

Friday Focus 2008

Praying on Fridays

Friday Focus invites Christians to pray on Fridays for our friends, neighbours, families, work colleagues, communities, churches and nations, to see 'His kingdom come'. It began in 2007 to lay a prayer foundation for Hope08.

Hope08

Hope08 is now underway with over 1299 geographical locations registered which represents many thousands of churches and individuals. The vision is to take 'the whole gospel to the whole nation in the whole year'.

The current High Point takes place in May:

- **Hope on the Streets.** The invitation has gone out to encourage Christians to give one million hours of kindness to their communities during the month of May.
- This links with **Prayer Week** (www.prayerweek.com) and the 10 days of prayer running up to the **Global Day of Prayer** on Pentecost Sunday 11th May (www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk).

Hope08 Prayer Triplets

Consider getting together with friends in groups of 3 (or more) to pray regularly and intentionally for 3 friends who are not-yet Christians. These groups could be part of an existing bible study, home group or cell group (free cards and details on www.hope08.com).

BLESS

Our aim is to pray **BLESS**ing on our families, friends, colleagues and then to others in our communities and across our nations. A blessing refers to the favour of God; that God will help and protect. God wishes to bless us and because He blesses us, He wants us to be a blessing to others. (Numbers 6:24-27).

The **BLESS** acronym is a helpful way to remember to pray about basic life issues. Jesus, in His life on earth, met people at their point of need and then addressed spiritual issues.

B stands for body - health, protection, strength; **L** for labour - work, finance, security; **E** for emotional - joy, peace, hope; **S** for social - love, marriage, family, friends and **S** for spiritual - salvation, faith, grace.

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'. Romans 15:13 (NIV)



Friday Focus

Prayer themes for
APRIL - JUNE 2008

HOPE 2008



Pray that:

B they may look to God for all their needs

(Psalm 145:15)

L they will find satisfaction in their work/studies and do it with all their energy

(Ecclesiastes 9:10)

E in times of trouble they will pray to God and will discover the peace of God

(Philippians 4:7)

S they will bear with each other and forgive

(Colossians 3:13)

S they may confess Jesus is Lord

(Romans 10:9)

BLESS

Hope for schools Proverbs 4:1-9; 22:6

Hope08 has produced lesson materials and DVD's to help schools engage with their communities and want many schools to take part in the Hope Schools Challenge.

Give thanks: for all who work in schools: teachers, support staff, governors etc.

Pray: that many schools will take up the Challenge and in using the resources will learn how to engage with their communities; that many children will hear the good news of Jesus in the Hope08 missions taking place in schools this year; a **BLESSing** for someone I know at school today. **Consider:** encouraging a teacher.

Hope for our communities Psalm 46:11; Ephesians 3:14-21

God has placed us as Christians in our communities to make a difference and to participate in bringing hope and transformation. **Confess:** for the times when I complain instead of praying about issues of concern. **Pray:** for the initiatives working with the police to reduce crime (Redeeming our Communities, Street Pastors etc); that the churches in my area will increasingly be able to work together to become agents for change; to know what my part can be to help bring hope where I live/work/study. **Consider:** Speaking the Declaration of Hope over my community.

The Jewish community Exodus 12:1-2; Hebrews 9:11-15

We are in the Hebrew year of 5768. Passover starts on the eve of Saturday 19 April. This festival of freedom celebrates the deliverance of the children of Israel from bondage. **Give thanks:** for the heritage of the Jewish faith we have as Christians. **Pray:** for a fresh revelation of God's grace, mercy and forgiveness to be given to the Jewish communities as Passover is celebrated; for wisdom for ministries seeking to share the love of Jesus across different faith groups; for the peace of Jerusalem. **Consider:** praying for those working to bring peace across whole of the Middle East.

Hope for government 1 Peter 2:13-15; Proverbs 14:34

Our nation has been challenged to 'recover that vision of its destiny which made it great... that has to do with the teaching and example of Jesus Christ regarding humility, service and sacrifice'. **Give thanks:** for all Christian leaders prepared to stand up and speak out for gospel values. **Pray:** for God's continued guidance for HM The Queen; for the whole election process on 1st May for the Greater London Authority, London mayor, English and Welsh local government; that those elected will be people of integrity; courage for all Christians serving in our governments. **Consider:** praying a **BLESSing** for my elected MP (MSP, AM or MLA).

Hope on the streets Romans 15:13; Proverbs 19:17

Hope08 has invited Christians to give a million hours of kindness to their communities during May. **Give thanks:** for the transformation that this could bring in thousands of communities. **Pray:** for every village, town and city to be impacted by God's love in action this month; for more contacts into local and national media to tell the Hope stories; for protection for the police force working to keep peace on our streets (National Day of Prayer 1st May); God's guidance for all the prayer events taking place in Prayer Week and the Global Day of Prayer. **Consider:** prayer walking my street with friends.

Hope for our world 2 Chronicles 7:14; Acts 2:1-4, 36-41

On Pentecost Sunday (11th May) Christians around the world will meet to pray on the Global Day of Prayer; last year 204 nations took part. **Give thanks:** for how the Holy Spirit is mobilising prayer globally. **Pray:** that as we humble ourselves, seek His face and pray, that God will pour out His mercy on our nation and our world; for all the events taking place across the UK and in London at Millwall stadium; for a nation in the news today. **Consider:** praying for Christians who are being persecuted.

Witnesses of hope Psalm 33:18-22; 1 Peter 3:15

We need to be people who are always prepared to give a reason for our hope in Jesus. **Give thanks:** for Jesus' love, forgiveness, guidance and protection. **Pray:** for a fresh understanding of who I am in Christ, so I can bring good news to those I meet today; for Christian organisations working to share the gospel in word and deed; for the planning of Hope08 projects taking place in my area over the summer; for someone I know who has wandered away from their faith. **Consider:** getting together with two of your friends to each pray for three others who are far from Jesus.

Hope for young people 1 Timothy 4:12; Jeremiah 1:5-8

Young people often feel a great deal of pressure both from their peers and the media to conform to the world's point of view. **Give thanks:** for all the young people I know who are loving and serving Jesus. **Pray:** for organisations and ministries working with this age group through Hope08 e.g. The Message Trust, Soul Survivor, Youth for Christ; for the Hope Revolution movement as it seeks to engage young people in practical outreach; for many young people to discover faith in Jesus this year; a **BLESSing** for a young person I know. **Consider:** encouraging a young person this week.

Hope for those we know John 8:12; John 4:35-42

We meet many people in the course of one day – neighbours, work colleagues and friends as well as others as we travel and shop. **Confess:** the times when we do not stop, talk and listen. **Pray:** for wisdom to know when to make time for someone else today; for the Holy Spirit to help me listen to what is really being said; for the ability to be a bringer of hope especially for those who are struggling. **Consider:** befriending someone I know who feels lonely and isolated.

© GDOP London 2007





© Trumpet Call VI 2007

Hope for children at risk Matthew 25:35-36; James 1:27

The worldwide figures are staggering: 246 million children are child labourers; 250,000 children and young people are infected with HIV/AIDS every month; over one billion children are suffering from some sort of extreme deprivation. **Give thanks:** for the Viva weekend of prayer for Children at Risk (7-8th June) highlighting these issues. **Pray:** for the work of all agencies in the UK and overseas providing hope for children at risk; for children's needs in the UK to be taken seriously by the government and the church. **Consider:** mobilising prayer in my church for this issue.

Hope for families Colossians 3:18-24; Acts 16:32-34

'Britain has the worst record in the world for family breakdown and boasts the highest level of divorce and lone parenting in Europe'. **Confess:** when we as a church have not stood up and spoken out for family values at governmental level. **Pray:** that Fathers Day (15th) will affirm the role of fathers in many families this weekend; for more stable families to be role models within the Body of Christ; for reconciliation in broken relationships between the generations; for legislation that will protect marriage and family life. **Consider:** How can I show kindness to a family nearby?

Hope for the nation 1 Kings 18:36-37; Exodus 20:1-6

Tomorrow is the longest day when thousands of pagans will visit ancient religious sites for summer solstice worship. **Give thanks:** that tomorrow, thousands of Christians from around the UK will go to the NEC Arena Birmingham to Trumpet Call VII, declaring and praying HOPE for the nation. **Pray:** that the Church will awake to the spiritual battles raging over the nation; for an open heaven over the NEC; that in the spiritual confrontation God will so answer our prayers, that people across our nations will declare 'The Lord He is God, The Lord He is God' as they find true hope in Him.

Hope for the Church Ephesians 1: 3,15-19; Colossians 1:9-13

Most of St Paul's prayers are focussed on praying for the body of Christ to be strengthened. **Give thanks:** 'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ'. **Pray:** that each Christian and Church will be filled with the knowledge of His will, live a life worthy of the Lord, bear fruit in every good work, grow in the knowledge of God, be strengthened with all power according to His glorious might as the good news is shared through Hope08. **Consider:** how I could bless another church in my area.

Jun 08

6

Friday

13

20

27

A Declaration of Hope for 2008

With God's help:

I affirm that in 2008, I intend to bring:

- H**armony in place of discord
- O**pportunities out of challenges
- P**raise instead of criticism
- E**ncouragement to replace despair.

We affirm that in our Church, 2008 will be a year of:

- H**oliness and wholeness
- O**ne purpose for many people
- P**rayers that leads to action
- E**veryone finding a place to belong.

We pray that for our community, 2008 will be a year of:

- H**ealing for those who are broken
- O**rders where there is chaos
- P**rotection for the vulnerable
- E**nterprise for all.

We pray for our nation, that 2008 will be a year of:

- H**ealth of body mind and spirit
- O**pen-hearted attitudes
- P**assion for justice and mercy
- E**xpectations and visions fulfilled.

We pray that The God of all Hope will give us the faith and courage to live lives that will release HOPE this year. I make this declaration and pray this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

(World Prayer Centre. www.worldprayer.org.uk)



Friday Focus is published quarterly through 2008. Full permission is given to copy text but please acknowledge Friday Focus, World Prayer Centre as the source.

To order more printed copies:

Go Online: www.worldprayer.org.uk
 By post to: World Prayer Centre.
 By telephone: 0121 633 7393.

10	20	30	50	100	200
£3.90	£6.20	£7.50	£9.00	£15.00	£24.00

 Price includes admin and p & p

World Prayer Centre, Cornerstone House,
 5 Ethel Street, Birmingham, B2 4BG.

T: 0121 633 7393
 F: 0121 643 5645
 E: prayer@worldprayer.org.uk
 W: www.worldprayer.org.uk

Design: Ross Hardy Design
www.rosshardydesign.co.uk

Also available on our web site:

Free electronic versions (Word, PDF format: colour, black & white, and large print). More information about the topics covered, other initiatives and ideas of creative ways to pray.

Highlighted Initiatives:

- Hope on the streets:** www.hope08.com
- Hope Schools Challenge**
- Hope Revolution** www.hope-revolution.com
- National Day of Prayer for Police Force:** www.CPAuk.net
- Prayer Week:** www.prayerweek.com
- Global Day of Prayer:** www.globaldayofprayer.co.uk
- Redeeming our Communities:** www.citylinks.org.uk
- World Weekend of Prayer for Children at Risk:** www.viva.org
- Trumpet Call VII:** www.worldprayer.org.uk

The World Prayer Centre is a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England No.3601828 Registered Charity No. 1072222