

Information for people who use the Damaris Prayer Diary

Dear praying friends,

We thought it might be useful to provide you with a summary of some of the different projects at Damaris, and who the people are who run them. The summaries below (arranged within our three departments, Damaris Schools, Damaris Church and Damaris Media) provide more details than I'm able to fit in the limited space of the prayer diary each month.

Thank you so much for all your prayers – we really appreciate your support in this way. We believe that prayer should underpin everything we do here at Damaris, and it is a tremendous encouragement to know that so many people are praying for us.

Yours truly,

Steve Alexander
Damaris Prayer Diary compiler

Damaris office team

Nick Pollard is the co-founder of Damaris, with his wife Carol. He is the CEO of Damaris, and is responsible for the development of Damaris internationally, promotion of the Trust and the development of new projects – as well as presenting school conferences, writing books and doing speaking engagements.

Carol Pollard is the Executive Director and is responsible for the Damaris finances, human resources and overseeing all our established projects. She and Nick have two children, Luke (18) and Lizzie (14).

Steve Alexander is a managing administrator whose roles include administrating school conferences, acting as Nick's PA and writing the prayer diary. He recently married Bethea (in March 2006).

Kate Laver is an administrator with Damaris whose responsibilities include managing website subscriptions and customer care as well as administration for the *Global Student Forum*. She is married to David.

Fiona Hutchings is a part-time book-keeper with Damaris. She is married to Pete and they have two children, Penny (14) and Robin (11).

Tony Watkins is Managing Editor of *CultureWatch* and a Damaris writer and speaker. He is married to Jane and they have three boys, Charlie (9), Oliver (6) and Pip (4).

Steve Couch is Managing Editor of Damaris' online resources for Secondary Schools – *RE Lessons Online* and *Assemblies Online* – as well as Managing Editor of *Damaris Books*. He and his wife Ann have two sons, Peter (3) and Daniel (born November 2006).

Fiona Stewart is Managing Editor of *Assemblies Online* for Primary Schools and works on media development, which involves doing research for *Tools For Talks* and creating and editing video and audio material. She is trained as an actor.

Peter Williams is our resident philosopher. He provides new content for *The Quest* each month, presents school conferences with Nick, does speaking engagements and writes articles and books.

Katie Coles is Content Editor of *Tools For Talks* and also Partnership Development Administrator for Damaris, which means she works on forging links with other organisations and bringing Damaris resources to a wider audience. In March 2006 she married Dave.

Jamie Young works with us one day a week developing the *Worldview Survey*; the rest of the time he works as a development engineer for an engineering company.

Vicky Thompson is our office volunteer who faithfully mails out our prayer diary every month. She is married to John and has two grown-up daughters.

Damaris Schools projects

Damaris School Conferences are lively and interactive sixth-form conferences which use clips from the latest films to help students explore spiritual and philosophical issues such as the purpose of life.

The President for a Day Experience is a school conference for sixth formers or GCSE students which is based on our **President for a Day** computer game. It enables students to act as president of a fictional African country and learn about the ethical, political and economic challenges of running a country. We have a team of people across England and Wales who present the conference in schools near them.

The **Global Student Forum** exists to enable school students, of all faiths and none, to think carefully about the spiritual and moral issues underlying global citizenship, and to help others to do the same. The central event of the GSF is the national sixth form conference held annually – we're currently planning the third annual conference in Westminster, and the first conference for Scotland was held in Glasgow in November 2006.

RE Lessons Online is a subscription website which provides lesson plans for RE teachers in secondary schools, using the latest films, TV and music to help students learn about the Bible and Christian beliefs. A primary school version of the site is planned for launch in 2007.

Assemblies Online is another subscription website which provides assemblies linking the latest films, music and TV to Biblical stories. There are actually two websites – one for primary schools and one for secondary schools.

Damaris Church projects

Tools For Talks is a subscription website which enables Christian speakers to teach the message of the Bible in the language of contemporary popular culture. It provides a set of interlinked tools that help speakers select and understand a Bible passage to speak on and then illustrate their talk with quotes and clips from contemporary films, TV and music.

Damaris Partnerships is a newly-launched project which enables churches and charities to partner with Damaris – we provide them with our resources while they help us to let more people know about the work of Damaris.

Damaris Books are a wide range of books published by Damaris (through Authentic Media) for readers of all faiths and none. They include Nick Pollard's popular book *Teenagers: Why Do They Do That?* and the latest entry in our Thinking Fan's Guide series: *Back In Time: A Thinking Fan's Guide to Doctor Who*.

The Quest is a CD-rom which acts as an interactive oracle on your computer that provides video, audio and written answers to the big questions of life.

Damaris Speakers speak about faith and contemporary popular culture in a variety of settings, from preaching at churches and speaking at Christian conferences to appearing on television programmes.

Damaris Media projects

CultureWatch is a website (www.culturewatch.org) containing hundreds of free articles and study guides about films, music, books and television. Its aim is to help people of all faiths and none to understand developments in our culture from a Christian perspective.

The **Worldview Survey** is a new website that encourages people to discover and develop their own worldview and provoke discussion on related matters with their friends.

More information about all our projects can be found on our website www.damaris.org