

Moses, 'Speak to us yourself and we will listen.
But do not have God speak to us or we will die.'

The Israelites- once they learned a little about God realised that being in His presence was a risky business. In this way they could maintain religious respectability without the attendant risks. He refers to God's sadness in 1 Sam 8:7

And the Lord told him: 'Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king'. In this way we do not need to go to God ourselves. Such an approach saves us from the need to change, for to be in the presence of God is to change."

He goes on to say that Western Culture "is captivated by the religion of the mediator"

So this Pentecost shall we pray that we are fully present in our relationship with Christ and that we can receive of all that God has for us ?



A Prayer for Willesborough

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3: 14-21



Hythe Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent
TN24 0QR.

www.wbc-ashford.org.uk Charity Registration Number 1127593



Prayer Focus May 2015



WEDNESDAY PRAYER EVENT

At the prayer meeting on Wednesday 20th May, we will spend some time meditating on Ephesians 3:14 - 19. Take time to pray into this verse this week and listen to what God has to tell you. We have particular emphasis on verse 14: *'that you may be filled to the measure of the fullness of God'*.

Family in Need

PAKISTAN

Pakistan is number 8 on the world watch list. Christians make up 2.5% of the population and are frequently attacked or discriminated against.

The blasphemy laws in Pakistan are frequently abused and used as an excuse to attack minority groups.

Asia Bibi, a Christian woman and mother of five children has been in prison on death row for five years charged with insulting the prophet Muhammad after a dispute with a Muslim woman. She was beaten, in front of her daughter, for one hour when she was arrested. Asia has spent much of the last five years in solitary confinement to protect her from other inmates, and even some of the guards. Her family have gone into hiding. Even her legal team face threats to their careers, families, and lives. Please pray for Asia, her family, her legal team, and the judge who will hear her appeal.

On 15th March 2015 at 2 churches in Lahore, 14 Christian worshippers were killed and over 70, were injured by suicide bombers.

Christians in Pakistan have asked us to pray. One shared: "We are asking for prayer for protection of all priests and church leaders, for those who witnessed the attacks and those who are in hospital with injuries. Also pray for the talks between church leadership and the government taking place at this time. Please pray for Pakistan's Christians to know the peace and grace of God at this time. We are a church badly wounded tonight."

REMEMBER NEPAL...



....PLEASE PRAY

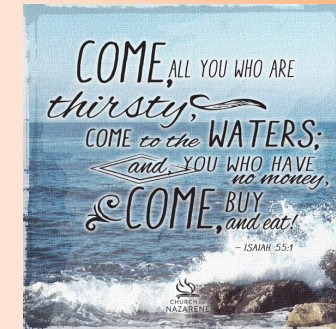
For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Matthew 25:35-36

MINISTER IN TRAINING

We have been asked to pray about whether WBC should offer a place to a minister in training from Spurgeons College. Please seek God's will in your personal prayer time with regard to this matter. It is so important that WBC continue to walk in the will of God and that means all of us need to be seeking His will and we need to feed back to the leadership team what God is telling each of us. This is something that will affect us all and if God wants us to walk this path, we need to be in agreement that we will support and nurture whoever God decides will fill this position within our spiritual family. Thank you.

PERSONAL REFLECTION



Such a simple invitation so why is it so hard to accept? Do we depend too much on others to feed us, to reprocess the Bible in a

pleasing appetising way, using a variety of media so we don't get bored and give us a "performance". When we don't grow, we can blame the Church as "we aren't getting anything out of the sermon" or we don't like the way it is presented, when all God wants is for us to "Show Up" and meet with Him 1 on 1. Is it too easy these days not to go to God ourselves? Get someone else to go for us – read the book they have written about their relationship rather than develop one ourselves?

Richard Foster in Celebration of Discipline quotes from Exodus 20:18-19 and says -

"When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to