



May 2010

Media and Arts

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- 1 You may be aware that, in February, Jon Taylor won the Christian Broadcast Councils Gold Award for Best Christian Children's Programme, with his DVD 'The Parables'. He writes:
- 2 "When I set up my media production company I had no real experience of business, not much money and no idea what was going to happen.
- 3 What I did have was a real passion to create modern, relevant, Biblically inspired media that would have a positive impact on those who interacted with it. Two years later I can't say that everything is rosy because that would be a lie. It is a daily struggle, but one that I know I have to go through because I know God has called me to do it. In February my second DVD 'The Parables' won the Christian Broadcast Councils Gold Award for Best Christian Children's Programme and I am so grateful to God- it was the perfect encouragement at the perfect time.

There are so many other people that are trying to use media to influence people in our society today & it's a really tough market but we need Christians to be making inroads into this area as it has such a big influence on our culture, lifestyle and the ways that we think. We really need to be encouraging, supporting and investing in Christians who take on the challenge of working in such a tough industry and also to be inspiring the younger generations so that they take up the mantle and get

stuck in too.

Prayer is therefore really important, so please pray:

- For an increase in creativity for all those in the media. We have a really creative God & want to be inspired more by His Holy Spirit to connect with His creativity and use it for His glory to produce wholesome media that will have a positive impact on our society and show that Gods love is real and can make a difference in peoples lives.
- That people working in the media will press in despite the challenges from the secular world that make this such a difficult industry to break into. It is a constant moral challenge that being involved in projects that might place Christians in positions where they are pushed to compromise their values.
- hat people such as myself that are trying to produce things themselves will have access to all the resources & finances that they need to be able to produce edifying media. There are much larger, international companies out there that have much bigger budgets, both secular and Christian and we need to be competing with them.

Thank you

Jon Taylor, Creative Director,
taylormation Ltd.

Prayer Breakfast
Date: Saturday 1st May
Venue: St Mary's
New Church Road,
West Bergholt
Time: 8.30 am - 10 am
All Welcome

Prayer for Politics

From the Prayer Forum of the British Isles and Ireland
www.prayerforum.org

A call to pray for politics, government and nation

'I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour' 1 Tim 2:1-2

The importance of the need to engage with the political process in our nation cannot be over stated, as we approach this 2010 General Election and local government elections. Many people have been completely put off politics by the expenses scandal, and apathy is reigning. It is estimated that 3 million people have not yet registered to vote. And while the urgency of this season has been picked up by some Christians, we have a long way to go before we see the whole Body of Christ come humbly before God, to ask for his forgiveness and His mercy.

Let us do all that we can to encourage each other to:

- **Listen** for what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church in this season
 - **Watch** for how God is at work in the election process
 - **Pray** for the political process, our Queen, government and nation
 - **Mobilise** others in our churches, organisations and networks to engage, get informed, to vote, pray and act as the Holy Spirit leads
- Initiatives to enable us to pray

where we are – in unity with others: e.g.

At noon each day: join thousands praying the Lord's Prayer across Scotland, in 24-7 prayer movement and Global Day of Prayer London. Or the Noon Prayer (www.noonministries.org.uk) On Thursdays to pray and fast On May 4,5,6 – to pray & fast around the election time (Habakkuk 3:2)

Beyond the Election

Here are some opportunities to pray with others:

May 13-23rd Linking across the globe in 10 days of prayer from Ascension Day to Pentecost

May 23rd Global Day of Prayer with events taking place across Scotland, in Armagh, around England and in every London borough. For the full list go to:

www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk

June 5-11th The 7th annual Week of Prayer for Parliament & Government

www.christiansinparliament.org.uk

June 13th West Ham stadium national prayer event hosted by GDOP London

www.gdoplondon.com

Access all initiatives & details on www.prayerforum.org under calendar.

A prayer

Lord, we give thanks for the privileges and responsibilities of living in a democratic society. Give us wisdom to play our part at election time, that through the exercise of each vote, Your Kingdom may come closer. Protect us from the sins of despair and cynicism, guard us against the idols of false utopias and strengthen us to make politics a noble calling that serves the common good of all. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Out4Good Project – working with and for ex-offenders

Project Leader and Project Worker posts

With 3 years of BIG Lottery Funding Frontier Youth Trust is taking the Out4Good Project (O4G) into its next chapter by recruiting two key positions. O4G provides a sharp and challenging picture of how young people/adults who are 'ex-offenders' might be enabled to make the crucial transition from incarceration to a full and meaningful life back in the community.

With several years track record of success the project team will:

- Work with young adults from prisons – supporting them to ensure that they don't return to prison.
- Develop creative housing responses for those young adults
- Recruit and train mentors and ensure that young adults from prisons are able to find meaningful and purposeful activity

The workers will be based from home and will work in the Colchester area

Interviews for the Project Leader Post will be: May 21st 2010

Interviews for the Project Worker Post will be: 16th or 17th June 2010

Closing date for applications: Project leader (May 7th) and Project worker (7th June)

Salaries for these posts are Project Leader (£25,134) and Project Worker (£15,300). An application form and further details can be obtained from: Frontier Youth Trust,

Tel: 0121 687 3505.

E-mail: frontier@fyt.org.uk

Prayer for the Police

13th May 2010 is the National Day of Prayer for the police.

Please pray for the Police Service for:

Officers on Patrol

- That they might build confidence with the public.
- That they might have wisdom in all situations.

Officers making "on the spot" decisions

- Especially when making a wrong decision might lead to an escalation of a difficult situation.
- For those engaged in public order or other potentially violent situations.

Officers suffering stress

- After dealing with a sudden death, accidents or the victims of violent crime.
- When dealing with major disasters or the death of a child or young person.

Integrity to resist corruption

- Through contact with those of a criminal disposition.
- Through temptation when in a position of trust.

Support Staff

- That others might realise their value to policing.
- To cope with the stress of increasing workload.

Why not consider praying regularly for the Police Service through our "Adopt a Cop" project?

A senior policeman from the southwest England is claiming that the prayers of the local community have helped his officers improve their crime detection rate. Inspector Roger Bartlett, 44, is the person in charge of policing in Barnstaple, a town in Devon, a county in the

Southwest of England. In 2007 Inspector Bartlett's officers were only achieving a crime detection rate of 26 percent, one of the lowest detection rates in the area covered by the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. Faced with that situation the Inspector, asked the local church community to pray for greater success for his officers in solving crime. He explained to the Western Morning News what he believes happened next:

"Every quarter since that time, there has been an increase in that figure, despite reductions in the overall crime rate to the point that Barnstaple currently has a detection rate of just over 40 per cent of total crime, which is one of the highest in the country. Of course, that is down to some fantastic local policing, but the prayers I hear from Christians are for officers to be good at their job and implement practices that will lead to offenders being brought to account and victims seeing justice done. Clearly, many who do not have the faith I have would say that this is just coincidence, but the increase in that figure is so marked that it is indeed 'some coincidence'. From my experience, the more I pray, the more 'coincidences' I seem to see."

But Inspector Bartlett is claiming an even greater achievement for the power of prayer than the increased success in detecting crime - a reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads in the Barnstaple area. In 2007 and 2008 there were 97 such incidents on the Inspector's local roads, a figure that fell by 67

percent to just 32 in 2008/2009.

Elsewhere an officer was investigating an incident but he had not been able to apprehend a suspect. He encouraged a church to pray for him and within days a suspect had been charged. In another area an officer encouraged churches to pray about domestic burglary and over the year it came down by 30 per cent.

Prayer for the Military

An opportunity to unite in prayer for those going to serve in Afghanistan

Wednesday 26th May 2010

7.45pm

Plume Avenue URC, Prettygate

Hosted by SGBC, with Army Chaplains leading and informing prayer

All welcome

A free concert with Cathy Burton and Dan Wheeler

We will take an offering for **Cry in the Dark's** work with disabled orphans in Romania.

Date: **Friday 7th May 2010**

Time: **8pm**

Venue: Kingsland Church, 86, London Road, Lexden, Colchester

Everyone welcome!

Prayer gathering for Colchester.

Have you a burden to pray for Colchester? Join us every Wednesday from 6a.m.- 7.30a.m. Further details from Russell Rose Tel: 01206 561642

Global Day of Prayer

The Global Day of Prayer is on Pentecost Sunday, 23rd May. Again this year we join believers from around the world with this prayer.

Almighty God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Together with believers all over the world, gather today to glorify Your Name.

You are the Creator of heaven and earth. There is no one like You, holy and righteous in all Your ways. We submit to Your authority as the King of the universe. We pray with one voice to enthrone You in our hearts and to honour You before the world.

Lord God, You alone are worthy of our praise and adoration.

Our Father in heaven, Thank You for loving the world so greatly. to die on the cross for our sins so that we could be reconciled to You. We are grateful to call You Father and to be called Your children. Nothing can separate us from Your love

Thank You Father for adopting us into Your family because of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lord Jesus Christ, You alone are worthy to open the scrolls of history, for You were slain and have redeemed us to the Father by Your blood. We confess that You are Head of the Church and Lord of all heaven and earth. May people from every tribe and language become Your followers so that Your blessing brings transformation among all peoples. Let Your kingdom be established in every nation of the world so that governments will rule with righteousness and justice.

Jesus Christ, You are the Saviour of the world and the Lord of all.

Father of mercy and grace, We acknowledge that we have sinned and that our world is gripped by the power of sin.

Our hearts are grieved by injustice, hatred and violence. We are shamed by oppression, racism and bloodshed in our land. We mourn all loss of life in murder, war, and terrorism. Our homes are broken and our churches are divided by rebellion and pride. Our lives are polluted by selfishness, greed, idolatry and sexual sin. We have grieved Your heart and brought shame to Your Name.

Have mercy on us as we repent with all our hearts.

God of mercy, forgive our sins. Pour out Your grace and heal our land.

Spirit of the living God, Apart from You, we can do nothing. Transform Your Church into the image of Jesus Christ. Release Your power to bring healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed and comfort to those who mourn. Pour Your love into our hearts and fill us with compassion to answer the call of the homeless and the hungry and to enfold orphans, widows and the elderly in Your care. Give us wisdom and insight for the complex problems we face today. Help us to use the resources of the earth for the well-being of all.

Holy Spirit, we need Your comfort and guidance. Transform our hearts.

Lord Jesus Christ, Because You were dead, but are now risen, and the Father has given You a Name above all names, You will defeat all powers of evil. Tear down strongholds and ideologies that resist the knowledge of God. Remove the veil of darkness that

covers the peoples. Restrain the evil that promotes violence and death. Bring deliverance from demonic oppression. Break the hold of slavery, tyranny and disease. Fill us with courage to preach Your word fearlessly, and to intercede for the lost faithfully.

Almighty God, deliver us from evil.

King of Glory, Come and finish Your work in our cities, our peoples and our nations. We lift our voices in unison with believers from Africa and Asia, from the Middle East and Europe, from North and South America, and from Australia and the Pacific Islands—together we cry:

Lift up your heads, O you gates! Be lifted up ancient doors so that the King of glory may come in!

As Your deeds increase throughout the earth, and as Your blessings abound to all the nations, they will seek You, asking, "Who is this King of glory?"

Together we will answer:

He is the Lord Almighty! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Come fill the earth with Your glory as the waters cover the sea. The Spirit and the Bride say: ***Amen! Come Lord Jesus!***

To find out more about the National Day of Prayer at West Ham Football Stadium on **Sunday 13th June** contact info@gdoplondon.com or tel 08456 528600

Feedback and Town News

"The prayer room at 170, Berechurch Road will be open for 24 hours again from **noon Saturday 8th May - noon Sunday 9th May**. Come and spend a dedicated hour with God, and pray for Colchester, UK and the whole world. There will also be an hour of guided silent prayer 8pm - 9pm. To book a slot at other times contact Richard on 01206 570361 or richard@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk

Twenty years ago Pete Greig, one of the founders of 24-7 Prayer, stood at Cape St Vincent, Europe's most westerly point, and prayed. As he began calling out each country by name God shook him with a vision of 'a faceless army of young people in every nation awaiting orders'. Ten years later a continuous prayer movement exploded among young people, and spread like 'wildfire' across Europe through years of prayer, mission teams and Boiler Room communities of intense prayer and mission. Then just last year 200 of us from 16 European nations gathered in Amsterdam at 24-7 Prayer's second 'Euro-gathering' and God spoke again. We now need to respond, in prayer, on our knees for Europe. We firmly believe that this is a 'kairos' moment of opportunity. The Father is calling us to 'rekindle the romance' and return to His embrace in the place of prayer. He is also calling us to 'recover the ground' through Spirit energised action.

The call is simple - a worldwide season of 24-7 prayer for Europe beginning on Friday 26th March 2010 and we are inviting you to take your place with us praying for the prodigal continent. If you are a European Christian, whether in Greece, Russia,

Spain, Iceland or anywhere in between, we want to ask you to give some time each week to pray for your continent. If you are elsewhere, like the first Macedonians, we want to urgently call you to 'come over and help us' in prayer. We want to call the hundreds and thousands but also the two's and three's and lone pray-ers to join us.

Colchester Boiler Room Community is joining this call to prayer for all the nations of Europe. You can join in with us email richard@colchesterboilerroom.org.uk

for more info.
Richard Smith
Colchester Boiler Room Community

Friends International (F.I)

Many thanks for praying for the outing to Bury in April. The coach was packed with students and everybody had a good time. Praise God that:

- 'A' from Taiwan wrote that her mother and brother had recently been baptised. This girl gave up her non Christian boyfriend at great cost to herself 18 months ago after returning to Taiwan having found Christ here in Essex University. Please pray for her father to become a Christian.

Please pray for:

- The outing to Flatford and Dedham on the 29th May for the preessional students.
- Chatterbox at the English Language centre that there will be more helpers from the Lexden and central area of the

town. If any of you are interested in helping students with their English on a Tuesday evening from 7.30-9p.m, please contact Joan Davies 862070.

- Calm at the university as students take their exams and there will be NO suicide attempts.

God bless you all, Joan

Fordham + Eight Ash Green Women's Convention

An opportunity to meet other Christian women and think about **Practical Godliness**. Ideas to encourage a lifetime of Godly living, including interactive seminars and talks

Key Speaker: Kay Dawson

(Associate Pastor, St Andrew the Great, Cambridge)

**Saturday 12th June 2010
9.45 to 1pm**

At John Owen Barn, Fordham CO6 3NL (01206 243261)

For more information:

www.fordhamchurch.org.uk or email: Elaine Smith thekelve-donsmiths@btinternet.com

Cost: £5 to include refreshments and home made cakes. (John Owen Barn open until 3pm – picnics welcome)

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.