

UK: A prayer awakening across the nation

United Christian Broadcasters' recently appointed prayer mobilizer Carl Brettle has an ambitious goal to see prayer impact the entire population of the UK on every challenging issue facing the country today. Research showed that around 60% of the churches in the UK don't have a weekly prayer meeting. To help change that, UCB produced a Community Prayer Diary. "We encourage people once a year to go and find out who the local chief of police is and your fire officer and your local doctor and so on and then write their names in and then pray for them throughout the year," says Brettle. "Around 40,000 of those booklets have been distributed."

UCB also launched a dedicated prayer line for service personnel in the British armed forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. "That's going quite well and is projected to have about 1200 calls in a year," says Brettle. "The really exciting thing is from May 1 we have gone live on the military's own phone network. Anywhere in the world now service personnel can dial a short code to get into the prayer line from wherever they are 24 hours a day and it's free."

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The amount of calls to the UCB prayer line ministry rose significantly to 111,000 calls a year, as a result of the economic crisis. Many of the calls relate to debt problems and job security. "So our prayer line is a little bit like putting your finger on the pulse of the nation," says Brettle.

During the last decade a number of major prayer initiatives have exploded in the UK, including the 24/7 prayer movement and one million hours of prayer in Manchester. Carl Brettle believes this is in preparation for some major challenges ahead: "I've been watching this for 7 or 8 years now and when I first got involved in the prayer scene in the UK there wasn't a great amount of prayer going on. You wouldn't get churches across the city or a town getting together for prayer at that moment in time. You do see that now. I think it's a great opportunity. The last 7 or 8 years has seen an unprecedented amount of prayer and at the same time the prayer temperature of the nation has increased."

"But at the same time the opposition to the Christian message and faith has increased, particularly in terms of what's going through parliament where religious freedom is being questioned. You can see there's going to be a showdown somewhere along the line and I hope and pray that the church of Christ in the UK will be alive and kicking enough in a prayer sense to be ready for that battle however it's fought."

<http://www.ucb.co.uk/prayer> Check it out!

Sources: Carl Brettle, Peter Wooding

From Joel News <http://www.joelnews.org/frontpage.htm>

www.prayerchangeslives.org.nz