



March 2010

New Neighbour Programme (NNP)

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We have been praying for the NNP since early 2008. It is a pilot Home Office project where churches help refugees settle and integrate into the community.

"We've taken down the Christmas cards and packed away the office decorations so it is a good time to reflect on the first year of the New Neighbour Programme. Since September 2008 we have received 11 families from Iraq into our town. Most have settled in well and have made Colchester their new home. The families have all commented on the warm welcome given by the people of Colchester as well as the care shown to them by their church volunteers. This has gone a long way to helping them to feel part of the community.

All of the families have spent the year consolidating their English, attending either Wilson Marriage Centre or Colchester Institute for classes. One man is also studying on a Phd course at Essex University. The Jobcentre have provided training to one man to obtain UK qualifications as an electrician and he has had work experience with a local company which has provided him with a work reference. The families have realised that obtaining work in the current economic climate is not very easy, especially when English is not your first language. On the whole, they remain optimistic for their long term goal of finding work here.

decided to move to London to be nearer their families. Also one family from the second project has moved to Sheffield to be closer to their relatives.

As an organisation we have moved to offices in Colchester which has given us a central point for families to access information. We have our drop-in advice sessions on Monday, Tuesday & Friday, the International Women's group held on Wednesday with Thursday set aside for administration and outside meetings.

Preparations are being made for a third set of families to come to Colchester in the spring. For the spring arrivals we will need to recruit further church volunteers to mentor the families and to assist with the preparation of their homes. If you would like to be part of the next phase of the project, whether you can offer a couple of hours for a few weeks or for longer, then please contact the office we would be very pleased to hear from you.

We have been blessed with the dedication of our church volunteers, they have gone the extra mile to welcome and come along side the families. So to all of you a BIG "Thank you". We hope that you have also gained from your experience during the year and if you have any testimonies that you would like to share please send them in.

Prayer breakfast

Date: Saturday 6th March

Venue: Wivenhoe Methodist Church

Time: 8.30 am - 10 am

All Welcome

In September 2009 two families

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International Women's Group.

January saw the start of this women's group on a Wednesday morning. It is a chance for the Iraqi women to meet together, have an hour of English conversation practice and another hour to take part in an activity. We meet at 11am until 1.30pm during term time. We have 3 volunteers taking part and would like to have 1 or 2 more. When the group is meeting the office becomes a female only zone! Activities planned for the coming weeks are: knitting, a talk on how to keep warm in winter, hairdressing and a trip to a local

museum.

Employment Advice

Eddie Campbell joined the staff team in November 2009 and is offering targeted employment advice to our clients. He and Rouba will be starting basic computer skills training sessions in February for those not yet computer literate or who need to brush up their skills. If you hear of any local vacancies that may suit our clients please contact Eddie. We are currently looking for vacancies for cleaners, teaching assistant, motor mechanic, electrician, shop assistant, carpenter/

wood working and marketing assistant, though most types of jobs would be considered.

We will aim to keep you updated with regular news about the project through a quarterly newsletter and by telephone/email contact. We are planning some training sessions in 2010 which will inform and equip everyone who is working with refugees. If there are any topics that you would like us to cover get in touch."

Love & blessings,

Enoch, Eileen, Rouba & Eddie

Office Tel no: 01206 367963

Bringing Hope Conference



Faith and Freedom

'...helping the Church break the chains of domestic abuse'

Bringing Hope Conference
Contributors Include:

[Dr. Elaine Storkey](#), [Dr. Catherine Clark Kroeger](#), [Mandy Marshall](#), [Peter Grant](#), [Certain Curtain Theatre Company](#) and many more!!!

The Bringing Hope Conference

will be an amazing event full of outstanding speakers, music and dance performances, an award winning play, testimonies and much more.

The conference is also the public launch of RESTORED, a groundbreaking new Christian alliance focused on ending violence against women.

With one in four women in the UK experiencing domestic abuse, we all need to have a good understanding of the subject and how to help those suffering. This conference will enable you and your Church to more effectively help those living in this horrific reality.

If you are working in any capacity with those suffering from domestic abuse, this conference will enable you to see the unique difficulties those suffering domestic abuse within the Christian community have to deal with, and discover how to support them more effectively.

Date: Saturday 26th June 2010

Time: 9am—5pm

Venue: Charter Hall, Colchester CO1 1YH

Cost: £20 (if paid before 22nd May)

£25 (if paid before 25th June)

£30 (on the day)

(concessions are available, please call the booking office on 07928 031580 for more details)

To contact Teresa Lasky:
teresa@lasky.co.uk

Phone: 01206 242235

For Marie Morris:

marie@colchesterprayernet.co.uk

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

Colchester PrayerNet

Colchester PrayerNet is seven years old. We started praying on 1st March 2003. Many have joined us since then. God has been good to us and I believe He is pleased when His people unite in prayer. Many wonderful things have happened in the last seven years. Of course there are many reasons for this, but we know that our prayers will have played some part in seeing things change for good here!

I know that many in this town have held to this **promise** 'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways. Then I will hear from heaven and forgive their sins and heal their land'

I believe many have done this faithfully for years. As we unite in prayer let's ask God to build:

1. **On the past.** The prayers of the saints gone before. Those that loved not their lives unto death in this town, Rev 12:11
2. **For the future.** We look to see the next generations prayers established to build on the present and take us into the future
3. **Walls of protection** around our city. Ezek, 13:4-5, 22:30-31,
4. **Us, as His temple**— a dwelling place for God Eph. 2:22

We give thanks for:

The Church, repositioned into society. Every way in which the Church is strong and active in mission, social concern, work with the homeless, mentally ill, counselling services, those working to support the family, the elderly and the disabled, For Street Pastors, Hope for Colchester, Out4Good, NNP.

Outreach to young people.

Youth groups, CYO, holiday clubs, schools assemblies, new mentoring and pastoral projects, Sanctum, Christian Unions, Korban, Youth Alpha etc.

Church leadership. We want to acknowledge the faithful service of the church leaders. Also thank God for leaders in the Council, hospital and business sector.

Unity— for increased opportunities to work together. Pray for strong unity amongst leadership. Pray for humility and openness in all of us for the sake of those we are trying to reach. The encouragement we have received from God to continue working together— for the many Church ministries now firmly established and emergence of new ways of being church, sports church, café church, etc.

United prayer, for the many years of united prayer in this place. For every answered prayer. For Colchester Boiler Room Community.

Salvation. Thank God for all those who have become aware of God in a new way. May they have a deepening understanding of who He is.

Alpha— ongoing in the town. The many that have come to faith through it.

Mission. For the work with international Students at the University. For the work of F.I. For the Colchester business men working to establish new business in less developed countries. Missionaries sent out from congregations in this town.

Military. Those that work with the soldiers and families at the Garrison. Alpha courses now running at the Barracks.

Please pray that:

- God will continue to envision and strengthen us in the places he has positioned us. To be salt and light. To shine bright and lead people to the Truth.
- We remain faithful in prayer, true to pray the will of God. That we discern the seasons and respond appropriately in prayer.
- That we are bold in prayer and in action as we continue to see this town transformed.
- God will move us on to see His Church revived, prayerful, active in our faith.
- We will see His Kingdom advance through His church in this place.
- We will not grow weary but will learn to wait on the Lord, renew our strength, knowing that He uses the weak things to confound the wise. Willingly doing things His way.
- That His Kingdom come, His will be done - here as it is in Heaven.
- We see a mighty harvest of souls.
- We will unite in the simple truth of loving Jesus and wanting to reach others with the good news of the Gospel, and not divide over doctrinal differences.
- That we will take those things He has blessed us with to other towns and nations, to be a blessing there.
- For a maturing of the church.
- That God's name will be glorified in Colchester!

Thank to those who have faithfully prayed with us over the years and those who regularly contribute to the prayer guide. Welcome to those who have recently joined us too!
Teresa Lasky

St Patrick's Breastplate

17th March is St Patrick's day.
Lets pray together through the prayer said to be written by him.

I arise today
 Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
 Through a belief in the Threeness,
 Through confession of the Oneness
 Of the Creator of creation.
 I arise today
 Through the strength of Christ's birth and His baptism,
 Through the strength of His crucifixion and His burial,
 Through the strength of His resurrection and His ascension,
 Through the strength of His descent for the judgment of doom.
 I arise today
 Through the strength of the love of cherubim,
 In obedience of angels,
 In service of archangels,
 In the hope of resurrection to meet with reward,
 In the prayers of patriarchs,
 In preachings of the apostles,
 In faiths of confessors,
 In innocence of virgins,
 In deeds of righteous men.
 I arise today
 Through the strength of heaven;
 Light of the sun,
 Splendor of fire,
 Speed of lightning,
 Swiftmess of the wind,
 Depth of the sea,
 Stability of the earth,
 Firmness of the rock.
 I arise today
 Through God's strength to pilot me;
 God's might to uphold me,
 God's wisdom to guide me,
 God's eye to look before me,
 God's ear to hear me,
 God's word to speak for me,

God's hand to guard me,
 God's way to lie before me,
 God's shield to protect me,
 God's hosts to save me
 From snares of the devil,
 From temptations of vices,
 From every one who desires me ill,
 Afar and anear,
 Alone or in a multitude.
 I summon today all these powers
 between me and evil,
 Against every cruel merciless
 power that opposes my body and
 soul,
 Against incantations of false
 prophets,
 Against black laws of pagandom,
 Against false laws of heretics,
 Against craft of idolatry,
 Against spells of women and
 smiths and wizards,
 Against every knowledge that
 corrupts man's body and soul.
 Christ shield me today
 Against poison, against burning,
 Against drowning, against
 wounding,
 So that reward may come to me
 in abundance.
 Christ with me, Christ before me,
 Christ behind me,
 Christ in me, Christ beneath me,
 Christ above me,
 Christ on my right, Christ on my
 left,
 Christ when I lie down, Christ
 when I sit down,
 Christ in the heart of every man
 who thinks of me,
 Christ in the mouth of every man
 who speaks of me,
 Christ in the eye that sees me,
 Christ in the ear that hears me.
 I arise today
 Through a mighty strength, the
 invocation of the Trinity,
 Through a belief in the
 Threeness,
 Through a confession of the
 Oneness

Of the Creator of creation.
 May the Strength of God guide
 us.
 May the Power of God preserve
 us.
 May the Wisdom of God instruct
 us.
 May the Hand of God protect us.
 May the Way of God direct us.
 May the Shield of God defend us.
 May the Angels of God guard us.
 Against the snares of the evil one.

May Christ be with us!
 May Christ be before us!
 May Christ be in us,
 Christ be over all!

May Thy Grace, Lord,
 Always be ours,
 This day, O Lord, and
 forevermore. Amen

CYO Open Evening

Date: Monday 8th March

Time: 8pm - 10pm

Venue: Kingsland Church

86 London Road, Lexden

Experience Sanctum, Beloved,
 assemblies and CU sessions.
 Hear from schools and youth
 leaders. See how the ministry of
 CYO is changing the lives of
 young people. Phone 01206
 863835

Email mail@cyocolchester.org.uk

Easter: Hope in Colchester has
 been asked to run the annual
 free Mercury Theatre event on
Good Friday 2nd April. Watch
 this space – this is a fantastic
 opportunity to bring friends and
 family to an Easter event with a
 difference.

Other Prayer Requests

Colchester Boiler Room Community. Join others from around Colchester to pray for our town, our nation and our world at 170 Berechurch Road. There are regular times of prayer at noon from Sunday to Thursday. You can also sign up for a slot in the prayer room, the next one is from noon on **Saturday 6th March to noon on Sunday 7th March.**

For more information, contact Richard Smith 01206 570361 or richard@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk

You could also visit

www.abbeyfieldcommunity.com"

More details in January's prayer guide.

Prayer for those in leadership

We pray for our leaders, across the town and particularly leadership changes in Essex County Council. The following news is an excerpt from the Essex County

Standard.

'ESSEX County Council has announced that Peter Martin will be its new leader with immediate effect.

The decision follows a meeting of the full council where Mr Martin was confirmed as leader. It came after Lord Hanningfield resigned as leader after he was charged in connection with his House of Lords expenses.

Conservative Mr Martin, who was deputy leader, was voted in at a full council meeting at County Hall.

Lord Hanningfield, who faces six charges of falsely claiming expenses as a member of the House of Lords, made a brief speech before officially stepping down as leader.

He then left the chamber ahead of a debate on the authority's budget to a round of applause from the Conservative benches'.

Friends International (F.I)

Many thanks for praying for the CU Mission week from February 8th - 12th which went well.

Praise God that:

The guest speaker for the week was excellent! He communicated the gospel in modern day terms and the folk who wanted to listen were gripped by the message. Some folk came back each day to hear him .

Many very good conversations were had with English and International students.

- At least 10 Christians signed up for further information.
- 'Grill a Christian' went well in the SU bar. There were many good conversations that evening.

Thank you for praying. Joan

Out4Good

Frontier Youth Trust **Out4Good**

Life in O4G can never be described as dull, the Christmas period was particularly challenging for the 22 lads we are involved with, covering Colchester, Chelmsford and Clacton. Financial pressure, feelings of rejection amplified through being unable to cope with family divisions always makes this time of year difficult. The issues that surrounds these lads are complex and there are no easy answers, just patient perseverance, so we continue to journey with the lads that God puts in front of us.

We have assisted individuals with acquiring their own accommodation, provisional driving licences, driving lessons,

cooking lessons, help with reading and writing, and recreational activities. This has all been provided via donations from supporters and from Frontier Youth Trust funds, however the 'pot' needs replenishing and we pray that the resources needed to continue will come in.

The house O4G runs, partnered by DNA, accommodates four lads, and thankfully two of them have been able to secure work experience programmes and are keen to turn these opportunities into full time work, we pray that employment opportunities can increase.

A really exciting development is the newly formed Social Enterprise Group, looking at

setting up a business portfolio that can help provide paid work for lads where appropriate. Links are continuing to be made, and we would welcome anyone interested in this aspect of our work to contact us. We are very grateful for the interest shown by the Group in wanting to come up with a real solution to unemployment amongst young people.

O4Gs partnership with DNA networks is as strong as ever, and there are now seven volunteers across the Christian community befriending and assisting some of the lads, but we are always keen to talk to anyone interested in joining us. Mob:07941019750,