

Dear members and Friends of the Mission congregation,

Welcome to our March prayer / newsletter. March always heralds in Spring-time, which as we know, is a season of sowing and growing. Let's pray that this process would also be true in the life of the Mission. It is often said that 'March comes in like a Lion and goes out like a Lamb'. This saying reminded me of how Jesus is referred to in two wonderful yet complimentary metaphors; 1. The Lion of the tribe of Judah in Revelation 5 v 5 and 2. The Lamb who had been slain in Revelation 5 v 6. These are remarkable and powerful scriptures describing different aspects of the person, ministry and sacrifice of Jesus which should fill us with love, hope reverence and awe. The chapter goes on to record in verses 10 + 11 'That it was his blood that purchased us for God, from every tribe and language and people and nation to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God'. May we have grace during the month to fulfil this exceptional honour and purpose which the Lord has bestowed on us.

Our 'immerse the month in prayer meeting' will be held at 7 00 pm on Wednesday 06 March. This date is usually referred to in the Christian Calendar as Ash Wednesday which begins the Lenten period of 40 days in anticipation of Easter. This 40-day period is intended to remind us of the 40 days during which Jesus was in the desert being tempted by and overcoming Satan.

Many people tend to 'give up' something during Lent which is very commendable. Last year, however, I discovered the concept of 'give away' instead of give up. I shall seek to follow this different approach to Lent this year and see how meaningful this will be. Either way it would be good if we spent some time, during each of these 40 days, praying for and thinking about the many different expressions of the life and work of the Mission.

Prayer continues to be at the heart of all that happens in and around the Mission and is much needed as we face the many choices and challenges of the future. Those of us who enjoy the NCC meetings on Wednesday evenings have come to appreciate the helpfulness of the answers to the questions. The answer to question 38 'What is prayer?' reminds us that 'prayer is pouring out our hearts to God in praise, petition, confession of sin and thanksgiving'. It would be wonderful if we developed the reputation that we are a people who pour out their hearts to the Lord in prayer.

This kind of prayer will be especially important for the Mission elders who travel to the Living Rooms, Inverbervie for their annual Away - Day on Wednesday 06 March.

Our Mission for the month of March will be LatinLink and we are looking forward to a visit from the new Scottish worker during our Cafe - Style service on Sunday 10 March. His name is Mike Fernandes and he is originally Peruvian but married to a Scot. It promises to be a lovely time together. Please continue to pray for this important organisation

Matters carried over from February that we should continue to pray about;

Both the AUCU and RGUCU events weeks were very successful. Let's continue to pray for the students who have such a huge heart to share the 'good news' on campus. The new AUCU executive team are now in place for session 2019 / 20 and it would be encouraging for them to know that we are praying for them. It came as quite a surprise to me to discover that the final Equip meeting for 2019 will be on Monday 25 March, ie this month!! I have to commend the 2018 /9 team and especially their secretary Bethan Raynes for their dedication to their calling and for their appreciation of all that the Mission provides for them

The bridge-building event held to integrate the Syrian families was very successful. Many of the families expressed their gratitude to me for all that the Mission has done for them and how comfortable and safe they feel within the building. The food for the occasion was provided by The Syrian Kiosk which stands outside M&S and tasted delicious.

Speaking about food; a new cafe has just opened just along Market Lane from the Mission. It's called Shelter and the office staff and myself have developed excellent relations with the folks there. The family who run it are from Turkey and have been very warm and friendly towards us. Please pray that we would be a blessing to them as they serve us regularly.

You will be aware of our desire to rebrand the Missions communications and to upgrade the upper hall. Andrew Loudon will have responsibility for managing this project, please pray for Andrew that he enjoys and flourishes

in this demanding role as he already has a very full and busy life. We are very grateful to all the folks who are committed to the task ahead which should commence towards the end of March and please continue pray that the financial burden of these developments will be met.

We had a lovely time on Sunday 10 February when we welcomed Alan Fraser from TEARFUND to our cafe - style service. Alan sent us a super letter of appreciation for the gift we provided for TEARFUND and expressing how much he enjoyed his visit among us. FYI, all the letters of appreciation that we receive from different missions, organisations and charities are collected into a folder which is kept in the upper hall and accessible for everyone to read.

Items and dates to pray about during March;

Fri	01 - 2 00 pm	DCP World Day of Prayer meeting in St. Ninians Church, King Street.
Sat	02 - Sun 03	DCFC Missions Conference
Tues	05 - 9 30 am	Local Pastors and Church leaders prayer and intercession meeting.
Wed	06	Ash Wednesday, The start of Lent. Elders Away Day.
Thurs	07 – 12 noon	Syrian families Integration meeting
Sun	10 - 11 00 am	Cafe - style church service with a guest from Latinlink (Mission of the Month)
Wed	13 - 10 00 am	Easter Journey planning meeting
Thurs	14 - 7 15 am	Cultures of confidence breakfast Sandman Signatures Hotel, Aberdeen
Fri	15 - Sat 16	Thrive Conference, Treetops Hotel
Mon	25 - Fri 29	The Easter Journey 2019 & Prayer Spaces at St Machar Academy
Mon	25 - 7 00 pm	Final AUCU Equip meeting for this session
Wed	27 - 7 00 pm	Local Church's walk - through The Easter journey
Thurs	28 - 7 00 pm	iCafe
Sun	31	Mothers day and also when our clocks spring forward one hour

I recently read a scripture that troubled me; Joshua 9 v 14, reads 'The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the Lord'. I was thinking about and feeling somewhat guilty about the many times I make a decision and then ask the Lord to bless it rather than inquiring of the Lord first before going ahead with a course of action. Please pray for us that as we make choices and plan ahead that we would always inquire first and act as he leads us, appropriately.

With warmest blessings on behalf of the Mission Church elders.

Hector

You're invited!

Join us every
Sunday at 11am

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