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## Prayer Letter October 2009

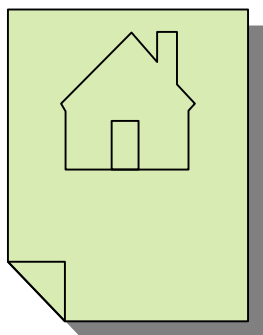
**"A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest - your poverty will come as a vagabond and your need like an armed man."**

Proverbs 6: 10-11

When people first hear about my job working for UBM, I am often asked, "What do you do for the rest of the year"? Solomon knew the answer to that question and spoke about it several times in the book of Proverbs. Preparation for next year's missions begins as soon as the reunion is over, in fact some of what I do in the "quieter winter months" will not come to fruition until 2011. It is important for all of us to take some rest after the busy summer, but we must guard against letting the background work drift, or time will soon overtake us. In this prayer letter we will look at some of the preparations already underway for 2010 missions.

### First just a few brief news updates:

Please continue to pray for John Bolger, who was seriously hurt in an accident on the way to an OAM beach mission. He has now been moved to Gwynedd Hospital, Bangor, but will be required to go back to Swansea for more operations on his legs. **John says that the whole experience has brought him closer to the Lord, and if he were to have the choice - he would do it all again.**

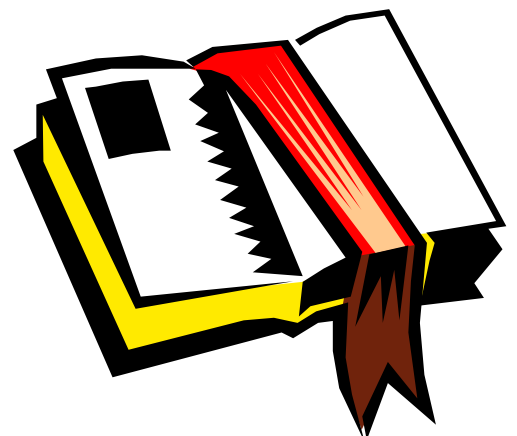


#### Llandudno house project

Meetings are taking place during the first two weeks of October to decide upon the exact building works required and to plan the work for the coming year. Initial preparatory works will commence on 5th October. Specifically, please pray for a meeting between Graham Kneale and the Council Conservation officer on 9<sup>th</sup> October regarding the replacement windows. Historically the council have not permitted UPVC windows in a conservation zone and we need their agreement for this now. Planning consent and the consent of Mostyn Estates will be required for the change of windows.

#### Follow up

Please pray for Judy Kitching co-ordinating follow up and for Jacquie McNutt administering the Postal Bible club. Overall in England and Wales we have had 570 responses to the missions, plus over 200 in Ireland. This is an average of more than 10 per week of mission.



# Preparations for 2010 Missions

## Accordions needed



This year we have been able to place 6 accordions with team members needing one to serve on a Beach Team.

We now have 8 more requests, but only 3 waiting to be cleaned and renovated to put into service.

We are very careful with them. The team members they go to have them on loan until they are no longer able to join with us on a Beach Team, and then they come back to us.



If you have one hiding away somewhere unused, or ever see one available (preferably free!) please let us know or get it to the office.

David Harding is able to repair most that come to him.

Contact the office or [davidharding@milnrow.org](mailto:davidharding@milnrow.org)

## Child protection

Did you know, the law on child protection is being strengthened? We have already amended our child protection policy to account for these new changes.

A new **Vetting and Barring Scheme** comes in to place gradually over the next five years. Ultimately all children workers will be required to gain registration from the Independent Safeguarding Authority. The first of the changes has already taken place and means that in future child protection checks will require all team members to book a minimum of 6 weeks prior to their first mission. This is likely to prove extremely problematic for us, since often team members have responded to

needs before making bookings. There is a very real danger of several missions closing if team members continue to book at the last minute. Please pray that all will see the need to book early, to enable the new checks to be done in time. Team leaders will be given appropriate training at the Seniors' and Leaders' Weekend in May 2010.

Pray too for **Cheryl Clarke**, who is now handling all the **CRB** checks for us, relieving Graham Kneale of hours of work in the busiest time of year. Pray that Cheryl will learn the systems quickly and will be able to administer the records efficiently, with minimal delays. The new **ISA** requirements are in addition to the existing CRB checks.

Our cost base has been rising significantly in recent years, in no small part due to the expansion of missions, the success of Postal Bible club and the increases in government legislation. The new application form for 2010 will combine the forms for **Christian Answer Missions** with those for **Beach Missions**, in an attempt to save on printing costs. Similarly, the **on-line booking system** will be extended to cover Christian Answer missions too, however both of these changes will require careful planning between now and Christmas.

Pray for **regional groups** and **management groups** who are meeting between now and December to plan the missions in their particular areas. Decisions need to be made now as to which missions and dates we can run, so that application forms to be produced. This is not easy because of clashes with other holiday evangelism and church missions that takes place across the summer.



## Dates 2010

**Seniors' and Leaders' weekend, 7-9<sup>th</sup> May 2010** at Cliff College, Derbyshire. This is an important weekend to report back on all the progress over the last 5 years and set the strategy for the future.

**UBM supporters' conference, October 2010.** A time to give thanks and look back at all the Lord has achieved over 60 years of UBM's ministry.

## Specific prayer points

- Graham Kneale, meeting with Llandudno conservation officer 9<sup>th</sup> October. The costs and time table for the project hang on a successful outcome to this meeting.
- 1000 team members for 2010.
- The ability to extend new missions in Italy, Bordeaux, Carbis Bay and Falmouth in a difficult recruitment environment.
- Extending the online booking system to MV and Christian Answer teams.