Christ centred community really means and how they can be involved in leading mission shaped churches.

There was opportunity to hear UK responses to Mike's ideas from academics and mission practitioners such as Conrad Gempf from LST, Daniel Strange from Oak Hill College and Antony Billington and Nigel Hopper from LICC.

This tour is another expression of the Evangelical Alliance's commitment to next generation leadership and evangelicals in the UK uniting in mission.

These themes are addressed in Slipstream, the Evangelical Alliance's leadership resource ([www.eauk.org/slipstream](http://www.eauk.org/slipstream)), and follow on from keynote addresses at the Evangelical Alliance Council in September from Pete Greig, Ruth Valerio and Tom Sine.

# Colchester 2020

*Colchester 2020 will now have one assembly meeting a year, with several smaller meetings focussed on specific issues.*

## **Public service organisations have committed to work together to help improve life opportunities for the people of Colchester.**

This pioneering approach will see closer partnership working between Colchester Borough Council, Essex County Council, health care agencies, the police, the voluntary and community sector and the Learning and Skills Council to target projects so that they really make a difference.

Together they have formed the Colchester Public Service Partnership (CPSP) and have set 15 SMART targets for the coming two years, following research to identify which specific disadvantages existed where in the borough.

The research covered six themes - crime, education, health, housing, skills, and worklessness - and showed stark differences in the life opportunities people have, depending on which area of the north Essex borough they live.

The current Life Opportunities targets are:

### **Crime**

- Reduce the incidents of anti-social behaviour in St Andrews and Harbour wards by 5%
- Reduce violent offences in Colchester town centre by 5%

### **Education**

- Improve the number of schools where less than 65% of pupils achieved KS2 level 4 or above in English by 2 schools by Dec 08
- Improve the number of schools where less than 65% of pupils

achieved KS2 level 4 or above in Maths by 2 schools by Dec 08

- Improve the percentage of half day sessions missed in primary schools from 5.2% to 4.9% and secondary schools from 7.7% to 7.1%
- Reduce the difference between boys' and girls' attainment in reading at KS2 by 2%

### **Health**

- Increase the number of people supported to quit smoking in the worst affected areas by 5.5% and the number of actual quitters by 2.5%
- Reduce the gap in childhood obesity by 3% between the average rate for the 12 worst affected schools and the average rate for all schools
- Reduce the number of teenage conceptions by 20% in the wards with the highest rates

### **Housing**

- Bring 50 private homes up to the Decent Homes Standard in New Town Ward by 2013
- Increase the amount of affordable housing available in the Borough by 250 homes
- Reduce the number of households living in temporary accommodation by 50%
- Reduce the number of CBH tenants who are evicted due to rent arrears by 50% by providing pro-active assistance to combat debt

### **Skills**

- Increase Skills for Life achievement rates for adults in Tiptree, Berechurch and St Andrews wards to 90%. To reduce the gap between the Colchester average and these wards.

### **Worklessness**

- To reduce worklessness amongst Lone Parents living in

St Andrew's, St Anne's and Highwoods

Great examples of projects already underway through the life opportunities agenda include family learning courses to tackle childhood obesity run by the North East Essex Primary Care Trust and Colchester Borough Council. Job Centre Plus is also running outreach sessions and courses to help lone parents back into work.

Mr Pritchard, the Chief Executive of Colchester Borough Council said, "We have all committed to look at individual issues from a broader life opportunities perspective and the key to our success will be making sure this is fully embraced and adopted by all of the partners. Although many of the areas we are focusing on will take years to truly tackle, in two years time I hope to be able to point to a handful of projects where we can already start to see a difference in the quality of life for people of the borough."

### **CYO Celebration**

Saturday 1st November  
7.15 pm for 7.45 pm start  
St John's Church, St John's Close

### **Friends International afternoon**

**At:** Prettygate Baptist Church  
**On:** Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>  
**From:** 2- 5.30 p.m. An update of the work and a short time of training for befrienders/hosts for international students by Michael and Caroline White. After tea we will focus on Japanese culture, two Japanese workers will be with us.

## Beacon House

### Christmas carriers of cheer.

"As you are aware plastic bags are becoming a rare commodity and at Beacon House we use hundreds of plastic bags each month when the clients pick up laundry, clothing and toiletries from us.

With this in mind we are making our appeal this Christmas for holdalls and rucksacks for the homeless to enable them to have a durable carrier for their belongings. At Jacks, for example, they have a fairly wide variety of bags and rucksacks, which retail at about £3.99.

Alternatively we are extremely short of toiletries and would be grateful for donations of:

- Spray deodorant for men
- Twin bladed razors
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Shaving foam

Finally we would like to express our thanks to everyone who has supported us in any way over the past year, which has enabled us to continue our work with the homeless at Beacon House"

Beacon House, East Hill

### Prayer Breakfast

Date: Saturday 1st November  
Time: 8.30 am - 10 am  
Mariners' Chapel,  
Church Street, Rowhedge

### Whole Hearted Singing

Sing Gospel

♪ From a Selection of Songs  
New & Traditional, With Song  
Leader & Vocal Tutor Jeanette  
Cleary.

Greenstead Community Centre  
Hawthorn Avenue, Colchester  
Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm  
Every Saturday till... 13<sup>th</sup> De-  
cember

£5 Per Session 01206 500429  
or 07954 371370

[j.net@naturalvoice.net](mailto:j.net@naturalvoice.net) -  
[www.naturalvoice.net](http://www.naturalvoice.net)

## Colchester Causeway Prospects

There are over 1.4 million people with learning disabilities in the UK, that's about 2.5% of the population. So there are people with learning disabilities in Colchester, in your neighbourhood, probably in your street. Sadly they are often the people who are overlooked and ignored by our society, and sometimes, our churches. They need to know God's love; they can respond, they can commit their lives to Jesus and love and serve Him. But they often find it difficult to understand "normal" church services, and those of us without learning disabilities can struggle to communicate with them.

The national Christian charity Causeway Prospects exists to show God's love to people with learning disabilities. This happens in two main ways. Firstly we

organise special Christian meetings where Bible truths are presented simply, appropriately and effectively.

**Colchester Causeway Prospects will start meeting again at 7.00 p.m. on November 12<sup>th</sup>** at Christchurch, Ireton Road.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to pay us a visit, we'd love to see you.

Secondly Causeway Prospects aims to equip local churches to include people with learning disabilities. We can send a representative or speaker to speak to a church or a group of interested people. We also organise training days for those who would like to be able to reach people with learning disabilities, or consider how to make the church more inclusive. We also produce a

range of Bible teaching and worship materials.

If you'd like to know more do contact Brian Ford (01206 823877), email: [fordxenopus@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fordxenopus@yahoo.co.uk) or Sheila Godwin (01206 767129)

Please pray:

- That more helpers will be found for the Colchester group.
- That more people with learning disabilities will be able to come to the group.
- That local fellowships will catch the vision and attempt to reach people with learning disabilities.

*Brian Ford*

# Feedback and answered prayer

## Transformational Business Group.

The Colchester Transformation Business Group was thrilled to receive the following endorsement from the Archbishop of York for the training materials written by Mike Clargo.

*"Following Jesus means using our abilities as best we can to making 'good news to the poor' a reality in our time. I believe this project reflects that ambition. By using all the Church can bring to bear, alongside Best Business Practice, this initiative offers a way to lift people out of poverty by helping thousands of small businesses in the developing world. I believe God will call many people to join this initiative, which has the capacity to make an enormous difference in delivering the first of our Millennium Development Goals, the eradication of absolute poverty.*

*Giving the poor a practical way to lift themselves, their families and their communities up to self sufficiency and independence must be one of the most powerful manifestations of God's love. The Reconxile business training scheme gives every church the means to help the poorest directly by giving them the basic business skills to start and run good and honest ventures.*

*This business training initiative is an important opportunity, enabling ordinary Christians to be directly involved in poverty alleviation. The materials are a valuable and proven resource. I would strongly encourage individuals and churches to use them to serve the poor." Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York.*

This endorsement should open more doors for the training to go

out to new places. For more information see

<http://www.reconxile.com>

Simon Lasky

## Prayer rooms in Schools

"We had over 150 visits during the week, loads of conversations about God and prayer, and many opportunities to share our faith naturally in response to questions. So what have learnt from this, our second Sanctum prayer room in school?

- Young people accept and respect what's going on, even if they struggle to engage with it beyond the superficial. There's no doubt that just about everyone recognised it as a 'special place'.
- Most young people struggle to articulate the spiritual because they do not have safe opportunities to do so. But when presented with something like 'Sanctum' they readily speak up about their thoughts and experiences. Some expressed a genuine gratitude to us for running Sanctum in their school.
- An obvious point, but students get greatest benefit from the activities when someone explains it to them and then chats to them about it afterwards, developing a greater depth of understanding and reflection.
- If we're to do a Sanctum 2, as some staff and students requested, we're going to have to work on some new material. This is also true of the possibility of taking a version of Sanctum into the Sixth Form College.

We don't yet have any further bookings, beyond previous expressions of interest. But from our experience of two very different

schools I know we're doing the right thing". *Tim Abbott*

## The Economy

We give thanks for the opportunities Gordon Brown has had to lead other nations in responding to the current economic situation. We continue to pray for leaders in all spheres. We pray for our own Borough Council leader, Anne Turrell, and others in authority, with the news of Council investments being affected by difficulties faced by Icelandic banks. We also continue to remember the poor and vulnerable in our communities and beyond. *Marie*

## Friends International (F.I.)

Praise God for:

- The International café held in the Chaplaincy during Freshers' week, packed with students.
- The café held by 5 of the Christian groups on campus which was well attended during Freshers' week.
- A real sense of working together with Christian Groups on campus
- A good start to the Thursday weekly international café on campus.

Please pray for:

- Many students to attend the Bible studies
- Enough folk to befriend students this year (please see box on page 2 for further information)

Many thanks for praying! God bless. *Joan Davies*

# Korban

*Korban was formerly known as Colchester NightStop.*

In March, as part of our desire to widen our commitment to youth homelessness we amicably parted company with DePaul Nightstop so that we could follow what God had laid on our hearts. The project is now known as Korban; a Hebrew word meaning to 'sacrificially give back to God, what God has given to us'. Jesus referred to it in Mark 7:10-12.

Events of the past year

- We were given a grant by Tudor Trust, which has given us the financial ability to take on paid staff, and become a registered charity.
- In February we were awarded the prestigious Faithworks National Community Commitment Award.
- We also welcomed Jessica Mathers on board as our part time project worker.
- We continue to offer a SafeStay scheme with young people staying in the homes of our volunteer families.
- We are also now able to offer floating support to other vulnerable youngsters, work with families in crisis, and have forged strong links with the Out for Good scheme.
- I was invited to Downing Street to a reception hosted by the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, and Korban was commended for our practical commitment to the prevention of youth homelessness.
- We worked with 33 young people between January and August. Our volunteer families have supplied 30 nights of accommodation.

## Future plans

Please pray:

- We have been exploring the possibility of acquiring a house to place younger teenagers. Here volunteers could provide a family orientated atmosphere.
- In August, we were offered an unused vicarage in Colchester. There is a lot of work to be done but we hope to have it up and running by Christmas. Both Trinity and West Mersea Rotary clubs have offered to help with the decorating but we do need to furnish it.
- As we work with Colchester Council, and other agencies to ensure that no young person will have to go into bed and breakfast accommodation or sleep rough.
- We are looking for people who would be willing to sponsor a young person by regular giving by direct debit.
- Following the successful Risk Assessment and Child Protection workshops earlier this year, we will be running those again for new volunteers. We will also be offering a drugs and alcohol awareness.
- Korban is registered with the website, [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). Companies such as Amazon, Tesco Direct, Argos, and others will donate a percentage of any purchases you make to Korban, if you access them through easy fundraising and name Korban as your designated charity.
- Pete Bates is setting up an on-line charity shop through EBay. If you have anything to donate, he would love to speak to you.
- We have put together a presentation, which we use

when we are invited to speak to groups about Korban. In addition, Chris Springett has produced a short video about Korban. This will be used to promote our work and in presentations, teaching and fundraising.

- Jessica and I need someone to take over some of the admin duties. This is a voluntary position but would need a commitment for one day a week. If you would like a job description and application form, please let me know.
- This year we plan to take part in a sponsored sleep out on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November. If you would like to sponsor us this year please contact us.

Tel: 07772665952

Email: [korban100@ntlworld.com](mailto:korban100@ntlworld.com)  
*Jeannette Hewes*

**Sharers in the Promise** takes place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 4.30 pm and 7.30 pm, St Botolph's Church. For tickets contact Jenny 01206 728748 or visit [www.sharersinthepromise.com](http://www.sharersinthepromise.com)

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December, Graham Kendrick's **Dreaming of a Holy Night** comes to Charter Hall. Tickets direct from Charter Hall. [www.grahamkendrick.co.uk](http://www.grahamkendrick.co.uk)

For more information contact Richard Hubbard on 01206 564216, email

[richard@cantusfirmus.org.uk](mailto:richard@cantusfirmus.org.uk).

*Thank you to those who contribute to the prayer guide each month. To contact CPn email: [Teresa@colchesterprayernet.co.uk](mailto:Teresa@colchesterprayernet.co.uk) or*

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