

My Desperate Housewife

I don't think we have ever seen more than 10 minutes of the show *Desperate Housewives*, but the title works well for the small group that Allison is a part of at church. It includes women who see their home as the center of work, ministry or connection in the community. One participant isn't able to come to church because she works on Sunday and others are on the fringe and are less comfortable with organized church.

Allison co-leads the group with her close friend Shona. They are discipling one another and together discipling others. The group has become a model at our church, because it takes the church beyond the walls and into the community. It also meets people where they are in their walk with God. But they didn't stop there. Inspired by the daughter of one *Desperate Housewife*, the group recently organized a sale and silent auction that raised almost £500 for Haiti. The connections these women have helped bring volunteers together from across the community which again stretched the tent pegs of the church.

Please pray:

- ❖ that the group would continue to grow in faith and numbers.
- ❖ for Allison as she will hold more of the vision for this group since her co-leader is moving away this summer.
- ❖ for one of the group who was recently diagnosed with a serious illness right after the Haiti appeal.



Above: Amelia, who inspired the sale for Haiti, holds the letter she wrote asking for donations. The story along with this picture appeared in the local paper.

The Perfect Fried Egg

It's hard to get a fried egg just right, but Allison has become the expert. In February, she volunteered one morning a week helping cook breakfast for homeless people in Bradford. One of her regular jobs was to fry eggs.

The homeless initiative was organized for the month of February and included more than 100 volunteers from 25 churches. Seven churches (one for each night of the week) from several denominations became drop-in shelters. Together they served more than 50 homeless men and women throughout the month.

I believe this is one of the first of its kind in Bradford. It was very timely since it was the coldest winter for 30 years here in England.

CRIB Conference

CRIB stands for **C**hristian **R**esponse to **I**slam in **B**ritain. It is a network of workers and lay believers with an interest in reaching Muslims. There have been national meetings every two years in London. The first ever Northern regional meeting happened in Bradford in February with more than 80 participants. I (Tom) was able to take part and lead worship for the event. It was an exciting event as people were very encouraged to see all the outreach activity happening in their region. Some people were there because they were interested and didn't know where to begin. Others there had many years experience but were amazed to see that they weren't alone.

Visitors from Africa

In March I helped host a British couple, who work in North Africa, while back in the UK on home assignment. We organized visits with churches and small groups. Allison and I lead the morning service at a local church in which they gave the message. It's encouraging to see how their stories of planting churches teach and challenge the existing church to get back to mission and think creatively about what church can look like.

We're Moving

In late August or early September we will be moving. We've outgrown our current house. Ironically, we'll be moving back into the first community we lived in when we first landed in

2005. We moved out of that community in part because we wanted to live in a more mixed neighbourhood. What a difference a few years can make as Pakistani and Indian families move out from the city. Now the community has a large house that serves as a mosque and 2/3 of the school children in Madeline's class are of Pakistani and Indian background.

We have to make arrangements for our house. There are many things to do, paint, fix, pack and organize in the coming months.

- ❖ Please pray about the decisions about our current house. Do we sell or rent it in this current financial climate? Could the house serve a ministry purpose?
- ❖ We travel to France from May 28 – June 11 for a Pioneers conference and refreshment. Please pray for safety and travelling mercies. We'll drive the many miles there. This is our first time on the Continent since arriving in 2005.

Thanks for reading and praying. Hope to hear from you soon.

Tom & Allison,
Adam
Madeline

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Donations can be made to Pioneers, and designated to "King:111-110".

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