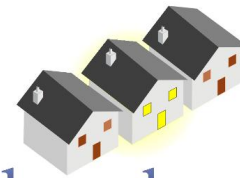


Newsletter Update

Friday 10th January 2014



Neighbourhood
PRAYER.NET

Stats

2,087 Streets being prayed for [See Map](#)
210,787 Houses on those streets (101 per street)
500,880 People living there (240 per street)

****Click here to see our research sources.**



Dear Carl,

For many this is the first week back at work and we hope that the workload has not been too high!

What a milestone this week, we now have 2,087 people praying for their street, which means when we offer a prayer for our street, those prayers represent over 500,000 people. It's amazing that we have reached this milestone in less than 18 months - thank you for participating, thank you for praying and let's work together to cover the whole Nation, street by street in Prayer.



In this week's newsletter, we bring you a testimony of how hospitality to international students, has resulted in some people coming closer to faith. We welcome Lisa Hutt as our part time PA, and have special prayers for people affected by floods.

Welcoming Lisa



We are pleased to welcome our first paid member of staff, Lisa Hutt. She has already done some excellent work and is helping me get on top of a mountain of admin that has piled up over the year during the pregnancy and shortly after Reuben was born. We hope to get volunteer packs out to those who applied to be a postcode co-ordinator or church representative very soon. We would be grateful if people could consider a regular gift, to support Lisa's employment, in the hope we can give her longer term employment. As my contribution to this, I am going to do a sponsored swim. More details to follow in the next newsletter.



Floods and Snow on the Way

We would like to offer our prayers to all those affected by the floods in the last two weeks. We cannot imagine how heartbreaking it must be to have your possessions damaged or even destroyed in flood waters. If people live in flood affected areas, please offer to help your neighbours.



We are also concerned about reports of a bad winter ahead in terms of snow, especially for elderly and vulnerable people.

Please pray for and ask your church to pray for :

- People affected by the floods, to receive quick financial compensation and response from insurance companies.
- For protection from further floods.
- For a sense of community to arise from the the aftermath of the floods.
- For emotional support for those who have been very badly affected.
- People affected by the floods, to receive quick financial compensation and response from insurance companies.
- Pray that this winter will not be as bad as the forecasters are suggesting.



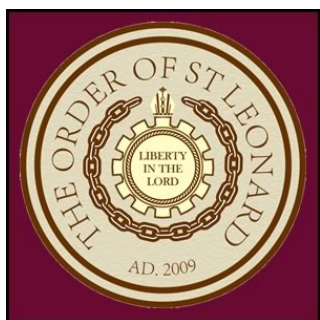
International Neighbours

I have been reading the account in Genesis of Noah's Flood. We are told in Genesis that four couples (Noah and his three sons emerged from the Ark and from there onwards the whole of the Earth was populated. This means, we are all related! I understand some of the tensions that arise when there are significant numbers of people coming to work in our country, at a time of austerity. However, as Christians, we are called to love our neighbours as ourselves. There has been much in the press about the arrival of Eastern Europeans, lets be welcoming to all our neighbours who have come from overseas and show them the love of God. Here below is a beautiful testimony from Ivy Fallowfield (Manchester) of what can happen when such love is shown.



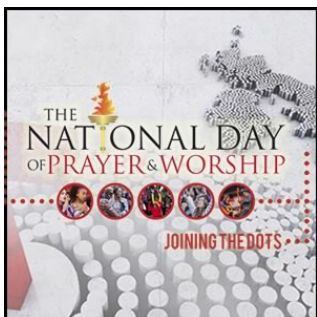
Testimony

Nick Duffy writes:



In Fallowfield there is the largest English language school in Manchester. We had heard that over 90% of international students coming to Manchester to study never experience the hospitality of an English home. We decided to try and address this in Fallowfield and also encourage our church community to begin to look outwards and show some hospitality to our international neighbours. We decided that for 40 days we would take it in turns to host a meal every day and invite friends, neighbours and internationals, some we knew but mostly those we didn't.

Jesus in Luke 14 talks about throwing a party for those who are poor, those unable to return the invitation. So we decided to do this.



One particular night at our house we had people from Spain, Colombia, Switzerland and South Korea and we were eating Lebanese food. One particular person had said that because a church had organised this "If there is



going to be praying or reading the Bible or any other God stuff, I don't want to come." He was reassured that praying before the meal was as far as it would go. As we sat and ate together people began to open up about their life and share their story. We didn't initiate it, but suddenly one of the Colombian girls began to talk about some of her family back home... How they used to struggle holding down a job and be in trouble all the time. Then she said "they became a born again Christian and they have changed dramatically, they are alive inside and now can keep their job!"

It was incredible how God began to work through the evening. I shared a bit of my story on the way home with the person who was against any mention of God. They asked me how I came to leave my job as an Architect and work for the church. I said "I can tell you, but I will have to talk about Jesus, is that okay?" and he said yes. I was able to share my story in the car as I was dropping people off at home. We have since met up a few more times since and he said "I hope that when this project is over we can stay friends"

We have heard similar stories of people encountering the welcome of God as they are invited into Christian homes for a meal. We hosted a meal in the new Sainsbury's cafe in Fallowfield to celebrate the end of the 40 days of food project. We had internationals, ladies from a women's refuge, families from a local shelter, University students, community leaders and those from Ivy Fallowfield church all sharing a meal together. It was a little taste of the Kingdom banquet from Luke 14. It has been so good for our church to reach out to neighbours we previously did not know. It took something organised to help us but is now becoming part of our church's rythmn as we join in with God's mission to redeem and restore all things in Fallowfield and beyond.

Nick Duffy, Ivy Fallowfield

This is a community rythmn that Ivy Missional Communities in Moss Side are following, perhaps this is something other churches , home groups or individuals might want to replicate?

B Begin: *with prayer: Praying for each other and the people and place to which we are sent.*

L Listen: *We will listen to God and to the people and the place to which we are sent.*

E Eat: *We will share meals with each other and with those to whom we are sent.*

S Serve: *We will respond to the needs we discover among those to whom we are sent.*

S Story: *We will share the story of Jesus and what he is doing in our lives with those to whom we are sent.*

Neighbour Friday

PRAYER

FRIDAY 10TH JAN ROM 8:28
PERSECUTED CHURCH

Father, we thank You that we have the freedom to worship and to share our faith without fear of threat or violence. We pray for those who are victimised because of their faith; for strength to trust You, and to tell people about You even when it feels like no-one is listening.

Neighbourhood Prayer Network is joining many ministries and denominations to pray with HOPE 2014 between 18th October to 31st January. These prayers are taken from the HOPE prayer guide. You can download the whole guide from www.neighbourhoodprayer.net/pray. The whole of this week's prayers are at the bottom of this newsletter. To obtain a free copy from UCB, [click here](#) or order more at the same address.

CARE

Can you offer to take some of your neighbours' wrapping paper, boxes and anything that could be recycled to be recycled?

SHARE

Choose three houses on your street to pray for each Friday this year, pray a blessing over your street each time you leave the house. (Keep Praying and Bless Prayer guide www.neighbourhoodprayer.net/pray, may be helpful for this.

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).

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Source: [Christian Solidarity Worldwide](#)

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*in our villages,
towns and cities*

SATURDAY 11TH JAN MATT 19:29
COSTLY FAITH

Pray for those around the world who have lost friends, jobs, homes and even family because they have chosen to follow Jesus; for comfort in the midst of loss, provision in the midst of crisis, and courage to keep choosing Jesus, even when it seems to cost everything.

SUNDAY 12TH JAN PHM 1:7
SUPPORTING PERSECUTED
CHRISTIANS

Lord God, thank You for the many agencies around the world working to support those who are experiencing persecution for their faith. Show, Your Church in the UK, how we can support and resource these agencies, and stand with those suffering persecution.

MONDAY 13TH JAN 1 COR 12:26
CHRISTIANS IN CUBA

Pray for the 'Ladies in White' in Cuba, as the government continues to prevent them from attending Mass on Sundays. Pray they will sense Your powerful presence with them, and that You will intervene in their situation, so that they will be free to worship You.

TUESDAY 14TH JAN PROV 31:8
UN SPECIAL RAPPOREUR

Lord, we pray for the UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Heiner Bielefeldt. Give him wisdom as he writes his annual report for the UN, and may his recommendations be accepted and applied by governments, so that freedom of religion or belief becomes a reality for all.

WEDNESDAY 15TH JAN 2 THESS 1:4
MIDDLE EAST

Pray for Christians in the Middle East as they face political changes, economic pressures and sectarian violence. Pray for political leaders in the region; may they act in the interests of all their citizens, without discrimination on the basis of religion.

THURSDAY 16TH JAN ISA 58:6
OPERATION 18

Pray for Christian Solidarity Worldwide's campaign "Operation 18: Upholding the right to choose your religion". Pray for those whose freedom to choose their religion or belief is under threat. Shield them from the violent words or acts of those who would oppose them, and give them Your peace.

PRAYER CHALLENGE:
Find out about a persecuted country in the world and pray for it this week

[Forward this email](#)



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