



November 2009

The Military

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Prayer for the Military

“Live with the men, go everywhere they go. Make up your mind you will take their risks, and more, if you can do any good. the line is the key to the whole business. Work in the very front and they will listen to you; but if you stay behind you are wasting your time. Men will forgive you anything but lack of courage and devotion”
The Rev Studdart-Kennedy, MC

In September Padre Alan Steele from 16 Air Assault came to speak to the Seeking God’s Blessing for Colchester leaders.

Please pray for the Chaplains, soldiers, their spouses and family while they serve abroad.

“The average age of a soldier serving in Helmand Province Afghanistan is 21 years old. Most have come from urban areas, industrialized and secular environments and broken homes. It is hard for them to adjust to a culture that is tribal, religious, meeting people who consider their presence there as a crusade. Their world views are diametrically opposed”.

We pray for Army padres as they minister to the spiritual wellbeing of the soldiers by;

- Representing Christ to the soldiers
- Conducting church services and parades

- Facilitating Bible study
- Advising C.O on religious matters
- Acting as a point of contact with local religious leaders
- Liaise with other denominations
- Being there 100% for the soldiers!

We pray for the chaplain as a ‘moral compass’ in the midst of conflict as he:

- Provides general counsel
- Represents soldiers who may be ‘voiceless’ in the army hierarchy
- Helps soldiers to solve welfare issues
- Helps soldiers to resolve moral issues
- Is a non-combatant presence in the midst of conflict
- Seeks to be a voice of conscience

Prayer Breakfast

Date:

Saturday 7th November

Time:

8.30 am - 10.00 am

Venue:

Mariner’s Chapel,
Rowhedge

All welcome!

Hope in Colchester

The Christmas Event will happen on Wednesday 23rd December on the Lion Walk car park area, details to follow shortly. Please save this date and rally the troops, Joelle

Families at Christmas

We want to pray for families in the build up to Christmas, a busy time in many churches and a time of year when families may need more support than usual. *(Courtesy of Care for the Family)*

Research shows that after the Christmas season, there is often a rise in the number of couples separating and money advice lines report a spike in calls immediately after Christmas every year. Many people who get in touch with organisations like Care for the Family for support say it can be a time of crushing loneliness.

So, how can the Church reach through the tinsel and glitz of Christmas to meet the needs of families in the community? Care for the family have suggested 4 ways you can support families at Christmas:

1) Take a closer look

It can be easy to assume that everything is fine, because that's what people say when we ask them how they are. And because we're busy, we may accept their answer and move on. But ask more questions – sometimes "fine" means "I'm just about keeping it together".

2) Ease the pressure on parents

Christmas is a highly commercial holiday and parents often bear the brunt of dealing with their children's demands for more and more presents.

3) Remember those who are mourning.

The first Christmas after the death of a family member or

close friend can be exceptionally hard for people. Some churches have begun running special 'memorial services' at Christmas-time for all those who wish to remember those who have died. If there isn't space in your church schedule to include another service, consider some short pastoral visits or sending a 'thinking of you' card to those you know are facing their first Christmas after bereavement.

4) Be proactive

Take the first step in opening up a dialogue with people who may be finding the Christmas season tough. people who come to your services, parents in your church toddler group, people who attend the courses you run, and so on. Encourage them and let it be known that you are there to help during the Christmas season.

To contact Care for the Family
Tel 029 2081 0800
www.careforthefamily.org.uk
mail@cff.org.uk

Printable material that may be helpful to churches and their communities

[print off the 'Christmas – how you can make the most of it' Support Net sheet](#)

Care for the Family has produced a booklet called Pester Power – Families Surviving the Consumer Society. You can [read a PDF version here and order printed copies](#)

[tips from parents about handling 'pester power' at Christmas](#)

Colchester Foodbank was officially launched in September this year. It provides food parcels for those in financial or emotional crisis. Each parcel is enough to tide people over for 2 or 3 days.

Monthly Foodbank Distribution Centres for this winter:

Saturday 7th November:

10am—12 noon at St Margaret's Church, Stansted Rd, Berechurch, Colchester.

Saturday 5th December:

10am—12 noon St Matthew's Church Harwich Rd,

Parsons Heath, Colchester

Food bank needs:

- Prayer
- Storage space for food
- Volunteers, secretary, drivers, sorters etc

To get involved contact Brian Ford 01206 823877, email fordxenopus@yahoo.co.uk

For more information about the Colchester Foodbank

colchfbank@gmail.com

Thank you to those who contribute to Colchester Prayernet each month.

To contact Teresa Lasky phone: 01206 242235 or email

teresa@lasky.co.uk

For admin contact Marie Morris:

marie@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

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

Feedback and Town News

Global Day of Prayer (GDOP) across the UK

We thank God for the way He has used this Pentecost-tide season to mobilize prayer and unity across our nations for the last few years. While we rejoice in the fact that around 100 different events took place in 2009, we are hopeful that by Global Day of Prayer 2010 many more churches, villages, towns, boroughs, cities and nations will take part in 2010. Why? Quite simply, because our nations, our communities, our leaders and our world are in desperate need of God's mercy and grace at this time.

"Gather the people...and let them say, 'Spare Your people, O Lord...'

Why should the peoples say, 'Where is their God?'"— Joel 2:16-17 (NASB)

As the momentum of prayer continues around the world (in early September around 400 prayer leaders gathered in the United Nations hosted by the International Prayer Council) and across our UK nations, it is time to look forward to 2010 and beyond for all that God purposes for our nations in the lead up to 2012.

GDOP 2010 dates:

10 days of prayer: 13th-22nd May,

Global Day of Prayer 23rd May, 90 days of blessing 24th May - 21st Aug.

www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk

We have produced an A5 flyer giving an outline of the vision and invitation of GDOP 2010 to enable us to share the vision with others. Download from our [Resources](#) page.

Out for Good (O4G)

Slowly the house in Cowdray Avenue is establishing itself and providing a supportive community around three lads who are living there. O4G is currently engaged with over twenty young men, and four young men are continuing to explore faith, with one lad who is planning to be baptised.

Practically the lads need a lot of input, ranging from just a casual chat over a cuppa, but their needs run deep, family breakdown, abuse, alcohol and substance misuse are common factors to their offending ... the need for safe settled accommodation, a loving relationship, and the prospect of paid employment are common dreams they all hold.

Out for Good would love to hear from anyone who would like to journey with us and these lads, particularly if there is a potential employer in the community who would like to either directly provide employment, or assist us form a business the lads could work in. Please contact Pete Hope on 07941019750

Colchester Institute

Firstly I must apologise for the "media black out" over recent months! The CU has struggled a bit over the last year but there have been some glimmers of hope:

- the CU stall we held at Easter time went well with some good opportunities to challenge people on what they thought Christians believe and to dispel some of the common misconceptions;
- a new CU cell group was born, led by one of our hospitality students who certainly wasn't

shy in sharing the gospel with his mates and bringing them along to the group for further teaching.

God has also been challenging me about my role in the student CU and I have been led to take bit of a back seat. This year I will be passing the responsibility of leading the group over to the students and I have already identified one strong leader who I hope will take things forward.

The Fresher's Fayre enabled us to recruit some new members but as yet we haven't been able to get everyone together.

Prayers would be appreciated for:

- the new leadership of the CU over the next year;
- for strength in numbers;
- that God will unite a group of young people who will support each other and who will dare to be different;
- for doors to be opened for outreach in the college and for opportunities to be taken;
- for an increase in prayer activity in the college;
- for a greater unity with the Staff CU.

The staff CU are hoping to run a Samaritan's Purse Shoebox appeal, as a joint effort with the students, over the next month or two so we would also be grateful for your prayer support here.

Your prayers are valued so I will try to keep you more up to date with developments this year. God Bless, Natasha

CYO

Both Tim and Amy have had a sense that 2009 is a year of two halves, first that of waiting and preparation and then one of action and fruitfulness.

This second 'half' brings with it changes. Tim has freed up some CYO hours to give to 24/7 Prayer to help in the development of Prayer Spaces in Schools, Amy's hours increase to 27½ hours a week, and Josh and Rachel join us to begin their Apprentice Years. Now a team of four, it is exciting for us to look ahead together and explore our hopes and dreams for the coming months, both ministry and personal, and below we share some of them with you.

Tim

There is a sense of promise and hope in the air. The opportunities we have in schools continue to amaze me and the openness of young people to hear about Christianity is as strong as ever. Now that Amy is almost full time and Josh and Rachel have joined us for an apprentice year the CYO team is stronger than it has been for a while and looking more like the CYO of the future. Our vision as a team is to develop even more ways of reaching and discipling young people in partnership with schools and churches, inspiring loads of young people to live for God, for each other and for the world they live in. Please pray:

- for productive interest from the schools.
- that new financial support and partnership becomes available
- for strength and inspiration within our team.

Amy

I finally can put all the past three years learning into practice, with

the freedom of being able to fully focus on the work ahead of me, and this year I hope that God will shape me into the youth worker and leader He wants me to be. I continue to explore my gifts, skills and passions and want to find a balance between my passion for young people with my skills in leadership, training and networking of churches and youth leaders. Personally, I am so grateful for the time I now have to give to my friendships, my church and to developing in ministry within and beyond CYO. Please pray:

- for God's direction as my role of youth worker develops
- that my gifts, skills and passions are used to glorify God
- that I am also able to give time to my ministry and leadership positions beyond CYO.

Josh

This year gives me a great opportunity to give God time and space to develop my character, spiritual awareness, skills and much more. I believe he is directing me into youth work, where I hope to help and change the attitudes of the town towards our young people. I hope to become a key part of the CYO team in the coming year, and free to work for God however he calls me. He is my centre and my everything!

Please pray:

- for financial support and partnership
- for opportunity with young people to openly and effectively show them Jesus!
- that direction and understanding of God's plan for me is revealed.

Rachel

I am feeling really excited about the new challenges and experiences this year will inevitably bring, and am eager to learn as much as I can from them. My hopes are that I will fully embrace every opportunity, and glorify God through all that I do with CYO. I pray that as a team, we will be willing to dive in and enthusiastically share God in the schools.

I specifically wish to encourage and connect with students who desire a sense of belonging, or even doubt their self-worth. Throughout the year I would love to see my skills and gifts develop, and for God to constantly fuel my passion for youth work.

Please pray:

- for lots of opportunities for discussions with young people.
- for God's direction for us as a team, and as individuals.
- for our ability to portray God's message as best we can

Diary Dates

The beginning of a new school year always starts with a lot of preparation in the office as we arrange work with schools. This year in particular there are some new things we are wanting to develop - Sanctum in new schools, Chaplaincy at the Sixth Form College, extending the mentoring, new lunchtime groups and more input into lessons.

Please pray that God will open many doors for effective work with young people.

Please get in touch for ways of supporting CYO, or go to www.cyocolchester.org.uk
mail@cyocolchester.org.uk

Tel 01206 863835

Through the gateway—leadership

Christians from across Europe are uniting in focussed prayer for leadership. With our own general election imminent, local council decisions and leadership decisions being made daily that steer the course of all our lives we will focus prayer up to the end of 2009 for those with leadership responsibility.

Listen to the Lord

'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name'. John 15:16

Many leaders are so involved in their ministry, that they forget about the one who has called them! This doesn't happen deliberately, but slowly the focus has shifted. Please call leaders back into the truth, that the Lord has the only and final responsibility. Pray that false burdens and wrong sense of responsibility falls off them.

Aware of current responsibility

'So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' Matt 25:20

Leaders are responsible before the Lord, for that which He has asked them to do. Please pray for clarity for leaders and also for faith, that they will faithfully do everything that God has called them to. This will release the best possible fruit in their lives and at the same time the greatest measure of joy and satisfaction..

Be aware of your confederates

1 Sam 25, especially: Verse 1:

Then Samuel died; and the Israelites gathered together and lamented for him, and buried him at his home in Ramah. And David arose and went down to the Wilderness of Paran'

Verse 25: 'Please, let not my lord regard this scoundrel Nabal. For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him! But I, your maidservant, did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent.'

Verse 35: 'So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and said to her, "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have heeded your voice and respected your person.'

The major theme of this story is spiritual discernment. Samuel, the prophet, enlightened Israel through his spiritual light. After his death, this light faded. Nabal couldn't recognise David in the spirit and so reacted foolishly. But his wife recognized who David was and also who he would be. God wants us to see Him and also one another in the spirit – as he sees us. Please pray, that the leaders see themselves in the light of God and also know those they should be connected with in the next phase. There are relationships, which have importance in our lives and they need a special priority. Pray leaders recognize these.

Resources for the current phase?

'And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work'. 2 Cor 9:8

God has made provision for everything we will ever need. Unfortunately we do not always see with the eyes of faith. Most people want to avoid deficiency

and therefore look out for other sources and make compromises. Like the lost son did, (Luke 15:14-18) after he left the father: The solution is always the same: Father, I come back to you (where ever I was going, however secure I felt, that this was the right way, whatever my excuse is) and repent.

Please pray for leaders, to recognize the God given sources for their needs and – if necessary – to turn back. Thank God for the un-changeable assurance that all our resources are in God alone.

Only God's justice is of importance

'Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Genesis 3:7. Our favourite 'coverings' before God are our ministry and our good deeds. But this is not what the Lord is looking for. God wants our hearts and our deep conviction that his righteousness alone makes us able to stand before him. Pray for conviction, cleansing, a new sight and renewal in these areas.

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, 01206 242235 or email teresa@lasky.co.uk

This is part of a Westminster initiative organised by Christians in Parliament.