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I am working my way through an excellent series of in-depth studies of the book of Daniel, which is proving to be enlightening, challenging, exciting and life-transforming. One of the contentions of the studies is that, in Daniel, we have a great model of how we should behave as Christians in our own time, especially in answering the important question, “In the light of Jesus’ Second coming, how should we adopt lifestyles appropriate to the reality that He will come again?”  Jesus had much to say about this; take, for example, His teaching in Matthew 24 and 25, which seems to culminate in His admonition, “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” (Matthew 25:13). Of course, by telling us to ‘watch’ Jesus was not inviting us to take merely a detached interest, a superficial digest of newspaper headlines or sermon topics, as His relating of the fate of the servant who buried his talent in the ground (Matthew 25:26-30) makes clear.  By watching, Jesus calls us to a radical discipleship, taking up our cross daily and following Him. Many miles of print have been usefully expended through the ages on describing how this might be done but it seems to me that we have, in Daniel, the supreme example of how to ‘watch’ as Jesus intended:  Daniel understood the times in which He lived (9:2).  Not only this, he perceived through prayerful study of the Word what God had to say about those times (9:2).  He was not content simply to see prophecy take its course but immediately engaged with God over its fulfilment (9:3):  He sought the Lord;  He prayed;  He repented on his own behalf and on behalf of his nation;  He pleaded with God that His Word might come to pass;  He fasted;  Even holding such an exalted position in the Persian Empire, he humbled himself to the extent of donning sackcloth and covering himself in ashes.  His actions lead into one of the most powerful intercessory prayers in the Bible (9:4-19). He did everything he possibly could to seek the Lord and petition Him to restore his people.  Read Daniel 9:4-19.  These days leading into 2021 are as uncertain as any in our lifetime. As we pray and plan ahead, we have no certainty of when we might be able to travel, even if we will be able to at all. I think God is happy for us to plan what we might do with His permission and grace but I think He is happier if we take a leaf out of the Book of Daniel and determine to be like him in seeking the Lord for His ways and His purposes in 2021. Daniel surely gives us the example of how to be men and women of God in 2021 and the ways to ensuring that this coming year is another one in which we will see the Lord do great things.  Roddy Porter (CE/TL MMI) Jan 2021 Prayer **We give thanks for:**  **Tanzania:** Thank God for changing the hearts of postal authorities in Tanzania. Camouflage bibles and Christian teaching material sent in October by MMI which were temporarily confiscated, have been released. May the Lord protect and bless their further distribution and the effects of His Word to military people in the Dar-es-Salaam area and in ELCT Ulanga Kilombero Diocese.  **We Pray in January  for:**  **11-13 Jan:  MMI Team and Trustees Retreat (via zoom).** Pray for the team and trustees as they try to ‘retreat in daily life’ for 3 days via zoom, at home. Pray they will have time and space to reflect and pray and that they will really hear from God.  **Rev. Neori Wara** one of our new provisional trustees, and his wife, were admitted to hospital with Covid-19 7 days ago. Their condition is said to be improving although they remain in hospital.  Please pray for their complete healing.  **Prayers from around the regions:**  **Europe**  **Croatia: Pray for Drazen,** the Croat MCF and the nation of Croatia as they cope with the damage of several consecutive earthquakes in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Pray for God’s protection over Drazen, his family and the Croat MCF members and for God to turn this tragedy around and draw more people to Himself, especially among the military community.  **18 Jan: 8th European MMI Zoom meeting.**  Pray for good participation and good comms during the meeting and for good internet connections!  **The NCOK, the Dutch MCF plan to launch Alfa for Forces** in this month, pray for the leaders and for much fruit.  **S. Asia**  **India. Border dispute.** There has been a massive build-up of military forces along the Sino/Indian border near Ladakh. In the order of 100,000 troops are now facing one another. Pray that a cease fire is maintained and a negotiated settlement to the border dispute, is found quickly.  **MCF India.** Pray for wisdom for the leaders of MCF India, as they deal with many differing strong and opposing views. Pray for a focus and understanding of Christ’s teaching and for a spirit of unity.  **Africa**  **South Africa:** Pray for the new joint initiative by the MCF (Di Louwrens) and the Chaplaincy (Rev. Frank Meulenbeld Chaplain at 2Mil Hospital) to minister to mothers of still-born babies at 2 Mil Hospital (SANDF).  **Mozambique**: The armed violence in Cabo Delgado between "jihadists" and Catholics began three years ago. It is causing a humanitarian crisis with more than two thousand deaths and 560 thousand displaced people, without housing or food, mainly concentrated in the provincial capital, Pemba. Pray for a way to find a peaceful settlement and for all of those injured or displaced; pray for boldness to stop the hostilities, for the strength to forgive and for the love of God to be made known.  **North-East Nigeria:** A similar problem. There has been a series of attacks from ISWAP....people have been killed, churches, vehicles and houses burned down. Some Christians have suffered in these attacks including a recent incident around the Christmas period. Pray for protection especially for Christians serving in the armed forces.  **East Africa**. Pray for all those who have been affected by the conflict in the state of Tigray, Ethiopia. Pray for the military Christians to be salt and light to those around them and for the reasons behind the violence to be resolved.  **MMI.** Please commit the whole MMI team and their families to the protection of the Lord as we enter 2021 and pray  **That God will reveal to us the things He wants MMI to do and, in revealing them, will also provide the resources to obey Him.**  We give thanks and pray for all of you, our supporters and partners in ministry.     With thanks for your continuing prayer support  Sue  Sue Millard  Prayer & Communications  Military Ministries International | |