



PRAYING ALWAYS

Roz Addington, MET's Prayer Secretary

As I write this, we are going into a second lockdown owing to COVID-19. It seems there are dark days ahead as we wonder how we are going to get out of this. It is crucial at this time that we seek God, praying to him, as we search for ways of coping and dealing with the current pandemic. I don't for one moment believe that God sent this disease, but he is using it to bring people to an awareness of their need for God instead of relying on their own strengths and science to find solutions. We live in a confusing world and we need to discern his will for the way ahead.

As a nation, as a church, as individuals we need to humble ourselves before God, seek his will and acknowledge our sinfulness. We have wandered far from Godly ways. The laws of our land, which had been built upon biblical truths, have been and are being eroded more and more from those foundations. God is slowly being removed from all aspects of society: our schools and further education establishments, the business sector, the commercial sector, and government. We can no longer call our country a Christian country. We have forsaken our Christian heritage, which has almost become a minority as secularism takes over. It is vital to find our way back to God and his values. We can only do that through prayer.

The Bible is full of examples of Godly people doing just that. To seek God and listen to what he is saying is vital in the turmoil with which we are faced in our country today. During the pandemic this has already begun to happen. I believe that God is shaking the nation through all that is currently happening. People are beginning to realise that what they do in their own strength is not enough. We do not have the solutions, only God has those. We need to fall to our knees - at least metaphorically - and seek God and his ways, repent of our sinfulness - pride, greed, arrogance, self-righteousness and egotism - and pray for a humble spirit and a returning God. When we humble ourselves before God, he will come and flood our land with his righteousness, and only then will we find the peace that people crave.

There is hope in all this. Back in August as I was praying, God gave me the following message which sprang out of Isaiah 43:14-21

'I will do a new thing. Watch and wait. Be vigilant, be alert, pray and see what I will do. I will set my church on a new path. I will guide and show you the way you should go. I will take you by the hand. I will lead you and be with you. You must stand firm, but you do not stand alone. You cannot imagine what I am about to do. Everything will be as new.'

I will purge the land of all the dross, the things that are hindering my work. Then my Spirit will sweep through the land, cleansing and healing whatever it touches.'

This was accompanied by a picture:

I saw a fire spreading through the country - not a furious raging fire, but gentle, though persistent. It was like controlled burning, so it was not out of control, rather like heather being burnt to encourage the new shoots to grow. It was burning away the rubbish, leaving the ground fertile for the new shoots that are there, to grow. After the fire there was a fresh green spreading across the land as the new shoots began to grow and flourish.

For this to happen, we must do our part and pray; listening to what God might be wanting to say, letting the Holy Spirit guide our thoughts and prayers. As is the way with such messages, we do not know the time scale for this, but whether it is imminent or whether it is years, the important thing is to pray.



WEEK 1 | THE CHURCH

- 1. For our church leaders:** the President and Vice-President of Conference, Richard Teal and Carolyn Lawrence, for Chairs of District and Superintendents as well as our Presbyters, Deacons and Lay Workers; for Local Preachers and Leaders of Worship. We pray for the Holy Spirit to fall upon them, that there will be resurgence of true biblical teaching at all levels within our church. (Isaiah 30:21; Deuteronomy 32:1-4)
- 2. For a thirst among people of all ages for biblical knowledge:** for the Holy Spirit to fall, convicting the church of its faults and failings, that there will be a true repentance of wrong teaching and failure to follow true biblical teaching; for a turning back to our roots and the teachings of John Wesley. (1 John 2: 1-6 Psalm 32:1-5; Psalm 51:7-12)
- 3. That as a church we will learn once again how to listen for God:** for a real desire for prayer and the true seeking of God among all his people; for an expectancy to hear God speak to his people, that God's Spirit will sweep through the church, bringing revival and a vibrancy all too often missing from many of our churches. (Psalm 25:4-5; John 16:13)

4. **For our churches to be ready to accept and embrace new ways of being church once we emerge from the current pandemic:** for the empowerment by the Holy Spirit on all our local churches, for creativity in their worship and enabling them to reach out into communities in new and exciting ways. (Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Corinthians 3:18)
5. **For the work of MET:** for the 3Rs: Rekindling of the Wesleyan vision, Renewing the Wesleyan vision and Raising up of a new generation of Wesleys; for David Hull as he seeks the way ahead in remaining faithful to biblical teaching in the face of opposition; for the Remaining Faithful network, for courage to stand up and speak out for biblical holiness. (Lamentations 3:22-27; 2 Peter 1:10-11)
6. **Pray especially for our children and young people growing up in a confusing world:** for vision to reach out to them in meaningful ways, teaching them godly values and enabling them to come into a deep faith; for Nathan Veall as he reaches out to the rising generation, particularly those who are at university; the initiative of WHOTWay; for all youth leaders - pray that they will know God's guidance and inspiration in all that they do in reaching out to our young people and children. (Proverbs 22:6; Titus 2:6-7)
7. **Encouragement for all churches up and down our land as they start to re-open after the pandemic:** for the safety of all and the courage to open up their buildings. We pray for those who are fearful of returning to worship in our churches, that the Lord would grant them courage to know when the time is right for each of them to venture forth. Help congregations to be patient and understanding of those who don't feel the time is right for them to return. We pray that these people would not feel isolated in any way and that they will feel loved and cared for by their local congregations. (Deuteronomy: 31:6; 2 Timothy 1:7; Psalm 29:11)



WEEK 2 | GREAT BRITAIN

1. **COVID-19:** those who are suffering severe effects of Long Covid, that they would have courage to face the future; for those who have been left with mental health problems, that they would find the help they need. We pray for the vaccines that have been developed to be effective, that they would be available to all, not just the richer nations; strength for all who work in the health service and for all their needs to be met including the rest they need. (Isaiah 40:28-31; Psalm 46:1)
2. **Job losses:** pray for all those who have lost jobs and livelihoods through the pandemic; those who are facing an unknown future and problems of how to feed their families and pay the bills. Pray for the mental health of these people, for God to strengthen them

and that they would find the financial and medical support they need. Pray for food banks and other agencies that help to relieve suffering. Pray for a spirit of hope to enable them to be positive. (Jeremiah 29:11; Isaiah 40:28-31; Matthew 6:25-34)

3. **Brexit:** pray for those who are taking the country forward now that the transition period with the EU has come to an end. Pray that those who are negotiating trade deals would seek guidance from the Lord; that all the necessary negotiations and discussions with regard to trade deals, along with all the other checks and structures, would fall into place. Pray for God's guiding hand on the whole situation. (Isaiah 42:14-17; Psalm 31:8-9)
4. **Revival:** for people right across the country to realise their need for God. Pray for an awakening to the fact that no single organisation has the answers to the complex issues that are facing our country. Pray for a thirst amongst the population to seek God and his ways as we move forward and for the Holy Spirit to convict people of corporate selfishness, pride, greed, arrogance, self-righteousness and egotism, and to come before God in repentance and seek the way of the Lord for their lives. (Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 80:16-19)
5. **The Government:** pray for Boris Johnson and all members of the Cabinet, that they would truly seek the good of all in the policies they make, that they would be just and fair. Pray they would turn to God to find the answers for the many problems which are facing the country; that they would be enabled to address peoples' fears of the future. Pray for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, for the right policies to be formulated, and that his proposals for the ongoing budget to be fair and realistic; that we would discern how to deal with national debt racked up owing to COVID-19. (Zechariah 7:8; Proverbs 31:8-9)
6. **The Homeless:** pray for those who find themselves, often through no fault of their own, without housing. Pray for homeless shelters and those who run them, for adequate funding to be secured. Pray for the government to find solutions to the problems for affordable housing and rental properties to be found and/or built. (Psalm 121; Matthew. 11:28)
7. **The Marginalised:** remember those who are on the edges of society - those with mental health problems who find themselves side lined and ignored by society; those who are disabled who have fallen through the net and find themselves isolated and alone. Pray for people to come alongside them to help them both practically and financially. Pray for all charities reaching out to these people, that they will be able to secure adequate funding to carry on their good and essential work. (Matthew 25:34-40; Psalm 34:8; Philippians 4:19)



WEEK 3 | CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE NATURAL WORLD

(Genesis 2:15; Revelation 4:11; Psalm 24:1-2)

- 1. Pray for governments around the world** to hold good to commitments made to reduce carbon emissions, not just to what they are already committed, but to go further and to dare to make radical changes, that a real difference can be made; to find the ways and means to change over and commit to using more renewable and green energy sources.
- 2. Pray for those who are living in areas vulnerable to flooding** owing to rising sea levels and who are in danger of losing everything they have, often the poor of the poorest societies. Pray for solutions to be found that radically will alter their vulnerability; for fair and just governments who have their people's interests at heart, rather than their own selfish desires and ambitions; for financial aid.
- 3. Pray for those countries where deforestation and illegal logging is rife.** Pray for funding to enable governments to tackle the problem, that these areas can adequately be patrolled, saving the loss of precious habitats and preventing the extinction of increasingly rare species of wildlife and adding to the problem of increased carbon emissions and rising sea levels.
- 4. Pray for the reduction of the use of all plastics,** especially single use plastics. Pray for funding of research to find alternatives to plastic, especially those which are oil based. Pray that there will be incentives from governments across the world to prevent their use; for our oceans to be cleaned and prevent the damage to fragile eco systems.
- 5. Pray for areas in the world where there is increasing hardship** owing to changing weather patterns, areas where there is greater risk of flooding, drought and the associated problems of forest and moorland fires and crop failures. Pray for new strains of crops that are with able to withstand more extremes of weather. Pray for farmers across the globe who are having to cope with these extremes of weather.



WEEK 4 | WORLD ISSUES

- 1. The Persecuted Church:** pray for strength for those who are in fear of their lives for simply worshipping God. Pray for courage and strength; for comfort and help for families where a loved one has been detained; for release of those who have been detained. Pray for churches in parts of Africa, the Middle East, China and North Korea. Pray for countries like Russia where worshipping is becoming increasingly restricted. (Matthew 5:11-12; 2 Timothy 3:10-12; Romans 8: 35-37)
- 2. China and Hong Kong:** in Hong Kong, pray for justice as those who are pro-democracy are being persecuted and ousted out of governmental positions. Pray for strength for those who have been detained and for fair and humane treatment. Pray for governments around to the world to take a stand against the injustice that is happening. Pray for freedoms to be re-instated. (Psalm 72:2-4; Psalm 9:7-9)
- 3. Areas in the world where there is war and conflict:** where the land has been laid waste and people are struggling to survive; where famine and disease are rife, and people are desperate; for refugee camps. Pray for justice and relief for the helpless, prevention for the spread of disease, especially the coronavirus. (Proverbs 31:8-9; Psalm 72:12-14).
- 4. Aid Agencies:** pray for aid agencies, for them to receive the financial support they need to alleviate the suffering of the destitute around the world, also that they will have access to the worst affected areas. Pray for compassion, understanding and financial support from the wealthier nations of the world. (Luke 16:19-31; Zechariah 7:8-10; 1 John 3:16-18).
- 5. America:** pray for unity across the nation as a new government is brought into place, especially for Joe Biden as he takes up the role of President; for calm in a deeply divided country and that people would set aside differences to build a united country; for truth to prevail where there are accusations and counter accusations of dishonesty, deception and corruption. (Colossians 3:12-14; Matt. 7:1-2; Romans 15:5)

If you wish to contact Roz with any prayer requests then please email her at: roz.addington1@btinternet.com

