



Guidelines for the Week of Prayer commencing Monday 11 January 2021

Since planning to hold this week of prayer there has been a dramatic increase in the spread of Covid19 and the emergence of new variants of the virus resulting in stricter lockdowns measures being introduced. Although the introduction of new vaccines brings some measure of hope the deteriorating situation is a cause of great concern and disappointment to us all. In addition to this we are witnessing unprecedented scenes of political unrest and tension in previously stable democratic societies while here in the UK and ROI we are facing the uncertainties arising from Brexit. This all serves to remind us of the fragility and desperate darkness of society around us.

As Christian people we rejoice in the knowledge that God is in complete control and we can confidently trust in Him to fulfil all His purposes for us. However, he doesn't expect us to sit back complacently and simply wait for the crisis to pass. He has told us that we are to 'Call on Him, and he will answer us'. Indeed, we are told in Ezekiel 22 :30 that He is looking for 'someone to stand in the gap before Him for the land'. We are also reminded from 2 Chronicles 7:14 'If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their Land'.

Without doubt the pandemic has created a very serious crisis which we disregard or take lightly at our peril. However, the spiritual need of our land and indeed of our own lives should be of equal if not greater concern to us. Perhaps, never in living history has there been such a desperate need for a deep and lasting move of God. As members of a missionary organisation, we are also increasingly conscious that our greatest need is that of a visitation and quickening by the Spirit of God.

We thank you in anticipation for joining with us as we take time throughout this week to earnestly seek God in prayer. The guidelines listed below are aimed at giving some direction in prayer but are not intended to be exhaustive or rigidly adhered to. It is good to remain open to be led by the Holy Spirit as He burdens our hearts.

You may wish to set aside a day during the week to fast as well as pray. We know that for some fasting from food is not always practical or medically advisable. However, one of the main purposes of fasting is to give uninterrupted time to prayer, therefore fasting from other time-consuming daily activities or distractions would be beneficial.

Sadly, it will not be possible to meet together in groups but please take time to pray with us in your home. Please be assured that we greatly appreciate your fellowship and support in this way.

John Townend
General Director

Monday 11 January

Pray for genuine humility, sense of need and brokenness to come upon us as members of the Mission, Bible College students, employees, volunteers and supporters (Ps. 51)

- Pray for personal revival to take place in our hearts and lives
- Pray for true brokenness among God's people and a turning again to the Lord
- Pray for a deep cleansing and purifying of the people of God
- Pray for unity and oneness of purpose throughout the membership and ministry of the Mission
- Pray for the unity of the church and the restoring of genuine fellowship among believers

Pray particularly for the staff and students at the Bible College as the College reopens for online studies today. Pray that it will soon be possible for the students to return to College and for normal college life to resume. It is not too early to pray that the Lord will direct others to apply for the College Course commencing in September.

Tuesday 12 January

Pray for a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit's anointing and enabling power on the members and ministries of the Mission (1 Thess 1:5)

- Pray that we may share the Gospel boldly with conviction, sensitivity and authority
- Pray for God's quickening touch upon all the Mission's members, employees, student's, volunteers and supporters
- Pray that our ministry may be marked by the anointing of God and not merely the ability of man
- Pray that we may be strengthened to serve Him consistently and competently
- Pray for fresh impetus (zeal) and initiative as we share the Gospel in a godless society
- Ask for forgiveness for our lack of compassion and burden for the lost
- Pray for a renewed zeal and passion to share the Gospel with neighbours, family, strangers etc
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for Mission workers, employees, students, and volunteers and for our nation's pastors and preachers etc. as they 'navigate' through these challenging days and seek opportunities to minister the Gospel

Pray for the frontline Mission personnel, Directors, District Superintendents and Area Workers as they endeavour to find effective ways within the current restrictions of communicating the gospel and encouraging God's people. The fields are white unto harvest pray that the Lord of the harvest will call others to join us in the work

Wednesday 13 January

Pray that God would turn the hearts of men and women in repentance to Him (Acts 3:11-26)

- Praise God for what He has been doing in these days and those who have heard the Gospel (online or in-person)
- Pray that the seed sown will bear much fruit and lasting fruit
- Pray for those whose hearts are hard and seem indifferent to the Gospel that the walls of opposition would come down
- Pray for salvation blessing to come to many hearts and homes that the 'nets would be full'

Pray for our Prayer Union members and supporters. We deeply appreciate the faithful commitment of each one who stands with us in prayer, this is the powerhouse of all our ministry. Pray that it will soon be possible for each of these prayer groups to meet together again

Thursday 14 January

Pray for God's bountiful provision for the needs of the work (2 Cor 9:6-15)

- Praise God for meeting each need over these challenging days and for those who have faithfully stood with us in the work
- Pray for the ongoing financial needs of the Mission (Headquarters, Centres, Districts, Bookshops Personnel etc.) These are financially challenging times for all, pray that God would graciously supply what is needed to enable the work to continue
- Pray that our Bookshops, Cafes and Centres may soon be able to fully function again as a beacon in a dark world and a place where people young and old will meet with the Lord
- Pray that in everything we would be wise stewards of what God gives to us to use for His glory and the extension of His Kingdom

Pray for the Mission's Treasurer, Finance Manager and Accounts Managers as they oversee the Mission's finances during these challenging days.

Friday 15 January

Pray to Almighty God for a merciful intervention to 'stem the tide' of this virus; (Isa. 63:7-9)

- Praise God that He is sovereign over the affairs of the world
- Praise Him for the vaccines and treatments which have been developed and pray that they would be effective in bringing this pandemic under control
- Pray that by His mighty power He would be pleased to suppress this pandemic swiftly
- Pray that as a nation (Government, leaders etc.) and as individuals we would humble ourselves and acknowledge that it is God we truly need

Pray for the members of the Faith Mission Board of Trustees and its Sub-Councils. Pray they may be given all the wisdom needed to effectively oversee the Mission at this present time and for direction to be given as plans are made for the future.

Saturday 16 January

Pray for those who are suffering and have experienced great loss (Ps. 42)

- Praise God for those who are caring for the sick, lonely etc. and for the medical teams who treat them
- Pray that God would grant recovery and good health to those who suffer
- Pray for those enduring increased anxiety and mental health issues as a result of the virus. Pray for a 'lifting of their heads' and restoring of their minds
- Pray for those who have lost loved ones and been separated from family over many months
- Pray for families and even marriages that are broken and need restoration and revival

Please uphold the bookshop and café staff today. All the shops and cafes are currently closed due to lockdown measures and the majority of staff are furloughed. Pray they may be kept in peace during these anxious days.

Sunday 17 January

Pray for a mighty, genuine move of God in Revival to sweep across our land (Ps. 85)

- Pray that we would firstly offer ourselves unreservedly to God as living sacrifices, wholly committed to His will
- Pray that as believers and churches we would see the tremendous need for a personal and corporate awakening today
- Pray that God's people would seek the Lord for a fresh outpouring of His Spirit in their hearts, homes and across our land
- Pray that above all we would see the glory of God revealed, the kingdom of darkness pushed back and the cause of Christ advance

Pray for our Camp and Conference Centre Managers. Pray that it may soon be possible for these venues to open for ministry again. We thank God for the value of the Virtual Camps conducted last summer, pray for wisdom as plans are made concerning all our children's and youth work for the year ahead.