

THE FOUNDATION STONES OF WORLD PRAYER CENTRE

When God gave the vision for The World Prayer Centre to Ian Cole in June 1992, included in the whole vision were four very clear foundation stones upon which World Prayer Centre should be built. They are: Prayer, the poor and marginalised, mission and the family.

These foundations are not in any order, as they are all equally important in the Kingdom.

PRAYER

‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.’ (Isaiah 56:7)

World Prayer Centre is a house of prayer with a heart for the nations and within this foundation stone we find the principle of establishing continual **prayer** from all denominational traditions and varied prayerful expressions. It will be a place where people can come day and night and spend time in God’s presence, seeking His heart and seeking to hear clear direction as every conceivable issue is brought before the Lord, whether praying for people, issues, nations or anything else. The technology that will be used within The Centre will create an environment that will give up-to-date news information and details, enabling people to pray literally as the news feeds in. There will be a prayer auditorium for large-scale gatherings, continent prayer rooms - one for each continent and prayer closets for more intimate and personal prayer. All parts of the life of the centre will be immersed in prayer, supporting people as they come and go from the building to take the Light of Jesus Christ into the world. There will also be a strong focus on worship and the different expressions from different traditions. A room for continuous worship and prayer will be an integral feature of the centre. For each of the many events that will be hosted in The Centre, whether they are part of the prayer rhythm of the centre or a partner ministry using The Centre, a prayer team will be assigned to pray for that event – covering every single aspect in prayer. We believe that the centre will be a catalyst for prayer across the UK family of nations, Europe and as part of the global movement for prayer.

THE POOR & MARGINALISED

God has clearly given us a remit to stand with those who have no voice, to weep with those who weep and mourn with those who mourn. This stone will be a distinctive attribute to the ministry element of World Prayer Centre. It will provide opportunities for social action and supporting people from challenging and/or complicated situations, bringing hope where there is no hope into the lives of many. Within The Centre, there will be a specific area and team dedicated to helping those who are marginalised and ostracised by society. In Mathew 25:35-38, Jesus talks about being fed when hungry, given a drink when thirsty, being welcomed as a stranger and clothed when naked, being looked after when sick and being visited in prison and how those acts of kindness shown to others were done as if for Jesus. We also see that in James 1:27 there is a very clear command to care for the orphans and widows in need and to reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight. These are foundational Christian principles, which will feature strongly in the outreach ministry of World Prayer Centre, revealing something of the values of the Kingdom of God.

MISSION

With the foundation stone of mission, we want to establish the preaching of the Gospel and see God’s word transform lives as it goes out. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus tells us to ‘go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.’ The Father

is calling to His church to use mission as a tool to revolutionise lives as peoples' hearts are softened, eyes are opened and lives are transformed under the life-changing power of Holy Spirit at work. Also, to bring those of little or no faith to appreciate and experience the reality of a relationship with an active, loving, prayer-answering God. Another aspect of mission is informing people about what God is doing in the world to enable and help them to pray in an informed and knowledgeable way, providing a truly worldwide perspective of the global community in which we live. Since the inception of the vision in 1992, World Prayer Centre has endeavoured to provide prayer resources and information to equip Christians to pray more effectively about global, national and local situations and needs.

THE FAMILY

At the very heart of God is the family. We read in Psalm 86 that God sets the lonely in families and leads out the prisoners with singing. One of the physical aspects of World Prayer Centre will be the founding of a Family Centre, promoting family life by providing practical support and teaching on relationships and life issues. It will also encourage young people in their responsibilities to themselves and to the wider world. We believe this aspect of World Prayer Centre's ministry will have a significant impact in the lives of families where relationships have broken down, families are grieving, parents in need of support, no matter what stage of life they are at, from new parents to parents of teens to grandparents, or simply befriending those in need – the Family Centre will provide a life-changing environment for many people.