

## 24-7 PRAYER WEEK – Thursday pm & Friday

- This has come in from someone within World Horizons today:

I would like to ask for your urgent prayers for Niger today. There have been protests in Niamey, with shops cars etc set on fire - angry at the government measures against the virus, notably the ban on meeting in groups of over 50 and the curfew which affects all those used to working at night. Ramadan starts today when people usually gather in large numbers at mosques. There have been warnings of further attacks and riots, though all such behaviour has been heartily condemned by top Muslim leaders. A church was attacked last week, and our team members fear for the school now. Please pray for peace and calm and that the young people, who seem to be at the root of the protests, respect those in authority and stay home.

- 1 Peter 1 v 7 " ... so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Linked with 1 Peter 4 v12,13 " Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed."

The Word teaches us that there will be times of testing, such as this, when the genuineness of our faith is revealed, as our protective layers are burnt off revealing what the Lord sees of us. May we go forward knowing through the Holy Spirit that we will be stronger in Him for this. - KEN

- I wanted to share with you my pray hour from today. "Wow" is the only way to describe it. My hands went hot over my Bible as I asked for the Holy Spirit to be with me and help me. There was a lot of noise outside - people talking, sounds of building work, and even the seagulls seemed loud, and my mind kept wandering. I said, 'Dear Lord, sorry for the distraction' and I asked for peace, at least for this hour. Then all became quiet, as though I was in a bubble of silence - amazing feeling. Through my prayers I knew I was being listened to. I was given the baton from one hand to keep the chain of prayer and pass it on (Hazel was praying too in her way). I felt lost in a good way of rejoicing, asking and saying 'yes', being grateful for the wonderful experience. One thing I knew I had to share and ask for people to pray for is the hunger, suffering, pain and fear that is happening right now in these poor countries. Coronavirus is leaving a wake of devastation in more ways than one.

I had put my phone on mute etc and all of a sudden, a picture from a friend came up on WhatsApp. I simply left it. After my special time with God, I acknowledge the message from friend and it was, in fact, exactly an hour from when I asked God for quiet! Well, miracles happen, and prayers are listened to and I know will be answered 🙏 God Bless JACKIE (J)

- Booking my prayer slot at 2am seemed like a good idea at the time, due to being semi-nocturnal in the midst of my night shifts. Alarm went off at 1.45am and I was far from awake and in 'the zone'. Who would even know if I was awake and praying or not? 'I will', a gentle whisper in my ear - a thought or my conscience? Enough to drag myself up to go down to the kitchen to prepare for my hour of praying. Cup of tea in hand, headphones with worship music on, a check through the Friday Prayer guide: Global issues, BMS, the churches we support through mission, missionaries abroad. Albania and Moldova were easy to visualise, as I've had the privilege to visit both. Then opened a newsletter from a couple of BMS missionaries who are surgeons based in Chad. Having never met them before or even heard of them, I was drawn into their story as if I was experiencing it myself. I felt their empathy and compassion which ended with one of them donating his own blood to save his patients life! Suddenly, all my own worries and uncertainties in my current role, working in my usual workplace in our local ICU disappeared as I was shown a different perspective. I felt that God was showing me that what we are doing now is a preparation for what is yet to come. The connection with our brothers and sisters as one body in Christ goes way beyond our local community and church. We are all important parts of one body in Christ and we need to look after all parts of our body. Blessings - MARIA
- Please could you pray for my wife Sally Parsons?  
She has been diagnosed with Mesenteric panniculitis which is inflammation of the Mesentery which is an organ in the gut! She has very bad pain and needs healing. Thank you, Wayne Parsons

#### Friday afternoon:

- Particular focus on Chad and Albania with Claire and Endri joining us
- Bible passages highlighted were Ps 97, Isaiah 45:3, Ps 103:8-11 and 2 Cor 1:9
- CHAD
  - Over 40 confirmed cases of COVID-19
  - Guinebor 2 hospital's role is to prevent C-19 cases entering hospital, instead to send them to a designated hospital
  - Beginning of Ramadan
  - Middle of hot season
- ALBANIA
  - Increased work keeping in touch with everyone BUT have seen increased faith - pray for this to continue
  - Vulnerable families who have little income, especially Roma community
- Also prayed for situation in Niger where riots are occurring against the lock down

#### Evening:

- Particular focus on TBM with Elnur & Aygun joining us
- Bible passages highlighted were Acts 20:28, Col 4:3, Ps 23:4 & Rom 8:35
- TBM
  - Increased workload just in keeping in touch with everyone

- Very strict lock down in Azerbaijan; challenging to majority of Christians who have no regular income.
- Turkey also in lock down, although not quite so strict. WhatsApp is used a lot here
- Iran have few restrictions as it is so severe, however seeing many miracles & conversions; pray particularly for two pastors who have C-19. They are getting better – need to keep praying for them.
- Persecuted Christians are used to maintaining their faith in isolation
- Amazing opportunities opening up through digital platforms