

May 2024

Outwitted by two soap dispensers



Dear Friends,

A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. And let us keep on running the race marked out for us. Let us keep looking to Jesus. Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIRV)



I sometimes get upset or annoyed by things that get in the way of what I have set out to do. What in reality is trivial can be blown out of proportion in my mind. Is it just me? The incident referred to in this month's heading took place at Spring Harvest in Skegness, We'd been busy setting everything up for the CEI celebration and were in a hurry to wash our hands before greeting our guests. But in the ladies' toilets there was a problem. How many team members does it take to work out how to operate a soap dispenser? We tried the first one and it didn't work. We tried the next, without success. At the third attempt and, feeling unqualified ever again to use a public washroom, we were successful and all was well!

A minor incident like that was of no real consequence but when it comes to serving God in our churches, communities and even at home, perhaps you are like me and allow little irritations become obstacles to serving God with all our heart, soul and strength. How we are feeling, a headache or sore throat, can affect us. It might be something that was said to us, not intentionally to hurt or cause offence, but it did. Perhaps the church kitchen had been left in a mess and we reacted without thinking that there might have been a good reason. Often it is the little things that get in the way of our service for God, if we let them.

As the writer to the Hebrews says, **"let's throw off everything that stands in our way.... Let's keep looking to Jesus"**.

Answers to prayer

We are grateful for your prayers and support in so many ways. You encourage us more than words can say and we thank God for you. He hears those prayers and is faithful to answer them:

- You prayed for our first time at Spring Harvest Skegness and we had the most amazing time, with a steady but enthusiastic number attending the celebrations
- Thank God for Spring Harvest Minehead where we saw God at work in people's lives
- Thank God for the four people who gave their lives to Christ in the first Minehead celebration and for recommitments too
- We were thrilled by the attendance at Janneke's Makaton workshops on both sites; at Skegness some were turned away for health and safety reasons
- Give thanks for joyful worship, clear teaching and great teams at both sites
- Give thanks for good conversations at the exhibition stand at Minehead
- Thank God for Christian Makaton tutors who have completed training with Janneke to deliver Know & Grow Makaton and really understand the value of this resource



Please continue to pray for:

- The appointment of an administrator (local to Newbury)
- Trainers who God is calling to work with us
- Janneke, Pete and Christine for health, rest, safe travel, energy and inspiration
- Planning for the CEI Spring Harvest Holidays week in France (LPO) 3 – 10 June. So far we know of 16 guest with learning disabilities, their families/carers, and the team – Rick, Sharon, Pete & Christine
- Planning for Keswick Convention and Commission Festival – see below

Know & Grow workshops

Writer Mia Carella uses the word 'inclusion' whereas we tend to speak of 'accessibility' but we agree 100 % with her here:

**Inclusion isn't just *inviting* someone to sit at your table.
It's *believing* they belong there.**

We'd love to help your church to be more accessible, especially to adults with learning disabilities, so that they can be where they belong. It's not too early to speak with your church leader about inviting us to run a **Know & Grow** workshop in your church this Autumn.



Know & Grow Longing to Belong – an introduction to learning disability, helpful tips to make churches more accessible for people with learning disabilities (and therefore everyone!), how to run a ministry group – and more!

Know & Grow Life Matters – facilitating conversations about big questions that affect adults with learning disabilities, just as they do everyone else: relationships, healing, mental health, loss and bereavement. We end the day with a fun-packed creative activity.

Know & Grow Makaton – a practical, fun day of learning signs and symbols for everyday communication as well as for Christian worship. This is the only workshop accredited by The Makaton Charity to teach signs and symbols for Christian vocabulary and has been developed through our partnership.

Email bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk for a place at one of the workshops listed in the **Looking Ahead** section below or to enquire about hosting one in your own church.

Holidays and festivals 2024

We'd love you to join us at the festivals where CEI will be running programmes for adults with learning disabilities:



3 – 10 June SHH France <https://booking.springharvestholidays.com/>

13 – 19 July Keswick <https://keswickministries.org/convention-2024/>

22 – 26 August Commission, Shepton Mallet <https://www.commission.global/events/cf24>

Please let us know if you book for any of these events, especially if you have anyone with a learning disability in your group as it helps us with planning.

Making Friends!

We long for the day when every adult with a learning disability, regardless of where they live in England or Wales, has less than 5 miles to travel to a church that is intentionally accessible and welcoming so that no one misses out on Jesus!

The latest addition to our Friends network is White River Church, St Austell in Cornwall. We welcome them warmly.

If you, your group and/or church, or any other one want to know more, please email pete@counteveryonein.org.uk – just specify personal or group/church – and Pete will whizz a form over to you.

Yes, the forms do mention money – not a set subscription fee because money is never the criteria for friendship, but as a charity we rely on donations.

Resources

If you would like to purchase any of our resources just drop an email to info@counteveryonein.org.uk. We add the cost of postage and packing and ask for payment by BACS transfer or cheque.

Undated Bible notes, using New International Readers Version – number of readings in brackets

What is the Gospel? (31) £4.50
Prayer (30) £4.50
Psalms (20) £4.50
Christmas is coming (25) £4.50
Easter (9) £2.50
Jesus returned to Heaven & what happened next (14) £2.50
Who is Jesus? (14) £2.50
The Holy Spirit (7) £2.50
Hope (5) £2.00

We have produced two teaching plans, one on Joseph (7 sessions – £8) and the other on Ruth (4 sessions – £4), both of which we have used at festivals and in our own groups. Details on request.

We hold some of the 'Prospects' albums of easy to sing worship songs, available on CD (£5) or MP3 (£8): Jesus the Start of it All, No god is greater and Say the Word.

There are CEI branded t-shirts (£10.50), polos (£16) and hoodies (£25) in sapphire blue, burgundy red and charcoal grey.

Open to individuals,
churches/groups.
Further info from

pete@counteveryonein.org.uk
07711 869810

Friends with



We stock New Testaments in the New International Readers Version (NirV Accessible Edition), with large, clear print, plenty of 'white' space (actually, light grey) and line drawings. Hardback costs £9.99 and softback is £7.99.

- **Give as You Live** is one way to donate to CEI at no extra cost to you – see link for your online shopping at the foot of this letter.
- **CCLI** Don't forget to include 'Prospects' songs in your Church Copyright Licence (CCLI) reporting.

Looking ahead – please note that Janneke, Pete & Christine meet on Thursdays

2024 – correct as at 24 April

Sun 12 May – Crossroads Group's 20th birthday celebration, Warwick

Sat 18 May – Know & Grow Makaton, The Trinity Centre, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury

Mon 3 – Mon 10 June – Spring Harvest Holidays (LPO), France

Sat 15 June – Celebration of life and ministry of David Potter (Founder of Prospects) at Carey Baptist Church, Reading (time to be advised)

Tue 25 – Wed 26 June – Churches for All residential, High Leigh Conference Centre

Sun 30 June – 10am service at Christ Church, Waterden Rd, Guildford

Sat 6 July – CEI trustees' meeting

Sun 7 July – Cornerstone Church, St Albans & CEI group (P&C)

Sat 13 – Fri 19 July – Keswick Convention, Keswick

Thur 22 – Mon 26 Aug – Commission Festival, Shepton Mallet

Sat 7 Sept – Know & Grow Longing to Belong, St Austell, Cornwall

Sun 8 Sept – Morning Service, Helston

Sat 28 Sept – Beds, Cambs & Herts Regional Celebration, Cambridge

Tues 8 – Weds 9 Oct – Christian Resources Exhibition, Milton Keynes

Sat 26 Oct – Oswestry Deanery Mission Day

Sun 1 Dec – Christmas Celebration, St Nic's Newbury and livestreamed

***Please note that the best times to contact the main office is Tuesday to Friday 9:30 – 5:30pm**



If you are thinking of supporting financially, thank you.

Donate to Count Everyone In at www.give.net/20280624 or directly into Metro Bank (business) account (Gift Aid form available on request) - Sort code: 23 05 80 - Account no: 33248601

GDPR We hold your contact details for the purpose of sending you this newsletter at your own request. We also hold details of people who serve on CEI teams or attend training days. If you have any questions about this, or you wish to be removed from mailing lists etc, please let us know.

Social media – See www.counteveryonein.org.uk and you can also keep up with us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram. Please follow, like and share so that more people find out what is happening.

Every blessing,

Pete, Christine & Janneke