Get Involved: Pray

EMBRACE Prayer Group
July/August 2012

In April, many of us gathered to give thanks for the life of Ray Davey, the founder of the Corrymeela Community. Ray had a vision of hospitality rooted in his deep understanding of the Gospels and the Corrymeela Centre in Ballycastle, opened in 1965, was to be known as 'the open village, open to all people of good will who are willing to meet each other, to learn from each other and work together for the good of all'.

Romans 12:13 'Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.'

Romans 15: 7 'Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you'

Welcoming one another inevitably means also welcoming other points of view and understanding. Hospitality, as well as providing a safe space for meeting folk we would not normally have an opportunity to meet, gives us an opportunity to share stories; to acknowledge one another's hurts and pain as well as joy; to challenge long-held myths and assumptions. Sitting round a table sharing a meal, talking and listening to 'the stranger', 'the other' or even 'the enemy' is a deeply challenging thing and we might also find that engaging in that journey of learning that hospitality opens up for us will be enriching and even at times joyous.

Contributed by EMBRACE Member, Yvonne Naylor

This month we give thanks for...

- The vision of Ray Davey, and others like him, calling us to be a learning Community

- Places like the Corrymeela Centre, the Open Village that have offered the space for conversations to happen

- Inderjit Bhogal, the new leader of the Corrymeela Community and his vision of the City of Sanctuary

- The gift of hospitality and welcome for us all

- The learning and fresh outlooks that the newcomer/stranger brings to Northern Ireland

Please pray for...

- Increased opportunities for conversation and dialogue between the host community in N.Ireland and the 'newly arrived'

- Growth in understanding as we learn and open up our minds, hearts and possibilities in a truly welcoming place