

# Get Involved: Pray

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## EMBRACE Prayer Group June 2011

Wherever I go these days I notice most younger people with the earpieces of their MP3 players in their ears, or their thumbs are busy tapping out another text message; sometimes both. This is the age of communication; however, I wonder how much communicating is really going on. Between the MP3, the mobile phone, the TV, and the Internet with Facebook and Twitter, we are surrounded by 'sound'. This might be another meaning of 'wrap around sound.'

Is it possible that all this noise is either blocking out or helping us avoid other voices we should be listening to? Cacophony means it is impossible to isolate important sounds. One of the voices we should be listening for is that of Jesus the Word. Life needs meaning not just busyness.

The Apostle Peter, at a moment of crises, said to Jesus 'You have the words of eternal life'. It takes a special effort to recognise and heed the voice of the Word who speaks to us in many different places and tongues. If whatever is done for the neighbour is also done to him then equally the voice of the needy neighbour is also his voice. All through his Galilean ministry Jesus used stories to convey his message. So too he now speaks to us in the stories of those who have come to us looking for safety, a home, work, a place to bring up and educate their families. Unless we make the effort to listen to their personal stories we will not hear Jesus speaking to us through them. One of his repeated appeals was to those 'who had ears to hear'.

*Contributed by Perry Gildea*

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### **This month we give thanks for:**

- Those who encourage newcomers to tell their story confidently.
- Those whose language gifts enable us to hear stories told in tongues we don't understand.
- Those who despite language difficulties endeavour through their work to contribute to the enrichment of our community life.

### **Please pray for:**

- Those who clearly see Christ present in the 'stranger' and who hear His voice in theirs; they encourage all to listen to them as the authentic voice of God.
- Those who because of language differences are discouraged and afraid to tell their stories.
- Children who assume the role of interpreters for their parents and others leading them into conversation with us.