



Bethel
Christian
Fellowship

Vital
Signs
July 2018

For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth"

Acts 13:47



© East Anglian Daily Times

Edited by carolbowerman@googlemail.com

Praying on the Streets

God is Love.

Jesus said, 'Just as you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world', John 17:18. That means He wants us to love in power as He did. Would you like to be doing this? With neighbours? In the shops?

The Praying on the Streets meetings equip us to do just that. We meet monthly at the Bethel building where we learn truths to build up our confidence in who we are, His sons and daughters; that His love, anointing, power, is in us, and not just to encourage, but to set the captives free and to heal the sick. Also we learn practical ways to increase the likelihood of a positive response. Then we go out and do it! There is no band, worship or preacher - just His awesome love in us.

We have met only once so far. Some are confident, others less so. The ?

latter observed how to do it and joined in at their own pace. They were amazed how responsive and thankful people were! Even those who did not want prayer usually thanked us... for His love, for caring. One person who had not done it before was soon praying for people, even for someone in a wheelchair, who felt better and was so thankful. Their confidence truly grew and it dawned on them that it is possible that this can be our way of life: loving daily....

If you feel led to this ministry you are so welcome to join us! We are meeting monthly at the Bethel Building in Church Street at 10.00am for teaching and prayer. Then from 11.00am-12.30pm on the streets in Witham.

Our next meeting is July 7th.

Be MIGHTILY blessed.
Harriet Sleigh

Look at others, and "Try Tears"

Sometimes stories challenge me powerfully. In my father's family there is a strong tradition of belonging to the Salvation Army. My father's family as children were all "dedicated under the flag" at the Salvation Army Citadel in Deal in Kent. General William Booth was an impressive evangelist and Christian leader who led a social revolution in East London and Essex in the years up to the First World War. I love this story of his final telegram.

It was Christmas Eve, 1910. General William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army was an invalid and near the end of his life - it was impossible for him to attend the Army's annual convention.

Someone near the General suggested that Booth send a telegram to be read at the opening of the convention to the many Salvation Army soldiers in attendance as an encouragement for their many hours of labour serving others throughout the holidays and the cold winter months. Booth agreed.

Funds were limited and telegrams charged by the word, so to ensure as much money as possible would still go to help the needy, General Booth decided to send a one word message. He searched his mind and reviewed his years of ministry, seeking the one word that would summarize his life, the mission of the Army and encourage the soldiers to continue on.

When the thousands of delegates met, the moderator announced that Booth could not be present due to his failing



health. Gloom and pessimism swept across the convention floor until the moderator announced that Booth had sent a telegram to be read at the start of the first session. He opened the message and read just one word: "Others!" Signed, General Booth.

We cannot all get involved in high powered social evangelism, but we can all pray. Prayer evangelism requires a burdened heart. Jesus' call to pray for harvesters arose out of His burden for "harassed and helpless" sheep. Paul's fervent prayer for fellow Israelites sprang from his "heart's desire . . . that they might be saved" (Rom. 10:1). Prayers without burden are often lifeless and perfunctory.

When Salvation Army workers reported their failure to win souls, their leader William Booth proposed a two-word solution: "Try tears." Burdened hearts love the lost. Burdened hearts weep. Burdened hearts pray fervently and powerfully.

I am challenged!

I am sure souls will be saved if we look at others and ask for compassion. Perhaps we need to find out what it means to "Try Tears".

Gordon





Jesus' brother James once wrote: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Five years ago, a young, newly qualified pastor called David Prasain was troubled by the sight of homeless orphans, dirty, thin and in tears, in the dusty, pot-holed backstreets of Kathmandu, Nepal.

One night he had a dream in which a man said to him, "Care for the children." David believed his dream to be the leading of the Holy Spirit and he determined to obey this command. Still a single man, he rented a substantial house in the Dhapasi District and went in search of orphans. It was not long before four ragged children had come to live with him. With the support of some local Christians, he raised enough money to feed and clothe them and pay for them to enter a local school.

His family grew in a strange way..... first he had a family of four 'adopted' children, then he got married to a like minded girl named Mariyah and had two of his own. It was not long before nine more children came to stay, some orphaned in the terrible earthquake that struck Nepal in 2015. His widowed father joined the family soon after that - and the house was full.....

4 In the plot of land behind the house,

David managed to raise enough money to erect, with help from young volunteers from abroad, a corrugated iron church building and a row of three corrugated iron rooms. In those rooms now live two single mothers with their babies and a man with walking difficulties who had been homeless.

Every weekday at 6.30a.m. all the children, now aged between ten and eighteen, gather in the biggest room for 'devotions' - a time of singing and praying before preparing for school.

Each evening, both adults and children gather for singing, dancing, Bible reading, testimony and prayer - above all, prayer. And I mean ALL - they all pray out loud together, some with great fervour!

Into this beautiful atmosphere I came for a few days visit in March. Amidst the noisy Hindu cremation ceremonies, the more peaceful Buddhist temples with their ever-watching eyes and fluttering prayer flags, amidst the death-defying driving experiences and the dozens of feral dogs and wandering cows, David's house is a true beacon of love and light.....with a small but significant problem. "The problem with our metal church roof," explained Pastor David, "is that when the monsoon rains start in July, the noise of the rain on the roof is so great, the congregation can't hear me preaching!"

I pondered this problem on the flight home. The cost of materials and labour to fit a plasterboard ceiling in the church is about £650. I wonder how I could help them? Would anyone at home feel able to join me in finding the way to bless this little outpost of "true religion"?

David Brett



This year's vision for the Community Day was to show the love of God to all of Witham. God loves Witham! Love is such a powerful message and so needed in our town. So with red heart balloons, heart bunting and lots of red colours we set up early on a beautiful June day. We were very blessed with a large area of space and set up three gazebos. One activity was for children and parents. Lots of icing and sprinkles were decorated onto heart shaped biscuits. This was very popular and a great way to chat with parents as well. Postcards with the verse from 1 Corinthians 13 verse 4 were given out alongside cards advertising church times and contact details.

The middle tent had an array of delicious cakes, and tea and coffee. Then for the first time we had a prayer tent which had colourful voile, lighting, the cross and a beautifully made tree by Paul Brooks which had labels with emotions written on. Stones were also provided to paint on.

On reflection, there were many positive aspects to the day. The church



team involved were fantastic, getting up early and spending the day being part of Witham Community. The donations of cake from the church were very generous and very popular! Many conversations happened. In Suzy Taylor's words "Good turnout. A couple of people from Little Friends came along - it shows the beginnings of linking the ministries. Although fruit may be slow, God revealed that having a presence in the community is important. Showing the love of God to the community is key"

Carly Cottrell shared, "I thought it was such a blessing that we were the only stall to offer hot drinks - such a fantastic blessing that brought so many people to see us."



Jean Brett and Angela White said that they were so moved about the children that visited the prayer tent. Many children were painting stones with meaningful words. Children were chatting about Jesus and the cross and I noticed one young boy sit in the corner of the tent and close his eyes in prayer. I really thought the prayer tent might be of interest to the adults but God was working with the children in a very powerful way. Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these "

So in conclusion, a very worthwhile day showing the love of God to the community and bonding together as a church!

Jenny Wijekoon



Fear Not!

Just the other day I was caught on the doorstep by two ladies, one over middle age, the other quite young who asked me if I was fearful because of today's chaotic world conditions. Having recovered from my surprise at finding them on the doorstep and being confronted with such a question from such a delightful young lady I ascertained they were visiting as Jehovah's Witnesses. Now I must admit that normally I don't enter into debate with them but...this time was different; maybe because I was in the process of researching for this article.

Fear such as this should never be the case for the child of God; "For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and of a sound mind (2 Tim.1:7). As Jesus laid His right hand upon John's shoulder in Rev.1:17 (KJV) and said to him "Fear not", He was speaking in the form of His essential deity what He'd announced to the disciples many times while in His incarnate state. He often used the terms "fear not", "peace be unto you", and "let not your hearts be troubled". These messages not only admonished the disciples of Jesus' day but reflect the attitude of life that should characterise His disciples in every age, for He said, in giving the Great Commission, "And lo, I am with you always". The greatest cure for man's natural fear is the personal presence of Jesus Christ; and I'll give you four reasons, from Rev.1:17-18 why we need not fear.

"I am the first and the last" speaks of Christ's eternity. He's before all things; and after all things are through, He'll still be in control.

"I am he that liveth, and was dead" speaks of Christ's sacrificial death for our sins and His resurrection; we worship a risen, living Christ Jesus.

"I am alive for evermore". The Scripture tells us that Christ died "once for sin"; He will not die again nor change His state. He will always be! Let's all realise that the decision of accepting or rejecting Jesus Christ is an eternal decision, because just as he's able to save "for evermore" so He's able to condemn for evermore those who reject Him.

"...and have the keys of hell (Hades) and of death". These keys were purchased with His own blood, for according to Heb.2:14-15 (KJV), "...through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage".

The Christian need not fear death or Hades, the unseen abode of the unbelieving dead which is so often called "hell". After the Great White Throne Judgement of Rev.20, death and Hades will be "cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." People outside of Jesus Christ have every reason to fear that event; the Christian, however, need never fear Hades or death, for Jesus holds the keys that unlock the door to that dreaded place.

Now I must ask you, as I asked those two visitors to my doorstep, do you know Jesus as your saviour? Though Jesus Christ died for all the sins of the whole world, He's not saved all the people of the world because He's chosen to leave it up to man's personal will whether or not to accept

Jesus or reject Him. When the Philippian jailer asked "What must I do to be saved?" he received an emphatic reply, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved". Have you done that? Have you repented before God for your sins? Have you put your faith in Jesus' death and resurrection as the price paid to forgive those sins? If not, then I urge you to commit your soul, by faith, to Him today - you will be saved.

Keith Taylor.



Colchester Night Shelter

I'd like to thank friends and family at Bethel for helping me in my support of the Colchester Emergency Night Shelter.

For a long time I've felt God prompting me to help homeless people. I've often felt it right to buy a sandwich or drink for someone, or even just to have a short chat. I know first hand how your health and circumstances can dramatically change in a short space of time, and understand how lucky I am to have such a good support system. This is sadly not true for everyone and I feel a great deal of compassion for homeless people.

Just before Christmas last year I felt I wanted to do something more, but wasn't sure what. So I emailed the Colchester Shelter to see how I may be able to help. They sent me a list of

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

2 Tim 1:7



© Microsoft clipart

items that they always need and I appealed to Bethel for help. I was blown away by the response.

We may not be able to do very much to help in some situations, but we can often do something and it's good to do what we can. A second appeal to Bethel this year was also well met.

Patsi at the Shelter is always very thankful for our donations, and ensures they are put to good use blessing the residents. Thank you for helping me to help them in a small way.

Georgia Cameron



Look...I am doing a new thing!

“See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.”
Isaiah 43:19

God, He is always doing a new thing in us; bringing about a new season or a new change, and continually working and transforming our lives. Personally, this has been a new season for me, having finished my Discipleship Training School, bid my farewells to my fellow students, and having started the ‘placement’ part of my year program, volunteering here at the Youth With A Mission base in Kyiv, Ukraine. Volunteering here certainly looks different to serving short term whilst on outreach with my team in Poland and Albania, but God as always is continuing to challenge me, teach me, grow me and use me in new ways. He is always ‘doing a new thing’ and has so much more for us! And even through times of change, I have learnt to depend on Him and rely on Him even more.

Something that has become really apparent to me is that God doesn’t call the equipped - He equips those whom He has called. I wasn’t sure what to expect for this next season of placement but already I have continually been amazed at how God is working and how He has already equipped me to do His work here in Ukraine. Even small things like my love of word games or poetry I have been able to use to teach the teenagers at the free Christian school English and English Literature; teaching them about the power of the written word,



© Christiana Moon

learning Spanish in high school applied (with great perseverance and patience!) to learning Russian, and my love of philosophy...digging up my old essays to lead an English discussion club for non-believers about morality and how we find truth, meaning and value in life.

God really uses everything He has given you to reach people.

Sometimes it is in the things that appear small to us that God is working the most. Like giving kids hugs and showing them love - love that transcends language barriers! Through both our work at the Daily Centre for children with special needs and our work with displaced children and teenagers from war in the East we have seen tremendous changes as they reach new milestones...growing in confidence and growing in faith as they are nurtured into their identity in Him.

We have just finished teaching Acts in our youth group, teaching the kids about the power of the Holy Spirit, how God can use each one of them and how He is working through every situation in their lives. One girl even asked at our last seminar weekend “What does it mean to invite Jesus into my heart?” It is questions like this and kids like these that make me want to

keep serving and never stop!

Thank you as always for your prayers and amazing support. It was so wonderful actually to go home and see the faces of those who have supported and encouraged me even while I have been away. You are a real blessing and from the testimonies I have shared from the past 7 months you can see the fruit of your prayers. Please keep the ministries I help support and the people of Ukraine in your prayers...God is, as always, making all things new.

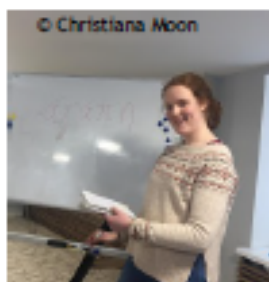
NB: If you have not yet read my updates from my time in Poland and Albania, here is the link to our team blog:

<https://polbaniaoutreach.blogspot.com/>

Until Next Time
Увидимся (See you!)

Кристиана

Christiana Moon



By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:35

Witham & Refugees

On Monday 25 June over thirty people crowded into the Methodist Church hall to hear speakers from Essex County Council, Braintree District Council, Essex Integration and Maldon Refugee Support group explain how the process of successfully resettling a refugee family works throughout Essex, where twenty three families have so far been settled in the three years since Prime minister David Cameron pledged to admit 20,000 asylum seekers to the UK. Most of the churches in Witham were represented and there were some attendees from outside Witham as well.

The main challenges facing local church groups are firstly, to find an approved privately owned house available for rent for at least two years, and secondly to be prepared to find finances to bridge the gap between what the Council's Local Housing Allowance is and the actual cost of rent for the particular accommodation in question - which varies depending on a number of factors.

There was an impassioned appeal for churches in the whole of Braintree District to work together on this issue and a number of positive steps forward were agreed. The evening was summed up by someone who said, "If this is the right thing to do, then let's go for it and believe that God answers prayer!". Can Bethel say 'Amen' to that? Look out for information and events to follow.

David Brett

Where does the heart for Prayer Walking come from?

Something that has spoken to me for a while is spiritual warfare. There is a battle going on and we can have an influence in this. That is what I love about the gospel. God chooses us to be partakers in the building of His kingdom.

Since being an Elder, my eyes have been opened to the lengths that the enemy will go to help us fall over. More common than not it is situations outside of our control. Prayer is the major factor here in this battle and I love it. The old enemy wants us to think we can live life alone in isolation but nothing could be more wrong.

At the AOG conference this year, I was particularly challenged by Pastor Chris Hodges from Alabama, who was teaching about growth. He was explaining his situation as God grew his church from him and his family, to multiple churches of 38,000 people in attendance weekly. One of his biggest wins was the base of prayer. With spiritual warfare in mind, his church went out to prayer walk the streets. To seek the places which were the strongholds of the enemy. As they prayed the Holy Spirit revealed where and what to pray into and so they mapped the whole city so they could pray over those places.

This year is a big year for myself and Bethel as God leads me into Pastorship. We can under estimate the impact we have. We can either speak life or death into situations and wherever we go, we impact our surroundings. There are 168 hours in a week and we are only in church for 2 ½

hours, which leaves 165 ½ hours where we are not together. That is a lot of time where God can use us for His Glory and His Kingdom purposes.

In Luke 10:25-37, we read that Jesus was challenged by an expert of the law about what someone must do to inherit the kingdom of God. His answer is mind blowing: love God first (YES) but also loving our neighbour as yourself. He then gives the parable of the Good Samaritan. My neighbour is anyone in need or actually just anyone. This is why we need to know our community, so we know who to pray for and how to pray. I read "Being Church, Doing life" by Michael Moynagh and this book turned my thinking upside down. We can all have an impact in reaching into our community to share the love of Jesus.

So why prayer walking and what does it entail? I have a map of Witham and the plan is to prayer walk every single street and path. This is something that has been on my heart for a long time and Chris Hodges was used by God to remind me of its importance. I would like to have a team of prayer walkers who go out seeking God to show the strongholds of the enemy plus pray for the lives of those who live in Witham. As Christians, we believe in the spiritual that influences the physical, not the other way around.

The plan is to just go out together, but not set days or times. If I can gather a group who want to go then I shall contact those in the group to see if you are available and then we just go. If you're not available, then that's ok too.

If you are interested then come and speak to me. With love, Chris Taylor.

FUTURE BETHEL DATES 2018

July

1st July – Sunday Service visiting preacher from AOG – Sujith Alex
Venue: Maltings Academy
Time: 10:30am

6th July–Evening of Gospel Country & Blues (Free admission!Bring friends & family)
Venue: Bethel Building
Time: 7pm – 9:30pm

14th July –Swishing Party (Newday Fund raiser)
Venue: Bethel Building
Time: 2pm – 4pm

24th & 26th July – Special Prayer Meeting
Venue: Bethel

30th July – Fever off to Newday
Venue: Norfolk Showground
Time: TBC

August

12th August – Church at the beach Hut (No meeting at Maltings in the morning)
Venue: West Mersea
Time: TBC

September

1st September – Chris Taylor's induction
Venue: Maltings Academy
Time: 4pm

2nd September – Gordon & Liz Goodbye lunch
Venue: Canteen of Maltings academy
Time: 12:30pm

11th September –Alpha Course starting (Weekly)
Venue: The Well
Time: TBC

15th September –Lost in His Presence (Fever band playing)
Venue: The Public Hall
Time: 4pm onwards

30th September –Vision Sunday
Venue: Maltings Academy
Time: 10:30

October

6th October – Baptism Service
Venue: Bethel Building
Time: 6:30pm

28th October – Light Party
Venue: Bethel Building
Time: TBC

November

24th November – Dickensian Christmas Market (TBC as needs a team)
Venue: Newlands shopping centre
Time: TBC

December

2nd December – Children's Christmas Service (TBC)
Venue: Bethel Building
Time: TBC

16th December – Bethel Carol Service
Venue: TBC
Time: TBC

23rd December – Sunday service
Venue: Bethel Building
Time: 10:30

30th December – Sunday service
Venue: Bethel Building
Time: 10:30

BCF Leadership team:
Gordon Crick (leading)
David Cameron
Gary Fisher
Chris Taylor

Donations for Witham
Foodbank on the first Sunday
of each month please!
Food or cash accepted.

#foodbanksunday

Breaking of Bread – First Sunday of the month

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matt 5: 14-16

Bethel Christian Fellowship meets:

* at 9.30am on the second Sunday of the month
for a café service and

* at 10.30am on all other Sundays
at

Maltings Academy, Spinks Lane, Witham.

www.bethel-witham.co.uk
bethelwitham@googlemail.com
01376 520705

Facebook: @bethel-witham

Church office at The Well Coffee Shop, Guithavon St, Witham.