

Newsletter

Autumn 2013



I heard a comment on UCB Radio today that really struck me; "Never underestimate the effect that you are having on other peoples' lives". How true that is for the hundreds of Pray for Schools prayer groups that meet weekly, monthly, or termly! Our prayers have a powerful impact on those in our schools. Praying regularly for the next generation means we are investing in our children's future, something I was reminded of in my Bible study notes recently; that prayer changes things not just for us right now in our situation, but also for spiritual and eternal purposes. (more on P2)

Two highlights for me this term have been attending a prayer group attached to a village primary school and joining in with a much bigger gathering praying for all the schools in a large town. Both were times of praying specifically and wholeheartedly for the children concerned and I know this will have made a difference.

Let's be encouraged to keep praying and not give up! "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" says James 5 v16.

This newsletter features one prayer group who 'took the plunge' to take on the responsibility of praying for several extra schools, a story to encourage all of us.

PrayDay, on Tuesday 19th November, will soon be upon us. Take a look at Pray for Schools' resources on www.prayforschools.org (follow the links) /based on Psalm 100 – great for giving thanks and encouraging one another .

Other dates for the diary include:

Children's and Family Ministry Hand-in-Hand conference in Eastbourne—31 January /2 February.
Education Sunday—16 February 2014

I will keep you posted about these, and how to download resources for church or prayer group use.
Jane Newey

RE:QUEST from Youth for Christ has been relaunched with a new design and fresh material. It is one of the largest online resources for teaching about Christianity in UK Schools and really can answer all your questions. See <http://request.org.uk/>

Tell any teachers you know!



A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN...



Extract from Living Light

Prayer changes everything

Joel 2 v15 "Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly."

How serious are you about prayer? Joel calls for a holy fast and a sacred assembly. He means business! The way we go about things in our prayer life has changed since Joel's day but the spiritual temperature should not have gone down. We still need to cry out to God with all that we've got and believe that prayer changes things, which it does. Philippians 4v6 declares "Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done". Prayer makes a difference. Your prayers make a difference! "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results "(James 5 v16)

In what manner does prayer change things?

Sometimes in the miraculous: think of when Peter raised Tabitha from death (Acts 9 v40)

Sometimes in the extraordinary: such as when Elijah prayed that there would not be rain and none fell for three and a half years (James 5 v17-18)

Sometimes in the ordinary: when fellow believers came to meet Paul on a missionary trip. He thanked God and took courage. (Acts 28 v15-16)

Prayer changes things not just for us right now in our situation, but for spiritual and eternal purposes. We are called to pray big prayers: for the salvation of souls and for the peace of Jerusalem in anticipation of Jesus' return.

Written by Helena Wilkinson and published in Living Light Daily Bible Notes

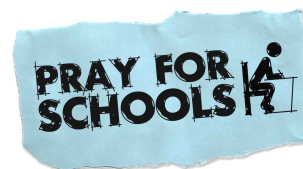
Issues of the Daily Devotional Living Light are available from Nationwide Christian Trust, Mulberry House, Chelmsford Road, High Ongar, Essex CM5 9NL

News from Wales

PFS Wales have been working with FESTIVE and churches in North Wales to encourage new groups. Please pray for these groups that there will be much fruit from their prayers.

News from Scotland

This November PFS Scotland are having a whole week of prayer around PrayDay called Join. See the website <http://www.suscotland.org.uk/>



News from Northern Ireland

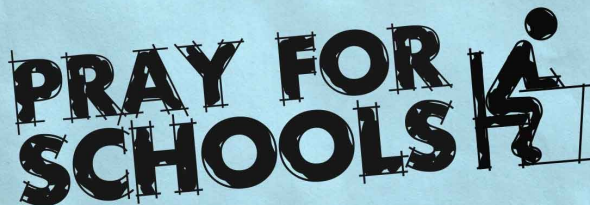
We are delighted to let you know that two volunteers Heather and Diane have come forward to relaunch Pray for Schools in Northern Ireland. They will be working with Damian Wharton (formerly PFS England Steering group rep from YfC) who has agreed to chair the group and Mark Baille Care's Public Affairs Officer.

Please pray for them as they contact churches and encourage groups.

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TAKING THE PLUNGE!



About six months ago we - the Shepperton & Sunbury Schools' Prayer Group in Middlesex (which began over twenty years ago) - were asked to consider praying for schools and playgroups in neighbouring Ashford and Laleham. Realising that this would demand more time, administration and also finance we spent the next few weeks asking God how to proceed. Many words of encouragement were received:

'Keep your vision alive – don't let fear make you give up your hope.'

'Step out in faith, it's time to go forward!'

'Something needs to happen to activate what God wants to release in you.'

At our last meeting of the summer came a real affirmation: "There comes a point where you've got to take the plunge. The moment you do, doors will open and resources released where there now seems only shortage. God will provide - the means, the method, and the manpower!"

So, in unity of heart, mind and spirit, we agreed to step out in obedience to what we felt God was saying, and in faith that He would provide all we needed. At that last meeting of the summer term, a new lady joined the group (immediate provision!) - a wonderful confirmation to step forward. So we decided to increase the schools and areas we cover in prayer and at the start of the new academic year, received extremely positive responses to our offer to pray for these 'new' schools, and were thrilled to add them. We now have the immense pleasure and privilege to pray for three Playgroups, nine Infant/Junior Schools, one Special Needs School and five Senior Schools. And we needed a new name - the 'Spelthorne Schools' Prayer Group', and changes to how we run the group. It is all very exciting and daunting at the same time, but one thing we can be assured of, it's going to be good....very good! What a joy that God has chosen us to be part of it all!

Further Answered Prayers

One Warwickshire school has had an answer to prayer about being able to set up a permanent reflection area in the school, where the children can go to pray or just sit and reflect.

A prayer group in Shropshire has been invited back to set up another Prayer Space in a local secondary school. Another town Clun have set up a new PFS group.

Spinnaker - a charity linking with nearly 100 primary schools in South London and the South East and providing assemblies and RE lessons - has opened a hub in Eastbourne where they are looking to develop their work. (www.spinnaker.org.uk)

Insight in Kingston have celebrated 25 years of working in schools and continue to serve the local area praying for every school in the borough of Kingston. (www.insightinkingston)



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