

# GET READY FOR 2012 PRAYER GATHERS MOMENTUM

Welcome to our new look NEWSUPDATE 2012! We hope you like the new format which we have designed to help us communicate with you better.



As you read this we are already approaching the end of the first month of what promises to be an amazing year for us all in every sphere of our lives. The international scene is changing so rapidly it is almost impossible to pass comment on any issue before it is out of date. World leaders are rising, world leaders are falling. Nations are rising, nations are falling. Islam continues its quest to conquer while increasing numbers of Muslims are choosing to follow Jesus. Changes and challenges in our national and local life are before us on a daily basis.

Up ahead are national and international events the like of which most of us will never see again. For the UK, billions will be looking in on us from around the world as we celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and facilitate the Olympic and Paralympic Games. On the global scale, events will continue to unfold in countries like North Korea, Iran, Egypt, Russia and Israel. Some leaders in democratic nations are up for election whilst others seek to come to power by whatever means.

We have sensed that 2012 would be a year of great opportunity for the church globally, but particularly for the church in the UK.... and what a kick start we got! Firstly the Prime Minister David Cameron calls on the church to lead the country in living out biblical values and then Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in her Christmas message stated that God did not send a philosopher or a General, but He sent a Saviour to save us from our sins.

In the midst of the hardship that many will experience as the nation staggers through unbelief, we believe that God is calling us to *"enlarge the place of our tent, not to hold back, lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes."* Both in the strengthening of the team, the possibility of new facilities and all that we are presenting in the enclosed prayer diary, we can truly say that 2012 is a faith stretching year of opportunity.

## 2012 - A YEAR OF CHANGE, GROWTH & NEW POSSIBILITIES

In the middle of the last century the Rev Brash Bonsall came to Birmingham and founded "Birmingham Bible Institute," (BBI) in an atmosphere of faith for revival. BBI subsequently became Birmingham Christian College in Selly Oak, Birmingham.



The first fruit of that vision was the establishing of the *"Pray for Revival"* network led by the Rev Bob Dunnett, the then Vice Principal of BBI, with the blessing and encouragement of Rev Bonsall. Out of Pray for Revival came the vision for a World Prayer Centre and in 1997 our charity was formed in that name.

For some time now, we have felt that there may be a another phase to the World Prayer Centre journey before we see the final part of the vision come to fruition. Recently, we have been asked to consider making a bid for *Crowther Hall*, formerly occupied by Birmingham Christian College. These premises would enable us to move forward with several aspects of the WPC's four foundation stones; *Prayer, Mission, Family and Marginalised people*. Crowther Hall would not replace the current plans for the World Prayer Centre building but if our bid was accepted, it could be a major stepping stone towards that goal.

be encouraged  
be empowered  
be enabled  
be envisioned  
be embraced

Newsupdate 2012

Inside...

Strengthening the Team	2
Walking by Faith	2
2012 Year of Prayer Overview	3-6
Days & Weeks of Prayer	7
Prayer Teams & Pray for Birmingham	7
Finances - How Can YOU support WPC?	8

Amongst other activities these properties could enable us to expand our present work by: establishing a School of Prayer in the teaching and understanding of the principles of revival including such subjects as *city and national transformation, church unity through prayer, the role of prayer in marriage and family life, prayer and social action and prayer in scripture*. It would also provide a national and international intern programme for the training of prayer and mission teams and would enable us to establish a community for continuous worship and prayer including special days and weeks of prayer. The site would also provide housing for residential staff and interns and be a base from which we can continue to coordinate and organise national and international events.

Please join us as we pray about this possibility. We are all, as Trustees and team, in complete unity that we should submit a bid in the next few weeks and continue to go through this door until it is either wide open or God shuts it. The proposal would be that we take over an existing lease (46 years to run) with a peppercorn rent. If our bid is accepted, we would then need to raise approximately £1,000,000 to bring the properties, built in the 1960's, up to today's environmental and health and safety standards.

### STRENGTHENING THE TEAM

Ian and Pauline have been talking and praying about the possibility of a couple joining the team to take the WPC ministry forward who would take on a type of "Joshua role" - not that they were thinking of retirement, just the need for fresh energy and ideas to come into the work. Over a period of time, conversations have taken place and strong relationships formed with Andy & Margaret Wooding Jones, who for the last 11 years have together directed the ministry at Ashburnham Place, with an increasing emphasis on developing a house of prayer. We are now delighted to announce that they will be joining the team hopefully by the middle of 2012. Andy and Margaret will bring an enormous wealth of experience to WPC while readily admitting that they need God's wisdom and strength as they become part of the team.

Andy & Margaret's experience, gifting and talents would be well suited to all that we have outlined regarding the Crowther Hall bid (or whatever else God has for us as we continue to journey within the WPC vision). As we seek God's leading and direction in all that is happening, we want to ensure that WPC's heaven to earth journey continues throughout.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP AS WE WALK BY FAITH

Currently - January 2012 - we are at a place of being able financially to continue to cover staff and operating costs in the very short-term. Yet at the same time God is telling us (we have had this scripture several times from several sources) "to enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back, lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes." Isaiah 54:2



As you can imagine, at a time of recession and financial pressure, when we continue to seek the funding for our now expanding team, it seems illogical to be thinking about these new developments. We can testify that as Trustees and Staff Team we are listening very carefully as we take steps of faith. We invite you to continue to walk with us and set up a regular donation towards the operational costs of the ministry (see page 8 for more details).

We are therefore asking you our friends, to help us. It was recently suggested that we could ask one million people for a pound towards the refurbishment costs of Crowther Hall. However, this would prove complicated and so we are inviting several thousand people to help us expand our team and consider giving a pledge to be fulfilled if our bid is accepted. If 2000 friends pledged £500 over the next 12 months (and if appropriate gift-aided it), we could continue to develop the ministry of World Prayer Centre. If the Crowther Hall bid is successful our prayer and mission training school could be established in the heart of the nation. You may wish to give more, you may not be able to give much, God may use a Cyrus (Isaiah 45), we just don't know but above all we ask for your prayers that we will hear clearly from our Father that "this is the way, walk in it."

## A PRAYER for the YEAR

Father, Creator of light, you shine over us in blessing and power,  
 Jesus, Light of the World, you shine as the Word of Life to guide us,  
 Spirit, fiery presence of God, you shine on us to bring hope and boldness.  
 As we travel through 2012, with all its potential and possibilities,  
 We invite you to shine in our lives, in our communities and in this nation,  
 Light our way as this nation prepares to host the 2012 Games:  
 Shine grace on athletes in their training;  
 Shine wisdom on the authorities in their planning;  
 Shine your love in our hearts as we open our doors to welcome guests from many nations.  
 That all will see the light of your glory and discover your unfailing love.  
 Amen.

2012 will see an unprecedented number of churches, organisations and networks taking part in this year of prayer that has been orchestrated by the Holy Spirit

We invite you to join wherever you are in the nation & the world, by taking time to pray for:

- α The presence of Jesus to fill every community
- α The power of the good news to impact every person
- α The purposes of God to be fulfilled for (y)our nations

*Set your clock for 12 noon and use the Lord's Prayer as a framework*

*Join in with the initiatives listed and download appropriate resources*

Take time on a regular basis to pray for God's blessing, for:

- α Your home, street, community, workplace
- α Her Majesty the Queen & Royal Family in this Jubilee Year
- α Our Prime Minister and for all those elected in our UK parliaments/assemblies
- α Our UK nation.



The events & initiatives listed form part of the whole 2012 calendar of prayer to be found on [www.prayerforum.org](http://www.prayerforum.org)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. (NIV)

Isaiah 60:1-5

## YEAR OF PRAYER 2012

### ENGLISH COUNTIES CALLING FOR A YEAR OF PRAYER:

Arise Cheshire East : Together in prayer for Cheshire East "The borough, and the nation, stands at the crossroads in so many ways – social, political, financial and spiritual. At this moment therefore it is imperative that we come to the Lord for His help and healing, His forgiveness and release. Our hope for the future rests in His hands. It is time to seek the Lord." [www.arisecheshireeast.org.uk](http://www.arisecheshireeast.org.uk)

Why not Pray for a Change? "The invitation has come from heaven – 24/7 2012. We are saying 'YES'. Will you join in?" North Staffordshire Churches are inviting individuals and churches to join in continuous prayer for transformation and glory through the whole of 2012.

[www.whynotprayforachange.co.uk](http://www.whynotprayforachange.co.uk)

### CHURCHES AND ORGANISATIONS:

Kingdom Come 2012. Alpha and 24-7 Prayer are uniting to resource a year of continuous prayer for the British Isles. Visit [www.alpha.org/kingdomcome](http://www.alpha.org/kingdomcome); [www.24-7prayer.co.uk/kingdomcome](http://www.24-7prayer.co.uk/kingdomcome) for details of meetings, resources and to sign up.

More than Gold – the organisation resourcing the UK church for hospitality, service and mission for the Games is resourcing four seasons of prayer during the year under the title 'A time to Shine' taken from Isaiah 60:1-5.

Shine as the Flame travels

covering the 70 days cascade of prayer during the Olympic Torch Relay 19 May-27 July; covering the Paralympic Torch Relay 24-29 August

Shine during the Games

inviting individuals, churches and groups to 'pray locally and link nationally'

Shine for ever

linking in with different events through autumn 2012 and beyond

Street Pastors: National Year of Prayer for our streets is focussing on asking for God's blessing using the Lord's Prayer 'thy kingdom come; thy will be done'. Sign up [www.streetpastors.org.uk](http://www.streetpastors.org.uk)

Youth with a Mission has launched a year of prayer to pray for the UK in this Olympic season. Brick by brick is an online calendar to enable people to join together to cover every minute, every hour and every day of 2012 in prayer. [www.forever2012.com/brickbybrick/](http://www.forever2012.com/brickbybrick/)

## SPECIFIC PRAYER SEASONS & EVENTS

**JANUARY 2012** *The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it; for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.....* Psalm 24:1&2

*Shine for the New Year*

[www.morethangold.org.uk/your-church/prayer](http://www.morethangold.org.uk/your-church/prayer)

1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>

HOPE Start the Year in prayer

[www.hopeprayer.org.uk](http://www.hopeprayer.org.uk)

1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

Olympic Park Prayer Walk <http://runtherace.biz>.

7<sup>th</sup>

**FEBRUARY** *For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them* Ephesians 2:10

Prayerworks is a new initiative from the London Institute of

starts : 1<sup>st</sup>

Contemporary Christianity with a 40 day journey of prayer

ends: 11<sup>th</sup> March

for work using the prayer pathway of blessing

[www.licc.org.uk/prayerworks](http://www.licc.org.uk/prayerworks)

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
Olympic Park Prayer Walk <a href="http://runtherace.biz">http://runtherace.biz</a>	4 <sup>th</sup>
More than Gold Get Set tour with prayer workshops <a href="http://www.morethangold.org.uk">www.morethangold.org.uk</a>	4 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>MARCH</b> <i>May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us Psalm 67:1</i>	
Olympic Park Prayer Walk <a href="http://runtherace.biz">http://runtherace.biz</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
More than Gold Get Set tour with prayer workshops <a href="http://www.morethangold.org.uk">www.morethangold.org.uk</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> , & 31 <sup>st</sup>
World Prayer Centre Conference Swanwick <a href="http://www.worldprayer.org.uk">www.worldprayer.org.uk</a>	19 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>
<b>APRIL</b> <i>Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up you ancient doors, that the King of Glory may come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle, He is the King of Glory..... Psalm 24:9-10</i>	
Olympic Park Prayer Walk <a href="http://runtherace.biz">http://runtherace.biz</a>	7 <sup>th</sup>
Easter mission and prayer <a href="http://www.hopetogether.org.uk">www.hopetogether.org.uk</a>	
More than Gold Get Set tour with prayer workshops <a href="http://www.morethangold.org.uk">www.morethangold.org.uk</a>	21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>MAY</b> <i>For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2:14</i>	
Olympic Park Prayer Walk <a href="http://runtherace.biz">http://runtherace.biz</a>	5 <sup>th</sup>
World Prayer Assembly <a href="http://www.wpa2012.org">www.wpa2012.org</a>	
A global summit of Christian leaders taking place in Jakarta, Indonesia	14 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup>
National Day of Prayer for Police Force; <a href="http://www.cpaUK.net">www.cpaUK.net</a>	17 <sup>th</sup>
Start of 10 days of prayer towards Global Day of Prayer <a href="http://www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk">www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk</a>	17 <sup>th</sup>
<i>The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26</i>	
Shine as the Flame travels : start of the 70 day cascade of prayer at Lands End <a href="http://www.morethangold.org.uk/your-church/prayer">www.morethangold.org.uk/your-church/prayer</a>	19 <sup>th</sup>
London's Burning: Leyton Orient Stadium Prayer Event <a href="http://www.londonsburning2012.org.uk">www.londonsburning2012.org.uk</a>	26 <sup>th</sup>
Pentecost Sunday: Global Day of Prayer: <a href="http://www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk">www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk</a> ; <a href="http://www.gdoplondon.com">www.gdoplondon.com</a>	27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>JUNE</b> <i>Love and faithfulness keep a king safe; through love his throne is made secure. Proverbs 20:28</i>	
Continuation of Shine as the Flame Travels : 70 days of prayer	1 <sup>st</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>
Global Outreach Day – with the vision to build up a network of Christians Worldwide equipped to preach the Gospel in over 200 nations <a href="http://www.globaloutreachday.com">www.globaloutreachday.com</a>	
Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations: including:	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Big Lunch <a href="http://www.hopetogether.org.uk">www.hopetogether.org.uk</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Beacon lighting <a href="http://www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk">www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk</a>	4 <sup>th</sup>
Olympic Park Prayer Walk <a href="http://runtherace.biz">http://runtherace.biz</a>	7 <sup>th</sup>
Olympic 50 day peace initiative begins <a href="http://www.morethangold.org.uk/service/social-justice/100-days-of-peace.html">www.morethangold.org.uk/service/social-justice/100-days-of-peace.html</a>	8 <sup>th</sup>

<b>JULY</b> When Jesus spoke again to the people he said "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:12	
Continuation of Shine as the Flame travels : 70 days of prayer	1 <sup>st</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>
Olympic Park Prayer Walk <a href="http://runtherace.biz">http://runtherace.biz</a>	7 <sup>th</sup>
London's Burning: 30 days non stop worship & prayer in Leyton London E 10 <a href="http://www.londonsburning2012.org.uk">www.londonsburning2012.org.uk</a>	14 <sup>th</sup> (ends 12 <sup>th</sup> August)
30 days prayer during Ramadan : Starts <a href="http://www.30-days.net">www.30-days.net</a>	20 <sup>th</sup>
Shine as the flame travels : 70 days of prayer ends at Olympic Stadium	27 <sup>th</sup>
Shine during the Games : Opportunities to pray locally and link nationally <a href="http://www.morethangold.org.uk/prayer">www.morethangold.org.uk/prayer</a>	27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup>
<b>AUGUST</b> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16	
Continuation of Shine during the Games : Opportunities to pray locally and link nationally <a href="http://www.morethangold.org.uk/prayer">www.morethangold.org.uk/prayer</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>
30 days prayer during Ramadan : Ends	20 <sup>th</sup>
Shine as the flame travels : Paralympic Torch relay starts London continues to Belfast (25), Edinburgh (26), Cardiff (27); Stoke Mandeville (28 <sup>th</sup> ) then 24 hour relay to stadium	24 <sup>th</sup>
Shine during the Paralympic Games : Opportunities to pray locally and link nationally <a href="http://www.morethangold.org.uk/prayer">www.morethangold.org.uk/prayer</a>	29 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16	
Shine as we continue during the Paralympic Games : Opportunities to pray locally and link nationally <a href="http://www.morethangold.org.uk/prayer">www.morethangold.org.uk/prayer</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>
Paralympic Games end	9 <sup>th</sup>
Shine for ever : Continuing the momentum of prayer and mission linking in with GDOPL and HOPE prayer around harvest	
Carry the Torch : National day of prayer at Wembley stadium <a href="http://www.gdoplondon.com">www.gdoplondon.com</a>	29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>OCTOBER</b> You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; they rejoice before You as people rejoice at the harvest. Isaiah 9:3(a)	
Shine for ever : Continuing the momentum of prayer and mission linking in with HOPE prayer around harvest	
Closing events for 100 days of peace	28 <sup>th</sup>

All details provided correct as at 9 January 2012  
[www.prayerforum.org](http://www.prayerforum.org); [www.worldprayer.org.uk](http://www.worldprayer.org.uk)  
 e: [prayer@worldprayer.org.uk](mailto:prayer@worldprayer.org.uk)

## WEEKS & DAYS OF PRAYER 2012

Thanks go to everyone who has joined us for the Weeks of Prayer and Days of Prayer throughout 2011, whether you have come to Birmingham or stood with us during those times in your own locality, we appreciate your support. We have seen some amazing breakthroughs and answers to prayer.

As you read this we will just have completed our eighth Week of Prayer at World Prayer Centre. We are continuing with more weeks, the next one : Tuesday 17 - Friday 20 April, concluding with a Day of Prayer on Saturday 21st April 2012.

You are very welcome to join us on these occasions. Please note that from now on, the Weeks of Prayer will run from Tuesday to Friday; this is because we are devoting the Mondays of those weeks to praying as a staff team.

Dates coming up:    Saturday 25 February      Day of Prayer  
                                          Tuesday 17-Friday 20 April    Week of Prayer  
                                          Saturday 21 April              Day of Prayer  
                                          Saturday 30 June              Day of Prayer

The Weeks of Prayer are held in The Prayer Room at Cornerstone House, 5 Ethel Street, Birmingham, B2 4BG from 10am each day. The Days of Prayer are held at Birmingham Christian Centre, Parade, Birmingham, B1 3QQ from 10:30am - around 3:00pm.



## PRAYER TEAMS

During the last week of January Sue plans to be in Malta for several consecutive events: firstly a two-day strategic prayer gathering for the Mediterranean nations, then a 4-day conference for people from southern Mediterranean countries. Following that there is opportunity to provide prayer support for another gathering of believers for two days, as well as visit local believers based in Malta.

## PRAY FOR BIRMINGHAM

For any interested in Praying for Birmingham, there is an initiative which can include us all through which we can build a 'wall' of continuous prayer for the city. It's called Birmingham Prayer Wall (website: [www.birminghamprayerwall.com](http://www.birminghamprayerwall.com)), and enables you to choose a time slot in which you can pray in whatever way suits you. During 2011 Birmingham has seen believers coming together from different denominations and districts to worship and pray, recognising that we have to work together for God's Kingdom to come. We will continue to do so throughout 2012, hoping that many more local believers will get involved.

## PLEDGE AGREEMENT WITH WORLD PRAYER CENTRE

This slip is for financial pledges to the ministry of World Prayer Centre. Please provide your details:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

I / we wish to pledge £..... to the on-going ministry and development of World Prayer Centre as outlined at the beginning of this NewsUpdate.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thanks also go to all our supporters who continue to stand with us financially - we totally appreciate your support and pray for you regularly that God will multiply what you are sowing into the ministry of World Prayer Centre and that *you will receive a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over...* As you have read through this NewsUpdate you may be wondering how you could support the World Prayer Centre financially. It's very simple - you can:

1. Set up a regular donation by calling the office and asking for a standing order form.
  2. Use our on-line Paypal account: [www.worldprayer.org.uk/donate/](http://www.worldprayer.org.uk/donate/)
  3. Give a regular or one-off donation via our on-line donations account:  
Account Name: World Prayer Centre      HSBC Account no: 31758179      Sort code: 40-43-28
  4. Send a cheque payable to "World Prayer Centre" to the address below.
  5. Send us some gold - some of you have done this already, we will be selling when the price is right!
- DONATIONS CAN BE GIFT-AIDED, SO IF APPROPRIATE, PLEASE USE THE GIFT AID FORM BELOW.**

## EDITOR'S CORNER

Well done - if you've got to this section of the NewsUpdate! We recognise that this has been a bumper issue, but we wanted to make sure that you had plenty of prayer resources to set sail into this very significant Year of Prayer.

We hope that have enjoyed this new look NewsUpdate.... Why not drop us a line to [wpc@newsupdate.org.uk](mailto:wpc@newsupdate.org.uk) and tell us if there's anything that you've specifically enjoyed about the new format, or if there's anything that we could provide more information about... We look forward to hearing your views, your news and your words of encouragement.

LS - ed



If you've not booked in to our *Carrying His Presence* conference, don't leave it too late. Please see the enclosed leaflet. You can book on line: [www.worldprayer.org.uk/events/wpc-conference](http://www.worldprayer.org.uk/events/wpc-conference) or book by phone : 0121 633 7393

£ £ £

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord just as the waters cover the sea...  
Habakkuk 2:14

See [www.wpa2012.org/index.php/home](http://www.wpa2012.org/index.php/home) for full details on the World Prayer Assembly in Jakarta 14-18 May 2012. è è è



## GIFT AID DECLARATION

(You must pay UK income tax and / or capital gains tax equal to the tax we reclaim on your donations)

Please tick appropriate box

Please reclaim tax on all my donations from this date forward until cancelled by me in writing.

OR

Please reclaim tax on this donation only.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this tear off slip to World Prayer Centre, at the address below.

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Cornerstone House, 5 Ethel Street, Birmingham, B2 4BG, England.

T : 0121 633 7393 F : 0121 643 5645

E: [office@worldprayer.org.uk](mailto:office@worldprayer.org.uk) W: [www.worldprayer.org.uk](http://www.worldprayer.org.uk)

The World Prayer Centre is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England No. 3601828 Registered Charity No. 1072222