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| A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated1st Wednesday Reflection & Prayer HourAugust 20MMI keeps the first Wednesday of the month as a day for corporate prayer. Please use these notes to pray for an hour at some time during the day. Do please share with us any scriptures pictures or insights that you receive as you spend time reflecting and praying.Reflection: There are more and more people who say they do not believe in the threat of the coronavirus. They ostentatiously do not put on masks; they organize or participate in events that bring together a large number of strangers in a closed room and so on.This attitude, as well as what has happened in the last 6 months, reminded me of the story described in the Numbers 21:4-9.Let us try to imagine a little while reading these verses. Let us imagine an Israelite family sitting together in a tent and someone says: did you know that 1,000 tents away from us a snake came, bit the father of that family and he died? Sometime later they could have said: Oh, now 800 tents away from us 3 snakes attacked the whole family and they are dead. Did our imaginary family feel threatened at that moment? Again, after some time: Oh, now 300 tents from us snakes attacked a whole clan, and they all perished. Dad, are we safe?At some point, all Israel understood that the snakes directly threaten them personally. Imagine the growing panic. They started to prepare themselves: maybe they sealed their tents, perhaps they grabbed shovels, swords, other things to defend themselves. Maybe they wanted to secure the supplies of food. But it wasn’t sufficient – people were still dying.The people realized that God could help them, they also realized they had sinned against God. They rushed to Moses and asked him to pray for them and ask God to take the snakes away. The Lord, through Moses, gave them the solution: a snake on a pole. Whoever was bitten by the snake was to look at the bronze snake and that person lived.This story is interesting.  We read that only those who looked at the serpent on the pole were saved so, we can assume there were people who didn’t want God’s solution. We may ask ourselves: why? Was the cure too expensive? No, it was free. Maybe it was too complicated? No, it was elementary. So, what did some of those people do when snakes attacked them? Perhaps they were trying to find a healer, or maybe they cut-off the bitten part of the body. They were trying to use the best of their knowledge and ability to survive, and in their state of panic, wasting time looking at something was time they could not afford. But this was the only thing that could have saved them.Think about this story and compare it to what is happening today. In the beginning, the virus affected a small number of people somewhere in China. I don’t think that many of us knew where Wuhan or Hubei was. But in the following weeks, following months the threat became so realistic – and now it is affecting our lives, our jobs, relationships with our families, our friends. And what do people focus on? Preparing “swords”, “shovels”, securing supplies?The Israelites knew that the ultimate deliverance was only in God’s hands.Let us look at this story, it is much more than the discussion on how to save our lives. We all were “bitten” by the serpent named “sin”. And gradually each of us, faster or slower, are getting closer to the end of our lives. God has prepared a remedy – Jesus, who was put on the wooden cross, in the same way Moses put the serpent in the desert.Whoever will look upon Him shall not perish but will inherit everlasting life.So, what is the conclusion of this story.Of course, we should stay as safe as we can in terms of the virus, and our responsibility for others (if we get sick, we may pass the virus on to our family and friends), but on the other hand we shouldn’t be fooled and scared. And what is more important is that each of us should save our soul. We should help our family and friends save their souls too. If the virus is worth discussing every day in the media, preparing for and taking extraordinary measures, then sin, which will kill everyone, is even more critical to be saved from.The cure is free, and the remedy is at our hand.Let us thank our Lord for his saving sacrifice, that by coming to Him, entrusting to Him our worries, our problems, our pain, our disappointments, we know that He is the only one who can turn everything around in our lives to good**Read Mark 7:37.**Let us also give thanks for what our Lord is doing through MMI, ACCTS and MSO and all the MCFs.Let us give thanks for the service of many people who previously entrusted their lives to Christ and now want to bring others to Jesus who would die without God.By Igor Sawicki field worker Europe Sept 20 Prayer: **Give thanks** for the continuing work of Vasily and Valentina in the Ukraine, especially the for their widows programme continuing through the lockdown. **In September we pray for:****5-20 Sept.** In Ukraine Vasily and Petro will going on a two-week mission trip to the East to serve soldiers as military chaplains. This will be their first mission trip in 2020.**19 Sept.** MMI Team Training session with Flame International. This will now have to take place by zoom but will be an exciting and empowering initial training in spiritual warfare. Pray for Jan and Val as they prepare to lead the session and for each team member to have time to prepare for the session and to understand the teaching. Pray for protection over all involved**14 Sept.** MMI European Zoom Meeting with teaching, discussion and prayer. Pray for the new style European zoom meeting, which the team aim to hold on a monthly basis.**Through September** pray forThe continuing working out, through prayer, of how we continue MMI ministry in the constantly changing circumstances we are in; how we best develop the now established zoom meetings in the regions, with teaching and more structures prayer times where appropriate, together with other online training.Continuing financial support to allow the ministry to continue, and for wisdom in matters of administration and governance. BGen Isam the AMCF Regional VP for the Middle East to be inspired to develop the ministry across this spiritually tough region and for a good working relationship with MMI. The development of the Indian Service Booklet website, now that a suitable domain name has been acquired, particularly for the right person in India to take it forward.Various 'on-line' projects.   **IF YOU** **USE THE MMI PRAYER BRIEF** **please note the following:**• The current Prayer Brief runs up to the end of July• The next mailing of the newsletter is the end of September• We need to get the Prayer Brief onto the same cycle as the new MMI News mailing, so it is incorporated into that mailing.• With no activities or travelling in August and September, with the exception of SAR, this is a good time to extend the current prayer brief and send a new one with the MMI News.• **For August and September please :**a. Continue to use the April-July Prayer Brief, with the additional prayers listed in this 1st Wednesday Reflection.b. Continue to use the Prayer Fuel from the 6th June (Zoom) International Prayer Day. If you would like a copy of the prayer points please email prayer@mmi.org.ukc. Watch out for prayer updates on PrayerLink.  With thanks for your continuing prayer support |