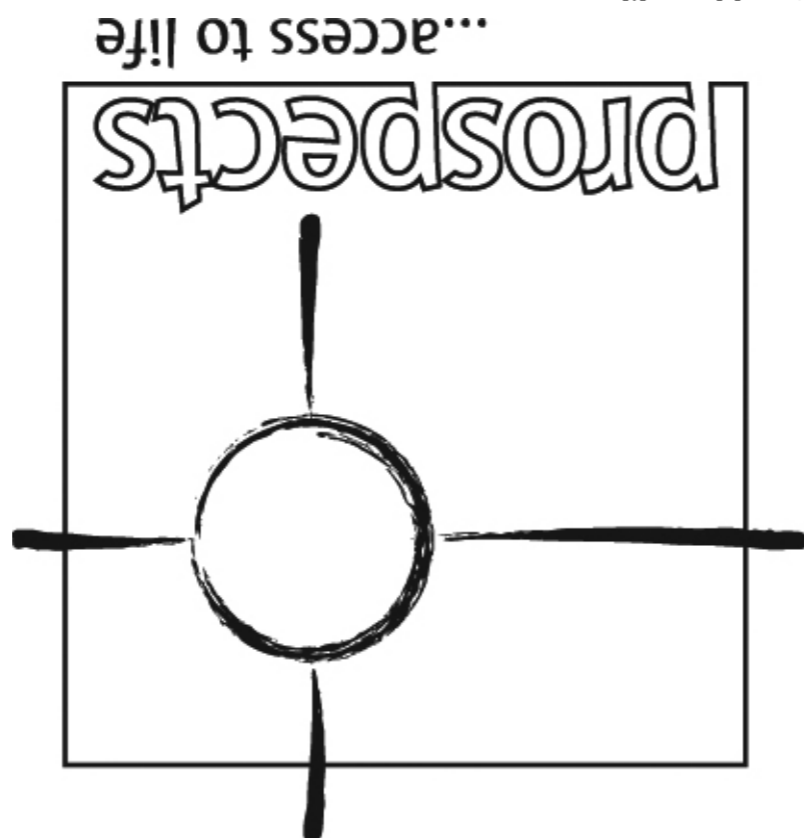


Ephesians 2:10

**'For we are God's
workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus to do good
works, which God prepared in
advance for us to do.'**

PRAYER DIARY January February 2010



THE LORD OF THE HARVEST: GIVING THANKS

We give thanks to God for continuing and generous support from you, our partners, in meeting the needs of people with learning disabilities. The response to Walk With Me has been very encouraging with sponsorship still coming in. So far over £72,000 has been raised.

We are rejoicing that two trusts, the Laing Trust and the Joseph Rank Trust, have made grants towards the cost of more Mission Development Co-ordinators time. This will enable Tony Phelps-Jones to increase the Mission Development Team, initially for three years. This increase comes at an opportune time as the demands on the existing team are becoming overwhelming - this extra capacity will lift some of the burden from Jo Bodsworth and Pete Winmill in particular. It is an exciting thought that soon more people with learning disabilities will have the opportunity to be included in the family of God as a result of these grants. Please pray that God will bring the right person(s) for the job to Prospects and that

the reach of the Mission Development team will be extended considerably as a result.

We are also thanking God that in spite of the recession, gifts to Prospects have held up. For people with learning disabilities, recession means cuts in services and less chance than ever of finding meaningful work. It is probable that the full impact of recession on services is yet to be felt. While we face the certainty that local authorities face an even harder squeeze on their resources, we can be sure that God is in control. Our God of the harvest will be generous and so we praise Him for His provision.

At the same time we continue to pray because the demands on Prospects ministry are growing and we are utterly dependent on God for the costs of Causeway's work. As we start 2010 we are praying for an increase in the gift income to meet the needs of Tony and the Causeway team in the UK as well as the international partnerships in India and Romania.

PRAYER FOCUS: MINISTRY FOR 2010

As we move into the New Year it is good to look back with thankful hearts for what the Lord has done for us individually and for Prospects as a whole.

We have again been amazed at the increased number of people that have been touched through the Prospects ministry over the past year and this gives us confidence for the future. We are reminded in Psalm 136 that the Lord is faithful in all His promises and that His love endures forever.

What a beautiful way to approach the year ahead safe in the knowledge that the Lord of all creation is watching over us and the work of Prospects. Our response is to ensure that we remain faithful to Him so that we continue to walk close to Him absorbing His will and protection on a day to day basis.

As we pray together for the work ahead we can ask for His direction to be our direction and for his wisdom to be our wisdom so that we do indeed

remain faithful to His calling to serve people with learning disabilities.

Our prayers stretch over the world in remembrance of the estimated 160 million people who have a learning disability; many of whom are rejected and unloved; but who need to know that God loves them. In the UK there appears to be a growing acceptance in some areas that people with disabilities are made in His image and are precious to Him – however we still have a long way to go before we can say there is full acceptance. So let us pray that the Lord will continue to guide and strengthen the work of Prospects so that people with learning disabilities will be accepted as valued members of their communities and ultimately choose to be part of His Kingdom where all are found equal before Him.

What an incredible ministry to be involved in and thank you all for your continued support in this vital area of mission. Let us be bold in our prayers because His love endures forever.

INITIATIVES

Reception in Northern Ireland

On 25th January Prospects hosts a reception at Stormont, the Northern Ireland parliament. Thanks to supportive Members of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly (MLAs) we will raise awareness of Prospects' work in the heart of the democratic process in Northern Ireland. Following the success of the Westminster reception last June, our prayer is that the event at Stormont will generate awareness and stir up support and enthusiasm in Northern Ireland. Please pray that God will rule as to who can come and that this tremendous chance to give people with learning disabilities a voice in this strategic location

will result in Prospects growing ministry in Northern Irish churches.

Valentine's Day 2010

Please pray for the various Valentine's Day events that will be taking place on or around 14th February. It's not too late to do something yourself – if you want ideas please contact Coral (01189516 965 or coralzh@prospects.org.uk). People with learning disabilities so often struggle to have friendships and Valentine's day highlights the disparity they experience with the vast majority who enjoy love and family. Prospects Valentine's events aim to show God's inclusive love to all and celebrate our love for each other in Christ.

Grants and Trusts

Please continue to hold our grant and trust fundraising efforts in prayer. There are applications out with requests for funding for a range of services and ministries. We seek support for projects in Wales and Reading and for various Causeway ministry projects. We are encouraged by the positive responses we get but only a very few funders choose to support learning disability so we fish in a small pond!

Thank God for our fruitful partnership with Make It Happen, a Christian agency that helps Prospects source suitable funds. Please pray that more will be forthcoming.

JANUARY - SUPPORT SERVICES

Week 1: Newry Day Opportunities

This service is temporarily relocating this month. Please pray it won't disrupt the service too much, that it will go smoothly, and that the people we support will cope well with it.

Week 2: Shrewsbury

Give thanks for the recent recruitment of new staff, but do continue to pray for the right staff to be found for the remaining vacancies. In particular, pray for Steve and Fiona as they take on their new management roles.

Give thanks for the gift money raised by the recent model railway exhibition. Pray for the good health of all.

Week 3: Winchester

Give thanks for one lady we support who is going from strength to strength in her independent living. Pray for one lady we support who is looking to buy a house and needs 3 people to share; the family want Prospects to be support provider. Pray for increased opportunities for prayer and worship with the individuals we support and for the wisdom for staff - and for all to know Jesus more each day.

Week 4: Cornwall

Please pray that throughout 2010 the people we support will be well, the staff team will enjoy their work and that all vacancies are filled quickly with the right people.

Service News

Equality Bill. Please continue to pray about the Equality Bill, which seeks to eliminate the employment of Christians because they are Christians and therefore the opportunity for disabled people to enjoy Christian Support.

In particular, pray that the Bill's interpretation guidelines for the courts, which the average person does not read, will not undermine the practical outworking of our Christian faith in the workplace.

FEBRUARY - SUPPORT SERVICES

Service News

Northern Ireland.

We give thanks for two moves to new premises: The Lisburn Office is moving to Trinity Community Initiatives/Methodist Church in late January. Please pray that the move will have a positive impact on all.

Also, we give thanks that Newry Day Opportunities is getting new premises. Pray with us that the move to temporary accommodation in January and the building of their new premises will go well.

Week 1: Long Stratton

Pray for the redevelopment: that the move can happen in 2010. Pray for funding to recruit additional staff. Pray that the recently joined new member of staff will soon feel a part of the team, and for both the staff team and people we support as they face many changes in 2010.

Week 2: South West England (Regional Director's area)

Please pray for the development of services - families in Plymouth, Exeter Area, Taunton, and Melksham would like support from Prospects. Pray for God's leadership as we work to meet those needs, and pray for protection as well as joy and God's hand over our existing services.

Week 3: The National Forum

People Prospects supports from different areas of the UK meet regularly with the Prospects executive team, representing the people supported in their areas. Pray for each individual on the Forum to grow in their role and for their support workers as they help them make a real difference to the people represented.

Week 4: Reading

Pray for the health of the people we support as well as about the redevelopment of Helena House as the people supported there are growing older. Also pray for the budget planning for the service in 2010. Pray for Reading Day Opportunities as they seek to relocate.

JANUARY - CAUSEWAY

Mission Development

Give thanks for funding to add one full time person (or two part timers) to the Mission Development Team. This answer to prayer will allow us to support more churches reaching out to people with learning disabilities and embracing an increasingly inclusive model of ministry.

Pray for wisdom and guidance with this opportunity as we seek to recruit and appoint the person(s) of God's choice. There is a huge unmet need in many parts of the UK, with Pete Winmill and Jo Bodsworth covering huge areas at present.

Pray for safety for all MDC's as they travel extensively to visit groups and churches.

Week 1: Great Celebrations

Give thanks for celebrations held in December which shared the good news of Jesus with all, a gift of eternal worth.

- Pray for groups planning Easter events, joint meetings or regional celebrations. Pray they will bless all who attend. Pray for Ken Swain who plans a special service in March at Bishopstoke Evangelical Church.

Week 2: Regional Gathering

Pray for the volunteers at groups in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire who are meeting on the 19th for prayer and encouragement.

- On the 25th, groups in West Sussex gather to share and pray. Pray that these evenings bless all.

Week 3: Alpha Course

Give thanks for a successful pilot in 2009. The group in Sowerby Bridge saw significant spiritual growth, and many groups have given feedback. Pilots will continue.

- Pray for decision makers at Alpha International as they discuss the viability of the course, the type of illustrations and presentation that will work best, and for Tony Phelps-Jones as he refines the material.

Week 4: Team Leadership

The group in Lichfield asks for prayer for new team members.

- Pray for all groups to have the help they need, called by God. Pray that church leaders will give the support and encouragement needed.

FEBRUARY - CAUSEWAY

Week 1: Growth

Give thanks for groups in Blackpool and elsewhere that gained new members through Walk With Me. Pray that all groups will warmly welcome new arrivals.

- Pray for leaders, teams and groups members as they plan future teaching programmes and activities for their group.

Week 2: Succession

Pray for God to prompt the right person to replace Jan Wheeler as leader of the Taw and Torridge (Shebbear) group as she is moving away.

- Many group leaders have given faithful servant-hearted leadership for 5, 10 or even 15 years. Thank God for them.

Week 3: New Groups

Around the UK there are people thinking of starting a Causeway Prospects group. Pray it will turn into action to result in many more inclusive churches.

- Pray for people in: Newbury, Telford, Tilehurst, Gravesend, Northampton, Wem, Barrow in Furness, Tavistock, Bridgnorth, Ashford, Dunmow.

Week 4: Prayer & Training

Pray for leaders and team members of groups in West Berkshire who are meeting on the 25th to share news and pray together. These gatherings are a huge inspiration.

- Pray for training days this month, that God will inspire and equip all who attend for increasingly effective ministry.

Northern Ireland

The Causeway Prospects Development Team works hard alongside Fiona Murphy for awareness and funding to continue and develop ministry opportunities in the Province. Pray with us that God will release the resources needed and for new members to help.

Pray for the relationships formed through the special reception at Stormont on January 25th where invited guests learned about the impact of Prospects' work and were encouraged to engage with us in partnership.

Pray for initiatives in both Northern Ireland and Scotland to partner with denominational churches to help meet their training needs.