



'Sharing our Resources' for evangelisation in England **GfE 'Signpost' Resource Paper 1b** June 2009

## Evangelisation and Migration CONTINUED from GfE Resource Paper No 1a

From the 'Churches Coordinating Group for Evangelisation' (GfE) of Churches Together in England

### Evangelisation and Migration (1b)

This paper follows on from the GfE Resource Paper No 1a which introduced the topic of evangelisation and migration. Both papers are intended for local church leaders to help congregations answer the question, 'what can our church do about it?' Gathering information from various sources and across all of the church traditions, this is a way of signposting our different resources in the common task of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Please pass this paper on and acknowledge the source. It accompanies the GfE website where there is more information about evangelisation and migration:

<http://www.gfe.org.uk/migration.htm>

Each GfE 'Signpost' Resource Paper is intended to be small enough to send electronically. In Evangelisation and Migration Paper 1a, lots of issues were considered from a conference of evangelism officers which met from across Britain and Ireland under the auspices of the Global Mission Network. This paper considers a number of conferences since that one, and begins with the following framework of agreed principles for action and reflection.

#### Summary of CTBI 'Migration Principles':

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland brought together key network people to draw up a list of actions which they recommended all churches take in respect of a ministry with migrant people. A pdf version of the Executive Summary, which includes Core Values, can be downloaded from: <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/libs/misc/3.doc>

This is a summary of the agreed framework 'Action for Churches to take':

1. Implement an educative process, listening to migrant people
2. Form closer working of support agencies re rights and welfare
3. Offer support to Detention Centre chaplains and visitor groups
4. Intensify advocacy of vulnerable people, especially re injustice
5. Work with migrant organisations, encouraging advocacy and partnerships
6. Offer practical resources of Christian community
7. Involvement in language skills programmes
8. Offer unconditional pastoral care to individuals, families and communities
9. Develop programs and resources to 'get to know each other'



In GfE we advocate the above and bring our own contribution of evangelisation. The specific dimension we bring is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. In our evangelisation network we have considered the following principles to add to the above.

#### Principles for evangelisation and migration

1. Many Christians coming to Britain bring a committed and fervent approach to evangelism which can bless and inform all churches.
2. Whilst there are potential problems caused by a dominant host community evangelising a minority community, this should not preclude sensitive evangelisation.
3. Any attempt at evangelisation which does not take seriously an engagement with the culture of the migrant communities is inadequate.
4. A genuine offer of hospitality should always be the first point of meeting with migrant communities.
5. We recognise the importance of working in partnership with those who work in areas of racial justice, community development and exclusivity as the churches serve migrant communities.
6. At the GMN conference (see GfE Resource Paper 1a) we agreed that the 1989 San Antonio report sets a helpful theological framework: "We cannot point to any other way of salvation than Jesus Christ; at the same time we cannot set limits to the saving power of God."



## *Helping the churches in England share the good news of Jesus Christ* **Signpost to Resources (amplified from Paper 1a)**

### **Mapping Migration: Mapping Churches Europe Study**

A major report has been produced as part of the scoping exercise of the World Council of Churches. It charts the movement of people around Europe and maps the response of the church. Produced in April 2008 it is available as a download from:

<http://www.ccme.be/secretary/NEWS/Mapping%20migration%20report%202008-05-28.pdf>

### **Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe: Theological Reflections**

From the same body which produced the Mapping report above, comes a series of papers, the most relevant to evangelisation probably being the Theological Reflections which can be downloaded from:

<http://www.ccme.be/secretary/NEWS/Theological%20Reflection.pdf>



### **Evangelical Alliance: Don't be a Stranger campaign**

Launched on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008 with the Temple Address being given by the Archbishop of York on the topic, the Evangelical Alliance in England has brought together a lot of resources on their dedicated website:

<http://www.eauk.org/nostrangers/>

### **Baptist: Migration Matters**

The Mission Department of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland has produced a number of resources, including dvd's of projects on migration where new congregations have been formed and people Baptised as new Christians. See:

[http://www.baptist.org.uk/resources/resource\\_search.asp?SearchString=migration&SearchContext=desc](http://www.baptist.org.uk/resources/resource_search.asp?SearchString=migration&SearchContext=desc)

### **Methodist: May I call your friend?**

The Racial Justice, Inter-Faith and Evangelism networks of the Methodist Church have produced a joint booklet about outreach to people of other faiths and cultural backgrounds.

[https://secure2.cyberware.co.uk/~cb537/cgi-bin/sh000001.pl?REFPAGE=https%3a%2f%2fsecure2%2ecyberware%2eco%2euk%2f%7ecb537%2facatalog%2fsearch%2html&WD=friend%20may%20call&PN=Racial\\_Justice%2html%23aPA179\\_2dCT\\_2d06#aPA179\\_2dCT\\_2d06](https://secure2.cyberware.co.uk/~cb537/cgi-bin/sh000001.pl?REFPAGE=https%3a%2f%2fsecure2%2ecyberware%2eco%2euk%2f%7ecb537%2facatalog%2fsearch%2html&WD=friend%20may%20call&PN=Racial_Justice%2html%23aPA179_2dCT_2d06#aPA179_2dCT_2d06)

### **Catholic Resources for Evangelisation**

The Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation in England and Wales produced some resource papers like New Immigration: New Opportunity which can be found at:

<http://www.caseresources.org/resources/Immigration.htm>

### **Catholic Bishops Statement about Mission and Migration**

The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales have produced an extensive statement following detailed work advising the Catholic Church about the new communities among them.

[http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/ccb/catholic\\_church/the\\_bishops\\_work/migration\\_and\\_refugees/mission\\_of\\_the\\_church\\_to\\_migrants\\_in\\_england\\_and\\_wales](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/ccb/catholic_church/the_bishops_work/migration_and_refugees/mission_of_the_church_to_migrants_in_england_and_wales)

### **Alpha courses in different languages**

Material is available from Alpha in a number of different languages including Polish, Russian and Chinese. For advice about how it can be used with different migrant groups, contact the Alpha office: <http://uk.alpha.org/contact-us>

### **Jesus in my Language**

Wycliffe has produced a website of resources where Bible passages can be found in 70+ languages. They are adding to the site all the time: [http://www.vision2025.org/resources\\_jesusinmylanguage\\_home.html](http://www.vision2025.org/resources_jesusinmylanguage_home.html)



### **Books re Mission and Migration:**

A Christian Perspective on a Polarised Debate. Nick Spencer. Paternoster 2004

Mission and Migration. Ed Stephen Spencer, Cliff / BIAMS 2008

Building a Multi-ethnic Church. Linbert Spencer, SPCK 2009

### **Other resources and Inter Faith dialogue**

Related to the topic of migration is that of sharing the good news of Jesus with people of other faiths. This will be the subject of another 'Signpost' Resource Paper later.

For resources and agreed guidelines about inter faith relations see:

[http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/61513/Churches\\_Together\\_in/Themes/Dialogues/Inter\\_faith/RESOURCES/INTER\\_FAITH\\_resources.aspx](http://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/61513/Churches_Together_in/Themes/Dialogues/Inter_faith/RESOURCES/INTER_FAITH_resources.aspx)

This Resource Paper is one of a growing series on different topics for local church leaders, being produced and posted on:

[http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/95021/Churches\\_Together\\_in/Themes/Church\\_Life\\_Evangelisation/Evangelisation/Resource\\_Papers/Resource\\_Papers.aspx](http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/95021/Churches_Together_in/Themes/Church_Life_Evangelisation/Evangelisation/Resource_Papers/Resource_Papers.aspx)

These papers collate contributions from our immediate and wider network, and are presented in good faith for accuracy and representation. They cannot be considered formal statements or endorsements on behalf of all churches in England, and GfE / CTE cannot be held responsible for material and opinions which have been quoted.

The Churches Coordinating Group for Evangelisation (GfE), is a network of national evangelism officers of the major denominations and home mission agencies. Our aim is to help the churches in England work together in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. GfE is part of Churches Together in England, 27 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HH. 0207529 8131. Contact jim.currin (at) cte.org.uk ©GfE. [www.gfe.org.uk](http://www.gfe.org.uk)

