



news

Our role is to provide:

a central point of contact for people to explore Christian faith

- on behalf of all the major churches and mission agencies
- responding individually, in confidence and free of charge.

People contact us

via our websites, freepost, email and text message - having seen or heard about us on:

websites	postcards
booklets	posters
newspapers	leaflets
DVDs	radio

Our response

We send materials and offer help and ideas for the next steps:

- questions answered
- further reading, viewing and websites
- prayer and telephone helplines
- a local Christian contact and details of local churches

in partnership with local churches, denominations, mission agencies and others.

Success!

More than 47,000 people have contacted the Christian Enquiry Agency so far, and tens of thousands visit our websites.

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SOUTH CROYDON, CR2 8UZ

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Registered Charity No. 297393

An Agency of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

New future for CEA: exciting partnership in grass-roots evangelism



Robert Freeman:
“The need for people to discover and welcome Christ has never been greater.”

CHRISTIAN ENQUIRY AGENCY has joined forces with a major evangelistic organisation to create a new partnership to help many more people discover the Christian faith and a new life in Jesus Christ.

Thousands of people visited CEA's hopeinfo.co.uk website which played a significant role in the Hope 08 year of mission for churches across the UK. Building on this success, the Agency has undertaken a Strategic Review encompassing its organisation, finance, use of internet and literature, breadth of support and its unique role as the one-stop portal focused on enquiries from those beyond the fringes of church.

“The need for people to discover and welcome Christ has never been greater. CEA has exciting plans for evangelising the ordinary people of our country and has sought a partnership to ensure it is strengthened for the future and has the resources it needs,” said The Venerable Robert Freeman, Christian Enquiry Agency Chairman.

To take the work forward, the agency is

partnering with Church Army – a mission organisation in the forefront of evangelism working mainly with churches and organisations to help people on their journey of faith.

“Church Army brings significant experience, insight and resources in the area of evangelism among those beyond church. It is also a large national organisation with a commitment to serving the church,” said Robert.

Much of what Church Army does is grass roots. Over 300 evangelists work in the UK and Ireland, predominantly with those who have little or no meaningful relationship with church, demonstrating God's love through words and action. Another 100 staff work in homeless hostels and the central support structure.

“Church Army is passionate about communicating the gospel to the 7 out of 10 people who would never walk into a church. We are looking forward to working in partnership with CEA, so together we can help people engage with the Christian faith in relevant and exciting ways,” said Mark Russell, Chief Executive Officer Church Army.

“CEA is needed now more than at any time in recent history”

The Ven. Robert Freeman, CEA Chairman, and Des Scott, Church Army Director of Organisational Development, reflect on the challenges and the way forward for the new partnership between Christian Enquiry Agency and Church Army.



Robert Freeman (far left) and Des Scott.

Why is CEA needed now and in the future?

Robert: Few people have contact with church and even fewer have any grasp of the gospel. Christianity is increasingly marginalised in society and there are 1001 voices offering different help and answers to life. CEA is probably needed now more than at any time in recent history. The Good News of Jesus Christ is the only true source of life, forgiveness and hope for individuals and our world, and is desperately needed. CEA offers an accessible and anonymous way to explore Christian faith for people who just want to find out a bit more or are searching for answers to some of life's issues.

Why can't CEA continue as it was?

Robert: Like many small-but-passionate organisations CEA has in recent years struggled to generate the level of income needed to run and develop as a charity, support projects and take initiatives. We have been enormously blessed by the generosity of individuals, denominations and some grant-making bodies. But that has not produced sufficient income to sustain the work.

How will the partnership work?

Des: The CEA Council and Trustees will continue to lead the Agency and ensure its broad denominational basis is protected and maintained. A part time co-ordinator will be employed by CEA and managed by Church Army, who will offer technical expertise, creativity, communications and writing skills. We also want to be a catalyst and driver to spur on the help and support needed from

the denominations and other organisations. Church Army will work with the Enquiry Office team at Deo Gloria Trust in South Croydon to develop the response mechanisms in line with the ongoing developments.

What are the priorities?

Des: To develop the ways we communicate with those asking questions. With increased use of the internet it is vital we take advantage of this opportunity. Many people are already visiting www.christianity.org.uk looking for information about Christianity rather than CEA. Therefore the web site will be completely redesigned so it is a place for people who want to explore Christian life and faith. The literature that is used will be reviewed to ensure this relates more specifically to the questions people are asking and the issues in their life. We live in a fast changing world and CEA needs to be more flexible, responsive and at the cutting edge – responding to current issues and topics in a way that helps people explore Christian faith.

How can supporters help?

Robert: Many people are already generous but we continue to need prayer and finance to enable the partnership to be effective in helping many more people come to faith in Jesus Christ. Prayer requests are emailed weekly and to receive these contact cea@christianity.org.uk. Individual donations and charitable grants are vital - over £20,000 a year is needed to employ the new co-ordinator and at least a further £20,000 a year to develop the web site and support various national evangelistic projects.

CEA's core values restated

Christian Enquiry Agency's recent Strategic Review included a restatement of what it seeks to do on behalf of the churches. Here are the Agency's four core values:

1. CEA exists to provide a central information and enquiry point for those wanting to learn/discover more about Christianity and its impact on life and faith. The target audience is those beyond the fringes of the churches.
2. CEA seeks to respond to enquirers in a personal and sensitive way that reflects the nature of the enquiry and the enquirer, and uses all appropriate and helpful methods of communication (including personal contact by Christians who have been validated for this purpose).
3. CEA's definition of 'evangelism' is broadly defined and characterised by 'helping people take steps of faith' as well as by making an actual commitment to be a disciple of Christ.
4. CEA's responses to enquirers reflect a conventional Christian theological understanding and not a narrow theological or denominational position.

Gareth Squire moves on



Gareth Squire has left Christian Enquiry Agency and is now working with Action Planning, a fundraising and management consultancy to charities and the not-

for-profit sector. Based in Surrey, the company works internationally to help organisations raise capital and revenue funding, recruit key people and plan ahead.

Revd Roger Whitehead, CEA Hon. Secretary said, "We are sorry to lose Gareth as director of CEA. He had a clear vision for the work and was tireless and enthusiastic in implementing it. Kate Yates has also left the Agency. Her friendly attitude to enquirers and her knowledge and skills in the office made her a valued colleague. We wish both Gareth and Kate well as they continue their careers in new positions." Kate works for SignHealth, the national healthcare charity for deaf people.

Film reveals Hope in the face of tragic loss



A film about Jimmy Mizen's murder was one of ten that CEA commissioned to provoke viewers to respond to hope in its many aspects.

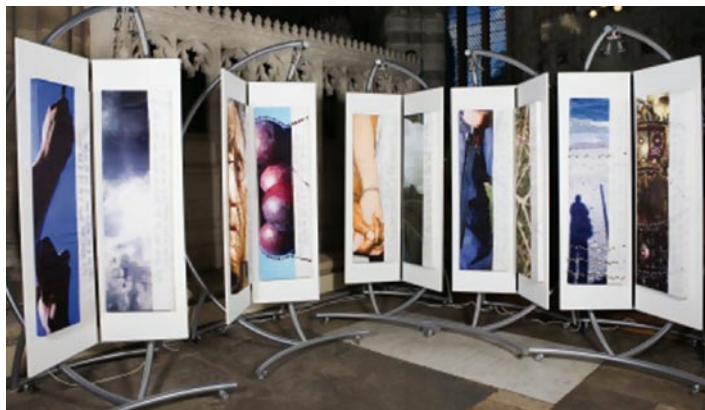
JIMMY MIZEN was killed senselessly in an unprovoked attack in South East London on the day after his 16th birthday in May 2008. His family's struggles in the months that followed and their profound insights from the tragic story of Jimmy's death are featured in 'Gift of Hope' – a short film on www.hopeinfo.co.uk. His parents, Barry

and Margaret Mizen, talk openly about trying to come to terms with their loss and the film explores the link between faith and hope, showing that hope can prevail even when such desperate tragedy strikes. Many who've viewed the film have found it moving and thought-provoking judging by comments like these left online. "Am really

encouraged and strengthened by this 'abnormal faith' that this couple have." "Absolutely amazing. They have such great faith and hope." Margaret Mizen ends the film with these words: "If you don't have a faith then get one, because it is the only thing that keeps you going."

The film was commissioned by Christian Enquiry Agency and Church Army as part of their commitment to the national Hope initiative. Around 1000 people have contacted Christian Enquiry Agency so far as a result of visiting www.hopeinfo.co.uk.

Hundreds enquire through cathedral exhibitions



Ten screens exploring the theme of the Beatitudes.

THE SPLENDID cathedrals that are such significant places of beauty and inspiration in the heart of our cities are major tourist attractions. People come for the art, architecture, the sense of history or as a refuge and simply a quiet place. Now some are contacting Christian Enquiry Agency to find out about the Christian faith thanks to a series of specially created exhibitions for cathedrals. Over 800 visitors have so far

completed CEA response cards. "What a tremendous opportunity we have to tell people not just about the cathedral but about Jesus as their personal Saviour," said Eric Thompson, director of the Deo Gloria Trust which commissioned the exhibitions.

Based on the Bible, each of the exhibitions feature creative use of textiles by Jacqui Frost alongside poems by Paul Field on different themes – Creation, Angels, Beatitudes,

The Journey, Prayer, River of Life, I Am's, Good Grief and, just commissioned, *Rites of Passage*. There are Christian Enquiry Agency freepost response cards for visitors to take. A cathedral guide said, "The three displays we have seen this year have been both beautiful and thought provoking. I sometimes work with first year secondary school children. Your work has been a great help in explaining various concepts to them."

Prayer and Creation banners, which are exact copies of the originals in the exhibitions, can be hired by individual churches in addition to the exhibitions available to cathedrals. See www.cathedralexhibition.org.uk or telephone Deo Gloria Trust on 020 8651 6246.

Feedback

The Agency is continually sending materials to enquirers. Here are some comments received in response.

"great news"

S spent a lifetime on drugs but picked up an *Under Pressure* response card, requested the *Little Book of Help* and then asked for a local Christian contact who has given us great news: "S started to attend church and a fortnight ago gave her life to Christ. She is taking part in our discipleship course."

"being there"

M visited hopeinfo.co.uk and asked for the *Heavenly Recipes for Hope* book. She emailed: "This was a major part in me becoming a Christian. Thank you for being there . . . providing information and inspiration in times of need and hopelessness."

"right path for me"

C, a prisoner, contacted CEA for the *More to Life* magazine and then said: "Very inspiring and made me think this is the right path for me and to let go of my past."

"faith is growing"

Y, who has a Hindu background, requested a copy of the *No Ordinary Man* booklet and then told us: "This book has opened my understanding more about Scripture. My faith is growing more and more."

"helpful conversations"

A hospice chaplain used the *Angelic Realm* cards with some patients and told us: "Using the cards quickly led into some very helpful conversations. They are certainly a useful way in to talking about matters of faith."

Contact with a local Christian is arranged mainly through Contact for Christ and also the Catholic Enquiry Office and Prison Fellowship.

I/we want to help Christian Enquiry Agency communicate the Christian faith imaginatively.

The work of the Agency is dependent on grants and donations.

Registered Charity No. 297393.

New look for *Challenge* evangelistic newspaper

MILLIONS OF COPIES of *Challenge* have been distributed by individual Christians, churches and mission organisations. Now the monthly evangelistic newspaper gets a new contemporary design to increase its appeal to non-Christian readers today. For over 50 years the paper has sought to pass on the good news of the gospel through reports of what God is doing in the lives of people and their communities.

Personal faith stories remain at

the heart of the paper plus articles on family life and parenting, relationships, debt, questions about faith and seasonal features.

Christian Enquiry Agency provides an opportunity for *Challenge* readers to find out more about Jesus Christ. Many use the response coupon in each issue to send for a free booklet, or visit CEA websites.

The publishers hope the new look will encourage more Christians to use *Challenge* for

regular distribution or as a 'one off' before an evangelistic course or seasonal event. "We try to point people to Jesus," said *Challenge* editor Debbie Bunn, "and liken the paper to seeds - seeds of faith that once sown may take root and grow, nurtured and tended by the local church."

To find out more about *Challenge*, contact the publisher – email ChrisPowell@veritecm.com or see www.challengenewline.com



The first issue of *Challenge* back in 1958.



The September 2009 edition with its new contemporary look, for churches to use in outreach.

Here is my gift

£

I want the government to add to my gift!

Yes – I pay tax in the UK on my income/pension or capital gains at least equal to the tax reclaimed on this gift and want you to claim back the tax on this gift, on all donations I have made in the past and on all future gifts.

made payable to Christian Enquiry Agency.

Signature

Date

I/we wish to give regularly, please send details

CEA would like to keep you informed about our work but if you do not wish us to do so, please tick here.

Your information will not be passed to any third party.

Send to:
Christian Enquiry Agency,
Freeport WC2947,
South Croydon, CR2 8UZ

Name and address PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Name:

Street:

Town:

Country:

Email:

Postcode:

(if happy to be contacted by email)

Christian Enquiry Agency
Please pray for us and for all those who contact us, and for the financial support we need to serve them.

Chairman: The Ven Robert Freeman
Vice Chair: Clare Ward
Hon. Secretary: Revd Roger Whitehead

Patrons:
Lord Alton of Liverpool
The Rt Revd Dr Tom Butler
Revd Baroness Richardson OBE