

# Newsletter Update

Friday 29th November 2013

**Stats**

2,037 Streets being prayed for [See Map](#)  
 205,737 Houses on those streets (101 per street)  
 488,880 People living there (240 per street)

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



**Dear Carl,**

This week we bring you a beautiful testimony from Burlington Baptist Church, Ipswich. This church has been reaching out to the street, where the church is based, offering tea, coffee and food to the people passing by, while their normal Sunday service runs...the results have been lives transformed. Please read below their testimony. You can read about another of their missional communities in "[Neighbours, Transform Your Street](#) on page 84."



We also discuss the issue of modern day slavery. At the end of our newsletter there is our Neighbour Friday and the week of prayers for HOPE. Neighbourhood Prayer Network provided the prayers for this week of prayers for HOPE. Thank you for praying for your street and your neighbours. If we all pray for three houses regularly and pray a general blessing over our street...I am convinced we will all see a big change where we live!



**In the News: Modern Day Slavery**

I think any of us hearing about the three women held as slaves in London for thirty years, have been shocked. As this story has made news, all of this week, we have been told that this is the "tip of the iceberg" and that there are many "slaves" being held across neighbourhoods around the country. This growing and despicable modern day slavery trade, can only flourish while it remains hidden. If we all knew our neighbours better, perhaps we could all see an end to Human Trafficking in our streets. Please visit [Stophetrafik](#) for more guidance and information. We also provide, via the Salvation Army, a section on this in our book, "[Neighbours, Transform Your Street](#)" on pages 189-192



**Pray for deliverance from Slavery**

Psalm 10:17-18: 27 million people are enslaved globally in various forms of sexual and labour exploitation. Pray: "Loving God, forgive us that we, the human race, have allowed such an evil trade to grow so strong in Your world. Deliver all those who have been taken captive for the pleasure and convenience of others."

(Taken from page 189, [Neighbours, Transform Your Street](#))



### Church as light in dark places

In addition one church in Bury was approached by people living on a street they had "Adopted" to report a possible case of Trafficking. They were able to pass these concerns to the police for investigation. This would not have happened if the church hadn't been trusted by the local community. The local church is often at the centre of building community and transformation. We would all be wise to see the value of the church in bringing light into very dark places. You can read about the story in Bury, Greater Manchester on pages 78-80 of "Neighbours, Transform Your Street." The following testimony reinforces that when the church reaches out to its neighbours, dramatic results follow!

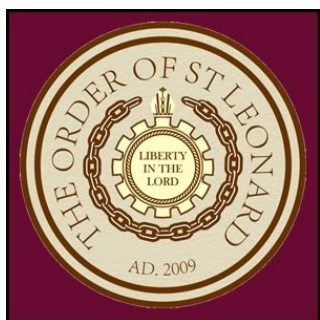


### Testimony

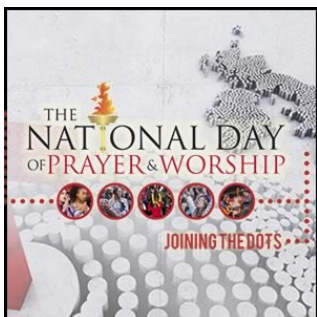
A Burlington Baptist Missional Community, Burlington, Ipswich



This story is based upon an interview with Simon Harris, the Senior leader of Burlington Baptist church, Ipswich, with additions from Julie Kite, the Missional Community leader and Conor Moore, the leader of the project. {small font}



About two years ago, a member of our church community, Conor Moore, at Burlington Baptist church, approached Julie Kite, our missional communities team leader. He asked if he could serve tea and coffee to the one hundred and twenty people, he had seen pass the church on foot, while the service was going on. He wanted to let people know we were here and to listen to the needs in the wider community. He felt God was asking him to take a tea trolley to the end of the car park in order to do this. Part of our wider vision as a church, is to encourage people to develop a missional vision for the local community or their networks of relationships and develop missional communities to support that vision; so obviously we told him to go for it!



The road our church is on is London road, well known for all the wrong reasons. Several years ago, London road was the subject of national media attention because of the murder of five women. It might have been easy to assume we knew what the needs of our neighbours were - but God asked us to listen carefully to those that passed by.

As the project began, Conor was the only one person handing out teas and coffees and chatting to our neighbours. It wasn't long though before 6 others joined him, providing teas and coffees and biscuits. Several months later, a community of people were regularly gathering on the street each Sunday morning and meeting together, many on the margins of society. Some of the people were homeless, some with various addictions, some



just lonely, some looking for community. All this was happening at the same time as our regular Sunday service inside! There have been multiple opportunities to talk about Jesus and offer prayer. People started coming back a week later, saying that their prayers had been answered... they had found a home , or a job or been healed.

Conor writes:

*An example of this is one of our regular guests had no electric in her house and the people who were supposed to put new carpet down were refusing. We prayed about it with her on the Church park. The next week she came running up to us, threw her arms around me and said "that prayer works!" carpet down, electric on. One of our homeless guests who was really struggling on the streets was trying to get a flat to live in, but kept getting refused and turned away. We prayed with him on the church car park about it one Sunday. During the week while at work I was walking through the town centre when this man grabbed me and gave me a massive hug and said "that prayer works, I have somewhere to live!"*

*Over time several people have come to faith, by the end of this year, five will have been baptised. Now every Sunday, we are offering food such as beans on toast and offering practical help such as giving clothes away and sharing community! The members of our church who take part, take it in turns to attend Sunday services or to join in part of the services. The leadership team meets with the leaders of this and our six other missional communities each week, to invest in them and help them in their walk with Jesus. During the week and every Sunday the church members of this missional community meet together for prayer, discipleship and fellowship.*

*The first Sunday of every month, we have communion and we now share communion outside our church building as well! News about this missional community is spreading with positive results. There are now five families working together each Sunday with 15-20 people involved altogether. They are part of one big family, a family on mission together. Our neighbours who come along for tea and coffee each week, belong to our church family, perhaps, before they believe!*

## **NEIGHBOUR FRIDAY**

### **PRAYER**

Friday 29th November

John 4:34

## HOPE ON MY STREET

Father, please use me to sow seeds of Your love among my neighbours. Help me to reflect Your image more and more, so that I become more effective in helping my neighbours come to know You. Lord, please let me see my street transformed, as people turn to You.

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](http://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.

## Appeal for Help

Thank you to those who have already donated to us through Stewardship. We appreciate every penny!

Neighbourhood Prayer Network wishes to serve people, resource people and at our heart, we want to give to others and lift up ministries who are working towards seeing God's Kingdom released across our nation.

However, we have some very specific need of finance. Until now I have been reluctant to ask for any donations, but we are struggling to keep up with the amount of work we have and are looking to employ an administrator. I am currently not paid for any of my work and the priority is to employ an administrator, initially for two day per week. If you able to help us out with a one off donation, or you think your church could donate some money, or you know somewhere we can apply for funds...any and all help would be greatly appreciated at this time. Lack of an administrator and general funds is severely impairing our ability to expand, produce literature, train volunteers and develop new projects. If you are unable to help, could you pray

for us, for some funding?

Please [click here](#) to donate:

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 MY NEIGHBOURS  
AND WORK COLLEAGUES**

Friday 29th November

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HOPE ON MY STREET

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Saturday 30th November

Luke 10:36-37

BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

Lord, help me to look for situations where I can do good, whether at home or at work. Help me not to tire of trying to be a good neighbour, especially when I face rejection. Give me strength to keep persevering, and guide me to the people who need my help the most.

Sunday 1st December

Matt 5:16

Advent Sunday

Father, fill me to overflowing with Your presence and love, so



*in our villages,  
towns and cities*

that I shine as a bright light on the street where I live and in the place where I work. Help me to act with kindness towards everyone I meet today, and help me to demonstrate Your heart of love wherever I go. (Source: Bible society)

Monday 2nd December

James 5:13-16

Healing

Lord, I pray for my neighbours and work colleagues wh are unwell at the moment. Thank you that You have the power to heal physical, emotional and spiritual sickness. In the assurance of Your goodness, I pray that You will heal them completely. Give me boldness to tell them I am praying for them.

Tuesday 3rd December

2 Samuel 11:26-27

Lord, I pray for those I know who are in relationships which are harmful to themselves or to others. Please give them the courage to walk away from destructive behaviour patterns in their relationships. I pray for my neighbours and work colleagues who are married; help them to persevere in keeping the vows they made.

Wednesday 4th December

Luke 15:31-32

Prodigals

Lord, I pray for my neighbours and work colleagues who once knew You, but have lost their faith. As we approach this Christmas season, may the story of the incarnation remind them how much You love them, and may they choose to make a new start with You.

Thursday 5th December

Psalm 68:6

Loneliness

Lord, I pray for those in my neighbourhood who feel lonely, whether because they live alone, or because they feel isolated and misunderstood in their own families. Please give me an opportunity to show friendship, so that they know they are not forgotten. Please bring down the walls of separation which stop us getting to know others

[Forward this email](#)



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