

Praying Together 2021 – Monday Evenings 7 pm

Over the last 12 months during the “Covid Pandemic and the various lockdowns” Brian has produced a weekly prayer update with reflections based on Scripture to help guide prayers. Looking to the future I trust you will understand weekly updates are not something I can commit to maintaining indefinitely and so this will be the final email communication along these lines. I have asked Pam to post these thoughts and prayer guide on the Church website which can be read by clicking on the “Praying Together” button on the homepage at <https://chepstowmethodist.org.uk/>

*Based on your encouraging feedback over the last year I do feel it very important that as the “body of Christ” we continue to use this opportunity for corporate PRAYER on a weekly basis as led and guided by the Holy Spirit; **so Vera & I will be***

Joining with you in PRAYER at HOME on Monday evenings between 7 to 8 pm or at a time convenient to yourselves as we pray together led by the Holy Spirit.

To help focus over the last year we have personally used the simple format pasted below which you may have found helpful or not. You may well have your own thoughts on how you spend this hour with the Lord so whatever works for you is just great as it means we are giving and setting aside this time for God.

A format for Praying Together @ Home

We find starting every week with the same simple prayer helps to focus our prayer time:
“Come Holy Spirit Come”come in your power to guide our prayers”

Praise God with Worship Hymn / Song(s)

Listen and/or sing along with Worship songs from Youtube or CD to Worship the Lord – we sing at the beginning and end of the prayer time as led and find it uplifts our spirits. On Youtube you can just about find any Worship hymn / song with lyrics which is a great facility for Praising the Lord.

Open God’s Word – The Holy Bible

Scriptures so frequently provides the prayer roadmap and so is God’s guide in our time of prayer. For example you can open your Bible where the Holy Spirit leads; you can use the “Lectionary Bible readings” for that week which can usually be found in the Church Notices; you can use daily Bible readings such as “Every Day with Jesus” or “Daily Bread” or as we use “Bible in One Year” available online at <https://bibleinoneyear.org/> which Brian used for the weekly updates.

Praise God in Prayer

“For example: Praise God for; His Love; for sending his only Son Jesus Christ to die for each one of us and all people and that we serve a Risen Saviour who intercedes for us with God our Father; for the wonders of His creation; for our families and friends; providing our daily needs; for being with us in difficult situations; Praise God for answers to your prayers.

Prayers for Others:

Prayers for others in the Church Notices or Prayer Requests that have been sent out are a good starting point. Pray for people the Lord lays on your heart; your family & friends who are in need; pray for people you know who don’t know Jesus as Lord, pray they will come into a relationship with Him. Other Examples: Pray for Government, Health Workers, Teachers and so on the list is endless but the Lord lays specifics on our hearts when we ask him.

Prayers for the World

There may be issues that have arisen in the world over the last week or are ongoing like the Covid Pandemic. It's impossible to pray for all issues in the world so perhaps select issues that are close to your heart. For example as you know we pray regularly for Hope in Christ School & ministry in Zambia and for individuals in Zambia who we have come to know in this work including Sekelani Ngulube in Kabwe prison.

Prayers for the Church of Christ

For example: There will be specific issues within our own Church to pray for like the Vision Group meeting but also pray for God's plan for the worldwide Church of Christ with "God's vision" to bring the Good News of Jesus to the World set out in Matthew 28: 16-20, by re- evangelising the nations and transforming societies. You may hear of or read about specific issues needing prayer.

Prayers for The Persecuted Church

Blessed are those that are persecuted because of righteousness for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven" Matthew 5:10

Pray for our brothers & sisters in Christ throughout the world who are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ. To help focus prayers on perhaps one country or one individual there are many internet resources to help our prayers such as....

Open Doors

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/>

Release International

<https://releaseinternational.org/>

Blessing

Perhaps after singing a final Worship hymn / song pray a Blessing from Scripture to end your prayer time. For example the Priestly Blessing from Numbers 6: 24-26 (as below) or a blessing from one of St. Paul's letters, or wherever you may be led by God.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace"

It's such a privilege to be able to pray alongside each of you in this way; we give thanks for your faithfulness in prayer and commit all our prayers to "Our Father God through the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

BE ASSURED YOUR PRAYERS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

*God Bless you
Brian & Vera Lloyd*