

“In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. His tent is in Salem, His dwelling place in Zion.”

Psalm 76: 1-2

IN GOD'S HEART

“We were encouraged recently when we were given the Scripture printed above by someone who wanted to remind us that the Salem Project is in God's heart and that He is with us all the way. We praise Him and thank Him that you are with us too, as you pray for and support the work and ministry of Salem as it spreads far and wide. In this past week we received a letter from a lady in Penzance who had heard of our work .

A further encouragement has been the forging of new mission-links with the Beaconsfield Team Churches and the Churches of Penn Street and Holmer Green after visits there to speak about our work.

Also following Norman's visit to Terriers last month, the PCC will discuss linking with us and we are meeting with Ministers and Leaders in Great Missenden and Cookham to discuss a link with them.

We have also signed a 'prayer and support covenant' with the Leaders of 'God's Golden Way', an Organisation that works and ministers in Andhra Pradesh. We will pray for one another's work and include some of each other's prayer needs on future prayer letters. As we begin this new relationship, please pray for Joseph Praveen their President and all involved in this ministry in a very 'tough' area of India. The link came about through his sister Aruna who is a Sister in St. Ann's Convent, also in AP. Salem will also be remembered in

prayer by the Sisters there, as well as by the Sisters of St. Paul's Convent in Slough.

EVALUATION

The Cross and Crescent Course in March had 25 participants, who judging by the evaluation forms, found the course very helpful. A group of six from another town in Bucks attended and are looking at continuing with what they have learned and applying it to their area. We are running a further course 17-18 November for the same two Deaneries as there were a good number of people who

wanted to be on the March course but couldn't make those dates. Norman has also met with Rev Richard Warden the Vicar of Finchampstead and

other leaders to discuss running a course in May 2007, which will be the first time we have run one in that area of the Oxford Diocese.

A Salem Project Team took a 'roadshow' to Christ Church, Flackwell Heath on the 28 May in the evening. The congregation were very enthusiastic and interested in all that we shared, with Uzma sharing about their growing ministry in Slough and Gilbert bringing God's Word. Norman was so pleased to have a Muslim friend 'A' who he has known for 15 months at the service. He is very open to talk and learn about Christ, but he has some very deep problems, mainly coming from one particular family member.

Please pray for 'A' that he would find the peace that only

DEAR FRIENDS...



Norman and Denise Critchell

**The Salem Project
Kingsway U.R. Church
Church Street
Slough
Berkshire SL1 1SZ**

critchell@crosslinks.org



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Christ can bring. Please also pray for Gilbert and Uzma and their own growing ministry in Slough, especially among the young people—please pray that they would find a deeper relationship with God that would sustain these young people in all the pressures they face.

On Saturday 8 July Wycliffe Hall are holding a 'Christian Responses to Islam' conference at St. Aldate's Church in Oxford. This promises to be a brilliant day with Colin Chapman speaking on 'Islamic terrorism' and Ida Glaser on 'Opening up the Bible in an Islamic context', with Tim Green, David Abu Bakr and myself leading seminars: 'The challenge of Islam in the 21st century', 'Do Muslims and Christians worship the same God?' and 'Entering another's world.' **Please pray for God's blessings on this conference.**

Please also pray for the 'Jewels in His Crown' conference being held at Swanwick on the last weekend in July. This is for all engaged in ministry amongst British Asians and Asian Churches and has Rev Canon George Kovoor, Principal of Trinity College Bristol as the keynote speaker. There will be teaching streams, prayer times, ministry times and a great deal of networking going on. Salem made a gift of £500 towards the costs of the conference and because of the generosity of the Miss Wright Will Trust in the grant that they have given us, the Salem staff are able to both attend and give up to eight bursaries to Asian Christians who cannot afford to go.

DISAPPOINTMENT

In the previous prayer letter, we asked you to pray for the Lent Course in Bicester and the Salem awayday on the 25 March. Both of these didn't happen in the end. The Bicester course was cancelled due to a lack of people signing up, which was a disappointment, but on reflection as Lent is supposed to be a preparation for Easter, I now don't feel that a course on evangelism is the right thing to have

during this time. The awayday will happen later in the year, but we do give thanks that **Jo Saunders and Michael Wood** have joined the Management Group.

In a telephone conversation that I had with Hugh Boulter, who is a member of the 'Oxford Diocesan Council for Interfaith Concerns', he said to me that the Salem Project is the largest part of the interfaith work going on in the Oxford Diocese. At about the same time, Bishop Richard at a Meeting of the Burnham and Slough Deanery held to mark his impending

“As with all growth, it brings attacks and pain.”

retirement, paid tribute publicly to the difference the Salem Project has made throughout the Oxford Diocese. **Both of these are of course a great encouragement and we give thanks to God for them. Would you please give thanks with us and continue to pray and support us so that the vital work which the Project does can continue on into the future.**

Would you also please remember in prayer-Naomi a young child with extreme suffering from lupus, **Ida** still suffering persecution from neighbours and **'N'** an Asian Christian deeply desiring to serve God.

DENISE CONTINUES:

We give thanks for people coming to know the Lord Jesus—there is 'reaping' certainly happening. On 19 June the Bishop of Buckingham will confirm eight young people and four adults from St. John's — Melissa who has recently come to faith was baptised on Pentecost Sunday and she will be confirmed with the others. One other adult 'A' has asked to be baptised and will be confirmed later. **Two of these are strategic people in this area.**

As with all growth, it brings attacks and pain — I have suffered a frozen shoulder for the past six months, coupled with shingles, so I am in

pain regularly and it affects my sleep pattern. The cycle of stress and shingles pain is hard to break free from. This is all in the same arm and shoulder. **Please pray as this can lead to depression. Also please pray for the monthly prayer meeting under attack and in danger of folding completely—sometimes I feel that's true of me as well.** Village life is extremely difficult to work in — gossip and lies are very hard to deal with. I do thank God though, that the newer people into the Church have come for very different reasons. Historically in St. John's Parish previous Incumbents have found this to be very difficult.

HOWEVER...

'I look to the hills from whence cometh my help—I look to the Lord who is Maker of Heaven and Earth.'

There is lots happening about extending and reordering the building - **please pray for those who have responsibility in this.**

HIGHLIGHT

Lastly, apart from thanking you for your prayer and love, the Team dynamic isn't rewarding at this time and there is a lot of sickness amongst the Clergy. One highlight though is **James** the more recently arrived team Curate, who is delightful to work with and very enthusiastic. We have enjoyed working together especially on the adult and young people's confirmation preparation groups—with him I have experienced real fellowship. **Please pray for the Risborough Team as we continue to discuss what the Team should be and its future shape with most of the Clergy retiring in the next few years.**

May the Lord continue to bless you as we share together in building His Kingdom.

As ever

Norman and Denise

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Crosslinks, 251 Lewisham Way,
London SE4 1XF
Tel: 020 8691 6111 Fax: 020 8694 8023
Email: pletters@crosslinks.org

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