

BMS World Mission day of prayer

Tuesday 4 March 2008



Thank you for praying with the BMS community.

There are eight sections with items for praise and prayer.

In addition, feel free to use the prayers and scripture verses suggested through the day.

(These are not necessarily intended to relate directly to the prayer topics.)

A prayer for the day

Creating and redeeming God,
we give ourselves this day to you;
inspire and shape our hearts,
direct and discipline our minds,
transform our being and doing.

We give ourselves this day to each other;
give us unity of heart and mind
for the work of prayer,
for the encouragement of our co-workers,
and for the building up of your people all over the
world.

We give ourselves this day to your mission;
fulfil your purposes, loving Father –
may your kingdom come. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen

A prayer of confession

We confess that we have lived superficially.
We have pushed to the back of our minds the
questions that trouble us.
We have not found time to face the emotions that
disturb us.
We have hidden from life behind habit, activity, and
entertainments.
We have avoided you, God, even as you came after
us.

In our relationship we have given less than our
whole selves
and we have not received from others
what they wished to give us of their selves.
We have countered the sharp demands of justice
with hardened hearts.
We have allowed imagination and sympathy to
wither.
Routine has been our ally and honesty our dread.

Lord God, we have shut ourselves up.
Come after us again, knock once more,
that we may open up to meet others,
rediscover ourselves, know your love, and live
again.

Gathering for Worship p308

A hymn for the day

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight;
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight;
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower:
Raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High king of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High king of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Eleanor H Hull 1912

Prayer items	For reflection
<p>9.00am</p> <p>1 Praise and thanks for God's past faithfulness</p> <p>1 Over 3,300 mission workers in 216 years have given faithful service in many countries throughout the world</p> <p>2 Today BMS World Mission has 164 long, mid and short-term mission workers, 36 Action Teamers and 216 supported partner workers in 40 different countries</p> <p>3 Thank God for the wise and professional leadership he has given to BMS</p> <p>4 Praise God for the numbers of people he still calls to serve him in various ways overseas and for the resources he has given to BMS to enable us to look after them properly</p>	<p>Psalm 33: 1-4</p> <p>¹ Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.</p> <p>² Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.</p> <p>³ Sing to him a new song; play skilfully, and shout for joy.</p> <p>⁴ For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.</p> <p>[NIV]</p> <p>Ephesians 3: 20-21</p> <p>²⁰ 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,</p> <p>²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen</p> <p>[NIV]</p> <p>1 Chronicles 29: 11-13</p> <p>¹¹ Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.</p> <p>¹² Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.</p> <p>¹³ Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name</p> <p>[NIV]</p>

10.00am

2 Asia

- 1 Pray for good health, stamina and peace for all our personnel in Asia

Thailand

- 2 Thank God for the Bible teaching work being done by Karen women in northern Thailand. Pray that they will be able to complete their first building for their own use
- 3 Pray for adequate resources for the Aids ministry which Judy Cook is involved in
- 4 Emily Chalke needs wisdom and power to help women out of prostitution and into income generation projects

Nepal

- 5 Pray for understanding between the Nepali Health Minister and Ian Chadwell and Tirtha Thapa of BMS World Mission and Human Development and Community Services (HDCS). HDCS may lose responsibility for several hospitals which have always had a Christian witness. Green Pastures Hospital also urgently needs a medical superintendent and a plastic surgeon
- 6 The government of Nepal needs wisdom to resolve the current political and social upheavals with love and insight. Pray for peaceful and successful elections in April

Bangladesh

- 7 Thank God for responses to the gospel from people of a whole variety of unexpected backgrounds, and for co-operation and unity within the Church
- 8 Pray for Christians involved in encouraging corporate social responsibility among business people
- 9 Pray for the witness and work of Christian Hospital Chandraghona, among people who have great need

China

- 10 Pray with BMS that we might know God's will regarding any future work in China

Psalm 33: 5-7

- ⁵ The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.
- ⁶ By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
- ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses.

[NIV]

A responsive prayer

God of love,
we see pain and distress in your world.
Give us your heart of love.

God of justice,
we see corruption and exploitation in your world.
Give us your heart for justice.

God of all the earth,
we see your creation suffering.
Give us your heart to care for your world.

11.00am

3 Middle East/North Africa (MENA)

- 1 Pray regarding new opportunities for BMS World Mission in the MENA region
- 2 New workers have just gone overseas and will start in programmes of language and orientation
- 3 Pray for the security and safety of BMS personnel especially in Afghanistan. Pray also for the people of that country currently suffering in extreme weather conditions
- 4 Wisdom is needed as BMS develops work in Israel and Palestine – pray for the associations of churches in Israel and Palestine and the reconciliation groups there
- 5 Pray for increased effectiveness of TV and radio ministries. Give thanks for our developing closer links with SAT-7, SAT-7 Pars/Iran & Turkey and Malaga Media Centre
- 6 National Christians – bring to God those who are persecuted by family and state. Pray for the family of Bible Society worker Rami Ayyad who was recently assassinated in Gaza
- 7 Pray for people in training at BMS' International Mission Centre heading out to the Middle East and North Africa
- 8 Pray for our workers in Lebanon as, yet again, violence, unrest and assassinations have recently broken out in Beirut. Stability is needed in the region
- 9 Pray for churches to have the freedom to meet openly
- 10 Pray for more openings for holistic work to take place across the region

Psalm 33: 8-9

⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the people of the world revere him.
⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

[NIV]

Meditation

Glory to you, Almighty God!
You spoke, and light came out of darkness,
order rose from confusion.

You breathed into the dust of the earth
and we were formed in your image.

You looked on the work of your hands,
and declared that it was all good.

And still you speak, breathe life and look for us: we praise you.

Glory to you, Jesus Christ!
You met us as a refugee, a threatened child,
the word made flesh, born in a forgotten place.

You called us by name, to leave what was
comfortable,
to be your disciples, companions and friends.

You saved us by kneeling at our feet,
stretching your arms wide to take away our sins,
walking through death to life again.

And still you meet, call and save us: we praise you.

Glory to you, Holy Spirit!
You brooded over chaos,
mothering and shaping God's new creation.

You inspired prophets and evangelists
to discover the right word for the right season.

You liberated the early church for mission,
claiming all of life for the Lord of all.

And still you brood over, inspire and liberate us: we praise you.

Gathering for Worship p305

12.00 noon

4 Africa

- 1 **Zimbabwe** – pray for the leaders of the Baptist convention, Rev Brighton Mpofo and Rev Gibson Muzhombwe. People need the strength to hold to their Christian principles when it is a struggle to obtain food for families
- 2 **Guinea** – there has been renewed political tension. Pray for Guinean missionaries like Ibrahim and Dorcas seeking to bring God’s love to remote towns and cities where the majority of the population are hostile to the gospel
- 3 **Angola** – give thanks for the way the Church has developed health care facilities in remote regions and for Joan Woodyer. Pray for perseverance. Give thanks for the increasing number of PEPE pre-school projects which are being established outside Luanda
- 4 **DR Congo** – continue to pray for re-establishment of peace between different ethnic groups. Pray for wisdom as the church faces some divisive situations
- 5 **South Africa** – young people of South Africa need to find work and have hope for the future. Pray for good governance for the country. May the new BMS/SABC Mission Centre be of great benefit for theological training and mission work
- 6 **Uganda** – give thanks that Chris and Christine Leach have been able to develop education work alongside the BU of Uganda. Pray for the new Education Co-ordinator and for the BUU as it makes strategic decisions in respect of the more unsettled areas in the north and west
- 7 **Kenya** – pray for a solution to the tensions following elections in January. Over 600,000 people fled their homes after clashes between rival groups. May the Kikuyu and Luo people of Kenya find ways to live side by side again
- 8 **All Africa Baptist Fellowship (AABF)** – may the AABF bring encouragement to Baptist churches as they face the challenges of life in the 21st century

Psalm 33: 10-11

- ¹⁰ The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.
¹¹ But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations.

[NIV]

A prayer of Thomas à Kempis

Grant us, Lord,
to know that which is worth knowing,
to love that which is worth loving
to praise that which can bear with praise,
to hate that which in your sight is unworthy,
to prize what to you is precious,
and, above all,
to search out and to do what is pleasing to you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1.00pm

5 Europe

- 1 **Albania** – Graham & Mairi McBain lead a church-plant on the edge of Tirana. Tim & Helen Brook have been running classes, and Louise Phillips looking at a possible health project for the church
- 2 The church-plant in Vlora can no longer rent its meeting room. Pray for Graham Sansom and Ylli & Albana Beqirag as they lead this small congregation and search for a new meeting place
- 3 **Belgium** – The Baptist Union is reforming its structures and constitution before electing a new president in 2009. Pray for Phillip Hatton and the other leaders, steering this important process
- 4 **France** – Pray for Olaf and Imke Genée, church-planting in Nantes. After eight years they have a dynamic group of around 40 adults and children
- 5 **Hungary** – Eight or nine per cent of Hungary’s population are Roma. Enforced settlement has left many unemployed. The Baptist Roma Mission offers social care and help into work. Pray for co-ordinator Jozsef Csuhai and the Roma churches
- 6 **Italy** – Pray for Huw & Alex Anderson serving the church in Siracusa – a particularly poor region of Italy. Pray for David & Ann MacFarlane and the Italy Action Team, working in the south east
- 7 Italy has 43 full-time supported pastors for 150 churches. Mark and Claire Ord are covering services in Chiavary as well as leading their own church in Genoa
- 8 **Kosova** – Pray for the 22 small evangelical congregations and for Justine Horsfall as she networks among the 90 mission workers. Pray that the newly independent Kosova will develop peacefully
- 9 **Counter-trafficking** – Between two to four million people are trafficked each year. (120,000 women and children into Western Europe alone.) Pray for a ‘Walk of Hope’ in Albania during April as it seeks to raise awareness for these people
- 10 **Recruiting** – Pray that more ministers will come forward to serve with BMS in continental Europe

Psalm 33: 12

¹²Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people he chose for his inheritance.

[NIV]

A prayer of Benedict of Nursia

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

2.00pm

6 The UK

- 1 The BMS Area and National Co-ordinator team seek to inspire about mission. Pray for inspiration and the ability to excite and enthuse
- 2 Pray that God will call people to offer themselves for service with BMS World Mission either for short, mid or long-term ministry
- 3 Pray for BMS mission personnel as they seek to establish meaningful links with ministers, churches and individuals in the UK
- 4 The BMS leadership team particularly ask for wisdom as they prioritise the needs in challenging regions
- 5 Pray for the financial resources to enable BMS to continue with its strategic work overseas
- 6 BMS regional secretaries travel regularly overseas and need much wisdom in the various pastoral situations they encounter
- 7 The staff of BMS' International Mission Centre need inspiration to equip, encourage and challenge those they train to serve God overseas
- 8 The BMS communications team need to hear and report world issues clearly and faithfully to individuals and churches through all the different channels available
- 9 Alistair Brown, the Executive Directors and Trustees of BMS seek wisdom to implement BMS strategy
- 10 Pray for David Coffey in his role as president of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) and all who seek to strengthen the Baptist churches across the world through the BWA

Psalm 33: 13-15

- ¹³ From heaven the LORD looks down
and sees all mankind;
¹⁴ from his dwelling place he watches
all who live on earth –
¹⁵ he who forms the hearts of all,
who considers everything they do.

[NIV]

A responsive prayer

From where we are
to where you need us,

Jesus, now lead on.

From the security of what we know
to the adventure of what you will reveal

Jesus, now lead on.

To refashion the fabric of this world
until it resembles the shape of your kingdom,

Jesus, now lead on.

Because good things have been prepared
for those who love God,

Jesus, now lead on.

Gathering for Worship p345

3.00pm

7 Latin America

- 1 Pray for the expansion of the PEPE pre-school mission programme into the Brazilian Amazon region with the involvement of Julia Stanbrook
- 2 The ministry of the new mission centre in Guayaquil, Ecuador, with Pete and Vicki Butchers, needs wisdom, enthusiasm and energy
- 3 Margaret Swires is working with the post-earthquake community rebuilding programme in Chincha, Peru. Pray for resources and compassion and for Paul & Rachel Elliston as they join her later this month
- 4 Pray for Mark and Susana Greenwood as they pilot the 'Space to Fly' development programme for deprived children in north east Brazil
- 5 Pray for the extension of the PEPE programme to Andean communities in Ecuador with Lizzie Hamlin
- 6 Tim and Rosimar Deller need wisdom as they work with the landless workers' resettlement mission in central west Brazil
- 7 Pray for the ministry of the BMS Brazil Mission Centre supporting slum communities in São Paulo, with Iara Delfino
- 8 Pray that the PEPE-network training materials will have wide international use and for Georgie Christine and Terezinha Candieiro as they work on these
- 9 John & Maria Dyer and Mike & Daveen Wilson are running leadership training programmes in the poor rural interior of north east Brazil
- 10 Scott & Anjanette Williamson go to Peru in the summer. Pray for them, their family and others like them as they prepare for mission service

Psalm 33: 16-19

¹⁶No king is saved by the size of his army;
no warrior escapes by his great strength.
¹⁷A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
despite all its great strength it cannot save.
¹⁸But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear
him,
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
¹⁹to deliver them from death
and keep them alive in famine.

[NIV]

Corporate prayer

God of unfailing power,
you give vigour to the weary,
fresh hope to the exhausted.

We look to you to win new strength,
that we may soar as on eagle's wings,
run and not feel faint,
march on and not grow weary.

Keep us aglow with your Spirit,
that with unflagging zeal
we may serve the Lord.

Gathering for Worship p340

4.00pm

8 Looking to the future with praise and trust

- 1 Our partners overseas are still asking us to send them good people who can inspire, network and train others. Pray that God will continue to call the right people to serve him overseas
- 2 Pray for those seeking to know God's will regarding BMS World Mission's future involvement in the vast and influential country of China
- 3 BMS relies on the generous giving of churches throughout the UK. Pray that people will be challenged to give to God's work and for BMS as we explore different streams of income
- 4 Praise God for the lives that are being touched and changed throughout the world by BMS workers. People are coming to know him, children are being schooled, the hungry are being fed and the sick healed
- 5 Thank God for the great mission stories of the past and praise him for the wonderful stories that are being written today

Psalm 33: 20-22

²⁰ We wait in hope for the LORD;
he is our help and our shield.

²¹ In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.

²² May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD,
even as we put our hope in you.

[NIV]

Closing prayer

Missionary God,
you send your Son before you send us.
help us never to close our ears to your call.
Remove our fear and self-absorption,
that we may listen for your invitation to new
challenges;
and when we hear,
help us to say 'Yes'.

Lord of all the world,
bless your children we pray.

Gathering for Worship p182

Prayers from *Gathering for Worship* © Copyright Baptist Union of Great Britain: reproduced with permission
Bible verses from the New International Version



BMS World Mission PO Box 49 Didcot OX11 8XA Tel: 01235 517700 E-mail: mail@bmsworldmission.org

www.bmsworldmission.org

Registered as a charity in England & Wales (number 233782) and in Scotland (number SCO37767)