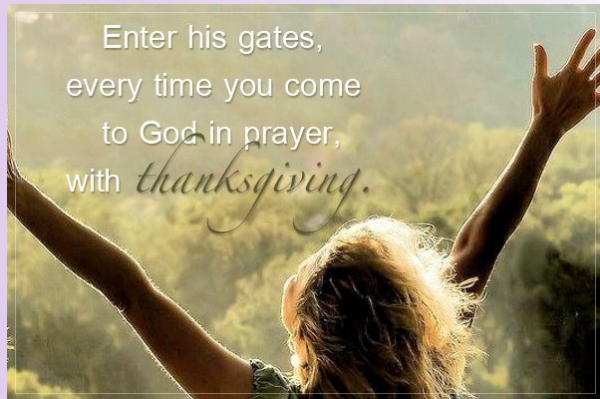


- * Do we share our food and clothing with the hungry? What do we do to help the poor and homeless?
- * Not turn away from your own flesh and blood. How do we treat every member of our own family?
- * Do away with the yoke of oppression; the pointing finger and malicious talk. How much self control do we exercise over our 'opinions' or are we all too ready to share them?
- * If we keep our feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as we please on God's holy day. Do we always approach our Lord and Master with the awe and reverence that He requires? Do we set enough time aside to enter His Sabbath rest as He calls us to do?

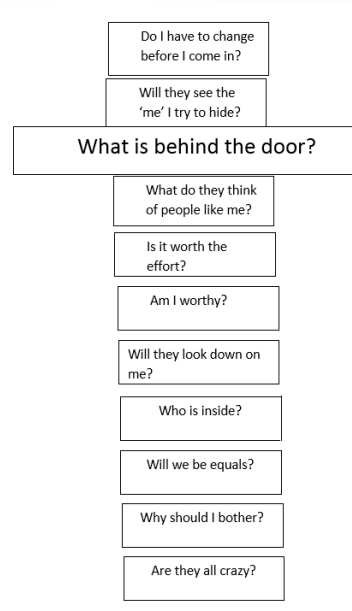
'Then you will find your joy in the Lord, and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land'



BARRIERS

At the church meeting, Roger Whiteley explored the various barriers that keep non-Christians from coming into church or exploring the Christian faith. He wrote some reasons on boxes forming a wall and then rebuilt them into the shape of a cross. How can we allow

Jesus to use us to re-configure those bricks so that we stop being a wall and instead display the power of the cross; drawing people to Jesus rather than blocking their way?

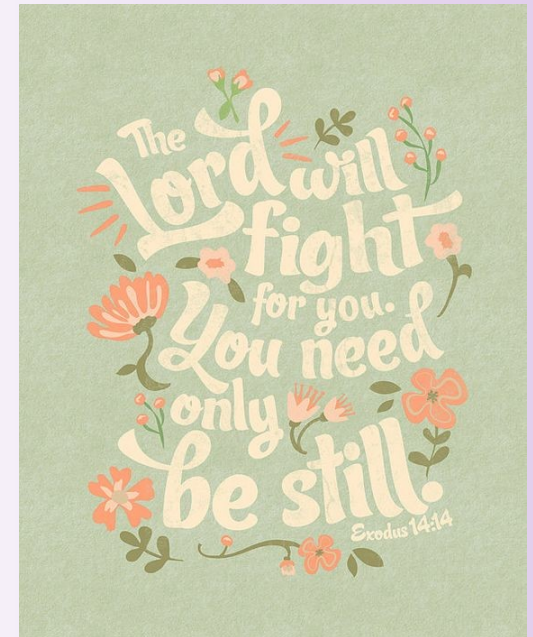


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Prayer Focus February 2017



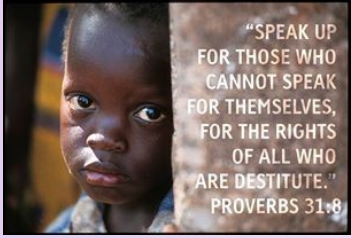
Prayer Chain

Remember to send any prayer requests to:
prayer@wbc-ashford.org.uk

Prayer for Our World

HAITI

It is 3 months since hurricane Matthew devastated 5 regions in Haiti. Many of the buildings were taken to the ground impacting so many lives that were just recovering from the earthquake 7 years ago. The Country Director for Compassion



Haiti, Gilbaud Saint-Cyr shares some prayer needs for the country:

- ⇒ For the country itself and specifically for their leadership. Ask God to strengthen them and help them transform Haiti.
- ⇒ For spiritual revival; pray for churches across the country
- ⇒ Thanksgiving for the homes which have been rebuilt. They rejoice for the children who are back at school and at the Compassion projects
- ⇒ Protection against the ongoing health issues caused by devastation to infrastructure
- ⇒ For parents to recover livelihoods affected by the hurricane
- ⇒ For future protection to this disaster prone country.

PAUL AND DEBBIE MARTIN



Please keep Paul, Debbie, Alfie and Henry in your prayers as they move to Northern Ireland.

- ⇒ For the moving and travel arrangements as there are still many things that need to come together in a timely fashion
- ⇒ For Paul as he settles into his new position in a new culture. Pray that he has wisdom, discernment and sensitivity from the Lord as he faces new challenges.
- ⇒ Alfie and Henry settle into school and make new friends quickly.
- ⇒ Debbie has some time once settled to hear from God as to what His plans are for her future.
- ⇒ That the whole family will quickly and enthusiastically be accepted into their new community and will know God's peace.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER EVENT

We will be meeting at 7:45pm on Wednesday 15th February to pray together. This time we will begin by thinking about Isaiah 58:11-12 and what it means for our church family.

True Fasting

At the last church meeting, Alan brought us Isaiah 58:11-12:

*The LORD will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a
sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.
Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.*

What a beautiful piece of scripture and how we accept it for ourselves so readily, but I was prompted to read the rest of Isaiah 58 because Alan introduced it by saying that it was about true fasting. This promise is not given without some conditions and I just urge us all to meditate on what it takes to receive such a blessing. Read the chapter for yourself but I paraphrase the following points:

- * For day after day they seek God out; they seem eager for God to come near them but even if they fast, they continue to go their own way and do as they please. Are we 'good' for one day and expect God to hear our prayers?
- * God wants us to loose the chains of injustice and set the oppressed free. What do I do to help in that fight?