

Dear members, friends and partners of the Mission Church,

Welcome to our Prayer / Newsletter for December 2019. December can often be a demanding and exhausting month of the year as people wind up for the annual festivities. In the Christian Calendar the season of Advent begins on the first Sunday of December and approaches Advent in a measured and gradual way and has its focus on principles of appropriate preparation for the birth of Jesus including the themes of hope, peace, joy, love and light which contrasts with our more familiar, commercialised and self-indulgent time of year.

For this reason I was pleased to come across an Advent version of Psalm 23, from Japan, which I felt I should share with you;

The Lord is my pace setter, I shall not rush
He makes me stop for quiet intervals
He provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity
He leads me in the ways of efficiency, calmness and peace
Even tho I have many things to accomplish, I will not fret as his presence is here
His timelessness and importance will keep me balanced
He prepares refreshments and renewal in the midst of my activities,
He anoints my mind with tranquility
My cup of joy overflows
Truly harmony shall be the fruit of my efforts and
I will walk at the pace of the Lord and
Dwell in his house for ever.

Our immerse the Mission for the Month of December meeting will be held at 11 00 am on Wednesday 04 December at 11 00 am. Please note the change of time for this. Due to the uncertainty of the weather and the dark and intimidating December months we will suspend our normal NCC Wednesday meetings and hold Prayer and Coffee meetings at 11 00 am on Thursday mornings instead.

Our Mission of the Month for December will be Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) which was founded by Hudson Taylor as the China Inland Mission in 1865. I read this quote from Hudson Taylor which highlights the same message as the Japanese version of Psalm 23 but in a different way; 'The branch of a vine does not toil or worry, it does not rush here and there seeking to find sunshine and rain. No, it rests in union and communion with the vine, in the same way we should abide in our Lord Jesus.' May this be our experience this Advent season.

I am very encouraged by the life within and around the Mission at the moment. The Sunday and Wednesday worship and teaching services are often inspiring and instructive and current building use is at saturation point. There is so much to be thankful for and to ask the Lord for his continued protection and provision throughout the month.

One of our annual traditions is to provide a ' Giving Tree ' to bless passers by. We plan to put this out from Monday 02 December, please pray for it's righteous impact.

I read recently that if you read a chapter of Luke's gospel every day beginning on the first day of December you will complete the whole of the gospel by the 24 th of the month and then awaken on the 25 th of December knowing something about whose birthday you are celebrating we receive many invitations to attend events during December, I have listed some of them below..

Matters for prayer carried over from November;

Please continue to pray for the work of Blythswood Care. It was great to have Elma Mackay with us providing an update about the work. She sent us a lovely letter expressing her appreciation of our support for the important mission that Blythswood are engaged in.

Bill keeps a folder of the many letters of appreciation that the Mission receives from different groups and individuals and it would be an encouragement for you to flick through it at some point.

The SAMS event on Thursday 28 November called The Big Day Out proved to be a wonderful success, with 40 children attending. We should hold the work of SAMS in our prayers regularly along with all

the other work amongst children that goes on in this area. This includes the SU in the Academy, The Lighthouse, School Pastors an NESYFC as well as congregational Sunday Schools and children's clubs. Once again, the City-Wide prayer gathering held last month, in the Bon Accord Free Church was precious and significant. Prayers were offered for the one Church in our city with a special focus on mission and also for the institutions and governance of the city. There is a wonderful unity and commitment to these meetings and it's an honour for me to be involved in the leadership of them.

We wish our AUCU students - indeed all students - every success in their exams and a wonderful Christmas vacation. In this connection I was delighted that our good friend Johnson was awarded his PhD at the end of the month and it's been such a blessing to welcome his wife Gloria and the three children here.

Dates for your diary and prayerful interest during December;

Sun 01 Dec 11 00 am Family service led by AUCU
 Mon 02 Dec 9 15 am Local pastors and church leaders prayer and intercession meeting
 Wed 04 Dec 11 00 am Immerse the Mission in prayer meeting for December
 7 10 pm Meet at the Mission to walk down to the Cathedral together for the Aberdeen University Carol service followed by refreshments at the Loudens.
 Fri 06 Dec 7 00 pm RGU CU Christmas Banquet , Bon Accord Free Church
 Sun 08 Dec 11 00 am Cafe - style service shared with the Love Citadel congregation
 6 00 pm Mission Action Church Carol service, YMCA building, Summer Street
 Tues 10 Dec 7 00 pm IBS Christmas Party with the guest speaker being John Merson
 7 00 pm Deacons Meeting
 Thurs 12 Dec 11 00 am Prayer and Coffee meeting
 7 00 pm Christmas themed icafe
 Fri 13 Dec 7 00 pm Kairos Moment, The Father's House
 Sat 14 Dec 6 00 pm Fountain of Love Christmas concert, 31 Palmerston Road
 Sun 15 Dec 3 00 pm and 6 00 pm Kings Community Church Christmas Concerts, Beach Ballroom
 Sat 21 Dec 5 00 pm Carols @ d Centre, Love Citadel congregation, Altens Community Centre
 Tues 24 Dec 4 00 pm City Church Christmas Eve service, in the Mission
 7 00 pm Cove Community Carol service, Hector & Steven sharing a seasonal message
 Sun 29 Dec 11 00 am Thanksgiving service for the Lord's blessings in 2019 and praying for 2020

One of my favourite seasonal bible verses which blesses me, whatever the season, is from Luke 2 v 13 + 14 ' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared, with the Angel, praising God and saying ; 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.'

May this be our desire and prayer throughout the month!

On behalf of the Mission Church elders who wish you a blessed and very safe and happy Christmas

Hector

You're invited!

Join us every
 Sunday at 11am

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