

1st Wednesday Prayer Hour April 2016

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.

Read: Judges 2 v 6 – 10

The major theme from Global Interaction 2014 was the need to identify and prepare the Joshua generation – young leaders who will take over from us, the present generation, the mantle of pointing the way to Jesus. And this is a genuine concern for us in MMI. However, I want to look at this passage, about Joshua, from a different viewpoint, to remind us of our role as the ‘older generation’.

The story in these verses in Judges shows how important a faithful ‘older generation’ is for those who come after us. Throughout the book of Judges, as long as there was a leader following God, that generation was more or less faithful. With the death of the one who kept them in contact with God, the people quickly fell back into the evil ways of the world around them. They simply forgot what he had done, because there was no one to remind them, and because they were not passing them on to the next generation.

In the beginning, God chose Abraham out of all the peoples of the earth to be the father of a multitude of nations. He was the father of physical nations but, more importantly, he was the father of a multitude of people who would follow his example of faith. We can probably give several reasons why God chose Abraham. Certainly his faith would come top of the list. But if Abraham’s faith caused God to pick him out what was Abraham chosen to do? In Genesis 18 v 19 God says “ I have chosen him (Abraham) in order that he may command his sons and his descendants to obey me and to do what is right and just ..”. I suspect it would not have been sufficient for God if he had just found a man who believed him but who felt it was right to keep his faith a private matter. We too are expected – required – to pass our faith on to the next generation. Just as God chose Abraham that he might train his children, we too are chosen to follow in his footsteps. This is a responsibility for parents but more than this, we all, as Christians, have been chosen to teach the next generation God’s truth and to demonstrate to them the standards which God demands of us all. In our present generation and in our country this responsibility is particularly relevant and vital.

Read: Psalm 78 v 2 – 7: “I am going to use wise sayings and explain mysteries from the past, things we have heard and known, things that our ancestors told us. We will not keep them from our children; we will tell the next generation about the Lord’s power and his great deeds and the wonderful things he has done. He gave laws to the people of Israel and commandments to the descendants of Jacob. He instructed our ancestors to teach the laws to their children, so that the next generation might

learn them and in turn should tell their children. In this way they also will put their trust in God and not forget what he has done, but always obey his commandments.”

Reflection: Spend a few minutes in reflection on what God may be saying to you through these passages. It may be that you will wish to spend a few minutes in prayer for those of your family who do not yet know the Lord or who are at present in particular need.

Praise: Let us start by thanking God for His call on our lives, for all He has done for us and given us. Let us also thank God for answering our prayers over the MMI office situation and providing Mark H-H to fill the urgently needed post in the office.

Thank the Lord for our supporters weekend in March, especially for the high attendance and for the inspiring talks by Bishop Henri Orombi.

Let us then turn to Pray for –

Jobran and his family in Damascus – for continuing safety and protection and for their outreach to displaced families around them. That by demonstrating God’s love in action others will come to faith in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

The four potential delegates to SIMM – that they will each receive their necessary visas and approval to attend and that the SIMM week (4 – 11 June) will be a blessed and fruitful time of encouragement and teaching.

Matan (Israel) as he returns to Israel this month to take up a full-time appointment with Netivah, with responsibility to develop the ministry to messianic soldiers. Also for Matan as he attends MEO in Seoul in June, that this will be a time of real encouragement for him.

The Ukrainian Chaplaincy Conference 11 – 13 May, that this may lead to the formation of a multi-confessional Chaplaincy in the Ukraine. Pray for Mark H-H and Igor representing MMI at the conference.

The necessary approval from the Kurdistan Parliament for MMI to take a lecture on Christian Leadership to the Military College in N Iraq.

Protection for Pastor Blesson (India) who has experienced some negative reaction following the formation of the MCF in Lucknow. Pray also Pastor Blesson will receive the necessary visa and approvals to attend SIMM course in the UK and MEO in Seoul in June.

The Lord to open doors for contact with military Christians in the DRC, Rwanda and Ethiopia, where we know there are Christians but do not yet have the right contacts.