

I'm writing to you, my because we're looking for two things: prayers and money. If we only needed money we'd be writing to some of our non-Christian friends too.

Our Story

This is the story – I've been called by Jesus to plant churches up the East coast of England. Hard to believe I know, especially if you know me well. OK so it's a big call and I've never done it before, I have no experience and there's a very real danger I could mess it up. I've never been a particularly Godly man although I've been saved a lot of years now, and I have certainly not been a very humble man. However something's changed in me and I just want to do things His way now and see Him lifted up. It's a genuine change and a genuine calling attested by others. That's why Annette and I need your prayers. We really do. I don't want to fail Him and I feel very frail and I have to confess that messing up comes very naturally to me.

If you're will to give your time in prayer to this work then please email me back so that I can put your name on our prayer list and send you regular updates and prayer needs.

Our first church plant is to be in Withernsea, East Yorkshire, don't worry if you've never heard of it; I wouldn't have started there either, but this is His work – not mine. We started a year ago with nothing more than four of us in a room praying. That's Annette and I, my daughter Melissa and my good friend David Bartle. No church, no members and few other friends in the town (oh, my son Richard also lives there).

I felt drawn to a certain pub, 'The Commercial' on Piggy Lane (you couldn't make it up). I believe it's more than a love of beer that drew me there. We started talking to people (as you do) and then praying with them for their needs. Unsaved people praying with them right there in the pub. Then we started a monthly night study group called first Wednesday. Also in the pub with whoever comes along saved and unsaved. So now I have new friends in Withernsea, genuine friends.

So we wanted to have a shop in Withernsea with the prime purpose of meeting people and praying with them for their needs (same mission as with the pub). We saw a number of premises and each time we found one that we like it was snatched away from us at the last minute. That can be pretty discouraging. Eventually we signed a three year lease on 104 Queen Street and we're in the process of refurbishing it. I managed to scrape together enough money to pay the deposit and the first month's rent. Annette has a charity 'Kingstrust' www.kingstrust.org and so this will be the charity's shop. Our friend and overseer in this mission is John Beynon of King's Church Beverley (AOG). He also has 'inherited' a charity from his Godly parents: 'Jacob's well' Beverley <http://jacobswellappeal.org/>. So the shop will raise money for both charities and we can rotate stock between the Beverley and Withernsea shops. God is good. We have Annette and Dave as staff and we're asking for volunteers to help them.

Finally, the third prong of the attack: we're planning to have monthly church 'pre services' from June, and if I heard God right, we'll be launching a brand new Church in Withernsea in September 2014. God has told me to call it 'Gateway'. It's to be both a way in to His Kingdom and a place of safety. That'll mean shutting the gate to some stuff and opening it to others.

Money

For the shop experience I did a business plan based on another property that we didn't get and based on the historical performance of Jacob's well in Beverley. It certainly possible for the Withernsea charity shop to pay its way and we're not looking to get rich. I'm now looking in detail at the set-up costs and attach a spreadsheet (if you want to see the business plan spreadsheet let me know and I'll email it to you). The initial costs are more than we can afford. They're about £4,300.

We've put in the first £700 to secure the lease and my company RadioCAD will be persuaded to stump up another £1,000. That leaves the remaining £2,600 to find and quickly. It may be that we can get away with slightly less if we can start trading soon and stagger the initial payments, but I don't know how much early takings will amount to, we'll just have to see.

Kingstrust isn't a registered charity yet although the application process has started. That means we can't get gift aid. The registration process will take about three months. However I'm glad to say that Kingstrust does now have a bank account, so it can receive payments directly.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation, and ask God how much.

Kingstrust Network HSBC Jameson St, Hull 40-25-49 10214019

If you're a UK tax payer we can reclaim gift aid on your gift. In this case please make your donation to Jacob's Well Appeal and complete a gift aid declaration. You'll need to contact them and make it known that your donation is for the Withernsea shop. <http://jacobswellappeal.org/donate/>

[Tim's note : thanks to you guys we raised a staggering £7,000]