

THE EASTENDER

THIS WEEK

Following the earthquake in Haiti, we will be taking a collection for HOPE worldwide to support their disaster relief efforts.

After Friday's presentation and Q&A on the London Plan, there will be another opportunity for Q&A after the service today with the Leadership Group.

There is no meeting this coming Friday due to the British Isles and Ireland Leadership Conference. Our next meeting is on Sunday, when we have the opportunity to hear a sermon from Doug Lambert of the Baltimore church.

The latest version of the 2010 calendar (Draft 3) is available from the website, with paper copies from Paul Rowden.

KINGDOM KIDS THANK YOU & NEW HELPERS NEEDED

A big thank you to those helpers who have worked with us over the last four months in the childrens ministry. We will be organising a meal over the next few weeks as a thank you to both the helpers and the teachers who have served so faithfully. Kingdom Kids will need 20 new helpers to assist in class every other week for the next four months (from 1st February). If you are interested in serving please speak with Kevin or Diane in the fellowship (or call/text Kevin on 07932180 893).

PRETEEN MINISTRY

We are excited to announce that Martin & Amanda will be coordinating a monthly fun activity for all the PreTeens in the East. The first of these will be on Sat 30 Jan, 3-6pm, for a movie and meal at McDonalds.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for several disciples, men or women, who have the desire to help in their community and in the church. One of our members, George Eaton, lives in a Care Home in Walthamstow, and we are appealing for help from those who can spend time with George. It would be really encouraging for him to receive visits from disciples who can talk, read the bible together, or take him out for walks in the park close by. If you would like to help in this way, please contact Tony Cameron on 07855332451 or camerontony@yahoo.co.uk, who is coordinating the visits.

FUNDRAISING MEALS

Abisola & Ayesha are organising a number of meals to raise money for the Village of HOPE and East Sector Benevolence. This is a great way to have food and fellowship and support the needy at the same time. Please see them for details or call Abisola on 07595156560.

Diary Dates

SUN 17 JAN

Worship Service
(Mike Desouza)

FRI 22 JAN

Meet in Family
Groups

SUN 24 JAN

Worship Service
(Mike Desouza)

FRI 29 JAN

Family Group
Leaders
[Wanstead-6th
Form]

SUN 31 JAN

Worship Service
(Mike Desouza)

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LEADERSHIP UPDATE

As you will hopefully recall, at the beginning of October we employed Julie Desouza on a three month contract in order to give her, Mike and the Leadership Group an opportunity to determine whether this arrangement was something that Julie wanted to continue with, that worked for both her and Mike, and provided the LG with the leadership it needed. Unfortunately these three months were a very difficult time for both Mike and Julie, with prolonged periods of sickness, the death of Julie's mother, and then taking care of her father after a major operation. As a result, not all of the questions that were asked at the beginning of the three months were fully answered by the end of it. Nevertheless, progress was made on a number of issues, including Julie's decision to offer to continue to serve on the ministry staff. The LG are very grateful for this, and are considering how best to proceed, either with a continuation of the trial period or on a permanent basis. Please continue to pray for us to have wisdom, and to carefully consider what is best for the Desouzas, the LG and the East. We hope to announce a decision next week.

Nancy Lamb commenced a part time PGCE course at Goldsmiths College in September 2009. During 2010, this involves regular time in college plus assignments and a period of teaching in placement schools. She commences her first placement in Wanstead High School (!) next week. In reality what this means for 2010 is that her availability to work in the ministry will be very limited for 6 months of the year. However she will be available from 12th April through to the end of August in a full time capacity which is when the bulk of the workload in the youth and family ministry occurs. With this in mind the Lambs took the decision to reduce Nancy's working hours in the ministry from 32 to 20 hours per week, this being the average across the year. Barry and Nancy are no longer part-funded by the East directly, but are almost exclusively funded by the London Church, with the remaining part from the other ICCM churches for Barry to provide a Child Protection service.

There have been a number of changes in the East Teens' Ministry. After many years of devoted service, Alex and Rashida Boateng have stepped down from co-leading with Ben and Titi Hill to focus more on their family group. Ben and Titi are now serving as the leaders of the East Teens, with Alex and Rashida providing support where and when they are able. Stephen and Mishelle Sultanti have joined the East Teens. Though we tend to use the term 'Teen Ministry', the ongoing emphasis is on a 'Youth & Family Ministry', and in this regard Ben and Titi will focus more on the 'Youth' and Steve and Mishelle on the 'Family'. After discussions with Adrian Hill, the London Y&F Minister, and with the LG, the plan is to provide an opportunity for the teenagers to meet together once per week - two Fridays a month at Wanstead, one Saturday hosted at a member's home, and one Sunday at the monthly London Teen Devotional. In addition, it is hoped that each teenager who so wants will have an adult mentor, to meet with on a monthly basis. If you would like to help with hosting or mentoring please speak to Ben & Titi or Steve & Mishelle.

In December we collected £13,880 for our Missions Contribution, which was to be split 50:50 between the Hyderabad Church in India, and the UK. Of the £6940 for Hyderabad, we will be sending £6000 to India, and retaining £940 in order to support a visit by a couple of people from the East to both the Hyderabad Church and the Village of HOPE, who can go and represent the East and report back after their visit. Please be thinking of suggestions as to who we could send. Of the remaining £6940 for the UK, we have donated £3000 to support the Glasgow Church, and will keep the balance for other needs in the UK.

Please continue to pray for the LG. If you have any questions on any of the above, or anything else, please feel free to speak to any one of us.

Andy, Barry, Mike, Paul