

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our September 2018 prayer and information newsletter. I enjoyed reading a little quote from Helen Hunt Jackson, which says, 'September days are here, with the summers best of weather and the autumns best of cheer'. The word September comes from an old Roman word 'septem' which means seven. In the Roman world it was indeed the seventh month, however, Anglo-Saxons also called it Haefest Monath, which means Harvest Month. Please pray that we will enjoy a spiritual harvest during the month, especially as we continue with our current teaching themes of 'the Holy Spirit in the Luke - Acts writings' and 'living the new Jerusalem in advance', as well as in all the myriad activities that happen in the name of the Mission or within our premises.

I recently read a refreshing and challenging article that described some factors that contribute to a spiritual harvest. The article was entitled, 'Why wineskins are important'. The author pointed out that a wineskin is used as a biblical metaphor to describe our heart values and spiritual understandings. The essence of his message was that 'whenever the Holy Spirit is poured out it should be into compatible wineskins'. All too often we offer the new wine of the Holy Spirit an incompatible wineskin as we try to control, shape and squeeze the Holy Spirit's blessings into our systems and traditions. We have been learning, recently, much about the Holy Spirit's person, power, passions, priorities and presence in our teaching and preaching ministry. Let us continue to pray throughout the month that he will always be welcome and have the freedom to change, comfort, encourage, edify and instruct us according to his will and purpose, which is always about championing Jesus and equipping us to become mature and attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of the Christ. I'm certain none of us wish to be considered as incompatible!

A few Mission members have expressed an interest in being baptised soon. How wonderful it would be if we could arrange to do this during this month before it gets too cold and dark to do it outdoors, please pray about this possibility.

Matters carried over from August that we should continue to soak in prayer;

During our cafe - style service on Sunday 12 August our theme was 'the new Jerusalem as a networking community'. We had two excellent presentations about children's and youth ministry in the local area from SU and from SAMS and also a brief talk about the nature of networking. Networking is one of the outstanding characteristics of the Mission which we do exceedingly well. Please pray, however, that we don't become complacent in this context but that we always appreciate the privilege of praying with, sharing with and serving alongside others.

One expression of our unity in networking was the Back to School BBQ and party which was held on Friday 17 August. This was supported by a number of local congregations and organisations and attended by a good number of school pupils, please continue to pray that the seeds sown on this occasion will reap a significant harvest.

Credit to the loyal group that met every Wednesday morning throughout the summer for Coffee and Prayer. These were meaningful and significant times during which we learned much about prayer as we prayed through The Lord's prayer together. May the impact of these occasions be profound and lasting!

Our Mission of the Month for September is Friends International (FI). It is great honour for us to partner with FI and to welcome guests and visitors from around the world to the Mission as we continue to host a number of opportunities for internationals to use our premises. FI have produced a very helpful information leaflet about these opportunities which can be used as invitations to our regular events. Our new welcome banner also displays a superb picture of this aspect of the Mission's international interests and this should be on display soon. Please pray about the impact both the invitations and the banner will have on those who receive them and upon passers-by who, hopefully, will be attracted to read the banner.

Items for your prayers during September;

Sat	01 Sept. 12 00	The Cameo BBQ, followed by the AUCU BBQ at 5 00 pm.
Sun	02 Sept. 19 00	The AUCU commissioning service for session 2018 / 9. This is also the launch of their Freshers week outreach will run from Monday 03 Sept to Friday 07 Sept. and include daily lunch bars and evening events.
Tue	04 Sept. 10 30	Local pastors and church leaders prayer and intercession meeting.
Wed	05 Sept. 19 00	Monthly immerse the Mission in prayer meeting.
Thur	06 Sept. 19 00	International students welcome meal.
Sun	09 Sept. 11 00	Cafe - style service followed by congregational lunch. 2 00 pm DCP ' Homecoming Picnic on Elphinstone lawn (if the weather is unfavourable the picnickers will come to the Mission instead).
Tue	11 Sept. 19 00	Deacons meeting.
Thur	13 Sept. 19 00	RGU International welcome meal in Bon Accord Free Kirk.
Fri / Sat	14/15 Sept	International Presbyterian Church Presbytery meetings.
Sun	16 Sept.	MAF concert in Aberdeen Christian Fellowship.
Wed	19 Sept. 10 30	DCP meeting in Credo.
Fri	21 Sept. 19 30	City - wide prayer gathering in Woodside Parish Church.
Sat	22 Sept 19 00	Powerpoint. Gilcomston Church.
Fri	28 Sept. 10 00	Macmillan Coffee morning.
Sat	29 Sept. 12 00	The Missions annual 24 / 1 prayer meeting. Steven will prepare a rota for this event into which people can choose a slot that suits them.
Sun	30 Sept. 18 00	SAMS youth group, 18 The Chanonry.

There are also a number of weekly events that should be sustained and supported by us in prayer;

Sundays	11 00	Family service
Mondays	10 00	CAMEO
	16 00	SAMS prayer meeting
	19 00	AUCH equip meeting
Tuesdays	19 00	IBS
Wednesdays,	12 00	Syrian families integration meetings
	12 30	Students Connect meeting
	19 00	Praise, Prayer and Fellowship Meeting
Thursdays	14 00	North Aberdeen Foodbank.
Fridays	08 00	AUCU prayer breakfast
	12 30	SAMS + lunch for St Machar Academy pupils.

This morning I was praying with Paddy and Rita just before their journey home to Taiwan. During Paddy's prayer in Mandarin the words from Daniel 11 v 32b (AV translation) came strongly to my mind, 'They that know their God shall be strong and do mighty exploits'. May this be true of our congregational life throughout September so that we become strong and do mighty exploits in Jesus precious name.

With warmest blessings on behalf of the Mission Church elders,
Hector

You're invited!

Join us every
Sunday at 11am

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