



Churches' Industrial Group Birmingham

Newsletter Autumn 2007

'Has slavery been abolished? Combating contemporary slavery'

Christien van den Anker

Christien was the speaker at the CIGB AGM in June and her input was both informing and challenging. Globally there is a public consensus that slavery is wrong and yet there is little co-ordinated international legislation in response to it.

Slavery can be descent based, bonded labour, forced marriage, child labour and trafficking of people. At least two of these happen in the UK. Trafficking involves the recruitment and movement of people who are threatened or coerced in a variety of ways and then exploited sexually, for their work or for their internal organs.

In 2005 there was a well reported case of young women trafficked to Birmingham into the sex trade. One young woman was sold at Heathrow Airport for a few thousand pounds

Trafficked people are often in desperate situations, socially isolated and unaware of their rights. They experience multiple coercion and dependency and the complexity of migration law increases their vulnerability. They are in the UK because of lack of economic development at home but also because of the demand for cheap labour here.

The UK response to trafficking has been to restrict migrant flows, at the same time as signing up to the EU Convention Against Trafficking. Victims are given support, including a reflection period about whether

or not they wish to return home. The police now speak of 'assisting to go home' rather than deportation. However, these policies do nothing to address the root causes.

Trafficking is a result of inequalities in economic development, gender and other discrimination and the demand for cheap labour. Criminalisation and anti-immigration policies have not prevented trafficking and may have made it worse.

Short term prevention work has included awareness campaigns in countries of origin but long term prevention has mainly focused on gender/ the sex trade. Long term prevention will have to deal with the root causes and not only an individual human rights approach.

Through its concern for international development and for issues of inequality the church can be part of addressing root causes. Through its desire to welcome the stranger it can be part of befriending migrants in general and so perhaps reach some of those who have been trafficked. A person may enter the UK legally but then be trafficked once here.

Christien told the story of a Bangladeshi woman with no English language or knowledge of the legal system, who was abused within a household for two years. Eventually she asked a visitor to the house for help. How do can we become 'people who might help'?



Motor industry

Nigel Traynor and Colin Corke are the chaplains at Jaguar and Land Rover. Please pray for them, the companies and their work force at this time of uncertainty.

Mayors' Chaplain.

Two CIGB chaplains, Nigel Traynor and Beryl Moppett were Mayor's Chaplain in Birmingham and Solihull respectively in 2006/07. This is a very different setting to a local congregation or to a local business.

In Solihull, the chaplain's role was fulfilled by a multi faith team for the first time. Apart from the traditional prayers before council meetings, the chaplain can be a personal support to the mayor in what can be a demanding year. Integrity is one thing a chaplain brings to the relationship. For the first time, in Birmingham, there was a closing service for the Lord Mayor's term of office, held at Nigel's church.



Christmas Presence – The Ultimate Gift Shop

In response to an invitation from the City Centre Partnership, the partnership of city centre churches, 'Believing in Birmingham' is organising a 'shop' in the centre of Birmingham in December to 'Re-tale' the Christmas story!

The purpose of the shop is to 'tell' the story of Christmas in as many ways as possible to as many people as possible. We will be seeking to welcome people of all ages and faiths, in whatever way they want to come.

Some will come because they know why Christmas is important to them; some will come because they don't. Some will come to find out more and some because of what they have forgotten. All will be welcomed.

The store will be open every day in December up to the 23rd and so we need lots of help. Apart from presentations of the nativity, we will have involvement of schools, reflective activities, maybe live music and other entertainment. There will be press events and high profile visits, maybe even school visits. We will be selling and promoting Fairtrade and Traidcraft and supporting local and international charities through virtual gifts.

We need a lot of people to do a little! So whether it is giving a few hours to helping in December or lending a hand with building, cleaning, creating and preparing in November, we need you!

Please contact - Alison Maddocks
chaplain@carrslane.co.uk 0797 163 0540 to find out how you can help!

Autumn Events

Bite size chaplaincy – an introduction to the role & skills of voluntary chaplains to equip clergy / church leaders to develop the ministry of church members in this area.

October 10th & 11th 10.00 – 12.30

St Mary's Hobs Moat & Birmingham University Chaplaincy respectively.

Skills for workplace chaplaincy

An introductory course for people considering workplace chaplaincy
October 3rd, 17th, 24th, 31st 7 – 9 p.m.

175, Harborne Park Rd. B17 0BH

November 3rd City Centre 9.30 – 12.30

For more details of these events contact the CIGB office.

Churches together listening and speaking in economic life

CIGB, 175 Harborne Pk. Rd. Birmingham B17 0BH

Tel 0121 426 0425 email cigb@birmingham.anglican.org

www.cigb.org.uk