

Notes on prayer meeting for our mission partners on Sunday 5th September 2021

As explained in the notices on Saturday, a digest of the Sunday Mission Prayer meetings will in future be prepared for the following week. This is the first one. It is intended to be a guide for individual prayer.

If you require further information on any particular partner please get in touch with Roger Wells: it may be possible to include you in the updates that some of them send to us.

We spent the first part of the meeting on this occasion focusing on the appalling situation in Afghanistan. Below we give a guide to aspects of the situation, that we used, and this may be helpful in directing your own prayers:

Praying for the Afghan people: In their grief, fear, and desperation. To imagine how they feel, and stand with them. We read Psalm 6.

Praying for Afghan Christians: That they will be bold; that they will find faith in God's overcoming power; for them to know what God's Word promises – Isaiah 12:21 and Psalm 130:7 for example. One person felt it right to read the comforting passage in Romans 8:35-39. Pray also that they will have wisdom in deciding how to register their religion on their identity cards.

Praying for the new Government: That it will be formed quickly and that all regional commanders will abide by the national policy; that they will engage in discussions with other states in a helpful way; that they will see as important the proper treatment of women and girls, and even if they do not wish to do that they will moderate policies as a bargaining chip to gain the international recognition they crave; that they will protect minorities, particularly Christians, but also the Shia Muslims in the country.

Praying for aid organisations in the country: That the many relief and development projects will not collapse, but continue under local leadership where expatriates have left. (We are thankful that the Eye Hospital and Mental Health hospitals remain open). Pray that the Taliban will pay attention to the bad harvest and the drought in the Central Highlands and assist the World Food programme as it seeks to distribute supplies (in their last regime the Taliban withheld supplies from starving people for their own political purposes!)

Praying for outside countries: To take more refugees, and to prepare adequately for their resettlement; all to have wisdom in dealing with the new regime in Kabul and Qatar.

We then divided into two groups to pray for:

R and J in Canada, serving Central Asia:

In addition to praying for R and J's ongoing work helping to share the Gospel by digital means, we prayed for their family, particularly for their son Ethan as he goes to University in Toronto, that he will have a Christian friend who will encourage him in his faith. Also, for the brief respite in late September for R and J in Georgian Bay, Canada, and the following Conference; that this will restore their energy for the days ahead.

For the new head of their organization in Canada, due to visit end September/beginning October.

R and S in the Far East. We praised God that the family were protected from the floods in their city, and for their safe return from their brief holiday despite a covid lockdown and barricaded roads.

We prayed for: energy for the family – R returning to University teaching online and for new ideas for her teaching; for S to be improved in health; for son Josiah to adjust to the new school year; for S's mum and R's Dad, and for ongoing discussions with the Tax Bureau for S.

Andrew and Caroline in YWAM Oregon.

Praise for the blessings of the courses run by Andrew: for the Next Steps course in particular which had great feedback and encouraging testimonies.

We prayed for one couple from the Next Steps course who find themselves in Haiti helping with the earthquake catastrophe; also for Andrew and Caroline as they decide how to get more involved with the refugees that have come to Oregon; and for little Samuel who has broken his arm – healing okay so far.

Julia in South Africa

We praised God for the way He has kept Julia safe, both in lockdown and now back at work at the Khaya Cheshire Day Centre for children with disabilities, where the children have adapted well to covid-safe restrictions. We also thanked God for the provision (soon to come into use) of a brand new 23-seater vehicle (combi) for transporting the children and general use for the Centre's needs.

We prayed for wise decisions about the future 'home' for the Centre, for a clear diagnosis of Julia's current health issue and treatment required, and for her visa to be granted soon.

Ventzi and Jenya in Aksakovo, Bulgaria

We praised God that finally, in August, they were able to move into their new home, which they call 'a great miracle of God', and is for them 'a dream come true'.

We also thanked God for the encouragement of the three summer camps they were involved in that were a great blessing for each participant.

We prayed specifically for the Lord to call the right person to lead the teenage group at the church.

We prayed into the potential for use of the two rooms, adjoining the church, now vacated by Ventzi's family.

We prayed for encouragement and fruitfulness for Stacey's ministry with Agape at the University in Sofia.

E and B and family, now in UK, formerly in Middle East

E is now a 'Partner In Transition' with their sending Agency (Interserve). She is working with the communications team, proofreading reports etc. and submitting her own writing for the website. B has been looking for secular employment. The children have settled well in local schools and have had the help of a psychologist to help them process the upheaval they have been through.

We prayed for the family, and particularly for E, in this adjustment phase of their lives.

Please pray for the tenants in their home to be able to find alternative accommodation so that the family can move back in.

Pray that 'this will be a year of healing and drawing closer for the school community' (Maadi Community School) in B and E's former place of service.