**MMI Day of Prayer & Fasting Monday 6th August**

*“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.****19****See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland*. Isaiah 43:18-19

We see the 3 days of prayer & fasting as the preparation for the Prayer Day which will lead into the week of prayer in September. The whole ‘programme’ is a time of waiting on the Lord and listening, discerning what the Lord’s will is for MMI and prayerfully wondering what the ‘new thing’ is that the Lord is doing. It is an exciting time.

For this 2nd day of prayer & fasting there are 2 short reflections and additional scriptures to reflect on as well as returning to the key scriptures we feel we have been given as an organization, since December 2017. As you reflect on them, ask the Lord what he is saying to us. The prayer items for August are also included for information, but this is a day for listening.

Please feed back to us at prayer@mmi.org.uk . Your feedback will help us to have a fuller picture of what the Lord might be saying, so however small, ordinary, strange or way out, please share with us.

On the First Wed of the month, we have a reflection and prayer hour, for which the team take a turn to write a reflection, which is emailed to those who have opted to receive it.

**Reflection 1: Psalm 130**

The reflection for this month picks up on our theme of waiting in prayer

“Each of us certainly knows what it means to fight sleep - in the train station waiting room, on guard, at the wheel of the car, on the night shift ... minutes stretch like hours ... fatigue is even painful.

Longing after the morning reflects the mood of waiting for God.

There is a story from a children’s camp. There was a little girl who did not have a dad or mum. On the Sunday, parents came to visit their children, but no one announced their arrival for her. In spite of this, she was standing on the fence all day long and was looking, face pressed to the rail. She was waiting for those who did not come, who simply were not present...

We don’t have such a hopeless situation. At the opposite end of our waiting point there is Someone who listens, with whom our forgiveness is, with whom our grace and redemption are.  At the end of our waiting point there is Someone who comes to take our hands giving hope, to make promises, to listen to us, to lead us ...

**Read Psalm 130**

*I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.*

*I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning… (Psalm 130; 5-6)*

Does our soul expect the Lord much more than the watchmen of the morning?

Now is the time when we are waiting on the Lord and listening what the Lord’s will is for MMI and prayerfully wondering what the ‘new thing’ is that the Lord is doing.

Take some time to Thank God for the place He has set for us, for the opportunities He has given us in Christ, for the circumstances in which we are developing, for the path that is before us, for the promise of hearing our prayers, for the manifesting His will and leading according to His paths. “

*Igor Sawicki Aug 18*

**Reflection 2: 2 Chronicles 20:13-22**

Problems can become like unmovable mountains if we focus on them rather than on God and who God is.

Within the work and ministry of MMI we often have difficulties or challenges to overcome.

Sometimes they seem so big and impossible that they can get in the way of our focus on our All-powerful God.

“For the battle is not yours but God’s (2 Chronicles 20:15)

How encouraging that statement is – whatever the challenge the battle over it is the Lord’s. All we have to do, as Judah did in this event, is to have faith and do as the Lord leads.

I love this story of the very small nation of Judah going out to fight two mighty armies, and being told the music group and the choir were to lead the army into battle singing praises to the Lord! Just think how the musicians felt!

He answered their prayer for help in an unexpected way – which was only successful because Judah did as the Lord told them even, though it seemed an unlikely solution!

“Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld.”

*Sue Aug 18*

**Additional scriptures from Day 1, for personal reflection:**

John 3:5-9; Ps 40:1; 1 Samuel 17: 47

**The Key scriptures we have been given for this season are:**

Isaiah 43:18-19

Isaiah 30:15-16

1 Samuel 3: 10-11

1 Jeremiah 18: 4-6

**A note on fasting:**

There are many ways to fast, but some are not suitable for people with medical conditions.

Fasting is going without something as part of sacrificial prayer and that ‘giving up’ can act as a reminder to pray or give you the time to prayer instead. A ‘standard’ fast is thought of as a day without eating and only drinking water. People discuss whether this is 24 hours and if so when to start (eg one could eat a meal at 6pm on one day, fast for 24 hours and eat a meal at 7pm on the second day). A popular fast is a 12 hour fast – usually starting after a light breakfast and ending with a simple meal 12 hours later. Others fast by eating normally but only drink water for 12 or 24 hours being reminded to pray and reflect with each cup of water.

You do not have to fast, but do please pray at some time during the day. If you are led to fast, please only do what is safe for you.

**MMI August Prayer points:**

* **6 Aug MMI Day 2 for Prayer & Fasting.** Pray for the Lord’s leading and guidance for the way ahead.
* **12-17 Aug The German Reservist and Belarusian MCF meeting i**n Berlin (Mark and Igor will represent MMI)
* **27 Aug – 1st Sep Summer Adventure Retreat ( SAR**). There will be 17 participants from 7 countries: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Russia, UK – all young people, 6 married couples! Pray for safety in travel, successful administration; a sense of Christian adventure; Pray for Grozdan, Slavica and Eddy as they lead and teach and for translator Victor. Pray for good fellowship and for all to grow in Christ.
* **Prayer Day and Prayer week preparations.**
* **India. Presentation of St John’s Gospel Indian service booklet.** The key prayer point is for the“right”senior Indian army officer to receive the booklet at the Remembrance Service in the British High Commission Delhi in November. Funding is required for an initial print run of 1000 copies.
* **MMI Finances**. At this time of the year the non-regular giving to MMI falls away, and our regular giving is not sufficient to cover the costs involved; we are struggling to meet all our costs beyond September at present. Please pray for additional one off gifts, for grant applications to be well received and for an increase in regular giving. Pray that the Lord will continue to provide the resources MMI needs for the ministry.
* **Pan African Conference Abuja, September 18**. Pray for all members of the Planning Committee, and for all the resources and arrangements for the Conference to be available in time.