

Servanthood

Welcome to the second reflection from the Emmanuel prayer team.

Here are some ideas of how to use these reflections:

- Pray that God will lead your thoughts.
- Sit comfortably, take a few deep breaths and relax.
- Let your mind wander as you read the reflection. Write down your thoughts in a notebook. If you are busy try and pick out something to take with you in odd moments during the day.
- You may wish to memorise the memory verse. Write it out and stick it up somewhere.

Bible Verses

Serve one another in love

Galatians 5:13b

Now that I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash each other's feet.

John 13:4

Reflection

In the Eastern world, walking in the sand, feet would become dirty and so a servant would wash the visitor's feet. Jesus had borrowed the Upper room and there was no one to wash the disciples' feet, so Jesus took on the job of a servant. What a good example to us all. How can you show your willingness to be a servant at this unusual time? Possibly the way you normally show it has been taken away from you. Can you find a new way?

At this moment in time we are continually told, not to wash our feet, but to wash our hands (although washing our feet is a good idea too!). As we wash our hands this week, we can remember these verses.

When we were in Kenya, I led a prayer day for the women in a small, rural church. I took along with me a bowl, a container of water, soap and a towel. We sat in a circle and I washed the feet of the lady next to me, she in turn washed the feet of the lady next to her, and so we continued round the circle. When it came to my turn to have my feet washed the lady found it difficult. I don't know why. It was a



moving experience. In the biblical account did anyone wash the feet of Jesus? Did anyone even think to offer, I wonder? In a church service or small group would you be willing to accept the offer of having your feet washed? Or would you reject it?

This is a time when we need to acknowledge the good things in life. Whether you consider you have ugly, painful feet or beautiful feet take time at some stage this week to look at your feet. Remember God created them and sees them as beautiful. Make a fuss of them. Yes, even men can do this!

If you have children they might like to draw round their feet or your feet and cut out the paper and write the Bible verse on it.

In Kenya, we led a seminar and talked about how a leader needs to be a servant. At the end when a cup of tea was served, the vicar (who was a man) poured the tea. We were surprised because in their culture that was always a woman's job. We had never seen a man pour tea. When we commented, he replied "But you have just been teaching us to be servants!"