



## Prayer Letter 9 – October 2021

*And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works, not abandoning our own meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the day drawing near. (Heb. 10:24-25 NET)*

We're grateful at REC to have been meeting together for over 10 months now. As COVID regulations have changed and infection rates have gone up and down, we have managed to be flexible enough to meet.

However, in recent weeks, we have particularly appreciated the increased opportunities for in-person meeting. This has allowed us to get to know each other much better and we feel like a real core planting team is forming. It feels like we can really spur one another on and encourage one another!

We appreciate your support and prayers and I hope that this prayer letter will give you some up-to-date ideas for those prayers.

### 1. Church Family

We are forming our membership, with applications and transfers now in place with the intention of beginning members meetings, agreeing a constitution and in appropriate time starting to have the Lord's Supper together. This process has been good at uniting us and clarifying who is serious about wanting to be with us.

We have been studying Nehemiah together in Growth Group (in-person and on Zoom), which has been encouraging us to think about what renewal might look like in Rochdale. We're finishing a series looking at the Words of Jesus in our Sunday meetings, which have been

challenging us to think about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Next we'll be looking at Luke together in both Growth Group and our Sunday meetings going through Christmas and Easter.

Please give thanks for:

- Increased commitment from a good number.
- The forming of what feels like a committed core team.

Please pray for:

- Us not to be too disappointed at some people who were considering being part of us moving elsewhere.
- Those who are undecided about joining us or who seem less committed.
- Good organisation and progress as we move forward, especially in formalising as a church.
- For unity in purpose and fellowship for our membership.



## 2. Outreach

We have been encouraged to see someone profess faith recently through the personal evangelism of one of our core team. We want to encourage good personal evangelism and so are suggesting people think of three questions with people they know (which were taken from a blog by a minister call Paul Levy):

1. Would you like to come for dinner (or an equivalent for getting to know someone better)?
2. Would you like to come to church?
3. Would you like to read the Bible?

Please give thanks for:

- A new profession of faith.
- A commitment to personal evangelism.

Please pray for:

- Good grounding for people who come to faith as we look together at Luke.
- Our Sunday services to be especially Jesus-focused, as we hope to have unbelievers with us.
- Our core team to be confident in the gospel (Rom. 1:16), given all we have looked at in the last few months and especially confident to look at Luke with people as we study it together.
- For us all to have good opportunities to ask the 3 questions and that we would take those opportunities!
- For God to bring us growth by people coming to faith.

## 4. Supporter Links

We are really grateful to the many people who pray for us and give to support the work, both locally and across the UK.

Please give thanks for:

- A willing prayer network.
- A solid financial position for the moment, because of generous givers.

Please pray for:

- Applications for more grant funding which need to be made in the next couple of months.
- More links with churches. We have a couple at moment, including our sending church Oldham Bethel Church.
- That we would continue to make up the monthly gap between giving and outgoings (which is made up by grants and some large donations at the moment, which will not be long term).
- Christians from outside of Rochdale to come and join the mission. We have had some interest, but have yet to have anyone join us.

Thanks as always for your support!

