

October 2025

What is success?



But put God's kingdom first. Do what He wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you. Matthew 6:33-34 NIV



Dear Friends,

Becoming CEI's sole employee has led to some interesting conversations. Most people, especially Christians, have been incredibly supportive and encouraging - and each one of you who has been praying for me and encouraging me through emails and messages: Thank you! But I've also had conversations with people who really struggled to understand the logic behind stepping off the career ladder in academia/social work to work for a Christian charity. The truth is, according to the world's standard of success, there is no logical reason to leave a profession that I enjoy and am passionate about, have all the qualifications for, and has good career prospects.

God's standards of success are not like the world's. The Bible is full of reminders that God doesn't care about our job titles, how much money we earn or have in our bank accounts, or how physically fit and beautiful we are. God cares about our hearts. His standard of success is our hearts being turned to Him, seeking His kingdom first, and desiring to do what He asks us to do. Living this out in a world that is so consumed by 'productivity' and worldly success is not always easy. In fact, it often is a daily decision to turn our eyes to God.

My friend Norman often encouraged me to live with my eyes focused on God's kingdom. Norman had a degenerative illness which limited his mobility and the range of motion in his limbs. One Sunday our pastor preached on Matthew 6:33-34, and at the end of the sermon, he encouraged the congregation to declare their willingness and desire to put God's Kingdom first and do whatever God was asking them to do. Norman's face took on a look of determination as he insisted that he was going to stand up (something he had not been able to do for years!). His carer panicked, but three men in the congregation did not. Together, we helped Norman to stand. As he looked up, pure joy radiated from his face and he said, "I don't care what people say about my legs. God can still use me."

Norman's ability to respond that Sunday morning didn't happen because of my job description, or because I am anything special. It happened because Norman's eyes were firmly fixed on Jesus, and that inspired me and the three men to do the same. Friends, this is the kind of success I long to see. Let's be a people willing to put down the trappings of worldly success and simply pursue God's kingdom.

God Bless,
Janneke

Welcome to any new readers who have joined us recently. We are so glad to know of your interest and support. If at any time you wish to unsubscribe from our mailing list, please drop us a line – no hard feelings because we know how quickly our email Inboxes fill up!

Christian Resources Exhibition (CRE)

We will be at the Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Racecourse in Esher, Surrey on the **15th and 16th October**. If you are thinking about coming to the exhibition, why not click the link below to claim your free ticket.

<https://eventdata.uk/Comp/CRE2025.aspx?TrackingCode=COUNT>



Carers Toolkit

We are hoping to develop a toolkit for individuals and small groups to use within church settings that would aim to build resilience, encourage spiritual reflection, and help parents and carers to recognise the expertise they have in caring for their loved ones. We need your help to achieve this. Please fill in our short questionnaire via the QR code.



Janneke's Challenge – Janneke started the year with a challenge for herself and for us all to memorise some verses from the Bible each month. Here are the latest ones:

1 Samuel 16:7 - But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider how handsome or tall he is. I have not chosen him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outside of a person. But the Lord looks at what is in the heart."

John 4:13-14 - Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But anyone who drinks the water I give them will never be thirsty. In fact, the water I give them will become a spring of water in them. It will flow up into eternal life."

Being Friends

Count Everyone In – so that no one misses out on Jesus

* Email pete@counteveryonein.org.uk if you, your group and/or church are interested in becoming Friends with Count Everyone In. Pete will send you an information and application form telling you about the scheme.

Thank you

Without you, your prayers, interest, time and financial support it would be hard for us to do what God has called us to do. Thank you for whatever part you play in supporting Count Everyone In. No contribution is too small. Thank you.

If you are thinking of supporting financially, thank you.

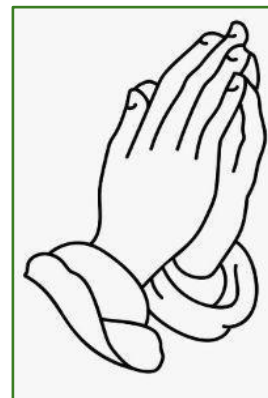
Donate to Count Everyone In at www.give.net/20280624 or directly into Metro Bank (business) account (Gift Aid form available on request)
Sort code: 23 05 80 - Account no: 33248



Prayer

Our next monthly **Friends with Count Everyone In** Zoom prayer meetings are on **Thursday 23rd October** for just 30 minutes at 12.30pm and/or 6.30pm. If you are on our list, you will receive the link automatically. Here are some suggestions for prayer:

1. Thank God for the conversations we have had at training days, Alive Together and CRE (see below for the dates of these events)
2. Thank God for CEI's partnership with the Makaton Charity. Prayer for the projects we are working on which will help to make the Good News of Jesus more accessible to people with learning disabilities
3. Thank God for CEI's partnership with Biblica and Worship for Everyone
4. Thank God for CEI 'Friends' and prayer for group/ministry leaders, especially for those who are looking for more helpers or other people to take on leading the group



Workshops

Know & Grow Longing to Belong – an introduction to learning disability, theology, communication and how the church can respond

Know & Grow Life Matters – supporting adults with learning disabilities as they face issues such as relationships, healing, mental health and bereavement

Know & Grow Makaton – learn to sign everyday and Christian vocabulary at the only workshop for Christian language that is accredited by The Makaton Charity (TMC). It was developed by Janneke Klos in partnership with TMC.

To book a place or to host at your own church, email: bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk

Resources

Bible Update (NirV - accessible edition) We are keen to promote this edition of the Bible - New Testament only at present - but it has been out of print and almost impossible to obtain for some time now. Count Everyone In has been in discussion with Biblica, the publishers, regarding a reprint and, until recently, one of the main blockages has been lack of funding. That said, you may have picked up from a recent CEI newsletter that an anonymous donor came forward at Spring Harvest and we are delighted to say that finance is no longer a problem. However, there are other obstacles to overcome, such as storage, distribution and financial management. Please pray with us for solutions to be found - quickly - so that copies are once again available.

New resource! We have published a new teaching plan. It is called 'Living for Jesus' and consists of five teaching sessions that explore what it's like to be a friend of Jesus, based on the life and experiences of Peter.

Other resources: If you are interested in purchasing CEI branded t-shirts or full-zip hoodies, accessible Bible notes, teaching plans based on Joseph or Ruth, CEI badges, notebooks, pens, keyrings or Prospects worship albums, please email info@counteveryonein.org.uk for a full list.

Diary dates – please note that Janneke, Pete, Christine and Bronwen meet on Thursdays

Sat 4 Oct	K&G Makaton, Bethany Hall, 14 Westham Road, Weymouth
Thu 9 Oct	CEI Trustees Meeting
Sat 11 Oct	Alive Together, The King's Centre, Coppard Gardens, Chessington
Mon 13 Oct	Online Prayer and Encouragement Group
Wed 15 & Thu 16 Oct	Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown Racecourse, Esher, Surrey
Tues 21 Oct	Church is for All Zoom meeting
Thurs 23 Oct	CEI Friends Zoom Prayer 12:30-1:00pm & 6:30-7:00pm
Sat 25 Oct	K&G Longing to Belong, Halifax Elim Church, Hall St, Halifax
Fri 14 Nov	K&G Makaton for the Chester Diocese
Sat 15 Nov	K&G Longing to Belong, Eastpoint Vineyard Church, Lowestoft
Wed 19 Nov	Spring Harvest Planning Day
Thurs 27 Nov	CEI Friends Zoom Prayer 12:30-1:00pm & 6:30-7:00pm
Sun 7 Dec	CEI Christmas Celebration at St Nic's Church, Newbury and livestreamed to you wherever you are!

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.

- **Give as You Live** is one way to donate to CEI at no extra cost to you
– <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/>
- **CCLI** Don't forget to include 'Prospects' songs in your Church Copyright Licence (CCLI) reporting

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

Every blessing,

Pete, Christine & Janneke

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