



Newsletter Update

Friday 28th March 2014



Neighbourhood

PRAYER.NET

Stats

2,245 Streets being prayed for [See Map](#)
226,745 Houses on those streets (101 per street)
538,800 People living there (240 per street)
****Click here to see our research sources.**



Dear Carl

This week has been a significant week for many reasons, not least because this week I had an operation on my heart to get rid of some cells that sometimes make my heart rate go very fast. Waiting with great fear before the operation, I considered asking the hospital chaplain to come and pray with me, (relatives were not allowed to stay). I didn't need to, because in the event I was waiting with a Methodist Minister who was about to go home and a Methodist minister that had just come to collect him. They both prayed for me and I felt so reassured. It was also a great opportunity to give my testimony to another patient having the same procedure. This might on the surface of it, seem a small thing, but this was a huge thing for me and I felt God had gone before me and I wasn't alone! For that moment this lovely patient was my neighbour. No-one should ever underestimate the power of a prayer or the kindness of a few words, especially at some of the most difficult periods of our lives.

This week I want to remind us all that what we are doing takes time, and in most cases we do not see major results immediately. It is a lot of prayers and a lot of small actions that lead to change happening over a longer period of time. Jesus tells us that this is how the Kingdom of God comes to be in Mark 4:26-29.



What I am trying to say, is don't give up...your prayers are working, even when you can't always see the results and even if in our Human understanding, the changes are small. God does not see things the way we do!

Mark 4:26-29 **New King James Version (NKJV)**

The Parable of the Growing Seed

26 And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, 27 and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 For the earth yields crops



by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

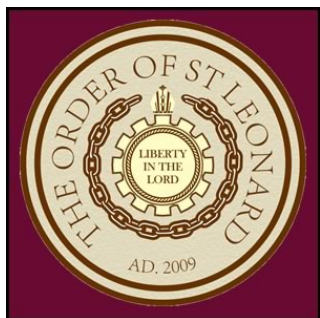
Here we share a testimony of someone who has seen a small but significant change on their street, since they have been praying:



"We have lived in our road for over 30 years. It is a big road, so you don't often get to know your neighbours. We have found that since focussing our efforts to pray for our road that we have found more opportunities to speak to our neighbours and our neighbours becoming more open towards us. For example, my husband keeps bumping into a neighbour who works for a local charity at the bus stop and is able to talk to her and make meaningful conversation. Our next door neighbours know that we are Christians and make it lear that they don't talk about religion or politics, but recently someone in their family suffered from a significant illness and we were able to offer support. We have recently found out that another neighbour's husband died. Before we started praying we simply did not have this opportunity. Before , even if someone said hello it was unusual. We have been given other opportunities to offer support to neighbours and feel that it is God creating this opportunity".



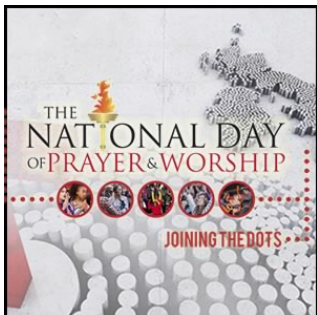
I think we expect people to come to us in church, but I think we need to go into the community to meet them.



There feels like a big battle where we live, we know more people are praying than are recorded on the [neighbourhood prayer map](#), but still there does not appear to be that many people praying. We feel that as people pray the found becomes softer, we need more people to pray.

This individual is going to try to get others to pray in her church... and consider becoming an official church representative...

<http://www.neighbourhoodprayer.net/for-churches/church-representatives/>



Invite others to pray for their street

We are approaching 1% of streets in the UK being covered in prayer, that we know about. We recently discovered that the people praying for their streets come from over 500 churches across the UK. We have 2245 streets signed up, to reach 1% we need 2600. We know there are a lot more people praying than are represented on our map. We will use the map in the future to target areas where there is not as much prayer taking place, and as a way of ensuring we reach our goal.

We are believing that as we cover every street with prayer over the next ten years, that we will see 1 million



new Christians as a result, with loneliness massively reduced!

Please help us reach our goal, spread the word, promote the book, encourage your Christian friends to pray for their own street.

We attach here our new [sign up sheet](#), you can return this to us by post (please make a photocopy) or by email. We do not record the names of anyone praying or their house numbers on our website, just the street name. We need people's email address' so we can send them this newsletter. If we can all get three people in our churches to sign up we would see 6000+ churches being prayed for... imagine the difference that would make.

We are asking people to pray for three houses on their street and a prayer of general blessing as often as you can over the street.

Special Thanks to:

Jon Clarke from Folkestone Churches Together, one of our postcode co-ordinators. Jon wrote a leaflet for his locality which we have adapted for use nationally. [You can download this here.](#)

Dr Martin Lee and Celia Lee, from Swindon Churches Together, have produced this leaflet which can be downloaded as an alternative, giving it out to 300 people in their church! [You can download this here.](#)

Jim Ware North Devon House of Prayer, produced this postcode, which we have adapted for national use. [Please download here.](#)

We are pleased to finally have got the right resources for all of our volunteers. We believe we have 70 volunteers across the UK and will hopefully have sent all volunteers their packs in the next 2 weeks. If you want to become a church representative or a postcode co-ordinator, [please click here.](#)

PRAYER

ROM 4:17

"I have made you a father of many nations" in the presence of Him whom he believed-God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

MY NEIGHBOURHOOD

God of Truth, I choose to believe Your promises over my life. I pray for those in my neighbourhood who are single and feel lonely, that they will find open-hearted, inclusive communities

where they will feel valued.

Is there someone on your street who's often excluded? How can you include them this week?

CARE

28th March - Email / write to your MP and say thank you for representing you and that you are praying for them

29th March - Take a prayer walk round your neighbourhood and pray for needs

Mothering Sunday 30th March - Take some flowers to mothers and grandmas on your street

31st March - Say sorry even when its not your fault!

1st April - Look for ways to volunteer one hour of your time for someone else (look at StreetBank for ideas)

2nd April - E-Mail your local councillors and say thank you for what they do and offer to pray for them

3rd April - Take time to discover some new tourist attraction in your area (eg wildlife park, play area, etc).

SHARE

Word for Today and Father's Love Letter Distribution Over Lent



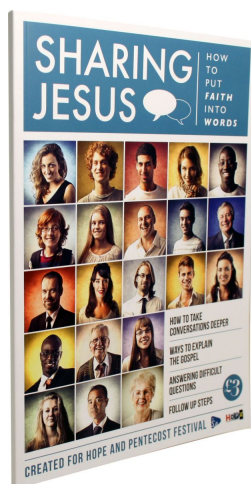
We are hoping that many of you will distribute the Father's Love Letter, together with a copy of the Word For Today to your neighbours. Ideally when you give them out, write, TO (and the name of your neighbour and FROM number 24, or the details of your church. Only write your name on the envelope if you know your neighbour well. It might be good to give them a Easter card and a

small present if you are able this Easter. It is likely to be more enjoyable if you work with others in your church and please tell your church leader what you are doing. This activity is not suitable for children under 18 unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Here is what some people are saying about the Word for Today and the Father's Love Letter.

Order the Father's Love Letter & Gift Edition of the Word For Today to give out to your neighbours. Ordering copies is free of

charge and an excellent way of blessing your neighbours.
<http://www.ucb.co.uk/communitydistribution> OR phone
08456040401

Neighbourhood Prayer Network, wrote an article in this publication called, "Changing Lives on page 10-11 "This article explains how we can be good neighbours when our neighbours are going through changes in their lives, such as a marriage, a house move, an illness, a bereavement.



The cost is £3 plus postage, but anyone ordering a copy of Neighbours, Transform Your Street will receive one free. Click here, to order a copy
www.neighbourhoodprayer.net/book

Donate: We would gratefully appreciate donations from churches for us to keep going. We employ one part time member of staff, Lisa, but all other work is done on a voluntary basis.

To be sustainable in the future we need to raise £25,000 per year for basic running costs. Please prayerfully consider if your

church could help us. Thank you to all of you who give their time and prayers!

Lets press forward to see 2,600 streets covered, now is the time to rally, now is the time to invite, we can't do this without you, and thank you for everything you are doing.

Every Blessing



Rebekah Brettle

P.S. Don't forget to click on the block advert links to some of our great partners (on the left).

Neighbourhood Prayer Network is a registered Charity: Charity Number 1150306, established 31st December 2012

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