



Spring 2009

Dear Friend,

Crosswinds Prayer Trust

Could this be how Noah felt??!

The ark was taking shape... Eighty five percent of the hull was built, the animal quarters were dry-lined, and two thirds of the hull was waterproofed... but the foreman had just told Noah, over his mid-morning cup of tea - that they were clean out of cypress wood and there was only a meagre supply of bitumen and nails left. There was nowhere near enough stock to make the ark sea-worthy.

A trip to the bank followed; not good there, they had already re-mortgaged to the hilt to finance the extra work on the upper deck and Noah therefore appeared to have no choice but to arrange expensive loans with the money lenders to get the job completed.

The big stress of the project management was almost nothing compared to the ridicule that this dry-dock was creating with the locals. People for miles around were questioning the need for this huge monstrosity when there was no apparent need for a ship so far from the sea.

All sorts of rumours were flying around about the private zoo that the Noah family were setting up without planning consent!



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So where's this letter going?! As someone who may have familiarity with what we at Crosswinds Prayer Trust are doing, we'd like to take this opportunity to share briefly with you where we have come from and where we sense we are going and to invite you to respond in whatever way you feel guided.

Several years ago, we at the Crosswinds Prayer Trust were asked to build an Ark - an Ark for Christian Prayer.

We were clearly told that this would be on the scale of an Ark and not a fishing boat. This Ark would provide an essential prayer cargo carrying service and a safe communications route for the Christian church that would in time span the globe. It would seek to serve the church and would in no way monopolise or inappropriately control the cargo. It would not swamp people with cargo that they did not want or could not handle.

It was also made clear to us that the journey was going to be full of challenges, and that we would not always receive support, encouragement and understanding from the people that we might have expected it from. We were encouraged to persevere in all circumstances. An encouraging prophecy at the outset, amid the realistic warnings, reassured us that key people would intervene to give us help at pivotal points in the journey.

Continued...

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Chairman: Marquess of Reading. Crosswinds is the operating name of Prayer Network UK - a UK Registered Charity No 1031629



The cargo that we were called to deliver is not so much to do with animals, but prayer related information - to inform, equip, educate and mobilise Christians as they pray for the needs of the Church and the nations and *the healing of our lands*.

This Ark for Prayer differs from the Biblical wooden vessel in that it's electronic. It's a state of the art internet-based service that is being built jointly by us and our partners at a Christian-run technology company in Singapore.

A précis of our original brief: 'Could Crosswinds Prayer Trust please investigate the technical practicalities involved in harnessing the Internet for the exchange of confidential prayer information across national and international borders - with high security?'

The brief came from the Prayer Association of the British Isles (now the Prayer Forum) via Brian Mills, a respected International Prayer Leader (Director of Interprayer). Brian is widely regarded as a father-figure of the Prayer Movement in England. His teaching on strategic prayer and intercession brings clarity to our global situation.

4 Reasons Why we took the project on:

1. We believed, and still believe we are called to build it by the Lord.
2. We were asked to do it by Brian Mills and other Christian leaders in the UK, and other parts of the world. '*200 leaders, men of Issachar, understood the times and knew what Israel should do.*' (1 Chronicles 12:32) Prayer is not a complete answer but a vital component of a Christian response to world developments.
3. Our research led us to suspect that most nations are under-prayed for rather than over-prayed.
4. We saw a God-given opportunity. When technology brought the invention of the printing press, the Christians were among the first to seize the opportunity, printing Bibles and Gospel literature. The Internet, like printing, can be used for good as well as ill.



What's it called? It's called a Prayer Hub. See our information website at www.prayerhub.info for a more detailed overview.

What will this Prayer Hub do? Well, put simply, it will be a 'Google for Prayer'. It will provide user-friendly access to information - from a very local postcode area snapshot to a global overview, about the topics, organisations or issues that people want to pray for, delivered in as small or large quantities as they require **AND** it will be very secure, and trustworthy.

Who will use it? Everyone in the Christian world will find it useful in one way or another. Christian missions, Churches, prayer organisations and groups, individuals, relief and development agencies, the list is endless.

Why the urgency?



1. Our communities, our nations, our planet, our Church needs Prayer NOW! - like never before.
2. Just some of the issues that grieve and concern us include: worldwide economic recession, global warming, terrorism, rogue States, nuclear arms race, drugs, marginalisation of Christianity, persecution of believers, disunity in the Church.
3. This Ark of Prayer will provide an incredibly powerful tool for facilitating prayer across national and international borders, informing and equipping believers as they pray into the issues of our times.



What's the unique selling point? There are 4!

1 Trust - Various checks and balances will ensure that information provided by the service will be 100% accurate and trustworthy.

2 Security - Where needed, information will be limited to authorised, vetted users, and will be delivered using secure internet connections. The relevance of this feature becomes clear when one considers the persecution and lack of freedom that believers and Christian workers in many nations are experiencing right now. There will be no spamming and the system will resist extremist hackers.

3 Integration - This is where it gets a bit technical!! but suffice to say that the service will not just appear on one website. Partner organisations will be able to invite their supporters to use the service through their own websites. It's a bit like where you see 'Google Search' on non-Google sites. We recommend a look at www.prayerhub.info for a more detailed explanation, where there is also an online slide presentation.

4 Relevance - It's not quite Wiki-pedia, but the model is not far from what we will be creating. Much of the information available will be locally researched and constantly maintained by trusted individuals and vetted partners, but nationally and internationally available to those with authorised access.

Is this really a FIRST?! - Nobody is doing this already. Several have attempted, but nothing has been started or completed that is comparable with this Ark of Prayer. Why?! - Partly because it's fairly ambitious and partly because the initial development is costly.

The prayer agencies, Christian organisations and church groups with which we have consulted have endorsed their support for what we are doing. A number of them were party to our calling to take on this task. Yes, one or two have questioned the need for it when there seem to be other fishing boats out there already! The scale and scope of this is something that not everyone can grasp.

What's the current state of play? At present, the ark is in a dry-dock and is eighty five percent built and YES! (you guessed it) we could really do with some more wood right now!!

A huge financial investment has been made over the last five years thanks to the generosity of many people along with that of our major partner in Singapore.

Much like the church building appeal thermometer, we are at that point of 85% raised and 15% to go, AND that's where the asking (and the responding) can get tough! Many have given in some way already.



So we are conveying firstly our **THANKS** for what has been sacrificially provided already, and then an invitation to prayerfully consider whether you might be able to help towards the **£50,000** needed to take this Ark of Prayer to the slipway.

We are passionate about Prayer. We are deeply concerned about the times in which we live. We believe that Prayer Changes Things. We believe that the World, the Church, our Nations and our Communities need Christian Prayer now perhaps more than at any time.

We are working this calling out through this Ark of Prayer project (Prayer Hub) and several other initiatives. Please see www.crosswinds.org.uk for further information about us.

To pick up where we started, **Could this be how Noah felt??!** We don't know, but we can thank God for Noah. Whilst we don't know a lot about his personality, we can relate to his experience of persevering with that God-given calling, and staying focussed and committed when the odds appeared to be stacked against him.

Noah was mocked for his warnings as he listened to God and obediently built the Ark. One of our favourite verses is 1 Peter 3 v 20: "God waited patiently while Noah built the Ark". We too are determined to wait until the Lord supplies the remaining resources through His people.

Whether or not you are able to support financially at this time, **please** do respond back to us as we value your encouragement and prayer support. If you would like more detailed background information, please do ask.

A response form is enclosed with this letter along with a pre-addressed and stamped envelope for your convenience.

Thank you for standing alongside us and for praying over the message in this letter. We look forward to hearing from you and wish you every blessing in Christ.

John Simons

**Canon John Simons
National Director**

Simon Reading

**The Marquess of Reading
Chairman**

PS You may be interested in the weekly Prayer Alert service that we helped to design, launch and produce. It provides Prayer News and guidelines each Friday, by email. It's free! Please see **www.prayer-alert.net**



The Crosswinds Prayer

We would like to share with you the Crosswinds Prayer, a prayer that we have circulated to many thousands of people around the United Kingdom (and the world) over the last ten years. It is printed on the attached book-mark.

At a time of global recession and climate change such as this, we are hearing many prophetic voices declaring that this is a time of judgement, a time for individual and corporate repentance, a time when we should turn from our selfish ambitions and earnestly seek after God's heart. Never has there been a more salient time for God's people to be on their knees seeking His will for the Nations.



Crosswinds

The **Crosswinds** Prayer for
Britain
(based on Nehemiah 1:5-11)

Lord God of heaven, you are great and we stand in awe of you. You faithfully keep your New Covenant with those people who trust in you and in Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

Look down on us Lord, and hear our prayers as we pray for your Church here in this nation. We confess that we, your people, have sinned. We and all the people of this nation have gone away from you and your Gospel, the Good News about Jesus Christ.

Remember now what you have done in him and not what we deserve. For his sake renew and restore your people, rebuild your Church and win this nation for Christ and his Gospel once again.

We ask this in his name and for your honour and glory... Amen.

Pray for our Nation



'I am pleased to endorse the strategic work that the Crosswinds team is carrying through for the benefit of the praying community in these islands and far beyond. The new communication channel which the Prayer Hub will offer is very timely.'

Ian Cole
World Prayer Centre -
Birmingham

THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER

The Rt Revd Nigel McCulloch

'The Prayer Hub Project brings the praying community into the 21st century in terms of technology.'

I express my support to John and the Crosswinds team as they work to bring this cross-denominational vision into reality.'

The Rt Revd Nigel McCulloch
Bishop of Manchester



I wholeheartedly support what this ambitious internet project is aiming to do;

Once functional, the Prayer Hub will be of significant value to the Prayer communities of the UK and beyond.

Brian Mills
Interprayer



Words of Support for the Ark of Prayer

'Along with other church leaders, I welcome the Crosswinds Prayer initiative.'

Dr George Carey



'I am delighted that Crosswinds (Prayer Network UK) are continuing to work on this Ark of Prayer.'

We need the assurance of knowing that prayer information has come via a secure channel and from a reliable source.

I would encourage them every step of the way and look forward to the project going live!

Jane Holloway - Prayer Forum of The British Isles and Ireland



Diocese of Bath & Wells

'I believe Canon John Simons to be one of the 'elder statesmen' of the British Isles & Irish Prayer Forum.'

His commitment to the vision for harnessing the power and accessibility of the internet for the secure communication of Christian prayer, for our nation and beyond is widely respected.

I offer my full support for the project.

The Rt Revd Peter Price
Bishop of Bath & Wells

* PRAY * ENCOURAGE * DONATE * SIGN-UP *

We do appreciate hearing from our supporters.
Please use this form to feed back your response..



**Crosswinds
Prayer Trust**

Response Form



FULL NAME(S) _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

_____ POSTCODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE (DAY) _____ (EVENING) _____

I/We are remembering the Crosswinds Prayer Trust in our prayers. Please keep us updated in the following ways: (Tick as appropriate)

Email Post Telephone

I/We would like to support the project financially and have completed the form on the reverse of this Response Form.

Any other feedback, please write your comments in the space below, or on a separate sheet of paper.

Please send this completed form to:

**Crosswinds Prayer Trust
11 Spring Hill, Milton, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, BS22 9AP**



Crosswinds
Prayer Trust



Financial Support

Please complete this form using a ball point pen. Please make cheques payable to Prayer Network UK.

1. Your Details

Your Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel. _____

Email _____

2. Donation(s)

I/we would like to make a ONE OFF DONATION of £ _____ and a cheque / cash / CAF cheque is enclosed.

I/we would like to start a REGULAR DONATION of £ _____ a month for _____ years by cheque / bankers order.

For your convenience, a Bankers Order Form is printed on the right hand side of this form.

3. Gift Aid

I am a UK Taxpayer and I would like Prayer Network UK to reclaim tax on all donations I have made since 6 April 2000 and on any donations I may make in the future.

Print Full Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please let us know if you change your address or if you no longer pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax we reclaim on your donations (currently 28p for every £1 you give).

4. Will Bequest

I/we have included a bequest of £ _____ to Prayer Network UK in my/our will(s). (Please do not feel obliged to tell us the amount)

I/we would like to include Prayer Network UK in my/our will(s), please let me/us have some sample wording and guidelines.

5. Bankers Order

TO: (Name & Address of your bank)

Postcode _____

Name of Account _____

Account Number _____

Sorting Code Number ____ - ____ - ____ (Top right corner of Chq)

Please debit our account with £ _____ (amount in words) _____

Immediately / on _____ (Date of 1st Payment)

and then each month/quarter/year, for the credit of Lloyds TSB, Clevedon, sort code 30-18-88, account in the name of The Prayer Network UK, account number 0314616 until further notice from me/us in writing.

This order supercedes any previous instructions in favour of Prayer Network UK.

Signed _____ Date _____

Bankers, please quote the reference _____

6. Anything else...

Please write below any requests for information, details of a donation arrangement not covered elsewhere or a request for somebody here to contact you:

Within the terms of the Data Protection Act, we would advise that we will be storing details from this form on a data retrieval system for the purpose of managing the finances of the project.