

# NEWSLETTER Number 8

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James

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*The Clean Slate Campaign is a very good idea — personally I am not waiting for the year 2000 — cleaning my own slate is a daily ongoing matter which I take seriously and try to carry out the cleaning with the help of the Lord "maker of heaven and earth" (Ps 121:2).*

*James James OBE.*

*23/9/99.*

Only about 90 days left to the new millennium! Our simple campaign continues to gather momentum around the country, and we need all your help to make the most of the remaining weeks to get the message out to as many people as possible. Christopher Morgan, our media co-ordinator is working flat out to reach the national media. All kinds of networks are whirring.... Let's not miss this once-in-a-thousand years opportunity to claim a fresh start in all our lives.

*Edward Peters, Campaign Chairman*

## CLEAN SLATE STORIES

Years ago we were involved with a local children's home, and kept in contact with several who had grown up there. Recently two of them kept coming into my mind. Both had made it clear that they didn't want contact, one had been in prison and another had abandoned her children and had opted out. But these broken relationships were nagging at us, so we made two phone calls. When we phoned the young woman she was very low and uncertain for the future - and was so pleased to hear us, as she had not felt able to make the first move. We are now in contact again. When we phoned the young man, he knew exactly who was calling. Our number was keyed into his mobile phone, even though we had not spoken for over six years. The barriers between us were broken, the slate wiped clean, a new beginning. (Anonymous, Hertfordshire)

I have decided that I am not going to feel guilty any more about my actions and behaviour from the ages of 19 to 27. These years included my college years when I behaved promiscuously and hurt my friends very badly. I thought only about myself and lost contact with God. I am putting the guilt of those youthful years behind me in the knowledge that if God can forgive all I've done then I can wipe my slate clean. (Anon, Oxfordshire)

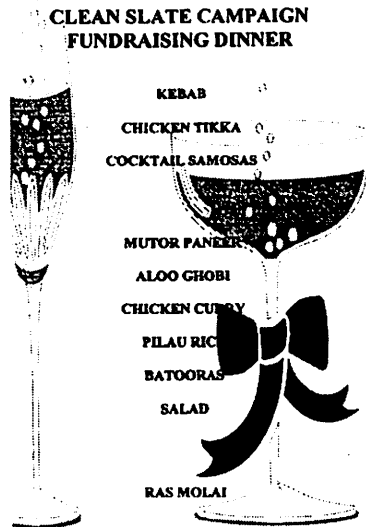
When I read about the Clean Slate Campaign I immediately thought of a painful time I had lived through 30 years ago and of how fearful I had been of certain people since then, fearing rejection, criticism and more pain. As the weeks went by, it was as if God was fitting together pieces of a broken jigsaw puzzle in my life. He gave me practical steps to take: attend a service in the church where I had had a very real experience of Jesus 23 years ago; write a letter apologising for resentment held; talk to someone I feared rebuff from. Piece by piece I feel God freeing me from the controlling grip of fear. (Anon, South Africa)

**The Rt Hon David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, writes: "My commendation for your excellent initiative." He has put the Schools Division in touch with us to see how to make the CSC known more widely in schools.**

## NEWS FROM AROUND BRITAIN

### NEWCASTLE

Hari Shukla hosted a magnificent fund-raising dinner (menu to the right, to whet your appetite!) in Newcastle on Sept 19th, attended by 72 people. Sir Stanley Bailey, former Chief Constable of Northumbria spoke, and Chris Evans and Edward Peters. £1,100 was raised. We are grateful to Hari for his hard work.



### SCOTLAND

There has been a most encouraging response from the education authorities in Scotland. Nearly half of the 30 written to, at the suggestion of the Glasgow Education Director, have requested copies of the new leaflet for dissemination to all the schools in their area – and several are also sending the primary school resource.

### LIVERPOOL

On September 11th, the Chairman of the Liverpool District of the Methodist Church, Dr. John Taylor invited Gerald Henderson to speak to the Synod about the CSC. "A simple idea that anyone can use," Dr. Taylor commented afterwards from the platform. All 200 delegates received the CS Guide in their documents for the day. Several Synod members asked for extra copies of the Guide at the end. Other comments afterwards: "This fits in perfectly with my sermon tomorrow"; "I want to use this with my youth group"; "May I have a bulk supply for the Christian Aid Office in Liverpool?"; "The primary school study notes are just what I need for my school where I teach"; and "I think I am going to have to give back the books that I have borrowed!"

The Autumn edition of 'Mouth Peace', the magazine of the Shrewsbury and Liverpool Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Church, has publicised the CSC opposite an editorial in which they draw attention to it.

### OXFORD

On October 5th, the Lord Mayor of Oxford is launching to the city the idea of a 'Clean Slate Week' which also has the backing of the City Council and local MPs. It is hoped that this week, which will be from November 29 to December 5,

will not only make the Clean Slate idea known to all citizens of Oxford, but also contain some practical clean slate action in the community.

### NOTTINGHAM

The Clean Slate Campaign was introduced to a September Interfaith meeting hosted in the Nottingham Council House by Lord Mayor Dennis Jones. It will be further discussed (18 October) alongside other proposals by a group planning to celebrate the millennium through a "Time to Talk" programme. (Richard & Meili Hawthorne)

### INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVES

"I expect soon to meet up with local councillors regarding the litter campaign in Wrexham, which arose out of my promise – to do something instead of moaning." (Paddy Imeson)

"I wrote out a personal letter to 58 neighbours in our street in semi-calligraphic hand, then photocopied and paper-clipped them to a CS Guide, addressing it 'Dear Neighbour'. Two people immediately spoke to me in the street about it. Another wrote: 'The message of the Guide echoes my own feelings.... Individuals shedding some part of their old selves and being renewed into the new era is a far more compelling way to celebrate than merely short term festivities. I have asked for more copies to pass to others.'" (Dick Channer, London)

"During my last week as Coroner, before retiring in August, the realisation hit me forcefully that that week should be a farewell to my professional friends, many of whom I had met at conferences. I had many copies of the CS Guide to hand... Approximately 15 replies came back." (Dick Murray, Merseyside)

### FINANCE

A number of generous gifts – including the proceeds of the Newcastle dinner – enable us to cover projected expenditure until the end of October. We need an estimated £6-7,000 to see us through to the end of the year.

#### T SHIRTS

We have produced 100 T shirts with the CSC logo on the left breast, and the phrase 'It's never too late to clean your slate' on the right arm. Sizes available are medium, large and X-large, and the cost is £6 each (or 5 for £25) plus postage of £1.

#### C.S. MILLENNIUM/CHRISTMAS CARD

Bayfield Associates are generously funding the design of a special card which you may like to send out at Christmas. More details soon.