

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 September will be a busy month at **True Freedom Trust** as the staff team adapt their annual National Conference for an online format. Rob Wood, Head of Speaking & Teaching, has also now departed the team as he pursues ordained ministry in the Church of England. Pray for God's provision as the team seeks to raise funds for a new role to oversee our team of speaking volunteers, who regularly visit churches across the UK to share the good news the gospel has for all, regardless of sexual orientation.

2 Pray for Steve Burton as he is recognised as pastor of **Dunstable Baptist Church** alongside Barry King in two services on Saturday 5 September. Mark Lawrence will preach at both services.

3 Pray for **BCM (UK)** as they work on a series of 'virtual' lessons for those whose weekly clubs in Scotland will be unable to start. Pray for a good take-up in this new format.

4 Please pray for **SASRA** Area Reps who have been working throughout the crisis. Pray for them as they use differing methods to engage with churches and supporters. Praise the Lord for the technology that has enabled them to provide virtual SASRA presentations, and keep in touch with all those who support the ministry. Please pray for new Area Rep. for the North & North Wales, former Army Major, Andrew McMahon, who starts this month. Please remember those who are still presently furloughed.

5 Pray for **Edward Connor Solicitors** as they seek the Lord for a Property Lawyer to join their Property Team. The current team are amazing, but have more work than they can manage, and so the right person coming in would be such a blessing. For more information about the vacancy, go to: <https://www.edwardconnor.com/contact/vacancies/>

6 **Frontiers** fasts and prays worldwide at the end of each month for at least 10% of the Muslim world to be saved in the next 8 years - focussing on a different theme each month. Recently they prayed for the various Muslim fundamentalist groups. Remembering that a fundamentalist called Saul was saved (Acts 9), please also pray that Jesus would be glorified among these Muslim groups. For more information: www.frontiers.org.uk/latest/pray-now.php

7 Pray for **Christian Focus Publications** as they seek the Lord's help to get back to a normal working life with more social integration and travel. Pray for their sales team as they interact with bookstores and other retail outlets and as they look forward once again to interacting with foreign mission and international colleagues. They thank the Lord for his many blessings over this difficult time. He has been a strong tower and a shelter. May we see the church renewed.

8 **Christian Safeguarding Services report** that at the present time the important and controversial issue of safeguarding is subject to ever-increasing demands for regulation. There is currently a national Independent Inquiry happening that includes the scrutiny of practice in faith-based organisations. There are calls from certain quarters to subject the evangelical church to ever-closer investigation and regulation. CSS believes it is vital that we respond to these developments positively. We need to demonstrate, not least through outstanding professional commitment to best practice, that we as churches do safeguarding well! Pray that it might be so.

9 Pray for the new staff who have joined recently at **the Good Book Company** that they would quickly settle into their jobs and feel part of the team, even with the challenges of getting to know people still working from home. Pray for the whole team as they begin to transition back into their office in Epsom this month and for wisdom to know how best to provide support and encouragement to churches with their resources during these challenging times.

10 Pray for **All Nations Church Ilford (International Presbyterian Church)** that they would have agreement from the owners of their building to be able to purchase the property.

11 **Sharing Christ Internationally** asks for prayer for the video bible talks going to several million Mongolian speaking Facebook users worldwide. The last one received over 51,000 views at a cost of 4p each time. Many shared it with friends. Please pray that these will lead to conversion and that the money to sustain this ministry will be supplied.

12 **Blenheim Free Church (FIEC)**, Maidenhead, are thankful that the Lord has kept them together during the long and tiring time of being unable to meet together. Like other churches they covet prayer for the safe and joyful return to regular Sunday services as soon as possible.

13 **Union School of Theology** praise God for the encouragement of their new flexible BA – they are so excited to see how God is using this to serve people around the world. Pray that the Lord would provide donors with a heart to support the eight new church planting projects led by Union graduates, and please pray for the Union Mission team as they carry out the administrative tasks involved in this.

14 Pray with **ReachAcross** that as we come out of lockdown enquirers for missionary service will boldly and faithfully pursue what God has laid on their heart, taking earnest steps forward towards their personal part in helping Muslims find and follow Jesus (Matthew 9:37).

15 **Gospel for Asia** say that countless men and women around the world first hear about Jesus' love by reading a piece of literature, maybe offered to them by a stranger on the street, given to them by a close friend or discovered in an unexpected place. After reading these simple pamphlets full of powerful words, many men and women discover the abounding grace of Christ and decide to give their hearts to the One they learned about. Pray God's Spirit goes with each piece of literature, enabling them to wind up in just the right hands at just the right time.

16 **Grace Church Didcot** is a new church plant from Hanney Chapel (overseers of the work) and the **Association of Grace Baptist Churches (South East)**, in the large new housing developments of West Didcot (South Oxon). Pray for them as they resume services after lockdown, and seek to add new ministries as lockdown eases.

17 **Hardwick Baptist Church**, Stockton-on-Tees have their anniversary on 20 September. Pray for the event, with Tony Simpson as their guest preacher.

18 Please pray for the launch of **Grace Baptist Partnership's** 'Twelve Questions about Church Planting' course tomorrow. More than sixty men are registered for the online course so far.

19 Please pray for **London Seminary** as they resume in-person teaching (with appropriate precautions) from 21 September. Give thanks that once again they have a good group of men joining them this year to prepare for pastoral ministry.

20 The **Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches** would value prayer for each of its churches as they continue to meet under the restrictive regime imposed by Covid19 guidance. Please pray that all that is done brings honour to the Lord's name and points the lost to Christ. Their Trust Board meets in late September and they would value prayer that its decisions are wise and help in the EFCC's desire to grow healthy churches.

21

Please pray for students on the Priscilla Programme as term begins today. Pray that their studies would help them to love God more deeply and be better equipped to serve him. (The Priscilla Programme is an online bible-training course for women run by **Church Society** in partnership with **Union School of Theology**, and is led by Dr Ros Clarke, Associate Director of Church Society).

Also, pray that **Little Hill Church**, Leicestershire, and other Zoom viewers will be encouraged by the Historical Lecture today by Dr Lesley Rowe: 'The Work of Grace in the Life of Charles Doe'.

22

UFM praises God for raising up new workers for the harvest even in the midst of the pandemic. Please pray for mission partners who have recently gone out to be involved in pastoral work in Brazil and Portugal, cross-cultural training in France and student ministry in various countries in Europe. Also, give thanks for the provision of a new office building better suited for the work.

23

Please pray for **York Evangelical Church** as they begin the process of looking for a full-time pastor/elder in unusual days and circumstances.

24

Join with **Africa Inland Mission** in giving thanks to God as they celebrate 125 years of ministry and all that God has done across the continent of Africa, and the abundant gospel harvest there. Due to Covid-19, the celebrations will now take place online on 26 September 2020.

Please pray that as supporters and friends hear stories and testimonies from the International Director, as well as their African partners, that God would raise up new workers to go to the places they are needed most. *If you would like to sign up to join the celebration, visit: eu.aimint.org/125*

25

Barnabas Fund requests prayer for Christians in China, the largest body of believers in the world, living in a context of intensifying government persecution. Pray that believers will be strengthened in their faith as they face increasing restrictions on worship, church closures, threats of losing state benefits, and even told to remove symbols of their faith from their homes in an escalation of pressure - described by one Chinese Christian as 'just like Mao's Cultural Revolution'.

26

Today, **OSCAR** is running a re-entry course for those returned from overseas in the last six months. Pray for healthy transitioning for all at this time.

27

Please remember the annual Ministers' Conference of the **Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland** (RPCI) meeting in Ballykelly, 28-30 September, with Rev. David Campbell as speaker.

28

Daylight Christian Prison Trust give thanks that prisoners are reading bibles and New Testaments they have been given and are asking thoughtful questions. Please pray that the Lord will speak to the hearts of many.

29

Pray for the **Evangelical Housing Association** committee, meeting today, that they would know God's wisdom in their discussions and any decisions taken.

30

Pray for **New Life Church, Middlesbrough**, as they continue to seek a building of their own to meet in and use for ministry to the community. They have identified one possibility. Pray for ongoing negotiations with the current owners and for the funding to be able to purchase it if this is of the Lord. Pray also for Nathan Young as he begins as Associate Pastor, and pray for the funding to be able to support him full-time from January 2021.

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 October Prayer Calendar to us by 20 September.