***1st Wednesday Reflection & Prayer Hour February 2017***

*MMI keeps the first Wednesday of the month as a day for corporate prayer. The hour set aside is 9.00am-10.00am, but for those who are not able to join in prayer then, please use these notes to pray for an hour at some time during the day.*

*“ But now the Lord declares,” Far be it from me! Those that honour me I will honour, but those who despise me will be disdained “*

*1 Samuel 3: 30 b*

I wonder if you have seen the wonderful 1980s movie “ Chariots of Fire”? It is an internationally acclaimed Oscar-winning true drama about Eric Liddell, who competed as a runner in the 1924 Paris Olympics. Liddell refused to run in the heats for his favoured 100 m because they were held on a Sunday. Instead he competed in the 400 m held on a weekday. Perhaps Liddell’s stand seems legalistic to many Christians today but he certainly believed he was honouring God, and at the time it made world news. Even in the 1980s, years later, Liddell’s stand as portrayed in the film, still made many people stop and think about what kind of faith would make a man say no to almost certain Olympic gold to run in an alternative race in which he had not proven himself and risked losing?

In one scene in the film, a competing American team member, just before the Olympic final, gives Eric Liddell, a piece of paper with these words written on it *“ It says in the old book that “Those that honour me I will honour*”

Of course Liddell did win the 400 M race and the gold medal. He returned to China in 1925 to serve as a missionary teacher. Aside from two leave periods in Scotland, he remained in China until his death in a Japanese civilian internment camp in 1945.

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I believe the Lord does not always give us “ earthly success” for honouring Him in all we do, but I do believe it is right always to honour God and that one-day we will be acknowledged in His presence. We do not honour God to get him to save us or to love us more; he has done this already, totally through undeserved grace. However as followers of the Lord Jesus we are called to honour Him because He first loved us. This may or may not mean earthly success but it does mean trusting and obeying Him. We have the same God as the God of Samuel and Eli and Eli’s sons. We must remember and live out our lives in the light of His words and promises *“ But now the Lord declares, “ Far be it from Me! Those that honour me I will honour, but those who despise me will be disdained “*

**Prayer**

Thank God for:

* A blessed Staff retreat and the leading on next year’s programme.
* Herman Meyer and his calling to join MMI to help with the work in Africa.
* The encouraging anonymous gift of £20 K at the start of the year.
* All those who give.

Pray for:

 **Richard Sandy** travelling in Feb

**Eddy Amponsah and Eric Mandille in Nigeria in Feb** attending the inaugural Pray and Plan for a Pan African Conference in 2018. Pray for the Lord’s leading and clear discernment for what the Lord wants. Pray for safety and good travel.

**MMI Supporters Weekend 11 -12 February.**  Pray for our speakers to glorify the Lord, for a good attendance and for the admin to run smoothly

**European Military Christian Leaders meeting in Lubbecke 24 -27 Feb.** Pray that all those who plan to attend and that the programme will be used by the Lord to encourage and equip them for their ministry in the military.

**The Lord to bring the right people** forward to take over from Jos and Richard. Thank God for those who have so far shown an interest in taking over from Richard.

Continue to pray for the Lord to touch people’s heart to give.

*J McC*