|  |
| --- |
|  |
| |  | | --- | | Logo  Description automatically generated | |
| |  | | --- | | 1st Wednesday Reflection & Prayer HourDecember 21 MMI 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: Acts 18:9-10; Proverbs 31:8-9 Where we expect approval, it is easy for us to talk. It is different when we have to say something that is unpopular, where we expect contradiction or even rejection.  You then have to decide whether to open your mouth or keep silent.  Recently on a televised panel discussion, a participant was talked down because he represented an unpopular minority opinion. I remember a program weeks ago, where the moderator gave up his neutrality and stood up for the popular majority opinion, where the unpopular statement was based on Christianity. Was he afraid of the ratings?  The apostle Paul faced a new challenge when he changed from persecuting Christians to being a professing Christian through God's intervention in his life. Now he told the Jews about Jesus Christ. When he could no longer be heard there, he turned to the Greeks to spread the message of Jesus. It was a matter of concern to him to continue to tell other people what filled his heart and what had changed his life for the better. But it was also a new challenge for him and he must have wondered ‘how will they react’, as for the most part they believed in other gods. I imagine that Paul slept restlessly the night before his first address to the Greeks. In any case, God appeared to him during the night and said: **“Do not be afraid! Just speak, do not be silent! Because I am with you."** (Acts 18:9+10). Encouraged, he gave his speech publicly to many Greeks in the city of Corinth the next day - and it almost ended in disaster. He was dragged in front of the judge for spreading unpopular messages. But the judge was wise, and his verdict was: This is not about questions of public order and security but about questions of faith. This is beyond a judge`s responsibility. Paul learned how God kept his word. God had been with him.  Do not be afraid, speak where you cannot be silent! God is with you! Does that apply in any case? It applies where you serve people and do good with your words. It applies when you speak out against injustice, when you open your mouth for people who cannot defend themselves when injustice is done to them. ***”Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. ….. defend the rights of the poor and needy.”*** (Proverbs 31:8+9). It applies when you step-in when people are badly talked about behind their backs. It applies when you stand up for people who are to be denied the right to life, you have God with you because he wants people to experience life and justice. And HE is with you when, provided you are a believer, you speak of your faith.   Do not be unsettled if you encounter incomprehension or rejection. What you have in your heart, you must not hide, you have a lot of good things to do in your environment and in society.  But it does not apply if you publicly express inhuman, hostile, destructive views.  Therefore, let us be careful what we say in front of other people or in public, and that we can answer for it before God!  Hermann Meyer, Fieldworker Africa East & Africa South Prayer: **We give thanks for:**  **Africa East** – Thank God for the doors HE opened on the ministry trips to Tanzania and Kenya, for evangelizing to soldiers and police, for the starting up of new MCF-groups, and for renewed relationships. Pray for strengthening and encouragement for all the spiritual plants so the Holy Spirit will nurse and care for them, that they will grow, develop, and some day bear fruit.  **Africa South** – Give thanks for the Africa South Regional conference and MMTI in Madagascar, which the Lord facilitated, guided, and blessed. Pray the teaching and Holy Spirit encounters will develop a reverberation that becomes stronger and stronger, so that it does not fall silent, but is effectively carried into the countries and their armed forces and enlarges God's kingdom.  **In December we pray for:**  **All MCFs** who will have a Christmas outreach in one way or another during the Christmas season.  **Croatia: Dec 29th** will be the sad anniversary of the most devastating of several earthquakes that in 2020 hit Croatia. The Croatian MCF would like to use that opportunity to offer people hope in Jesus Christ through the book "When Foundations are Shaking" that has been written by Vlado Hoblaj, a member of the Croatian MCF who was the preacher at the Adria Interaction. Pray that the three presentations (in three towns) that the MCF will have that day will be well attended, especially that people of influence and the media will come so that the message of the saving love of Jesus would be spread out nationwide.  **MMI Team & Trustees retreat**, due to take place in Jan. Pray for wisdom in decisions that have to be made in the new circumstances.  **Lusophone Africa**:  Pray for the Electronic Bibles and newspaper "DESAFIO(Challenge)" being delivered and distributed in all Lusophone countries.  **Francophone Africa:** Pray for a seamless leadership renewal in the Francophone MCFs. Pray for peace, as most countries are facing new elections or rebellion. Pray for the future Chaplains training and planning trip in February.  **Middle East**; Pray for Lebanon where medicine, food clothes and fuel are not affordable for most, and the for the Middle East RPPG and Regional Team leader as they pray to discern  the right programme for 2022.  **MMI Team:** Please pray protection and for guidance over the whole MMI team and trustees.  *For the full list of December prayer requests contact* [prayer@mmi.org.UK](mailto:prayer@mmi.org.UK) Thank you for your prayer support. | |