

July 2010

Ancient Paths

"This is what the Lord says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'" Jeremiah 6 v 16

Since our last bulletin in April, much has happened in our county that has brought people face to face with the repercussions of living in a society without God. We need to be praying in this time of vulnerability that people will ask the right sort of questions from the right sources, and that God will give His people great wisdom and grace. It has been observed by those outside of the county that whilst being under the spotlight of intense media coverage, all that came out of West Cumbria in terms of response to the tragedy, was positive, even godly. There was shock and bewilderment, naturally, but no anger, bitterness, blame or revenge-seeking. Those who are involved in praying for this area should be greatly encouraged. It will be far easier for God's healing power to work in an atmosphere of compassion, sympathy and understanding.

Chrissie

Cumbria Prayer Net

Prayer Teams

As reported in the last two bulletins, a prayer team from Le Chateau Blanc near Lille, and the World Prayer Centre, Birmingham came together in Cumbria for the third week of June. This was very exciting and fulfilling for us – a bit like seeing a dream come true, as we welcomed eight people into our home to pray.

The team spent a week together, and we managed to travel to the four points of the county, being in Kendal on Friday & Saturday; Whitehaven, Moor Row and Egremont on the Sunday; Carlisle on the Tuesday; and the Eden prayer house on North Stainmore - just a mile from the eastern boundary of Cumbria - on Wednesday.

It is a great privilege to be out and about actually praying in situ the words God gives us to pray, or sometimes the songs He gives us to sing, or the scriptures He gives us to read over the land. The story from 2 Kings 7 about the four lepers who discover that the siege is over became very relevant as we travelled around. Why not read it and ask the Lord to speak to you through it?

Next Prayer Team

We are planning another prayer team mission on 23rd-28th September. This will be smaller than the last one, with three WPC prayer team members joining us and we hope to be working in the south of the county. The purpose of prayer missions such as these is to stand alongside those who are "on the ground" in any given location. It is the local people of course who carry the responsibility to pray for their community, but teams are a great encouragement and can bring fresh perspective to rejuvenate the regular prayer of those who are called to the work of "watchmen" in Cumbria

We plan of course to link up with some of you who read this bulletin and are currently seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit for this mission.

If you would like to discuss the possibility of a team coming to stand alongside you in prayer for your area, please contact us - wherever you are in the county. We are working with World Prayer Centre towards a series of Prayer missions of this kind into 2011

Colin & Chrissie Greaves
Cumbria Prayer Net



- ✓ To promote and facilitate prayer for the transformation of every area of society within the British Isles and Ireland
- ✓ To encourage world-wide prayer for the British Isles

www.prayerforum.org



Global Day of Prayer 2010

Report

The 2010 Global Day of Prayer saw Christians from across 220 nations joining in.

Over 70 registered events took place across The British Isles as hundreds and thousands of people took part on Pentecost Sunday, linking with Christians from every nation in the world.

Prayer services, prayer meetings and prayer celebrations took place in city squares, Cathedrals, churches, a marquee, in parks and on city walls. Many leaders picked up on the scriptures from Joel 2, sensing the need for repentance by God's church before we can see the transformation we long for.

The fruit of this years GDoP is:

- A deeper commitment to the 10 days of prayer
- A renewed appreciation of the richness of our culture
- An expectation that God does answer
- A renewed commitment to pray for both big and small issues
- A growing desire to meet to pray Anywhere!

For a full report see

<http://www.worldprayer.org.uk/gdop---welcome/>

Young Diocese

We've been invited to pray for a new initiative from the Diocese of Carlisle known as Young Diocese.

Young Diocese is initially concentrating on 2 initiatives

- ✎ Establishing youth congregations or youth churches
- ✎ Developing an internship or gap year scheme in Christian leadership.

Good and steady progress is being made with these initiatives but it is recognised that they must be surrounded by prayer.

More information from Carolyn Dykes

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Wildfire in Cumbria

The musical based on the story of Stephen, which told how the early church spread the good news like wildfire, went round the county in May, with performances at Wigton, Kendal, Penrith, Whitehaven and Barrow, culminating in a Big Sing at Carlisle Cathedral on the day before Pentecost Sunday.

In each location it was really good to see people from many denominations coming together to work hard at this project, but worshipping the Lord together at the same time! Many new friendships were formed; please pray that this won't be just a one-off event but a step in the right direction towards throwing our labels away and becoming church without walls.

Prayer Pointers

Our last bulletin was an Election Special. Let's continue to **pray for our MP's** that they would continue to be men of integrity in a very pressurised job.

- Barrow & Furness - John Woodcock
- Carlisle - John Stevenson
- Copeland - Jamie Reed
- Penrith & The Border - Rory Stewart
- Westmorland & Lonsdale - Tim Farron
- Workington - Tony Cunningham

The holiday season – that as the nations are drawn here as tourists, they will commune with the Creator as well as enjoying the beauty of what He has created.

For church leaders and their families as they holiday elsewhere, that they will return with fresh vigour and enthusiasm for the work.

Please continue to pray **for the villages of West Cumbria** that were affected by the shootings, that God's healing power would be at work in and through His people.



'Then will I purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him shoulder to shoulder' Zephaniah 3:9

Please pray for this conference of national prayer network leaders to be held from 20 -22nd July in the borough of Newham in London, close to the the Olympic Stadium. Key themes are...

- ✓ The purposes of God for our nations
- ✓ The presence of Jesus in our communities
- ✓ The power of the gospel to be released in the nation

Pray for all those attending and also for us as Cumbria's representatives at this gathering.

Colin & Chrissie

Incidentally ...

... through the internet we were able to send out prayers and requests to most of you in the days immediately following the West Coast shootings.

We apologise to those of you who only get this bulletin by post, that time did not permit us to use snail-mail on that occasion because of other commitments. It is quite an undertaking to send CPN by post, but of course we are happy to do so to those who have no computer access. However, if you are able to receive this electronically**, it would cut our costs considerably and speed up contact in emergencies such as the one that faced us last month in West Cumbria.

It was noticeable that we had more feedback over our emails on the West Cumbria tragedy than the rest of our time in CPN. It is heartwarming for us to know that there are folks out there who read the stuff we send out, so do write to us!

***send an email noting your postal address and we'll transfer you to the email list. cumbriaprayernet@tiscali.co.uk*