



October 2009

University of Essex Chaplaincy

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"We are the Christian lighthouse to 9,000 students and staff from all over the world located here in Colchester and we aim to reach people through the following.

Outreach Projects

We use innovative ways of reaching people and capturing their imaginations for God. Last year we experimented with "live arts" on the public square, free sports massage (during high stress periods), using Christian soaking prayer and meditation alongside more traditional forms of outreach such as small groups and worship services.

Professional Christian Counselling

We provide free Christian counselling for both staff and students who need help with issues such as depression, addiction, sexuality. Many have begun to explore issues of spirituality and Christianity as a result of using this provision.

Support ministry

For many staff and students from around the world, we are the first face of Christianity. Many come through our doors, receive what they need and then leave transformed. In the last year (2008) alone, we have:

- Averted at least 2 suicides
- Help calm 6 panic attacks due to high levels of stress
- Provided counselling for at least 30 individuals
- Given emergency supplies to students in need who otherwise cannot finish their course
- Provided a "home from home"

atmosphere for lonely, bereaved or seeking staff and students

- Brought 3 people into a personal relationship with Christ
- United 4 Christian groups on campus to work together and made close connections with 12 churches in Colchester
- The Chaplain was awarded the "Super Staff" Award by the Students' Union for "Stunning contribution to student experience"

These are just a few highlights of the last year; we have been doing all this in the name of Christ and we hope that you would want to join in with us.

Prayers and encouragement

Would you consider praying for us regularly and sending notes, texts or emails from time to time? We need your prayers and to know that you are praying for us.

Financial Help

Would your church or individual members be willing to give financially to the ministry? This is vital as we do not have planned regular income.

We are grateful to God for you and our hope is that you will join hands with us as we reach out in the name of Christ".

Rev Thomas Yap
tyap@essex.ac.uk
Tel 01206 873108

We also have a contribution on page 3 from Friends International, who work closely with the chaplaincy.

Prayer Breakfast
Date: Saturday 3rd October
Time 8.30am - 10.00am
Venue: Christchurch, Ireton Road

Colchester news

We report here on some of the united town activity for our prayers.

GiFT.....

Unwrapping Colchester, 12th September - 11th October 2009

If you wanted to give a gift to the place where you live, what would you choose?

Colchester's cultural partners have spent the year dreaming up a programme of events that would be a present to everyone in Colchester, as well as visitors to enjoy.

Between **12th September and 11th October 2009**, GiFT is a celebration through performance, film, theatre, art and creativity of the people and places that make this town special.

The programme includes:

- Free concerts by Britten Sinfonia in the town's best heritage buildings.
- Artist- led tours, guides and trails of the town.
- Chance to star in your very own piece of archive footage, Mercury Theatre Company's 10th anniversary production DEPOT in the former tram depot on Magdalene Street.
- Colchester's own world music community "Quire".
- Ghurkha, Indian, Bulgarian and Morris dancing.
- Dhol Drummers from India and Gamelan from Indonesia.
- Old English mummers plays.
- Colchester Brass Band.
- Art Stop Bus Stop.

- The Colchester History Quests.
- Spoken Word tent.
- Music workshops
- GiFT....market stall with free gifts for all.

GiFT....is a Colchester 2020 project supported by Colchester Borough Council and The Gazette.

HOPE in Colchester

The steering group for HOPE in Colchester would like to thank those involved in the summer outreach in town.

"Thank you so much for your help and contributions towards the summer event. We all felt the day was a great success and that there were many people who came into contact with us in differing ways; I certainly had some positive conversations with a few people.

We are in the middle of compiling a report with the survey findings etc. If you have any comments that you would like to make specifically about this event, please let us know, we value all feedback and aim to improve on every event we do!

I will be sending out another email about upcoming events and more general feedback so please look out for it.

Lastly, we have discussed the idea of having the 'Summer event' in early September and wanted to know your thoughts/comments on this idea?

Many thanks & God Bless you for your support" Joelle

An evening with J John

This September and October J. John and his team will be touring the UK. This will be a multi-media evening with interviews, drama, music and a little historical film. (September marks 30 years of ministry for J. John).

The tour will cover much of the UK. If you're planning on coming, be prepared to be entertained, stimulated, inspired and challenged. Oh, and there'll be quite a lot of laughter!

Monday 5th October the tour visits St John's Church. The tickets will be £5 each. We strongly advise booking in advance. Tickets are available from St John's Church office 01206 843232 or SAE to St John's Church Office, St John's Church, St John's Close, Colchester, Essex CO4 OHP.

The evening will begin at 7.30pm and finish around 9.30pm, everyone is welcome.

Church Leaders Reception

with J John on Monday 5th October at St John's Church, St John's Close.

Please pray for this vision casting afternoon. J John is gathering church leaders to explore the following possibility:

"After much prayerful reflection we believe we are sensing the leading of the Spirit to encourage and facilitate thousands of Churches to do the Just10 series in the autumn of 2010 throughout the UK and around the world".

For more information leaders should contact St John's Church office: 01206 843232

Friends International

"Thank you for praying for Friends International (F.I)

Praise God for: The wonderful outing we had to Woodbridge

Please pray for:

1. This new academic year as it starts on October 5th.
2. Freshers' week at the especially for the two cafes we are organising with the Anglican Chaplaincy on Monday 5th October and with other Christian groups on Wednesday 7th October
3. Freshers' fair on Saturday 10th when we have a stall on the squares. Please pray that many international students will join F.I. and

this will be a link in the chain to bring them to know Jesus as their Saviour.

4. The future of Chatterbox at the English Language centre during the winter months.
5. For the Thursday 'International cafe' on campus that there will be a good number of students who come, and adequate number of helpers.

Saturday October 31st 'Honoured Guests' at Greenstead Free church, Magnolia drive 7- 9.30p.m.

All who are interested in working with international students or who would like to just see what we do are welcome". Joan Davies

Business Training for Rwanda

Colchestrians Robin Cotterrill and Simon Lasky will be heading back to Africa in November to deliver free business training.

The intention is to equip people with the skills and knowledge that they need to make their businesses successful, creating sustainable jobs, thus pulling people out of poverty.

The training takes place over 4 days, in partnership with local churches. Week 1 will be in Kigali, Rwanda and week 2 in Masaka, Uganda. Making up the team will be John & Roger Hattam from Yorkshire.

The training manual has been made freely available for download on the following website www.reconxile.org and has been endorsed by Dr John Sentamu and Steve Chalke MBE. Market research from the

initial round of training conducted in Kampala 2007 showed remarkable results. At that course 17% of those attending had a successful business, 9 months later this had risen to 72%. This means that the business owner can provide for their (often extended) family, send their children to school and create sustainable jobs on decent wages.

Please pray that 40 people will attend each course, some of whom can become trainers themselves to cascade the information. (2 Timothy 2 v 2)

Please pray with us for this trip. If you would be interested in future trips please contact Simon simon@lasky.co.uk

01206 242235

Global Day of Prayer 2010

"When God stirs His people to pray, it is because God is planning to answer! The Global Day of Prayer is one of God's ways to prepare the Church for a global awakening. The next revival will be worldwide. We can only dream about what impact it will have on the nations." Floyd McClung

Having 220 countries participating on 31 May 2009 in itself was a miracle but reading testimonies of unity amongst Churches and denomination, hearing of believers experiencing the presence of the Lord at their gatherings and the feeling that the "best is yet to come" within the Body of Christ globally, fills us with amazement and awe every time.

Although GDOP 2010 will have a celebration character, we need to call people from all nations, from all spheres of society, to a deeper level of repentance. God's name was shamed amongst the nations and therefore God is calling His people to stand before Him with broken hearts and contrite spirits. This rending of hearts will lead to the outpouring of the Spirit on all flesh and the restoration of God's glory amongst the nations. (Joel 2)

We therefore urge you, your community and your nation to join us on **23 May 2010** for the next Global Day of Prayer by coming together as believers for a Day of Repentance and Prayer. All the information you may need is available on the website:

www.globaldayofprayer.com

GDOP Team

"His Story, His Glory, His Call"

www.gdop2010.com

Journey into Wholeness

"The Committee values your continued support in interest and prayers. We are workers together in this ministry to those involved in their various spiritual journeys and earnestly pray that they will be found by God and come to see Jesus as the only name given to us whereby that we might be saved.

Mind Body Soul Exhibitions

Currently there are no large local exhibitions planned in Colchester, but there are a number of smaller ones that regularly take place. The committee recently met with someone who has been to some of these in Clacton and Harwich. He shared his vision and gave a lot of information to us. Please pray that we may be led to a right decision about our involvement in these. It is a great opportunity to be able to present the gospel at these events where there are so many seeking for answers in their lives.

We also know of other events held in the North-East Essex area, very low key, but very economical to have a stall there. However, we lack enough people to be sure that we can provide a rota on the day. For each event, we need only four or five people to make up a rota (to stand at the stall and welcome people, discuss with them what we are presenting and answer questions they have about the Christian faith). We know that many of you pray faithfully for this work to continue and be effective. Would you consider also helping us "on the day" for any events that we plan to attend?

New Spirituality Culture

You may have noticed the phrase "New Spirituality culture". This is now the received phrase to describe what used to be called the "New Age". It is felt this new phrase is more encompassing of where people are "at" spiritually, and respects the wishes of those New Age practitioners who feel things have moved on from the (heady) days of the 1960s and 1970s – the period which really was the New Age of Aquarius. If you have any comments on this, please let us know; it has contributed to the Colchester group changing its mission statement.

Prayer

It would be great if you could come along to these meetings, which take place at the Mount Zion Salvation Army Centre, Ipswich Road, Colchester, from 8.00pm to 9.00pm approx. The next ones are planned for Monday 26 October and Monday 23 November.

Prayer Points

- Continue to pray for the Committee, the Trustees and the Advisers. If you would like to be considered for the post of Trustee please get in touch with us.
- Give thanks for opportunities to share the vision of JIW at the national conference in Sheffield last April. Some 85 people attended from all over the country.
- Pray that the new website created as a result of positive feedback from the conference will prove useful in networking with other like-minded groups.
- Continue to pray for the Brentwood group as it is preparing for the next MBS Exhibition in on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 March 2010.

- Pray that other Christians having the vision to share Jesus with spiritual seekers in today's post-modern society.
- Give thanks for the continued support of the Boiler Room Community and the Colchester Prayernet.
- Give thanks for our recent involvement at the Fun Day organised by the churches at Highwoods.
- Pray for the Colchester committee as it plans to reach out to local Mind Body Spirit events – also called Psychic Fairs and other similar names".

Mike Eavery – for Colchester JIW
michael.e@journeyintowholeness.net

Monthly Street Pastors' Prayer

A small prayer room is set up at Colchester Baptist Church to support the Street Pastors from 10pm—midnight. Please come and pray on:

Friday 16th October, Friday 13th November, Friday 11th December

CYO Celebration

Saturday 24th October

St John's Church, Colchester

7.45 pm - 9.30 pm

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@lasky.co.uk

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

The Awakening

The Awakening is a new initiative led by Lee and Sarah Speller. They share some thoughts with us for prayer.

“The Awakening: *To mobilise a passionate generation of worshippers, intimate with and equipped by God, to be shapers of nations”*

“In the UK we don’t need revival ... we need reformation and transformation. Much of our revival language speaks of the church being blessed and in some cases “brought back to life” but looking historically, revivals don’t seem to last and many communities surrounding churches in revival are left un-affected.

We believe however, that God is bringing a new dimension. It is one where individuals radically encounter God and are then released into the service of the Kingdom of Heaven in every sphere of society.

We need reformation and transformation in every sphere of our society; health and social care, politics, business, the media and the education system.

The Awakening is an event that seeks to engage young people in our region in passionate, sold-out worship of God. We want to awaken our young people to the realisation that God is real, present and POWERFUL! It is He that changes us, enables us and then commissions us with a mandate to revolutionise nations!

Although billed primarily as a youth and young adult event, The Awakening is open to anyone who is hungry for more of God and is wanting to press deeper into intimacy with Him.

The Awakening Events.

These will be monthly meetings,

beginning on the **3rd October 2009** initially based in Tiptree with a vision to make these mobile in the coming months. The intent is to worship God with a lively contemporary band with the emphasis on encounter.

Whenever we gather to worship we seek to be equipped by God so that we can share what we have with the world. In this respect it is not a “bless me” meeting or something to stroke our emotions. The meetings will be Spirit led with a team musicians and prophetic people. The meetings will be largely spontaneous and will not be restricted to a set format. This gives room for God to surprise us and for us to receive *rhema* word.

These events are not just about the team that we have doing all the work; we want to positively encourage the young people to step up and take on some of the leading roles.

We appreciate hugely all that the local Church does and we want to add to that equipping.

Over the last few months God has been amazing in networking us with all sorts of people from our region from a variety of churches. As a consequence our leadership team consists of people from several separate churches as well as working with the Diocesan Regional Youth Worker, and CYO, and with endorsement from all the churches in Tiptree We have also had representatives from Plume Avenue URC at our recent day of prayer.

We truly feel that God is calling a generation of believers to Himself that know His intimacy and walk out in the power of the Spirit. This truly transcends our denominational differences.

Prayer Requests

400+ at the first meeting

- Finances
- Covering for the team
- Logistics of organising the day

Thank you”

Lee and Sarah Speller

www.the-awakening.org.uk

Engage your Community Conference

Over 2,500 people have already discovered how Engage can help every church effectively connect with the community through supporting families. Now churches have the opportunity to come along to this dynamic conference presented by Care for the Family.

Engage takes place at the Hilton London Metropole, London on **Saturday 21 November 2009** from 9.30am-5.00pm.

This is a chance to hear Steve Chalke, Rob Parsons, Ian Coffey, and the Care for the Family speaking team, discuss ways to get your church engaged with your community.

Call Care for the Family on (029) 2081 0800 to book places for you and your team.

To contact CPn

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