

# 24-7 PRAYER WEEK 19-26 July 2020

## Thursday to Friday

### ❖ THURSDAY MORNING SESSION:

We used Ps 33 to prompt our prayers of praise & rejoicing this morning. Two areas were particularly focused on by a number of folk:

- V8 talks about the whole world TREMBLING and v18 talks about those who FEAR him. The prayer that although we see the whole world now trembling in fear of COVID that the real trembling should be before God, recognising His awesomeness.
- There needs to be an element of fear in being able to surrender to the Lord as a contrast to the way of the world.

Prayed for justice for the weak, for protection for proper justice

Prayed that VISION would be given to those who lead and that hearts would be changed.

Asked the Lord what 'to love mercy' means for us as a nation; asked that the needs of refugees wouldn't be an issue put to one side because of COVID.

Recognised that we can't do everything / meet all needs BUT can pray.....

Prayed that we would be a people to reflect God's voice, be influencers.

Prayed for Christians within the Government; that they would be influencers, and that God would change hearts and minds of those who would stand against God's ways.

### ❖ THURSDAY EVENING SESSION:

Following Micah 6v8 but starting with a thankful heart:

- WALKING HUMBLY WITH GOD
  - What are you thankful for about our nation?
  - What do you feel our nation lacks which only God can provide?
    - We have access to the NHS healthcare when we need it – whether rich or poor.
    - Management hierarchy to get things flowing smoothly to reduce waiting lists – children are not being assessed quickly enough, waiting up to 2 years.
    - Thankful that there has been so much good in the last 50 years – women's rights, disability rights – not perfect but becoming clearer
    - Thanks for ability to meet openly in person and online, with no danger of persecution
    - Need a sense of urgency as Christians to get out there to be good witnesses
    - Pleasant land to live in with rich Christian heritage from years gone by
- LOVING MERCY and compassion
  - Thankful for those organisations that watch over us. May they be acknowledged by nation's leaders as vital and be rewarded
  - Although NHS is underfunded – doctors, nurses, care-workers have a love for humanity which makes them go to work each day
  - Social workers and those working with youth offenders and people who've fallen through the cracks – create a framework to promote good work
  - Teachers and head teachers – to have a real rest this summer, be refreshed, inspired for the new term, Christian teachers to have an influence on other teachers
  - Children going through another transition – starting school, moving to secondary with no 'settling in' days. Those for whom school is a safety net and holidays are a fearful time; those whose parents will be going back to work – protect and guide them.

- Scientists working on a vaccine – that God gives them wisdom and a swift solution which will benefit the whole world
- Those vulnerable and shielding who are nervous about lockdown lifting
- Spiritual health of the nation – often the church is misrepresented, but our heart of love for others show through
- **ROMANS 10v14** "...how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?"
- Urgently need to reveal we care for others and their needs, as Christians to serve the nation
- Teach us as individuals to show mercy, galvanise our church to show mercy, galvanise the church to show mercy.
- ACTING JUSTLY
  - The way the nation can be just and do good for the citizens
  - The way we act in justice to other nations
  - The role that the church of Christ has to be a point of justice
    - Area of inequality – rich vs poor – catalyst for crime and victimisation
    - Open our eyes to what we can do for others, pray for them, be an impact for good.
    - Closure for victims of injustice – have peace in the situations
    - Those working in justice system that they give fair and right decisions
    - Trade agreements following Brexit – have justice the way we handle other nations. The 'fear of God' to enter the negotiations rather than be money-grabbing and 'best we can get' attitude. Fair and just for all
    - Justice in employment – those furloughed by facing redundancy, employers to act justly
    - Government – how they handle the next phase and support those who have fallen through the gap.
    - Refugee crisis – mercy for refugee programme
    - *United Kingdom* that will work together. Seems to be coming apart with the restrictions being lifted. Must be good for the many, not just good for the few.

❖ Isaiah 60 V2 has spoken to me this week that, although darkness covers the earth, the Lord shall arise, and His glory shall be seen.

At the beginning of the week I had a picture of the Lord walking beside us and shining a light illuminating the road ahead, showing us the way forward as we consider reset and reimagine the Church's ministry in the coming days.

❖ I just want to share with UV re: an amazing new initiative taking place within our prisons. It was announced at our fortnightly PF (prison fellowship) zoom prayer session this morning. PF have been given permission c/o Ministry of Justice to open a prayer line which will be accessible to all prisoners and staff. This has taken a lot of work obviously around security but to have gained permission to make this available is huge (and a miracle). There will be a PF intercessory team who will initially get the prayer request and it will also be forwarded once made safe and anonymised (the same day) to local volunteer groups throughout the UK who will distribute to their volunteers - about 3,000 members.

This is so exciting and an incredible achievement coming out of PF prayer as to what they can do to ease the plight of our prison communities during 'lockdown'. This has also taken a huge step of faith by PF. 100,000 bookmarks are being sent out next Friday to each prisoner and they will have to pay upfront costs for the 0800 telephone

number. Anyone who wants to get behind this prayer line initiative can make a donation on the Prison Fellowship website.

Please pray for our prison staff and especially chaplains at this time, who have an extra heavy load due to all their normal volunteers being unable to go in. Also, for wisdom for prison governors working out how to most safely reduce restrictions following lockdown. Please pray for our local prisons, Channingswood, Exeter and Dartmoor. -

**Sue**

❖ A couple of bits of feedback and prophecy from Youth 24-7 sesh.

Ten of us met to pray at Torre Abbey and it was great! Two things from God:

1. We stood in a circle and walked outwards as we prayed, prophetically taking ground for God. We had a picture of Christians all over Torbay doing this, claiming God's authority over the whole town as we move outwards.
2. We had the passage from Jonah 2:2-9 where he prays a prayer of surrender to God.

'In my distress I called to the Lord,  
and he answered me.

From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help,  
and you listened to my cry.

**3** You hurled me into the depths,  
into the very heart of the seas,  
and the currents swirled about me;  
all your waves and breakers  
swept over me.

**4** I said, "I have been banished  
from your sight;  
yet I will look again  
towards your holy temple."

**5** The engulfing waters threatened me,<sup>[b]</sup>  
the deep surrounded me;  
seaweed was wrapped around my head.

**6** To the roots of the mountains I sank down;  
the earth beneath barred me in for ever.  
But you, Lord my God,  
brought my life up from the pit.

**7** 'When my life was ebbing away,  
I remembered you, Lord,  
and my prayer rose to you,  
to your holy temple.

**8** 'Those who cling to worthless idols  
turn away from God's love for them.

**9** But I, with shouts of grateful praise,  
will sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed I will make good.

I will say, "Salvation comes from the Lord."

#### ❖ FRIDAY MORNING SESSION:

We were joined by some from other countries who brought prayer in their own languages.

To open Colin Opie led 17 people in a breathing exercise, then played the song "Lord of Living Waters". Alex read from a Psalm, in Italian.

We prayed for those who are persecuted for their faith.

- Rachel prayed for the widow and nine children of a Nigerian pastor, recently killed because of his Christian faith. His words, knowing that this might happen, had been "Don't cry, don't worry, but thank God for everything".
- Phyl prayed for Christians at a retreat centre in India.
- Ken prayed for the Islamic world.
- Hazel gave thanks for recent changes in Sudan, including the repeal of the death penalty for Muslims converting to Christianity.
- Raquel (Spain) prayed in Spanish for the persecuted and the strength to witness.

We prayed for our own home countries - in our native languages.

- Donna prayed in Mandarin (Asia)
- Delsy prayed in Spanish (South America)
- Alex prayed in Italian (Italy, and other?)
- Valerie prayed in French (France)
- Rachel prayed (Uighur community in China)
- Phyl prayed (for nations overwhelmed by Covid where medical supplies are scarce)
- Colin prayed (India)
- Valerie prayed (for the fallout from the Huawei debacle and against Chinese propaganda in our schools).
- Raquel (Spain) prayed in Spanish for medical solutions and community needs.

Prayers were offered for revival in all the nations of the world.

We closed with The Blessing, sung from South Africa (mixed language).

It seemed that those praying in other languages really enjoyed the opportunity to do so. Scriptures mentioned included Matthew 6.10 - 11 and Isaiah 44.3.

#### ❖ FRIDAY LUNCHTIME SESSION:

Prayer for Rick Tyler who was in RD&E Hospital having an operation on his hand where he had an infection from a splinter. Due to be in hospital for two days.

Phyl read Micah 6v8 from The Message

John 8v12 – Jesus is the light of the world. Phyl lit a candle to remind us we are called to take Christ seriously, be mindful of our actions, be fair and just, and be a light in the darkness as well. Also Psalm 77v13,14 and John 3v16

- **THANKING GOD**
  - Prayers of thanks and praise to God
- **ASKING**
  - Video of the Persian version of The Blessing
  - How can the Global church, communities, nations, governments and organisations respond?
    - **Racial tensions / injustice:** Christian organisation – TearFund, BMS World Mission, who are in troubled countries.

- **Environment:** so much beauty around us, especially Torbay, but so much waste. Melting ice sheets, hurricanes, droughts – make good decisions to have positive effect on other nations and world.
- **Truth:** Christians being persecuted for their faith all over the world. Every 6 minutes someone is killed for their faith. Do what is right and just for those who are suffering, and not to waste the money on less important things.
- **Conflict:** China, Hong Kong
- **Covid-19 and lockdown:** Christian organisation – TearFund, BMS World Mission, who are in troubled countries. PPE and treatment in areas which are highly populated. Development funding – relieve countries which are so overcome by Covid from their international debt.
- **Mental Health:** Afghanistan struggles with lack of help, but the Christian organisations are helping.
- **Refugees:** some known to us who have professed to be Christian but have drifted away, children who are deeply affected by their trauma. The way God breaks into their lives – eg Afghans in Greece, now sharing their faith with others of their ethnicity.

- YIELDING

- Consider how we say yes to God's call to us for the world. Be proactive in bringing God's word.
- 'Let your kingdom come' across the world. Show us how we can be supporting those who are bringing God's kingdom.