

This Prayer Calendar is provided to encourage us to pray for one another within the fellowship of Affinity.

Information is provided each month by our Partners, Associates and Churches. If you wish information for prayer to be included in the Prayer Calendar please send it to us at least 10 days before the end of the month in which you would like it to appear.

1 **Brian Allenby**, Director of **Christians at Work**, asks for prayer for his health. He is due to go into hospital in January for major surgery – distal pancreatectomy & splenectomy. Please pray that Brian will know the Lord's presence and peace at this difficult time and that he might be brought through the operation well. He expects to be recovering for at least six weeks and he is concerned about the impact upon the ministry of CAW. Please pray that the work would not suffer during Brian's period of inactivity and that it would be a quiet time of the year (as January usually is).

2 **Roland Lamb**, a former General Secretary of the British Evangelical Council (now known as Affinity) went to be with the Lord in November. Please continue to pray for his widow, **Jill**, who lives in a nursing home, that she and the rest of the family would be comforted and strengthened by the Lord at this time of loss. If you have not seen it, there is a tribute to Roland Lamb on the Affinity website

3 **The Carey Conference** takes place over the next three days. Please pray that it would be a time of real fellowship and encouragement for all who attend. Pray for the speakers: John Benton, Matthias Lohmann, Martin Salter, Sam Waldron, Lewis Allen, Sarah Fuller, Sarah Strivens and Bill James.

4 Please pray for **United Beach Missions (UBM)** Executive Officer Tim Howlett as he deals with a Town Council who are seriously considering preventing their team from holding their usual activities on their beach this summer. Pray for wisdom as he speaks to them, and as he gathers support from the local community by means of letters to the local press and other means. Pray that the Lord would overrule the opposition and grant this opportunity for witness again this year.

5 **The Good Book Company** ask us to please thank God for the provision of new offices in Epsom and his equipping to move and continue operating during the busiest month of the year; please pray for them as they launch a campaign called 'Open up the Bible' designed to encourage people of all ages to get stuck in to daily Bible reading and grow in their relationship with the Lord. Also please pray for their annual residential conference The Bible-Centred Youth Worker at High Leigh from 23-26 January 2012 - please pray many would come to this conference and be encouraged and equipped for their ministry with children and young people.

6 The **Association of Grace Baptist Churches (South East)** continue to be very concerned about a brother connected to one of their churches who has recently been taken hostage in a very delicate overseas situation. Please pray that the situation would be resolved.

7 The Induction of Peter Cranch as pastor of **Blenheim Free Church**, Maidenhead takes place, God willing, today at 2.30pm. Please pray for Peter and his wife Debbie and two children, who have now moved into their home in Maidenhead and will be commencing their ministry this month.

8

The **Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland** asks us to please pray for Rev Andrew and Mrs Heather Lytle as they settle into mission work in Nantes alongside Rev Malcolm and Mrs Muriel Ball who have served there for over 25 years.

9

At the beginning of a new year, please remember to pray for **those who have retired from Christian service** after a lifetime of ministry and who may now be in poor health and perhaps lonely due to the loss of contemporaries and family. Pray that they would know contentment in the Lord and his purposes for them.

10

Across the globe, Christian children are often under great pressure at school, in contexts of hostility to the Christian faith. Lift in prayer those who have a heart to provide Christian schooling. Pray at this time for **Barnabas Fund's** new school-child sponsorship programme, and their other numerous educational projects.

11

This month **Crosslinks** will be co-ordinating a team of Bible expositors in Myanmar aimed at developing an indigenous movement of expository teaching and preaching amongst Anglican churches across the country. Praise God for this opening. Pray that we would be faithful and that the purpose would be achieved.

12

The **Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches (EFCC)** are planning their Congregational Studies Conference for 17 March at which Garry Williams will speak on the Great Ejection of 1662 and Neville Rees on the life and work of Alan Tovey. Please pray for all the planning and that many people would be encouraged and helped by the day.

13

Christ Church, Harpenden are currently in the midst of the many arrangements which need to be made for the planned, and very happy move to independence, of their congregational plant in Redbourn (Christ Church Redbourn). This will take some time to bring to fruition but they would be glad of prayers for both congregations and for those who are involved in the complex planning process.

14

Reach Across' Field Leaders in East Africa (Red Sea Region) are urgently looking for short term (<2 years) or long term mission personnel to help with our English Language school. They would normally be teaching around 150 adults each year. Some of their staff leave in May and they need new staff in place by September 2012. Candidates need a TEFL qualification, and should have some basic conversational French as a minimum. All their staff are dedicated to sharing the gospel as a primary aim, but one of the ways we serve the local Muslim population is through teaching English. This helps them to get employment in this impoverished region. Please pray that the Lord would provide the right people for these roles.

15

Wales Evangelical School of Theology (WEST) asks us to please pray for churches to send (and support) their best people to be thoroughly trained for full-time Christian service at home and abroad. Pray for grace to overcome governmental obstacles to providing high quality, affordable, faithful and spiritually-stretching preparation for Word-centred ministry.

16

The Evangelical Housing Association is thankful for answered prayer: one of the properties up for sale has now attracted a buyer and the legal process is going through. It is hoped this sale will enable the Association to purchase a new property in the early part of the year. Please pray that all will continue to go smoothly with the process.

17

Please pray for **UBM** as the application forms (paper and online) are launched for 2012. There will be 90 weeks of mission this year, As well as our established centres, there will be new opportunities in Kirkby and Portimao (The Algarve) plus working with Open Air Mission during the Olympic fortnight in London and Weymouth. Pray that the worker weeks would increase from 1300 to 1500. That will be nearly 29 years missionary work in one summer!

18

Daylight give thanks to God for his provision over the last year and for growing his kingdom behind bars across the UK. Please pray for Daylight's staff and volunteers working with prisoners and ex-offenders. Pray that their work in the year ahead would bear much fruit and encouragement.

19

Burma is hitting the headlines again recently with fresh hopes of freedom and political reform. But all too often the countries despotic leaders, despite international condemnation and sanctions, brutally suppress this mainly peace-loving people. For well over a decade **AsiaLink** has partnered with key church leaders and planters in Burma. Annually their staff and associates visit the country to minister encouragement, teach in the bible college, and provide vital resources to aid evangelism. Please pray for two of their colleagues visiting at the moment and for the exciting ministry continuing to take place there.

20

In just a couple of weeks (6-12 February) Roger Carswell is conducting a joint churches mission in Reading called Real Lives. The churches involved are: **Carey Baptist Church**; Argyle Community Church; Kennet Valley Free Church; Coley Park Baptist Church; Norcot Mission and Binfield Heath Congregational Church. Each evening Roger will interview someone and then preach the gospel. Please pray for the planning, people to respond to invitations, and for people to be saved.

21

The Evangelical Movement of Wales are holding two day conferences, today (Colwyn Bay) and next Saturday, January 28 (Bridgend) for men in leadership on local churches. Please pray that they will be encouraging and instructive for the pastors, elders, deacons and other leaders who attend and that ties of fellowship will be built as well.

22

Little Hill Church, Wigston in Leicestershire asks for prayer for their Guest Event at 5.00pm today. Phil Vellacott is speaking on 'Love Jesus'.

23

FIEC want us to pray for Andy Paterson, who begins to work full-time for the fellowship this month. Please pray for him as he encourages and equips the churches of the fellowship to play their part in re-evangelising a lost nation. Pray too for the Kensington Baptist Church as they have sent him to undertake this task.

24

Yorkshire Gospel Partnership are holding their next Yorkshire Evangelical Ministry Assembly day today at City Evangelical Church in Leeds. Phillip Jensen from Australia will be speaking on the theme of 'Protecting God's Church'. Please pray for the planning and that many would come for the sessions being organised on the day..

25

This coming Saturday (28 January) – **Duke Street Church, Richmond** have a *Les Miserables* event which will include a brief talk on how the story illustrates great themes of the Christian Message. Please pray for all involved and for a really good response to the invitations that have been given out.

26

UFM asks us to pray for the preparations which are under way for a number of UFM Summer Teams for this year. Groups will be going for 2-3 weeks to a range of locations including Burkina Faso, Peru and Moldova. Please pray for those preparing to host the teams and planning activated. Pray that churches and individuals would be inspired to get involved in these opportunities to serve God in cross-cultural outreach this summer.

27

The Apostolic Church's annual conference, AblazeUK, is moving to a great new site at Cheltenham for 2012. Please pray for the preparations and for the bookings as they come in. Pray that it would be four days (28-31 July) that will change lives, send people out into Christian ministry at home and abroad, and bring people to faith.

28

Please pray for the 'Gospel Churches for Wales' initiative of the **Associating Evangelical Churches of Wales (AECW)**. The aim is both to strengthen small churches and plant new churches in rural towns and urban areas. Pray that Christians and churches in Wales will catch the vision for this strategic ministry. Church attendance in Wales fell from 10% of the population in 1990 to 5% in 2010.

29

Monyhull Church, Birmingham ask us to pray for the Church's week of prayer commencing 9 January, and that as they begin a new year they will want to commit all their 2012 work to the Lord and ensure that they honour him in every way, both corporately and individually. Please also pray for the 'Elders' Advance' at the end of January, and especially that this will be a great time of friendship-building and encouragement, as well as planning for 2012. Please also pray for their pastor, Colin Tamplin, as he gets ready to commence his sabbatical in February. Please pray that it will be a sabbatical of spiritual, physical and emotional refreshment and that he will experience the rich blessing of God during this time.

30

Bible Centred Ministries International UK (BCM UK) are currently seeking a new National Director to provide spiritual leadership and pastoral care for individual missionaries serving the Lord with BCM in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland as well as assisting them in determining, before God, their goals, plans and strategy for ministry. Please pray that the right person would be found and that the work of BCM would be fruitful in the coming year.

31

Oak Hill College has an open morning in three weeks time (on Saturday 25 February) for prospective students. Please pray that a good number of those who are considering the possibility of theological training at some time in the future, whether as an ordinand or an independent student, whether full-time or part-time, would come along and use the day as a chance to seek further the Lord's purposes for their lives.

If you would like more information about the Affinity Partners and Associates mentioned in the Prayer Calendar you will find their website addresses on the Affinity website – www.affinity.org.uk.

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Please send entries for the December Prayer Calendar to us by 20 January.