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Newsletter Update

Friday 30th May 2014

Stats

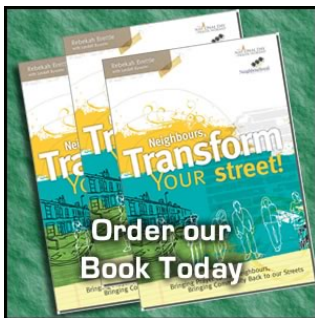
2,394 Streets being prayed for [See Map](#)
241,794 Houses on those streets (101 per street)
574,560 People living there (240 per street)
****Click here to see our research sources.**



Dear (Contact First Name)

Unsung Heroes on Your Street!

This week we want to celebrate the "Unsung heroes on your street." We are talking about all of those, who look after, unpaid, neighbours, friends and relatives with illness or disability. I am become aware through emails sent in, that many of you are caring for children, husbands or wives or elderly parents. One person wrote in to apologise that they were not able to do more for their neighbours, because they were caring for their relative. I wanted to reassure them and everyone else that they are doing something so precious, so important and so sacrificial and I wanted to honour them.



We have produced a new prayer guide appearing at the end of this newsletter in advance of National Carers week on 9th to 15th June. We hope that many of you will spread the message and use this guide during this week. We also wanted to encourage those of you who are carers. Following our holiday



in the next 2 week, we will also make this available on our website. Please give us feedback, so we can improve future versions.

For those who are receiving care from friends and family, we have been reminded that God is using many of you powerfully. Here is a testimony from one of our church representatives.

"God is never finished with us!"

"One prayer group meets in a home to pray with a lady who is over 105 years old and still has a heart to pray for the Neighbourhood. Another lady is over 90 and blind and was the first to sign up to pray for her street. And another Christian neighbour in her eighties who is not part of a prayer group, but prays for the street dropped by and gave me a box of chocolates, which was a blessing at a difficult time."



Neighbour Friday

Prayer

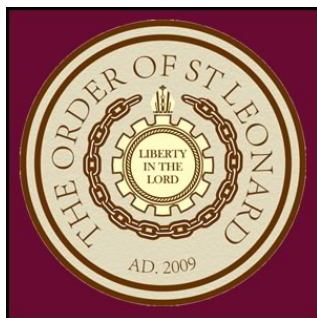
John 8:6

Lord, I pray for those living on my street who are haunted by past mistakes, that the stirring of conscience won't turn into the stranglehold of condemnation. May they access your forgiveness and forgive themselves.



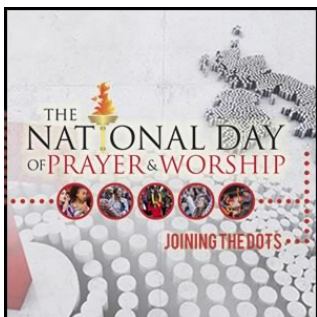
Care

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 someone you know who is a carer and/or medical staff, social workers who contribute to someone's care near where you live. 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

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!

Financial Update

We are so grateful for all the gifts people have given us. Someone sent us a cheque for £160 just before we needed to pay a bill in May. We are so grateful to this person. We are also grateful for some other regular gifts of £10 and £5 that have been sent in. All amounts are gratefully received.

Apr: All paid - Praise God!

May: All paid- Praise God!

June: £717 left to find (staff costs, accounting fees, travel costs for the month), £267 is already promised/paid.

July: £488 left to find. Around £265 is already promised.

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

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

If you would like to become a church partner, [click here](#)

Carers Prayer Guide

Who are carers?

There are 6.5 million people caring for ill, frail or disabled family members or friends. Caring can involve shopping, laundry, cleaning, cooking, filling in forms, washing, dressing, help administering medication, getting people to the toilet, turning them in bed etc. 5.7 million carers are over 18, with the peak age being 50-59. 1.5 million are over 60. 175,000 are under the age of 18. 1 in 9 people combine working with caring. "Prepared to Care report take from

www.carersweek.org

Carers can be parents caring for a disabled child, friends looking after friend with a physical or mental illness, partners

caring for each other with cancer, Parkinson's, Multiple sclerosis, children caring for siblings with autism, adults caring for parents who have had strokes or suffer from dementia. On your street, there will be several households, where people are considered to be carers. They are the unsung heroes on our streets and as Christians we should be praying for them, caring for them and sharing Jesus with them.

This is a 7-day guide, designed for use in National carers week on 9th June to 15th June. However, it can be used at any time of the year.

Day 1: God's Love towards each and every one of us.

Psalm 139

For you created my innermost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes say my unformed body. All the days ordained for me, were written in your book, before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them.

- Lord, help us to see every Human life as precious and to remember Your deep love for all of us.
- Help all those with illness: physical disability and mental health concerns, to still be seen as valuable members of wider society and church congregations.
- We pray for all carers, whose lives have dramatically changed as they have taken on the role as a carer. We pray that they will know You as their God, who stands with them, even when they may feel fear, loneliness, and on occasion rejection. Bring them healing and support from within the local community, and from friends and family.

Day 2: The Church as a Source of Support

Acts 2: 42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- Lord, we pray that church will be a generous source of support to those who are caring for others, both inside the church and outside the church. Help the church to offer opportunities to attend church services and home groups at times that are possible for those who are carers.
- Lord, help all Church communities to recognise 'carers' in their congregations and to have the wisdom to offer the right support and the right encouragement, at the right time. Help the church provide practical and appropriate support at times of crisis; a sudden deterioration, a death or loss of financial support.
- Open my eyes to the people on my street who are caring for a family member, friend or relative. Give me wisdom as to how I might help them.

Day 3: Do not judge

Matthew 7:1-2

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

-61% suffered from depression
-92% feels stressed.

- We pray for all carers who are struggling with depression, stress and especially those who feel they can no longer cope. Lord, help them to get help and support from healthcare professionals, rest-bite care where this is appropriate and freedom from feelings of guilt and inadequacy or the opinions of others.
- For those carers who have reached the heartbreaking decision that they can no longer care for their relative in their home and have had to move them into residential or nursing care, please bring them peace and a sense of acceptance.
- Lord, help the Christian community to offer love and concern to those who are struggling to care for very unwell relatives and that they will find love and affirmation in the churches that they attend.

Day 4: Loving all affected by dementia

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It

always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

-There are about 670,000 people in the UK with dementia (Department of Health 2013). Some will be people living with an undiagnosed dementia.

- We pray for a reduction in the number of people suffering from dementia in the UK. We pray that they will receive the best possible care whether they are being cared for in their homes, or in residential care.
- Help all people involved in the care of dementia patients to show love and compassion, on the most difficult days and for carers to feel that they are loved and respected across their community.
- Lord, we pray that people caring for patients with dementia will be given opportunity to leave the house for a few hours, to have a break, without having to worry about leaving their relative at home. Help all carers be aware of local support services and help.

Day 5: Caring for Children and Carers who are children

People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. 16 But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 17 Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

-175,000 carers are under the age of 18

- Lord, we pray for all parents of children with physical disabilities and also those who have children with autism, behavioural problems, or mental health problems. Lord, bring strength, love and support to parents; help them to know that you are walking alongside them.
- We pray for all children who are carers, help these children to be recognised as carers and to be able to achieve good results in their studies, and to participate in all the positive experiences that children of a similar age enjoy.
- Lord, we pray for all children with disabilities, that they will know love, compassion and will live a full and enjoyable life. Help churches to be open and accessible to families with complex needs.

Day 6 Loneliness among people needing care and carers

Sing to God, sing in praise of His name, extol Him who rides on

the clouds; rejoice before Him-His name is the Lord. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his Holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families.

- 42% of carers had family relationship breakdown.
 - 61% found it difficult to maintain friendships.
 - 45% have given up work because of caring
- Lord we pray for the protection of family relationships. In times of difficulty, let families come closer together, rather than becoming divided in pain.
 - Heal relationships that have broken down and bring reconciliation.
 - Help carers and those being cared for, to have a strong network of friends and protection from feeling lonely. Help friends stay close even when it may be more difficult to see friends because of caring responsibilities.

Day 7: Relying on God in Difficult financial times

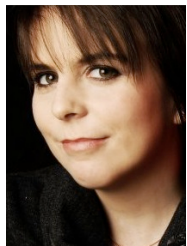
And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.

- 45% given up work because of caring
- 42% reduced hours because of caring
- 60% experienced a reduction in income
- 25% fallen into debt
- 49% used savings to buy essential food or pay essential bills
- 7/10 felt that becoming a carer was a shock

- Lord, we pray for the government to consider the needs of carers when making decisions about benefits and financial support. Help the State be a source of generous support for those who provide unpaid care, to some of the most vulnerable in our society.
- Lord, help the church recognise carers through ministries like Christians Against Poverty, Foodbanks and similar ministries. Help the church to be generous towards those most in need.
- Lord, help carers look to You as a source of help, provision and strength, knowing that they are not alone, but that You walk besides them, when things are most difficult.

Carl and I are heading off for a 2-week holiday on 31st May. We have a great testimony in next week's newsletter, so don't miss it! We are also looking to publish a book of testimonies soon, so if you have any testimonies to share, please [send them in!](#)

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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Website : www.neighbourhoodprayer.net

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