



December 2009

Government

Inside this issue:

Government	1
Town News	2
News continued	3
CYO	4
Hope in Colchester	5

***'Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end'.
Isaiah 9:7***

I have felt inspired by the prophetic words of Isaiah 9:7 and would like to suggest we use this to fuel our prayer as we continue to pray for every aspect of life and every sphere of influence within the life of our town.

We pray for the increase of Jesus' government and peace within:

- **Family, marriages and the Church.** Especially this Christmas time. For those with financial, health or emotional pressure. Pray that we would be salt and light, serving people and desiring to see God's Kingdom come. Thank God for the many expressions of unity.

We pray for the increase of Jesus' government and peace within:

- **Education, schools, colleges, university.** Young people and those returning to education. Increased authority for those who work within this sphere, for teachers, head teachers, CYO etc. For the ongoing situation with Essex County Council proposed reorganisation of Colchester Schools.

We pray for the increase of Jesus' government and peace within:

- **Business and retail.** We thank God for the wonderful opportunities opened to us within business and retail. Thank God for the ongoing work of those within this field.

We pray for the increase of Jesus' government and peace within:

- **Arts, media, leisure.** For those

that report our news. For God to be seen increasingly through the arts. For those expressing church in new and creative ways.

We pray for the increase of Jesus' government and peace within:

- **Government (local and national), the police, the Army.** For our MPs. For all decision makers and those with authority within these spheres. For Street Pastors as they offer support within the town centre. For soldiers and their families serving abroad

We pray for the increase of Jesus' government and peace within:

- **Medicine and health,** We pray for the local NHS Trust. For the caring professions, service providers. For those pioneering within the field of medicine. For hospitals, care homes, day centres. We pray for those working within the voluntary sector, with the homeless and vulnerable.

Thank you, *Teresa Lasky*

Prayer Breakfast

Date:

Saturday 5th December

Time:

8.30 am - 10.00 am

Venue:

Wycliffe Chapel,
Parson's Heath

Praying for your MP. Prayer groups are in place to support the MP from your constituency. To pray for Bob Russell contact Jim Howard:

jim_viv.howard@ntlworld.com

If your constituency is North Colchester and you would like to pray for Bernard Jenkin contact Teresa Lasky: teresa@laskyco.uk
This is part of a Westminster initiative organised by Christians in Parliament.

Town news

We were encouraged to receive the following appeal from the SOS bus that runs in Colchester town centre every Friday and Saturday night.

“SOS Bus wants to help Beacon House”

“Beacon House is a charity helping and supporting homeless people in Colchester and was established in 1996 to help individuals, whether they are sleeping rough, staying in the night shelter, a bed and breakfast or any other vulnerable accommodation. Beacon House offers a range of services including, a nurse led clinic, counselling, clothing and laundry, showers, hairdressers, advice and referrals and help with GP registration.

Homelessness can affect anyone, whatever their background. Homeless people are: 3 times more likely to die of pneumonia or hypothermia, 8 times more likely to die in an accident, 34 times more likely to commit suicide and 150 times more likely to be fatally assaulted.

The SOS Colchester Community bus wants to help Beacon house and we need your help. As the temperatures drop around this time of year keeping warm on the streets especially at night becomes a big problem, SO if anyone would like to help donate any coat's, scarves or hats that are in good quality it would be very much appreciated. If you would like to donate to Beacon House then you can simply drop off your donations to the SOS bus any-time on a Friday or Saturday night between 8:30pm and 4:00am addressed to Debbie Farthing- SOS Bus Co-ordinator and we will pass on your donations to Beacon House.

Thank you for your continued support to the SOS bus.”

Friends International

Praise God for:

- The Bible studies on campus which are growing in number. Over 10 students are coming to the Christianity Explored course.
- The International café is well attended each week and the number of students attending the free table tennis on a Friday has been very good.
- The International Women's group is going well this term.
- The number of students who are visiting a variety of churches to introduce them to the different fellowships has been good. (These visits have been organised by the Anglican Chaplaincy and CU).

Please pray for:

- The **Christmas meals** being held at St Johns on **Saturday December 5th** and at Wivenhoe Methodist church on **Saturday December 12th**. That all will go smoothly and the true meaning of Christmas will be realised by students.
- Meals in an English home at Christmas. If you would like to give hospitality to lonely students at Christmas please contact Michael and Caroline : frinco@essex.ac.uk or phone 825060
- Zandra who needs a visa from Peru to come back to the UK and be a Reach volunteer with FI for a year. Pray that all the monies will be forthcoming to finance this new venture. If anybody lives near the university and can help with accom-

modation for Zandra that would be VERY helpful.

- For the **Christmas celebration** with the Salvation army band at the University on **Wednesday 16th December** organised by the Christian groups on campus. Many thanks for praying. God bless. From Joan

Colchester Institute CU Update

“After a disappointing turn out at our joint staff & student indoor picnic the student CU has finally taken off the ground. We have developed a very good working relationship with the Student Union and together we were able to run the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child campaign as a college wide effort. We were able to collect and donate 32 shoeboxes which are now on their way to Belarus. It was so encouraging to see staff and students from various backgrounds and beliefs enjoying contributing to something so worthwhile.

The CU has also started to meet on a weekly basis and has seen between 4 - 6 of us attending. Please pray that the group would find direction and vision, and that the students would take on more responsibility for the leadership of the group. All are new to attending the CU this year and so it's a bit of a learning curve. Please could you also pray that, the group would also be proactive in reaching out to the harvest field that is Colchester Institute”.

Thank you

Natasha

News (continued)

Street Pastors

The Archbishop of York has exhorted Christians to obey God's command to go out onto the streets and meet people in need.

Speaking at the end of the inaugural Street Pastors conference on Saturday, Dr John Sentamu said there were many people in the UK's towns and cities in need of a safe place where they could "shelter from life and all its problems".

He praised Street Pastors, who patrol town and city centres across the UK and Ireland on Friday and Saturday nights, for "touching the lives of many people who are directionless, aimless, sometimes faithless and often hopeless".

"Your love and service are a wonderful example of God at work in the world," he said.

"Your presence on the street is bringing God's refuge into the lives of people who need it."

Street Pastors have seen tremendous growth since their launch in London in 2003, having expanded across London to the rest of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Internationally, the ministry has spread to Antigua and Barbuda, preparations are being made to launch Street Pastors in Australia in 2010.

"Why should the church be going out and trying to meet the people in need on our streets?" the Archbishop asked. "Because that is what we are called by God to do, we are obeying God."

Referring to Matthew 25, Dr Sentamu reminded Christians that their love for God would be

tested on the day of judgement.

"How we have fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger and visited the sick - it's what being a disciple of Jesus is all about. We need to do it, not just think about it."

He encouraged Christians to believe they could make a difference even if it was just one person at a time.

"There are many problems on our streets and many people needing our help. Street Pastors say it makes a difference for this one and that is why they are doing it," he said. "It isn't about volume but if you can make a difference for just one person then it has meaning."

The conference brought together hundreds of Street Pastors from all over the UK and Ireland, and more than 20 from Antigua.

They heard earlier in the conference from London Mayor Boris Johnson, who praised their work for transforming the capital.

He said: "We can't just transform the physical infrastructure because that's not what really counts. What counts is the human capital of London.

"It's the young people of London that we need to invest in if this city is to lengthen its lead as the greatest city on Earth.

"Street Pastors are already doing what you can and I think it is high time London knew more about what you did and the whole of London followed your example." Next year's Street Pastors conference will be held in Barbuda.

Colchester Schools. Essex County Standard report:

'Prime Minister Gordon Brown has pledged to look into the planned closure of two Colchester secondary schools. Colchester MP Bob Russell raised the proposed closure of Alderman Blaxill and Thomas Lord Audley schools during Prime Minister's Questions in Parliament yesterday.

The schools would be shut as part of a £130million reorganisation of secondary education in Colchester, which would also see Sir Charles Lucas Arts College transformed into an academy. Other schools in the borough, including Stanway and Philip Morant, would be expanded to take on extra pupils.

But Mr Russell told Parliament he did not believe that would be sufficient to offer a place to every 11-year-old in years to come.

He told MPs: "Colchester is the fastest growing borough in the country. "Despite that, Tory-controlled Essex County Council plans to shut two of the town's seven secondary schools.

"It is now known the council massaged the figures on projected pupil numbers.

"Does the Prime Minister, therefore, agree the reorganisation proposals should be investigated by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, particularly as Essex County Council gave false information to the Department for Children, Schools and Families?"

In his response, Mr Brown said: "I shall look at the matter." ' *Please continue to pray into this situation.*

CYO

Kat @ Colchester Sixth Form College

"Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it?....." (Isaiah 43:18-19)

I don't know about God but I am certainly bursting with excitement about having the amazing opportunity to be the Sixth Form College's very first on-site chaplain!!

Coming back from a summer of working with young people in the bars & clubs of Ayia Napa, I have started my new role this week with my old faithful, my bag of Chuppa Chup lollies! I had such a warm reception on my first day, with staff & student comment's like "How brilliant; a chaplain that looks like a student." & "Thank you for the lolly. We will defo look out for you."

Please pray:

- That I would see students the I have already had conversations with again, so I can keep building on the relationships
- That there would be an openness with the staff as well as students.
- That I would be able to work closely with the students in the C.U. & encourage local church youth who are attending the college.

Josh @ Highwoods Youth Café

We have seen some amazing things happen at the Youth Café in Highwoods recently. There's been a really positive development in relationships between the volunteers and many of the youth! One evening recently I was able to sit down

one-to-one with a lad who, for quite a while, has been very disruptive and a bit of a troublesome ringleader. He spent about 45 minutes chatting about life and really meaningful deep issues. It's like there's an inner struggle between his past, and how his friends see him, and his desire to find out more about what makes us all tick as Christians!

Also we now have over half of them stay in our second half "God slot" where they have the opportunity to chat about issues and bring up relevant questions.

Please pray:

- For relationships to develop between the young people and volunteers at the Cafe.
- For God to speak through us in word and deed to them.

Rachel @ Stanway Evangelical Church

Recently there has been exciting, sudden development within the youth club for the older young people at Stanway Evangelical Church. The boys there who previously didn't seem interested in God or Christianity have started to ask loads of questions, and really listen to the answers and take part in discussions that have been sparked in this way. There has been a clear transformation in this group.

Please pray:

- that these young people continue to seek and ask questions about God.
- that they are able to see God working in their lives
- for the leaders of the club, who want to offer the best support that they can.

Girl group

The self esteem and body confidence of teenage girls takes a battering every day as the culture we live in tells them all the things they *should* be in order to be beautiful and 'happy'. We believe that every girl deserves to know that they are fearfully and wonderfully made with a hope and a future that is so much more than they could imagine. That is why we are putting together an after school course for girls that would tackle the issues that they face and then help look at the future ahead of them. So far, one school is with us in this idea with hopes for starting in the spring.

Please pray for:

- Amy and the team as they put together the proposal and content of the course
- That schools would see the need and want to be involved
- For the right girls to take part and for them to know how valued and special they are

Future dates

January 4th - 8th CYO Prayer Week. Join with us in your own prayers and in person as we reflect before God on the work of CYO and seek him for clarity and direction.

Mon 8th March CYO Open Evening. Experience the work of CYO. Hear about how CYO is changing young people's lives. Meet some of those we work with and try out Sanctum.

Mayor's Charity CYO is one of the Mayor of Colchester's chosen charities for this year. To find out more about the events contact Tim:

mail@cyocolchester.org.uk

Tel 01206 863835

www.cyocolchester.org.uk

Hope in Colchester

Thank you for your support over the last year, we really appreciate the time, people, energy, prayer and finances that you have given.

Summer Event

The day was a great success with over 30 church groups & organisations involved which equated to over 100 volunteers.

The following took place throughout the day:

- CYO Prayer Room at Holy Trinity Church (CO1)
- Musical entertainment
- Healing area
- Journey into Wholeness/ Jesus Deck stall
- Children's activities
- Lunchtime BBQ

Many members of public took part in the activities and were blessed by their interaction with the church of Colchester. The healing area and Jesus Deck were both popular with many people wanting prayer and information.

Having the children's area outside proved to be a great success with the tables being busy all day!

Everyone involved seemed to have positive comments to make and all seem to want to carry on working as a unified body. We were able to concentrate on talking to people more this year as there was less going on and some good conversations were had.

We are very grateful for the donations that we receive, without them we wouldn't be

able to continue our work!

The Jesus Deck

"It was wonderful to be able to take the Jesus Deck out on to the streets again this summer as part of the Hope Event.

Between us we saw 34 people. This was up on last year, and in a shorter time. There was very little time in the three hours when we were not busy. It was a great privilege to be able to share in the life stories of so many people. Some of the stories were heart breaking; to be able to pray with people through the tears was very special.

A number of Christians came to see what we were doing, and some Christians brought friends along who they thought might be helped by experiencing the Jesus Deck. One of these conversations is on-going. There was a mix of people who knew something about Jesus and those who knew little. But that didn't matter; through the cards Jesus met them where they were with His story, which always fitted their experience.

As in previous outings with the Deck I didn't want to stop at the end of the day. It is just such a wonderful tool, we see God working in very powerful ways and it is a privilege to have the freedom to do this with people who were just out shopping. They didn't know when they left home that they were going to meet with Jesus. How brilliant is that!"

Sister Canon Penny Horseman C.A.

'I invited M...a muslim to Hope 09 who has shown interest and he stayed for 2- 3hours. He talked to several people including Penny

Horseman. He is asking a lot of questions. He is a refugee...and comes to Greenstead Free church each Sunday". Joan Davies

Christmas Event: 23rd Dec from 6.30pm (set up from 6pm) Lion Walk

- Free gift wrapping.
- Free mince pies & hot drinks.
- Salvation Army band & carols.
- Christmas belief surveys.

We need:

- Donations of mince pies or money.
- People willing to sing some carols.
- Fetchers/carriers of mince pies from the kitchen to outside.
- Gift wrappers.
- People willing to serve the drinks/ food.
- People willing to engage in conversation with people queuing for gift wrapping.

We will be setting up from 6pm, please turn up between then and 6.30pm. We don't need exact details of who's coming but if you could indicate rough numbers, we can allocate specific jobs on the night.

www.hopeincolchester.org.uk

Colchester Barnabas Ministry.

Presents Peter Smith secretary of SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) Evangelicals.

At 7.30pm

On **Saturday 16th January 2010**
At Abbeyfield Community Church,
Abbeygate Street,.

All enquiries Adrian or Debbie
Bland 01206 869559 or 07771
626548.

Event is free, everyone welcome.