

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our March prayer and information newsletter. John Wesley created what he called a covenant prayer which he always repeated at midnight each new year. It would be a wonderful prayer to set the tone for either an individual or a congregation at the beginning of a month, it reads:- 'I am no longer my own but thine, put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt, put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal'. All great moves of awakening and renewal arise out of such a spirit and attitude of yielding and surrender.

March promises to be another month of challenge and growth. Our meeting to 'immerse the Mission in prayer' for the month will be held at 7 00 pm on Wednesday 07 March. All will be made welcome to this strategic and important meeting. During March we will also begin a new teaching series entitled 'The Holy Spirit in the writings of Luke'. Jesus said about the Holy Spirit that, the Father will send him in Jesus name and that he will teach us all things and will remind us of everything that Jesus said. John 14 v 26. It seems right and good to the elders that we explore and get to know this fascinating and loving person in the season ahead. During March we will also launch a new type of Sunday morning, family service. Every second Sunday in the month we plan to engage in a Cafe style, Missional service. This will include a short teaching element entitled, 'Living the Kingdom in advance' and also contain a focus upon our Mission of the Month. Coffee will be served prior to the service and our congregational lunch will be enjoyed at the end of the service. We are hopeful that this occasional, more informal and relaxed service will be appealing to those who are currently outside the church. Please invite your friends and neighbours along. Latin Link is our Mission of the Month for March and I would be grateful if you would pray for the newly appointed Scottish director who is a Peruvian born and now assimilated Scot called Mike Fernandes. I hope to meet him soon.

The author of the Free Kirk monthly Record recently wrote an editorial asking the question 'does the Free Church have a future?'. He pointed out that he discerned three diseases that troubled him and that could potentially colour the future of the Free Kirk; they are complacency, insularity and pride. When we apply the same question to the Mission Church and think about the incredible opportunities and possibilities that we have. Let us be united in prayer, rejecting the spirit of complacency and rejoicing in the prospect of seeing answers to our prayers 'Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth, even here in the Mission, as in Heaven'.

Matters carried over from February;

The AUCU students held a very successful 'Events Week', with some follow up meetings. There was love, life and enthusiasm in abundance during the week. Please continue to pray for harvest. The new AUCU executive team has just newly been appointed. Please pray for wisdom, fruitfulness and positive relationships with the Mission during their year in office.

Our friends from Syria continue to hold regular integration meetings. They say they love coming to the Mission for this purpose and it has been a profound joy to me to get to know them and hear their stories. Please pray that the Lord would bring healing to them and to their nation. It's only since I have been involved with this refugee project that I have begun to notice many references in the Bible to Syria and it's capital Damascus. I'm persuaded that the Lord has a greater and deeper purpose for them being now in the city of Aberdeen.

The local pastors and church leaders monthly meeting for prayer and intercession for the communities in this area which we serve is reaching a new and encouraging level of unity and effectiveness. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month and after sharing our stories and prayer needs together we pray. The passion, reality and openness is impressive and the 'small steps' outcomes are a cause for thankfulness. Please continue to pray for us.

It is also an honour for us to belong to the Donside Christian Partnership. During a recent meeting we committed our congregations to unite around three events throughout the year. The Palm Sunday Walk,

The Pentecost Day BBQ and the Freshers' week picnic. I will provide details and the arrangements about these events nearer the time

The regular and faithful ministries of CAMEO, IBS, The Foodbank and SAMS all continue week by week in low key, small scale and encouraging ways. Many good and lasting relationships are forged and as we as a congregation partner with these friends it is also encouraging for us to see evidence that The Lord's gracious hand is at work.

Similarly, with the staff who work in and out of our office, the regular and faithful outreach by ourselves and our partners is a great testimony to the power of the gospel. You will know some of the names the office staff and others you may not know but they all do a strategic and important job and are worthy of our prayer support. Their names are Steven, Bill, Cheri, Lola, Anna, Su, John, Curtis and myself.

Items for prayer for March;

Tuesday 06 March	10 30 am. Local pastors and church leaders meeting.
Wednesday 07 March	7 00 pm. Immerse the Mission in prayer for the month of March.
Sunday 11 March	11 00 am. The first of our new style cafe church services. We have asked the students to help with the preparation for this event and I'm eager to see what they come up with.
Tuesday 13 March	7 30 pm. Deacons meeting.
Friday 16 March	City - wide prayer gathering in Oldmachar Parish Church.
Saturday 17 March	9 00 am to noon, Easter Journey, preparations and walk - through.
Monday 19 - 23 March	The Easter Journey for local Primary school pupils.
Sunday 25 March	2 00 pm. Palm Sunday walk, beginning in St. Machar Cathedral, via The Botanic Gardens and ending up in the Mission for refreshments.
Friday 30 March	Good Friday, city - centre march. Arrangements to follow.
Sunday 01 April	11 00 am. Easter celebration. Please invite your friends and neighbours to attend and hear about the East story.

During our elder's away-day we were challenged by the prayer in Psalm 116 v 7. 'Return to your rest, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to you'. This is a very powerful and personal prayer. It seems to be a prayer to the deeper, inner self which has a focus on the restoration of rest for our spirits. In this respect we felt it appropriate to think about ways in which the upper hall can become a more welcoming and restful place. The hall is currently functional and a tad bland so if anybody has creative ideas about how it can become more of a restful place will you please let Steven know. Many people use our premises, sometimes hundreds every week, so it could be very therapeutic if when they came in they could leave their concerns, burdens and anxieties at the door and enjoy an increased, restful environment. It may well be that we can improve the colour scheme, lighting, fabrics, flooring and furnishings without too much change but it is much more important that you appreciate the heart in this so that all aspects of our lives and ministries become a sanctuary for the Holy Spirit's presence, power and person.

With warmest blessings on behalf of the Mission Church elders.

Hector

You're invited!

Join us every
Sunday at 11am

St. Machar Drive, AB24 3RX

Tel. 01224 277265 Email: office@the-mission.org.uk

Web: www.the-mission.org.uk Facebook: The Mission, Old Aberdeen