

Newsletter Update

Friday 13th December 2013

Stats

2,067 Streets being prayed for [See Map](#)
 208,767 Houses on those streets (101 per street)
 496,080 People living there (240 per street)

****[Click here to see our research sources.](#)**

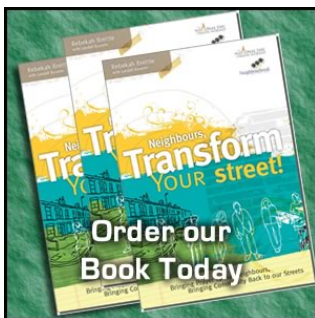


Dear Carl,

The run up to Christmas is hectic...some of us welcome the season. I'm afraid to admit that I allowed my husband [Carl](#) to put up the Christmas tree in September! *(I blame it on pregnancy brain at the time)*. Many of us dread it! My prayer for all of you, is that the next couple of weeks will be a time of refreshment and a time where you feel closer to God than ever!



In the next few days, can I suggest that we all try to send a Christmas card to at least three of our neighbours this Christmas, perhaps with a small gift, there are some great deals on cards at many supermarkets, so it doesn't need to be expensive. This is a very simple way of breaking the ice with our neighbours, it is also one of the times of the year when our neighbours are most accepting of the Christian message.



Carl and I will invite our neighbours round again this year for loose eat sandwiches, mulled wine and minced pies. The first year we did it, having just moved into the street, not one neighbour came! The second year, last year, we were unprepared for the numbers that did come, many older folk isolated on the street and we all had a great time on Christmas Eve. Please let us know what you are planning, so we can pray for you! and also to let people know next week some of the ideas you have had.



We recommend if you are inviting people you don't know well, into your home, that you always do this with some friends and family members or with people from church. Children should always be accompanied by their parent or guardian.

And...

In the rest of this newsletter, we look at how our prayers may have been answered over the issue of trafficking and slavery. We bring you a report from a night of prayer in Rugby, where many churches took part, praying together. Our regular Neighbour Friday and the HOPE weekly prayer guide can be found at the bottom of this newsletter.

Please Pray for Us: This week we are seeking to recruit someone to be a part time PA to help with admin. Please pray that we are at the centre of God's will, as we make this



important decision and move forward. Thank you. If you would like to help support this appointment with a small monthly gift, please [email me](#).

In the News:

More people rescued from slavery, an answer to our prayers?

Our newsletter on the 25th November, asked people to pray into the issue of modern day slavery and for people to be released from this. The day after this newsletter went out, 17 more people were rescued. I believe that our prayers, at least in part, contributed to these people being released - Thank you and let's keep praying!

This is an excerpt from an article entitled : "[Britain vows to crack down on slavery after women's rescue](#)," 3rd December BY Belinda Goldsmith, UK.reuters.com

Britain vowed on Tuesday to step up its fight against modern-day slavery, warning that the discovery last month of three women imprisoned for 30 years in horrific conditions in London was just the tip of the iceberg.

Home Secretary Theresa May said police last week rescued a further 17 people in Leeds, northern England, mainly Slovaks, who were living in poor housing with no access to local support services while forced to work long hours for little or no pay.

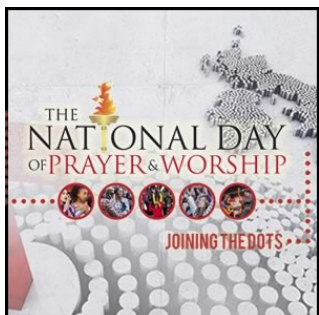
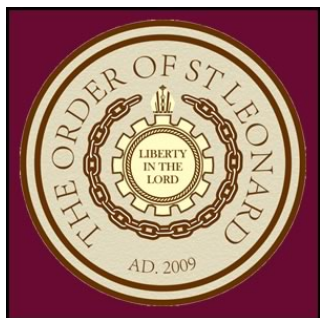
Speaking at an international women's rights conference, she said there had never been a more urgent need to tackle modern slavery which can include human trafficking, forced labour and marriage, sexual exploitation and domestic servitude.

Testimony

Lucy Littlewood from Rugby wrote to me a few weeks ago to tell us about a prayer event planned in Rugby: On our map you can click on [Pray for Rugby](#) to see which streets they are covering. Here follows an explanation of the prayer event and a report on how it went. with plans for the future.

Plans for the prayer night 15 November:-

"This will be an inclusive evening of prayer to launch prayer for Rugby and the year of Evangelism under the HOPE banner. There will be a time of confession, worship, a short word of encouragement and sharing of prayer initiatives from 7.30-9pm, followed by opportunities to experience different types of prayer under the themes of Nurture: 'Love one Another'; Deepening: 'Remain in Me' and Sowing: 'You will be my witnesses' which are themes from HOPE 2014.





From 9.15 to 11pm we are hoping there will be different prayer stations with three, 25 minute slots where people can move from one prayer room to another. Each slot can use one of the themes as a focus to pray for different issues within the town of Rugby. There will also be other resources available where people require this. We hope that the richness of our different traditions will enable people to connect with God in a variety of ways and prepare the way spiritually for evangelism and outreach by churches in their communities.

We also hope to run a 24-7 prayer room for the weekend and make available lots of resources for people to use through the year. That is where wanting the map of Rugby comes in!"

Reporting on the prayer night on 15th November

It went really well. We had 120 people arrive for the prayer meeting and probably around 15 different churches represented. It was a great evening with everyone celebrating together and then praying in the different sessions. People went away with all sorts of information for praying for Hope14. All the church leaders were prayed for together and we had a joint confession over lack of unity in the past. I am planning a second phase of giving out maps and signing up forms to the church leaders at a joint breakfast later this month so that we can get more people signed up. There are 1055 streets in Rugby so it would only take 21 churches praying for 25 streets each to cover half the town. It ought to be easy to get at least half the streets prayed for. I will collate bundles of names and send to you over the next 6 weeks (I hope). We had so much going on, the map did not get as much attention as I wanted, but the second phase should correct that!

Neighbour Friday

PRAYER

FRIDAY 13TH DEC ISAIAH 43:18-19
NEW OPPORTUNITIES

God has been shaking many of the things our country relies on: banks, media, politicians and more. We are not the same country that we were last year. God is doing something new. Ask Him to raise your faith to look for new opportunities for evangelism, and then to expect positive responses.

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 weeks 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

Could you organise a Christmas party for your neighbours, working with some friends from church?

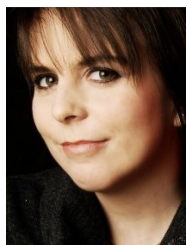
AND/OR:

Is there someone who is facing spending Christmas on their own this year? Could you consider inviting them into your home at Christmas?

SHARE

Consider giving Christmas cards and a small present to some of your neighbours, with an invitation to a local Carol service.

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).

HOPE FOR ALL

Source: [The Message Trust](#) and [Soul Survivor](#)

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ISAIAH 43:18-19

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SATURDAY 14TH DEC
1 CORINTHIANS 9:22

REACHING MEN

This month dozens of churches will be holding carol services in football stadiums, taking the Gospel to



*in our villages,
towns and cities*

places where men feel they're on home territory. Pray that those leading the events will use language that the man in the street can understand, and that the fans and their families will want to become Jesus' followers.

SUNDAY 15TH DEC
LUKE 10:2

THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL

Father, thank you that You want everyone to be saved. You say in Your Word that the harvest is plentiful; please send more workers into the harvest field. Raise us up to be people who witness to Your love and demonstrate the power of Your good news, shining the light of Your Gospel everywhere we go. (Source: Bible Society)

MONDAY 16TH
DEC PS 18:16-19

HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS

Many churches will provide night shelters for homeless people this winter. Pray this psalm for each street sleeper: that they will know that God delights in them. Pray that the Church will be a 'spacious place' where they can recover self-respect, and that many will find these shelters provide a step to wholeness this year.

TUESDAY 17TH DEC
REV 22:17

RENEWED PASSION FOR MISSION

"The Spirit and the bride say 'Come!'" That's us, the Church, cooperating with the Holy Spirit, inviting people to come to Jesus. Pray today that God will renew our passion for mission. Who will you invite to a Christmas event in your home or your church, so they can find out more about Jesus.

WEDNESDAY 18TH DEC
ACTS 17:22-23

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Paul found a way to make the message of Jesus relevant to the Athenians. Christmas gives Christians all kinds of opportunities to talk about Jesus. Pray that, as we communicate God's love, our language will connect with people's hearts, and our actions will demonstrate the Kingdom.

THURSDAY 19TH DEC
JOHN 1:41-42

MEETING JESUS

Andrew brought his brother to meet Jesus, and that brother, Simon Peter, became a founding father of

the Church. Think of the people you meet each day, and pray for them by name, that God will help you introduce them to Jesus this Christmas. Ask Him to give you words which will touch their lives.

PRAYER CHALLENGE:

Is there ever a prayer team praying during your church carol service? Why not arrange one this year ?

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