

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group
November 2014

Building Motorways in an English Jungle

'Twenty litres' said a middle aged man to the cashier at the petrol station. This polite man didn't want to be rude but English wasn't his first language and he was very tense. He was struggling with every bit of communication.

For many newcomers, speaking English is like crossing a jungle. At the beginning almost every word is like a desperate machete hacking at random, to pave the way... to get somewhere... where someone will understand what wants to be said at that moment...

After a few years, it is a bit better, you have beaten your own trails in your private English jungle... but there are still places where you don't want to go... you don't want to be lost.

In comparison, speaking in your mother tongue is like driving a motorway.

Overcoming the language barrier can be a difficult challenge. How can we help our friends and neighbours to build paths in their jungles?

Maybe small conversations, maybe friendly smiles, maybe words of encouragement, maybe not feeling offended by mistakes, and understanding that a lot of work, perseverance and commitment is needed to learn the English language.

This month we give thanks for:

- People, churches and organisations providing English language classes, drop-ins and other places where newcomers can learn the language
- Those from the local community who make an effort to overcome language barriers

We pray for:

- More compassion and understanding
- People who struggle with everyday life because of language barriers

EMBRACE has developed a set of fliers which recount stories of people who've come here and their experience of welcome and settling. One of them is called 'Overcoming language barriers'. Hard copies are available free on request from our office and an electronic version can be accessed here:
<http://www.embraceni.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Hear-My-Voice-2-Web-2.pdf>



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