

RESOURCES & DIARY DATES

Origins: Youth Prayer Course – Origins is a 7-week prayer resource for 11-18 year olds, that will teach young people to pray. 24-7prayer.com/origins

Great Commission website – to equip the UK Church to communicate the gospel clearly, confidently and powerfully to those who don't yet know Jesus – and see people come to faith. www.greatcommission.co.uk

HOPE 2018 – words and action to make Jesus known in villages, towns and cities across the UK in 2018. www.hopetogether.org.uk 01788 542782

HOPE Revolution – this is about encouraging young people to live radically, be different and step out of their comfort zones... to enable them to choose to use their energy, passion and uniqueness to share their eternal hope with their friends, school and community. www.hopetogether.org.uk/hoperev

Mahabba Network – helping everyday Christians share Jesus with Muslims through prayer, care and understanding. Pray through Ramadan mahabbanetwork.com/lovefast

Prison Hope 2017-2018 – a two-year partnership of denominations, prison chaplains and organisations involved with prisoners, former prisoners, prison staff and their families encouraging prayer, volunteering and giving. www.prisonhope.org.uk

Pray for Five – The Talking Jesus report (www.talkingjesus.org) shows that one in five of the people we talk to about Jesus wants to know more. www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/284190/Pray_for_five.aspx

Thy Kingdom Come 25 May-4 June 2017 – A global wave of prayer across the UK and around the world, praying that people you know might come to know Jesus www.thykingdomcome.global

World Prayer Centre – resourcing, mobilising and encouraging prayer for our nations and for the nations www.worldprayer.org.uk

FRIDAY FOCUS PARTNERS

24-7 Prayer, CWR, Evangelical Alliance, Every Home for Christ, Ffald-y-Brenin, HOPE, JustOne, Neighbourhood Prayer Network, Prayer Spaces in Schools, RCCG, Salvation Army Prayer Network, Thy Kingdom Come, Trypraying, World Prayer Centre



May - June 2017

FRIDAY FOCUS

**Prayer themes for the
2017 Year of Prayer**

**“Devote yourselves to prayer,
being watchful and thankful.
And pray for us, too, that
God may open a door for
our message, so that we
may proclaim the mystery
of Christ, for which I am in
chains.”**

*Paul's letter to the Colossians
chapter 4 verses 2-3*

Friday Focus is published bi-monthly through 2017 as a resource for churches preparing for HOPE 2018 and a year of mission together, in words and action, to make Jesus known.

Free versions of this bi-monthly Prayer Focus are available to download: colour, black & white, large print from www.hopetogether.org.uk/pray

A subscription to Prayer magazine (bi-monthly) contains Friday Focus as a pull-out prayer resource. Order by phone: **0330 332 6257** or online: www.prayermagazine.com

MAY

May 5 For the whole church to join in prayer 25 May - 4 June Acts 1:12-14

After Jesus' ascension the apostles returned to Jerusalem to pray and ten days later at Pentecost the Holy Spirit was released and the church was born. Thy Kingdom Come 2017 invites Christians to make a lasting difference in our nations and in our world by responding to Jesus' call to find a deep unity of purpose in prayer.

Lord Jesus, thank you for this global wave of prayer. We ask that many people will commit to pray for five people they know through Pledge2Pray. May everything that takes place bring glory to your name, and may your mercy and love be revealed as we pray and work together. Come Holy Spirit and empower us to be joyful witnesses.

Jane Holloway, World Prayer Centre; Thy Kingdom Come

May 12 Reaching our young people 1 Timothy 4:12

How amazing that the Lord chose Mary, possibly as young as 14 or 15 years old, to be the mother of Jesus. God in fragile human form in the hands of a teenager! In turn, Jesus himself mentored young people as his disciples. Amazing! We also must raise up young people as leaders, empowering them to fulfil their purpose in Christ.

Jesus, may we love, encourage and support our young people, not looking down on anybody because they are young, but mentoring young people to set an example in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Multiply our love for young people that we can invest in young people, just as you have shown us.

Phil Timson, HOPE Youth Director

May 19 Being an effective witness 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

We're constantly witnessing to hundreds of things as important to us (iPhones, Ford cars, Levi's, etc.). How much more though do we witness to Jesus as the heart of all we are? The question isn't 'shall we witness', but 'are we going to be good witnesses'. If Jesus rose from the dead, every part of our lives should be different!

Generous God, as we have known your love, life, salvation, joy, mercy and hope, help us to be generous in effectively sharing your call with those around us. Help us to live in a way that provokes and intrigues people to seek you. Give us opportunities, courage and joy in faithfully showing and sharing your life this week.

Barry Hill, Diocesan Resource Church Enabler, Rector of Market Harborough

May 26 Thy Kingdom Come 25 May - 4 June Luke 11: 9-13

Prayer happens when we have a challenge we can't meet by our own resources. As none of us has the resources to bring someone to faith in Jesus Christ, we have to ask the Holy Spirit for help. Thy Kingdom Come is an invitation to do just that – so that through our witness others can come to know Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your Kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thy Kingdom Come team

June 2 Come, Holy Spirit Luke 1:35

When we pray, 'Come, Holy Spirit' we don't immediately think of Mary! Yet, when we reflect on this verse from Luke, it reminds us that praying 'Come Holy Spirit' will bring all sorts of changes and disruption into our lives! Yet, it is

JUNE

through Mary's welcoming of God's Spirit that transformation on a global, even cosmic scale, was enacted.

Loving God we pray, Come Holy Spirit! We trust you, and we want to open our lives and be willing to be changed and disrupted in the process. As we pray for your Kingdom to come, we ask that you would give us the humility and courage to receive and release your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lynn Green, General Secretary, Baptist Union

June 9 Praying for Muslim communities 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

As Muslims worldwide continue in Ramadan, praying for a revelation from heaven, and praying daily that they will know the 'Right Way', join with millions of believers who will also be praying each day for Jesus to be unveiled to them in dreams and visions, and through meeting believers who love them.

Father, thank you that you are revealing yourself to millions of Muslims worldwide. As they daily seek the 'Right Way' for their lives, will you reveal yourself to them as 'Isa Al Masih' (Jesus the Messiah), who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Forgive us for our fear, and fill our hearts with love for them.

Gordon Hickson, Mahabba Network

June 16 Pray for five: people we meet Acts 12:5-17

The believers in Acts 12 prayed 'earnestly' for Peter who was in prison, but when they heard he'd miraculously escaped, they responded 'You're out of your mind!' Let's pray for opportunities to share Jesus with the people we'll meet today and in our daily lives.

Our God and Father, we thank you that you already know the people we will meet each day. Help us to pray daily for opportunities to share Jesus with those we encounter. Grow

our faith so that we pray with expectation, having our eyes and hearts open, and let's expect God to move.

Lucy Olofinjana, Evangelical Alliance

June 23 Discipleship Romans 12:2

The apostle Paul gives us an interesting insight on discipleship. It does not begin in the will but in the mind where we store our beliefs and values. One area for discipleship is our missionality; how we reach out to other people, and this also begins in the mind.

Heavenly Father, so often I respond to people on the basis of what I see and I don't see people as you see them. I ask that you enlarge my heart and mind that I might see each individual, whatever their background, as beautiful and wonderful, created in your image.

Laurence Singlehurst, Cell UK and HOPE

June 30 Prison Chaplains at work Isaiah 58:6

Being a Prison Chaplain is like no other ministry I know of. Every day they work tirelessly to offer hope, support and care to some of the nation's most vulnerable people and those who keep them in custody. Every day they get the opportunity to see Jesus in the eyes of the prisoner. Do you know a chaplain at a prison you could pray for?

Almighty God, we pray for Prison Chaplains who are today ministering faithfully with the recently bereaved, the suicidal, victims and perpetrators of violence, those without hope, and those with hope recently reborn. May they experience a renewed revelation of you in the midst of their ministry, which today reminds them of the glorious hope by which they were called.

Bob Wilson, Free Churches Faith Advisor to NOMS and Prison Hope