

prayer newsletter

July 2017

Malcolm Riley (London Underground Church)

Give thanks for...

- Our mission events. We had a CIS quiz, fun in the park, evangelism in Leicester Square pop up and Mission Sunday. There were non Christians at all. Particularly pray for B, who has shown a interest after the mission.
- A good time over the last few months in John's gospel on Sundays. Pray for growth and joy in seeing more of who Christ is together.

Please pray for...

- A restful summer - Karis and I are having a lighter season in July and August after what has been a very challenging 2 years (17 house moves, 125 nights of refurbishment while doing the plant and Karis finishing her PhD and Masters in that time).
- September - for those heading on from LUC to find good churches and new people arriving to settle down quickly.

Mike Reith (Becontree Church)

Give thanks for...

- Revive! It was such an encouraging time for us. 30 of us were able to go. And 2 new Christians gave their testimonies on stage before 1,000 people - which really moved those who heard.
- EMA - after giving a seminar on door-to-door visiting it seems we have 3 more churches wanting to try it!

Please pray for...

- The Iranians, who are scattering around London which affects their church attendance. On Sundays we study the 10 commandments. There are complications about our interpreter translating 'no adultery' at the midweek Bible Study. She is divorced and seems to be in a relationship, and there has been push-back. Pray for patience for me and teachability for her.
- C, a young mum in 30's who we have visited and is willing to do 1-2-1 studies. Pray for her and Hannah to hit it off.
- N, a new arrival Mum in church with a marriage in difficulty. Pray she'll persuade her unbelieving husband to meet with Mike to talk together about their marriage, and then the gospel.

- S, a 16 yr old bright Nigerian whose house we visited, now starting 1-2-1 studies with George. He is spiritually confused after attending various African churches and may now be cynical. Pray God will make him a solid disciple of the Lord Jesus. His mother is sick but comes... Whilst claiming to be strongly Biblical, the reality is she is strongly traditionally Nigerian Pentecostal and we're struggling to teach her truth that clashes with that.

Jonathan Worsley (Kew Baptist Church)

Give thanks for...

- Two new members at the church. Please pray they would be blessed by their time at Kew Baptist, and that they would soon feel part of the family.

Please pray for...

- A good number of visitors over the coming weeks as new families move into the area for the start of the academic year. Pray for both non-Christian visitors, and Christians who may be potential members.
- Our new Thursday evening gathering, Thursday Central, which will be launching in September. These evenings are an opportunity to teach the church, strengthen fellowship, and to worship God and pray together.
- Our four week summer sermon series in the book of Joel.
- Rest for us as a family as we go on holiday to the US in a few weeks.
- The quick processing of a visa application for a woman, Jennifer, from the US, who will be coming to work for us in September for two years as an administrator and women's worker.

Alex Brito (Mosaic Multicultural Church)

Give thanks for...

- The baptism of Zarah, Jon and Leticia during Revive!
- Aluanna, who has just found out she is pregnant of our third child.
- A group of Brazilian friends who have decided to help us financially.

Please pray for...

- The six people taking the Christianity Explored course every Friday. Ask God to open their minds so they can understand the gospel but also their hearts so they can give their lives to Jesus.
- Jon who is leading the CE sessions. Could you ask God to give him wisdom and boldness as he teaches?
- Our core team. Could you, please, ask God to send more mature Christians to our church willing to help us to share the gospel and make disciples?

Neil Richardson (Longheath Church)

Give thanks for...

- A wonderful turnout on Sunday with lots of old and new faces and 8 kids in the primary age category.
- 10 people showing up for the pre-service prayer - standing room only!
- The closer relationship between a somewhat estranged husband (with physical disabilities) and wife (with mental disabilities). Please pray they would grow in love for Christ and each other.
- Revive - we had a huge dropout rate but our three main leaders came and were blessed. Also our key teenager came and enjoyed much of it. Please pray for her salvation.
- Financial support from Co-Mission for Arny in his time of rehabilitation. He is somewhat on the mend and has figured out which meds are helpful and which aren't.
- Visits from visiting speakers from Co-Mission, and mission-minded friends including TF from Watford who is going to serve in Paris, and MP who works with AIM and lives in a Tanzanian village working with an unreached people group. Praise God that our Longheath people were impressed and inspired and want to support in finance and prayer.
- Food and computers. We get both free or cheaply from various sources, and they help us build bridges with the community. Pray that we won't just devolve into social-gospellers or generate a whole bunch of felt-needs rice Christians! Pray for bold, gentle gospel proclamation and discipleship, with a clear call to repentance, faith and holy living.
- Marriage - two of our people are getting married on 10 July. Pray for a Christ-centred marriage and a wonderful beacon to the rest of the (mostly unmarried) community.

Please pray for...

- Arny and Michaela. 2017 has been a brutal year for them with Arny's heart attack and the ongoing life-threatening jeopardy that Michaela's unborn child has been experiencing (with the complete loss of amniotic fluid at 22 weeks - at time of writing this). They are so precious to us. Please pray God has wonderful, abundant mercy upon them.
- Wisdom and perseverance for the leadership, especially Neil. There is a great deal on our plate in Arny's absence and as the Lord seems to be sending us more and more needy people and fewer and fewer mature people. We need a lot of patience and dependence on him, and to figure out how to distribute tasks wisely, and deselect activities that are not needful. May the good not be the enemy of the best, and may we not burn out.
- Four godly mature Christians to join us - that's our prayer target - ideally two couples. Maybe God will stir up the heart of someone reading this - perhaps somebody in a context where there are super-loads of committed and mature believers but not many non-Christians. We are the opposite. Speak to your pastor, get his blessing, and then come and partner with us. The whiteness of the fields ready to be harvested will dazzle your eyes and thrill your heart!

- Finances and wisdom in how to raise them. I am genuinely conflicted on a biblical ethic of fundraising for oneself (Paul worked with his hands so as not to be burden, but at the same spoke of not muzzling the ox...). We have networks and could be more direct in asking people for funds, but at the same time want to rely on the Lord and also build up a greater culture of giving amongst our own people who in many cases have a strong sense of entitlement and a weak sense of giving to Kingdom causes.
- Unity amongst the leadership. Some people are still finding their feet when it comes to unswerving commitment and need God's help to prioritise Kingdom business. Others need help to be patient with perceived flakiness. Often illnesses, family issues, strong opinions and other matters intrude on "making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" and "striving together as one man for the gospel". May Jesus be glorified in a unified leadership.
- Anastasia, our potential woman's worker with Reach Global. She has raised 105% of her funding, God bless her, but is still waiting on a visa. We are trying to help her redeem the time by giving her prayer and study assignments while she waits - but Ana is also glad to say the Lord is teaching her contentment and trust in her waiting.
- Mentoring. We had an encouraging mentors programme this year but it has somewhat ground to a halt with at least 40% of the original cohort being assailed with personal and family difficulties. There are a lot of people who desperately need 1-1 discipleship (you may be detecting a theme here) and so so few who are ready, willing and able to give it. Pray God supplies.
- Youth. Our once flourishing and well-attended Monday youth Bible study was liquidated when one of our lovely single mums with her teen daughters moved off the estate into Kent for very understandable reasons. Her house was a rallying point for teens. We have struggled and failed to revive the group in a different location and sans Amy as the main leader. Consequently, many of the teens have wandered off and in some cases only the Lord knows where. Pray that we will renew our contacts intentionally with these precious souls and bring back the lost sheep for Jesus' sake. Pray for (you guessed it) personnel.

WHO'S WHO?

HERE'S A QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE ANTIOCH PLANTERS...

