



PRAYING ALWAYS

Roz Addington, MET's new Prayer Secretary

'Commit your ways to the Lord and you will succeed' (Proverbs 16:3). These were the words I woke up with at about 5.30 am one morning. We may have many plans, but unless we commit them to God and follow him they are useless.

We are living in troubling times and now more than ever we need to pray ardently and seek God's will for our lives, our church, our country and the world. Covid-19 and its consequences of bereavement and debilitating side effects, along with economic hardship for individuals, families and businesses have left people bewildered and fearful for the future. We need to pray for God to intervene in these situations, bringing a hope that can only be found in him.

As a church, we have left the path of scriptural holiness and turned instead to the ways of the world. Romans 12:2 tells us not to follow the ways of the world, but to walk in the way of the Lord. It is not talking to the 'world', it is talking to the church.

Back in June, God gave me the following words:

'Tell my people called by name to stand firm, to move neither to the left or the right but to move onward in my strength and I will be their guide. I will lead them by the hand and show them the way I want them to go.'

We need to stand firm on scripture and seek the will of God if we want to see revival. I do believe that revival will come, but we must do our part and that means we need to pray, to seek actively God's will and follow what he is saying, sticking to biblical truths. Revival begins with repentance. It begins with us. It begins with the church. We need to put our own house in order before we can bring others in from a non-church background.

'Stand up and be counted' was a phrase that was around when I was in my teens and early 20s. There was a picture of a field of sunflowers. One single sunflower stood up high above all the others. This is what the church needs to be: standing out as being different from the world around us, to be a moral compass for society, not following what society does.

Prayer is the key to this. We need to know what God is saying before things can move forward. That means coming before God humbly and in prayer, listening to what he is saying through the Spirit. We may have lots of good ideas, but unless it is what God wants, it will simply remain a good idea. We need to be listening in the Spirit, discerning what God is saying.

So, I urge us all to come before God and ardently intercede for the church. Repent of the ways in which we are attempting

to follow the pattern of world. We need to be bold in standing up for Biblical truths and waver neither to the left or the right (Proverbs 4:27). We need to keep to the narrow way and not stray on to the wide one which leads to destruction. (Matt 7:13-14).

So, as we say in church, 'Let us pray'.

The topics for prayer will be in 4 sections, one for each week. The first week will concentrate on the church, including the work of MET, the second week on Covid-19 and related topics, the third week on Brexit and the fourth week on world issues. I have suggested items which I feel God has laid on my heart to include but it is up to you how you use these suggestions. God may lay on your heart other issues; the important thing is to pray as you feel led.



WEEK 1 | THE CHURCH

1. Pray for a return to Scriptural Holiness: for repentance within the church for having left God's ways and followed the way of the world. (Ephesians 6:19; Romans 12:2; Psalm 119:103 & 105)
2. Pray for our church leaders: for a conviction of the need to follow the way set out in the Bible; for our 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. (Proverbs 3:5 & 6; Proverbs 16: 1-3; Isaiah 30:19-21)
3. For a move of the Holy Spirit to fall upon the church: that there will be a mass rising against the liberal theology which is plaguing it; to stand firm on biblical principles and for eyes to be opened as to what is happening in our church; for people to find a voice, to speak out boldly and stand up for what they believe. Pray for the Holy Spirit to fall and burn up all false teaching and ideologies. (John 16:13; Isaiah 43:18-21; John 15:1-8)
4. For the work of MET: for the 3R's: Re-kindling 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 for biblical holiness. (Isaiah 41:9-13; Joshua 1:6-9)

5. For our young people: that their eyes would not be blinded to wrong teaching; for Nathan Veall as he reaches out to the younger generation. Pray that he will know the Lord's guidance and inspiration in all that he does in reaching them, particularly those who are at university; the initiative of WHOTWay. (Proverbs 2:1-11)
6. Pray for the individual churches of our land: that God would grant them wisdom and discernment as to the time to re-open their buildings safely; for help in having everything in place to open safely. Pray for the Holy Spirit to fall, opening up new ways of doing things. (Isaiah 30:21; John 16: 13)



WEEK 2 | COVID-19

1. Pray for those who have been badly affected physically by the virus and who once again are having to re-learn basic skills; for strength for themselves and their families; for patience and understanding on the part of the general public as these people come back into society; those who now face life-long challenges of health. (Romans 15:13; Philippians 4:1-8)
2. The mental health of those who have suffered through the pandemic; those who are bereaved; those suffering from the effects of lockdown. (Isaiah 40:28-31; Isaiah 41:9-13)
3. For the doctors and nurses who have been on the front line and who have had to deal with huge loss of life and the worst horrors of the virus. Pray for restoration for those dealing with exhaustion having given out everything they have; also, for care workers, especially in our nursing homes. (Matthew 11:28-29; Psalm 23)
4. For those affected financially by the pandemic; for individuals, families and businesses; the many who are now facing financial hardship; those who have lost livelihoods and who are wondering where to turn to find the means to support themselves and their families. (Jeremiah 29:11-13; Psalm 146:5-10)
5. For our schools: that the children, students and staff will feel safe and able to adapt to the new environment and restrictions in which they are learning and working; for no further spread of the virus. (Psalm 91; Psalm 46)
6. For the opening up of the country after lockdown; for the government to get their policies right for the good of all; wisdom to know what to do and when; for the national debt caused by the provision for families and businesses through the lockdown period. Pray for Government leaders to find faith in God and rely on him. (2 Corinthians 4:8; Matthew 7:7-8)
7. Pray for those who are working on a vaccination for the virus, that a solution may be found. Pray that they will seek the Lord's guidance and inspiration. (Proverbs 20:18; Psalm 32:8)



WEEK 3 | BREXIT

(Jeremiah 29:10-12; Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 121)

1. Those who are negotiating deals whether with the EU, other parts of the world or through the World Trade Organisation, that the strategies put forward would be from God and for all decisions made to benefit all and not just a few.
2. For all organisation to be in place from 31 December 2020, the end of the transition period, and for things to go smoothly. Pray especially for haulage companies that they would be able to get paperwork in place; for businesses, to have all necessary documentation in order.
3. For checks and structures to be in place at our ports and airports; for those working in HM Customs who are on the front line of imports and exports.



WEEK 4 | WORLD ISSUES

1. The persecuted church: 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 for those who have been detained; churches in parts of Africa, the Middle East, China and North Korea; countries like Russia where worshipping is becoming more and more restricted. (Matthew 5:11-12; 2 Tim. 3:10-12; Romans 8:35-37)
2. Areas where there are gross injustices taking place; where corruption is rife and where people are in abject poverty because of the decisions of their leaders; Somalia, Lebanon, remembering the massive explosion that took place in Beirut and the complete devastation which that has caused; Hong Kong and the crackdown which is happening in that land; the many nations around the world where justice is but a dream. (Psalm 82:3-4; Psalm 146:7-9; Isaiah 10:1-3)
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.
4. Refugee camps. Pray for compassion amongst the nations. Pray for justice; relief for the helpless; prevention for the spread of disease, especially the corona virus. (Proverbs 31:8-9; Psalm 72:12-14).
5. Pray for aid agencies for them to receive the financial support they need to alleviate the suffering of the destitute around the world, both from the general public and from the wealthier nations across the world; also, that they will have access to the worst affected areas. (Luke 16:19-31).