

Issue #35

Prayer

May/June 2019

magazine.com



BEING
SALT and LIGHT

To subscribe please visit:

www.prayermagazine.com

I HAVE A DREAM...



**THE VISION OF A NINE
YEAR OLD WHICH IS NOW
TOUCHING THE NATION**



"I have a dream..." is a famous quote, made by Martin Luther King. His speech heralded a new chapter in American Civil Rights. While this took America into a time of short term uncertainty, including the murder of Martin Luther King, it heralded a longer term transformation in the way the society of this vast Nation tolerated and respected one another.

It was from an opening statement of four small words, all of this change began. The same can be true for the birthing of the Vision of Neighbourhood Prayer Network.

We'll wind the clock back to 1985, when a young 9yr old was forming opinions on life and starting to chart a career course when Rebekah Evans as she was known then, peered out of her bedroom window onto the street below. People didn't seem happy, in fact quite downcast, the whole street looked despondent and that's where the seed of Neighbourhood Prayer Network was planted.

Rebekah wrestled with faith for a while through her teens and into her late 20's, eventually finding Jesus while attending an Alpha Course in Manchester. She was at the time training to become a Doctor, the prospect of free food and time

with folk, led her there, where she made the decision of a lifetime.

With her new found faith, the historic seed of a her thoughts as a child, and her experiences as a GP, Rebekah, wanted to do something. Of course as a new Christian she was learning to pray and her new circle of friends were influential to that end. Rebekah volunteered for a while for Debra Green who at that stage was running City Links, which later became Redeeming our Communities. She learnt the ropes of Christian Ministry there and that seed of faith in her heart started to germinate as the idea of Neighbourhood Prayer Network was birthed.



Neighbourhood PRAYER.NET

A logo was designed, and conversations were had and the vision was outlined. To find Christians who want to take spiritual responsibility for the street they live on. To Pray for, Care for and where possible Share faith with Neighbours.

Eventually Rebekah made an appointment with Carl Brettle (me), who, at the time was the ministry director of UCB. She asked for help and at one point even suggested that I completely take on the ministry. I declined, but said I would help and in the coming weeks, we started to chat about how to make the



Welcome to Neighbourhood Prayer Network. Launched at Wembley Prayer Day 2012, we aim to see all 260,000 streets in the UK covered in Christian prayer. With Faith-filled Christians taking spiritual responsibility for the street they live on. Working closely with local Church we encourage people to PRAY for, CARE for and when possible SHARE Faith with their Neighbours.

What about Transforming your street? Sign up today by [clicking here](#). 5,300+ people have joined in so far.

**Please note, we validate registrations, it will take 24 hours for the map marker to show on your street.*



vision a reality. We were both single, and had both been very careful in our adult lives not to jump too quickly, but as the conversations increased, we fell in love, got married and here I am ten years later now also running Neighbourhood Prayer Network – God certainly has a sense of humour.

In 2011, The soft launch was setup in Renewal Christian Centre, during the annual conference of The Order of Saint Leonard. Bishop David Carr OBE, really supported the work in the early days and without Renewal we would have not likely made the progress we have today. Around 150 Pastors and leaders

were there, hearing from a GP first had experiences of life on the average street, which was an eye opener for many. Rebekah had been doing locum work across dozens of GP practises in Great Manchester and had real insight into the problems a lot of people faced on a daily basis. Isolation, Loneliness, Fear, Sickness and Mental Health problems are all closer to your own front door than you realise.

This initial meeting was very helpful to NPN in helping to shape the vision and plan for the future.

A website was created, kindly being offered for free by Church Edit. It had

a built in mapping system, so were able to register people and see a point on a map representing the streets that they lived on.

In order to spread the vision far and wide, we decided to write a book, highlighting the great work other ministries and Churches were doing in their own communities. Sovereign World wonderfully agreed to publish it and the writing process began. It turned into a mammoth project, a large 280 books, full of ideas, stories and pictures. Just as we were in the publishing process, The National Day of Prayer held at Wembley Stadium, asked if they could use the book as a Legacy Resource for the Day of Prayer – we were overjoyed. Rebekah did the bulk of the work putting the book together and at one point hit a blockage in the writing process. To get through this she felt God tell her to visit four intercessors for one day each to pray through how the sections and content of the book would flow. Those intercessors were spread right around the country !!

Then applied to become a registered charity, which was first pushed back by the Charity Commission. It was only that we had started to mobilise people to pray and a substantial book had been written that the Commission could see we were a proper ministry and the registration was finally approved.

The Official Launch Date of 29th September 2012 was looming, the book was at the printers, the charity being

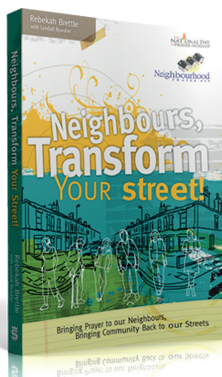
setup, the website looked great – we were all set to go.

The National Day of Prayer at Wembley was a day we will never forget, a leaders meeting with 1,200 leaders from all across the UK and then several hours of prayer and worship in the main stadium.

Over 32,000 Christians attended that Day, and Rebekah had the opportunity to share the vision to the crowd. It was a two minute slot, sandwiched between Stephen Gaukroger, who was also launching Crossing London that day and Roy Crowne giving an update on Hope Together.

We had no video to show, no PowerPoint presentation, just Rebekah and the Book. Then half way around the Stadium I said to Rebekah, where's the book – she had forgotten it !! So what happened next was just a God thing. I think because everyone else was so slick and professional and Rebekah was simply stating a vision God had given her and invited people to respond, they did. In the weeks after Wembley over 2,000 had signed up to pray. Emails came in, invites to speak came through from across our family of Nations.

Neighbourhood Prayer Network was underway. For the first couple of years we ran the project from the front room of our home in Manchester. It was only a three bedroom semi, so things were squeezed in. Eventually an office, and now as we've moved back to Wales, our main office is there with two staff from Manchester working from their homes.



God has enabled us to share the vision in lots of meetings, especially Churches Together meetings as some towns adopted Neighbourhood Prayer across their whole area.

We've created some great resource like 'A Mile With Jesus', a prayer walking initiative for your community. Lately the vision has been also enhanced by a calling by God to invite people to do 'The London Prayer Loop'. Last year over 150 people walked the entire circumference of London, praying God's will and purpose for our capital. This year the invite goes out again.

This September 29th, we're celebrating our first seven years of ministry. As we speak over 5,300 people have take spiritual responsibility for their street, and we know from Open Street Maps that represents 535,000 homes and over 1.2 million people. We could never have envisaged this at the beginning.

This means just over 2% of all streets

in the UK are now covered in regular Christian Prayer. We connect with over 500 Churches, and have many Church Coordinators who update their own congregations with the latest news.

We've also during that received literally hundreds of Testimonies from the people praying, as people have become Christians, testimonies of healings, breakthrough, restored relationships and transformed streets. Obviously not everyone has seen breakthrough like this, but we rejoice with the ones that have and keep praying with the ones that haven't, that they would see that too for their Street.

Where next for the network, which we like to say is our big family?

There are 260,000 streets in the UK and approx. 4 million Christians that attend Church once or more per month. So there are more than enough Christians to pray for every street in the Nation, so it's a question of awareness.



Our aim in the next eighteen months is to get to a 5% street coverage. Meaning that we need to find another 7,700 people to join in.

They will pray for their Neighbours, care for their Neighbours and Share faith sometimes with their Neighbours just as we all do.

As we send out our weekly newsletter, we make suggestions of things you could do in that week to help and bless people, ideas to love Neighbours like Jesus already does.

The Dream we have is to see the whole Nation, taking spiritual responsibility for their street. Wouldn't that be wonderful. To collectively put our loving arms around our street, community and Nation to see the Love of God come down.

This Dream has started, it's not fiction or theory, we just would love to see more people join in.

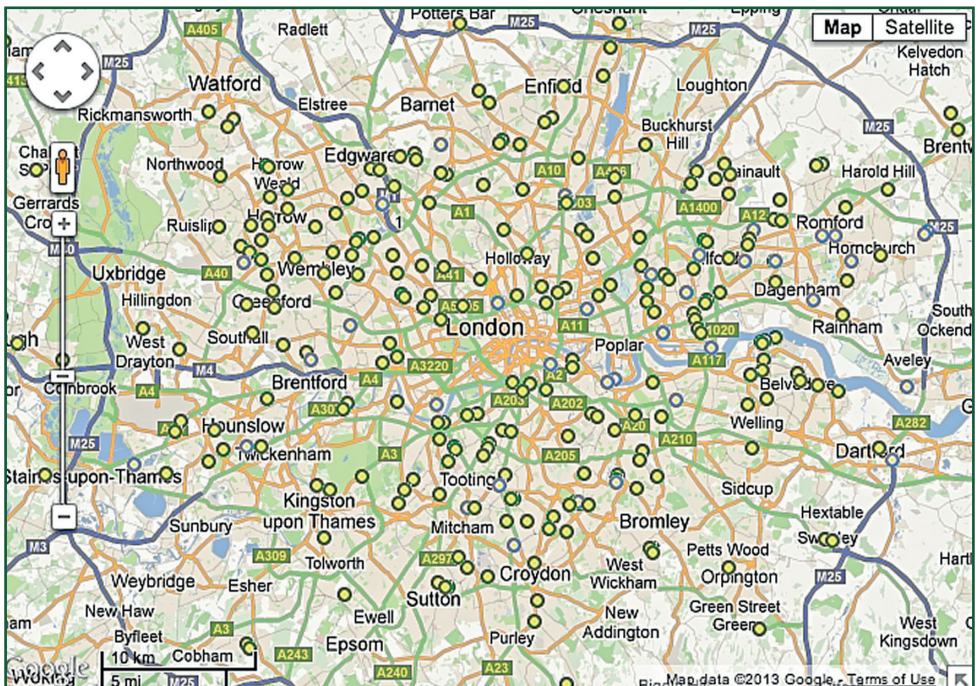
To celebrate our seventh birthday this year, we are writing a follow up book, called Street Lights, when Nameless and Faceless heroes love their Neighbours. It's packed full of actual testimonies of what God has done so far.

Why don't you consider joining, or if you already are praying let someone know who could join in.

We've recently update the website and there's a new mapping system on there which gives more options of what you can view.

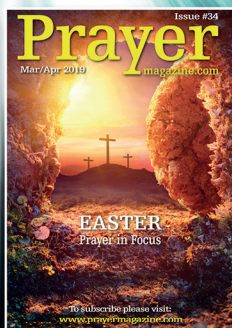
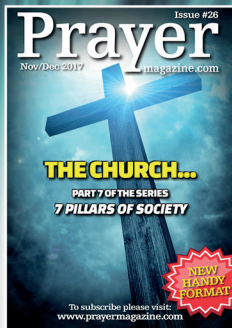
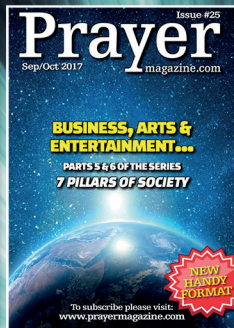
To Register your street, please visit:

www.neighbourhoodprayer.net



Prayer

magazine.com



To subscribe to Prayer Magazine please visit:
www.prayermagazine.com