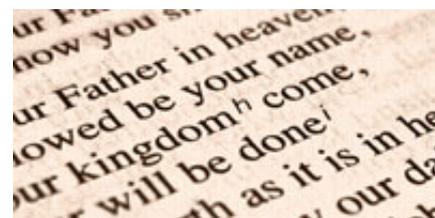


October 2014

Jesus himself warned us that as the end of the age approaches we will see great trouble and unrest in the world - wars and rumours of wars, nation against nation and people group against people group - famine and food shortages - plagues and epidemics. Looking at the situation in Ukraine, Egypt, Syria and Libya (to name but a few), and the growing threat from Islamic State, we surely see this happening around us.



Famines have been with us for a long time, and gross imbalance in the distribution of food and wealth. And the current crisis with Ebola surely ranks as plague! So how do we pray? We must earnestly seek the Lord and his will, and pray for his mercy to triumph over judgment - and for the individuals who suffer. Leaders need our prayers too, that God will grant them wisdom, and the grace to seek Him.

Matthew 24:6-8 (NIV)

You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Some major issues we could usefully pray into are below.

(Scriptures and model prayers offered may help us to get started.)

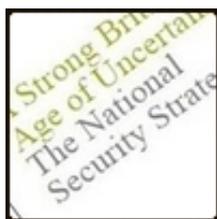
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National Security

Our security forces are increasingly aware of the threat of terrorist activity on our streets, not least among those returning from jihadi activity in Syria. The Islamic State seems to be unstoppable in that it has plentiful finance and resources and is driven by a misguided religious fervour that places little value on life, whether of their perceived enemies or their own fighters. The problem needs tackling at its root - but how?

Our leaders, both in Government and the Church, need much wisdom and boldness in seeking to change the culture of the world. As ever, Israel and its future remain centre stage in these things.

Psalm 83:4 (NIV)

"Come," they say, "let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel's name is remembered no more."

1 Chronicles 19:2-3 (NIV)

Jehu the seer, the son of Hanani, went out to meet him and said to the king, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? Because of this, the wrath of the Lord is on you."

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Weekly Prayer Meeting

Prayer for Parliament and the Nation

We meet on Tuesday nights in the The Chapel at Methodist Central Hall, near parliament square to pray for parliament, and our nation's leaders. Please come join us.

Weekly Prayer Meeting

Every Tuesday
From 6pm
The Chapel, Methodist
Central Hall, Westminster

A starting point for prayer:

God of wisdom and might, we need Your help! We pray for wisdom and discernment for the leaders of all nations and that they will not blindly lead their people into danger. Please be merciful to individuals who are put at risk in the world's conflicts, and hasten the return of the Prince of Peace, in whose name we pray. Amen.



The Sanctity of Life

Abortion is still an issue of major concern, with evidence that terminations are sometimes sought on the grounds of the sex of the embryo - something never intended in the 1967 Act, but never specifically proscribed.

It alarms many that the Government seems determined to press ahead with regulations allowing three-parent babies, despite major concerns among leading scientists and the fact that no other nation allows this. The Assisted Dying Bill is still being pushed forward, despite the many warnings of potential misuse and unintended consequences.

Jeremiah 6:16 (NIV)

*This is what the LORD SAYS:
"Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.
But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'"*

Psalms 139:16b (NIV)

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

A starting point for prayer:

Lord, You are the Author of life. We are all made in Your image. We cry out to You for the protection of babies as yet unborn, and the sick and elderly who may feel pressured into ending their lives. We implore You to ensure that our Government and Church leaders will give a clear and strong lead in matters to do with the sanctity of life. In the name of Jesus. Amen.



The Coming General Election

With the General Election drawing closer we see a good deal of jockeying and pre-election promises from all parties. We may wonder how thoroughly they will fulfil them if elected! The electorate needs prayer for wisdom in responding to these promises and indeed in choosing where to cast their vote. Let's pray that the result will truly be in the Lord's hands - and for the selection process as candidates to stand for election are chosen.

Isaiah 10:1 (NIV)

Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees.

1 Kings 3:9 (NIV)

So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

Proverbs 12:22-22 (NKJV)

No grave trouble will overtake the righteous, but the wicked shall be filled with evil. Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.

A starting point for prayer:

Father in heaven, we know that history is in Your hands so we ask You to direct those seeking to represent us in Parliament, and for those who want to choose wisely from the range of parties and prospective MPs before us in this coming General Election. May Your will be done! Amen.



The Nation's Morality

The news seems full of revelations of child abuse and paedophilia, sometimes among our leaders and representatives of the Church. The extent of such activities is coming to light, sometimes involving celebrities, but always involving the suffering of innocent children. Pray for those investigating such things, that they will persist until results are achieved, and that they will not themselves be damaged by what they are exposed to in their investigations.

Pray for our leaders that they will not rest until this problem is dealt with thoroughly.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV)

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God- having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

Ephesians 5:5-7 (NIV)

For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person-such a person is an idolater-has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.

A starting point for prayer:

Lord in Your mercy protect our young from the evil desires of so many who delight in seeing them suffer or who take advantage of their innocence. Please help our leaders and those in the Police to tackle this with determination, and bring to justice those who engage in such detestable practices. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Northern Ireland

Presently, the peace process is faltering with ongoing negotiations to seek a resolution to some of the major issues dividing the political parties. These include welfare reform, dealing with the legacy of the past, parades and flags, symbols & identity. There is a small but worrying level of background violence and the Police have been successful in thwarting a number of serious terrorist attacks. Whilst we recognise that God is sovereign and offers His peace to each individual, He also wants nations to be at peace.

Therefore, we must never take the peace in Northern Ireland for granted and fervent prayer is needed to help the political leaders find their way to a further agreement.

John 14:27 (NIV)

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Jeremiah 33:6 (NIV)

Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security.

A starting point for prayer:

God of Peace and Justice, bring healing to this troubled land of Northern Ireland. May your Holy Spirit bring a spirit of repentance and a desire for reconciliation amongst the leaders and the people. May your purpose and will be done in this place so that a standard is raised that multitudes across the globe will see and know that this is the work of the Lord. In whose mighty name we pray, Amen.

Contact Us

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Telephone: 0300 777 2223

