

# Newsletter Update

Friday 23rd May 2014

## Stats

2,388 Streets being prayed for [See Map](#)  
241,188 Houses on those streets (101 per street)  
573,120 People living there (240 per street)

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



Dear Carl

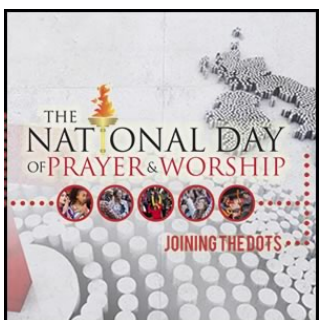
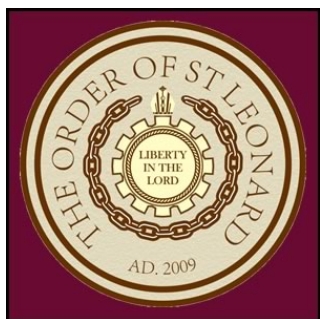
This week has been an interesting one on our street. Spurred on, by last weeks testimony, [click here](#) to view last weeks newsletter I have committed to prayer walking our street everyday. We have had some great conversations with neighbours this week and have also seen something that should not happen on any street in the UK, rival children gangs fighting each other (they were between 7-12 yrs old). In fact this even made us question whether we should live here, now we have Reuben. And yet, we felt God speak to us and tell us that we are living exactly where we should be, for such a time as this.

This weeks newsletter is for all people living on streets where it can be difficult and where there are not immediate answers to prayer. I firmly believe that we are all placed where we live for a reason. Here follows a testimony of someone who has lived in difficult circumstances for over 10 years and how through many years of faith and perseverance, they have seen some positive changes. More importantly I believe that this testimony shows that they have stopped things getting any worse. As children of God, ([Romans 8](#)), each of us lives with the authority of Jesus. We can all make a difference where we live, even when the results are not immediately obvious and even when it takes a long time for things to change.



## **A testimony from Central England,** (anonymised to protect identities)

*We moved into this area over 10 years ago. Before we moved here, we didn't know the type of area that we were moving into, or the problems we would find here. It was however the place that God had reserved for us, and there*



have been many confirmations of this over the years. We had prayed before moving that we would be exactly where God wanted us to be.

Not long after we moved in, the estate was the victim of savage council cuts, meaning that no ground maintenance took place: bushes over grew, rubbish piled up and one of the hedges became 30 foot high. Around that time, I read an article suggesting that the place people live in, influences their behavior. If you make somewhere a nice place to live, antisocial behavior and crime falls.

Shortly after moving to our house, the local vicar came to visit us, expecting to find the previous residents who were also Christians. He invited us to a conference where there were a lot of council workers. God instructed us to stand in one place and He would send people to speak to us. One of those people was a gentleman involved in re-generation. After speaking with us, he decided to visit the estate and helped to improve the area. God also told us that the hedge near us was a physical barometer of the Spiritual state of the estate. Gradually the physical state of estate improved. As a direct answer to prayer, a derelict site became a grow area for local neighbours. God told us it was a fertile place. Today beautiful flowers and vegetables grow there improving the appearance of the estate, giving pleasure to many. There has been no vandalism at this site.

A residents association was started and for a time, some other Christians joined us in prayer. We found favour with council groups and constituency groups. It took a long time for the council to realize that we wanted to work with them and alongside them. One of the challenges that we have found, is that the local churches and Christians have not always understood what we have been doing and we have at times felt isolated. We honestly believe that had we not moved here, prayed and followed God's direction that crime rates would have soared and this would have become a derelict area. There are still major challenges.

We have got to know a number of people on the estate, but would not say that these are deep friendships. We believe that we have been "ploughing" for someone else to plant the seeds and reap a harvest.

## Prayer Requests

Can you please join us in praying for this couple, for encouragement to keep going and for many to get behind what they are doing on this estate. We also want to pray for every area like this and for Christians across the country who are doing their best to see their area change for the better. Let's pray that all the people in these areas fulfill their potential, aspire to education, good jobs and that sickness and depression will reduce. We pray for workers to go into this area and areas like this and to co-labour, for a fruitful harvest.

## Neighbour Friday



## Prayer

### 2 Timothy 4:10

Father, thank You that Your truth sets me free, even when it feels uncomfortable to hear. Help me not to remain silent about Your truth for fear of other people's opinions of me. Help me keep my eyes focused on what is written in Your word, not twisting it to suit myself. May my neighbours develop a thirst to read the Bible.



## Care

It is not too late to organise a Hi-Tea, (hello with a cuppa, an afternoon tea for your neighbours), as part of the Big Lunch on 1st June. Alternatively you could get involved in a street party being organised as part of the Big Lunch through a local church or community group. If you do organise a Hi-Tea, please let us know and send in a picture or two, it will encourage our friends in the network.

## Share

A season of Saying Thank You

Write a Thank you card to your local councillors, MPs, MEPs Council Workers (regardless of whether you agree with their political stance) and give them a gift of the Father's Love Letter and a gift edition of the Word For Today (a daily devotional based on Bible readings). You can order these for free from UCB [www.ucb.co.uk/communitydistribution](http://www.ucb.co.uk/communitydistribution)



For suggestions of what to write in your thank you letter, please turn to page 88 of [Neighbours, Transform Your Street](#)

And/Or



[Order the Sharing Jesus Resource](#). We are now up to date with all orders and are ready to begin taking orders again, having replenished our stock. Particularly helpful is the tough questions section on pages 80-92, helpful for answering the difficult questions

If you have not already bought this excellent resource, buy it for £3 plus postage today. It is excellent value for money!

## Neighbourhood Prayer Tour

We are excited about the number of people who have responded to our Neighbourhood Prayer Tour. [Please send us your requests here](#). We are in the early stages of responding to requests. These dates have yet to be formally confirmed, but are provisionally booked. More details to follow. Let us know if you are near any of these locations and we'll email you back to arrange a coffee !!

July 13th: Kent

July 20th: London

August: Manchester, open to invitations.

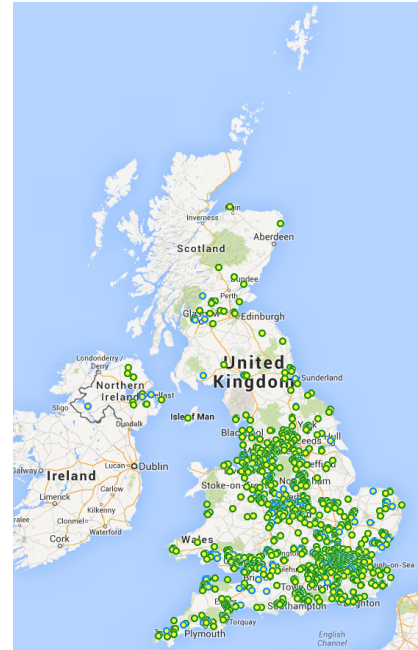
September 7th: Cambridge

October 12th: Staffordshire

November 16th:?

December 6th:?

We'll be posting up venues and times as soon as we have the information.



You can imagine this is a big deal for us, as we have an 8 month old miracle baby, so we are juggling dates and availability. Reuben will no doubt either smile, cry or be sick at each event !!

## Financial Update

We are so grateful for all the gifts people have given us. This week we received another regular gift of £2 a month. A small amount like this adds up, when many people do the same.

Please pray that we will get enough regular going to cover our costs each month and that we are wise stewards of our finances.

April: All paid - Praise God

May: £159.37 left to find,

June: £731.00 left to find (staff costs, accounting fees, travel costs for the month), around £250 is already promised - praise God.

If you would like to make a gift [click here](#).

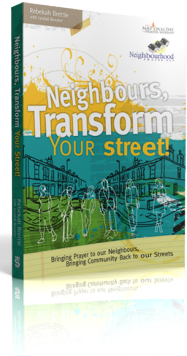
If you would like to give a small monthly gift [click here](#).

If you are a church who would like to partner with us, [click here](#)

## In closing - The Scottish Book Project.

Thank you to the three people who have donated to this so far.

We have been given the opportunity in the run up to the Commonwealth Games to give a Neighbours Transform your Street book to a Prayer Leader in each of the 400 towns and villages the torch relay will pass through. While we have existing stock to give to this project, we need to cover the cost of giving these books away.



If you would like to sponsor the cost of a book, please [Click Here](#).

We know that holidays are fast approaching and some of you are starting to go away. We are going away for the first two weeks in June as a family. You will receive the newsletter as always, but our response will be slower from the 31st to 14th June.

Thanks so much for everything you are doing, if you have any ideas for improvement, any testimonies, fundraising ideas or

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

Address : PO Box 308, Manchester, M22 2DA  
Website : [www.neighbourhoodprayer.net](http://www.neighbourhoodprayer.net)

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