



Transforming our World

For Immediate Release

Mission-Net is relevant

A Mission-Net Outreach Team crossed cultural barriers in a bid to learn more about God's heart for the nations this summer. As part of a mission and discipleship week, 14 people gathered in a predominantly Pakistani community in northern England to learn about cross-cultural mission. The week included cultural and Biblical training, climaxing with a family fun day in partnership with the local children's club.

"The mission week was a fantastic opportunity for people to develop their understanding of God's heart for the nations," reports James Price, Co-ordinator of Mission-Net Outreaches and European Mission Mobiliser of World Outreach International. "You don't have to go overseas to reach the nations - the ends of the earth are here in Europe, living on our doorsteps."

The week gave hands-on practical experience in building cross-cultural relationships. "Its helpful learning about different cultures, why (foreigners) might be here and what issues we need to be aware of when sharing our faith," responded Nathaniel, a British participant. "It has been a really useful experience, learning lessons for life."

Paradigm shift in missions

Of the five outreaches advertised on the Mission-Net website, however, only one took place. Responses were very low. "Europe is a post-Christian pluralistic society," observes Price. "Whilst traditional mission outreaches are still a great discipleship tool, the focus needs to be more on 'everyday mission', encouraging and equipping participants to live a missional lifestyle 365 days a year (transforming our world).

"By recognising and accepting that our story no longer shapes society at large, the church (and mission organisations) should adapt its approach in every day mission. Living in a post-Christian society means that we are pilgrims in a culture where we no longer feel at home, although we have a great hope that we are called to share. In Christian community we need to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Gospel. Pray for, love and serve one another and your community. We need to re-discover our missionary context, getting to know our local community. Who lives there? What are their stories, values and culture,



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needs? With this as our starting point, we will be able to witness our message of hope in Christ and its implications.”

And yet, continues Price, spending time in another culture can be equally challenging and rewarding. Stepping out of our comfort zones allows God to stretch us and enlarge our vision for the nations. Mission-Net is not about creating an institution, but rather about creating a *movement* of young people who influence the world they live in by living out the good news of Jesus. For more information, check out: www.mission-net.org

James Price works with World Outreach International, encouraging individuals and churches to get involved in cross-cultural mission. He lives in central London with his wife Joanna, where they are part of a missional community.

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Please feel free to contact us for photos, marketing materials etc.

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