

PRAYER NEWS

E3 Schools Worker - Rachel Sheppard/Scripture Union NI

•The SU group in Kells and Connor PS begins later this month.

Pray that this year the group would grow in numbers but also spiritually as they hear and live out God's word each week.

Pray too for staff Valerie Richmond and June Banks that they would continue to have the energy, enthusiasm and creativity to lead the group especially after a busy day in school.

•We will be delivering 'Amazing Jesus' lessons in Groggan PS, Ballykeel PS and Dunclug PS at the end of February with teams of volunteers. Pray that the pupils would be inspired by the lessons to take up the challenge of reading more about Jesus in the Mark's Gospels that we leave with them and by reading about him, come to know him.

It was a real privilege for me to spend some time with the pupils and staff of Castle Tower Special School last month.

Give thanks for the relationships that were strengthened and pray that as Christian staff share the Good News with pupils in the school that it would have a lasting impact upon their lives.

•Along with some local church youth workers I'm taking RE lessons with two year 9 classes in Ballee CHS at the start of the month. Pray that through the lessons the pupils will encounter God as we explore stories of Jesus in the bible.

•Advertising for UNITE, the inter-schools event for Post-primary pupils in March will be in schools and churches this month. Pray that there would be a real excitement spreading across Ballymena's schools about coming along and being a part of the event. Pray for the pupils who are part of the management team as they organise various ways to advertise UNITE in their schools and SU groups.

•8th February- There is a Resource afternoon for teachers and volunteers involved in school SU groups and church youth and children's organisations. Pray that many would come along and it would be an afternoon that equips and greatly encourages teachers, volunteers and ministry staff as they are salt and light.

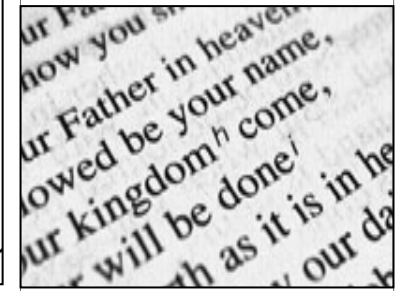
•27th February- Tonight is the Chinese and table quiz fundraiser. Pray that it would be a successful night bringing churches and schools together and raising funds for schools work in Ballymena.

You must pray with all your might. That does not mean saying your prayers, or sitting gazing about in church with eyes wide open while someone else says them for you. It means fervent, effectual, untiring wrestling with God... Be sure the devil and the world and your own indolent, unbelieving nature will oppose This kind of prayer.

They will pour water on this flame. William Booth (Founder - Salvation Army)



5th February 2012



The Prayer Team would like to encourage members of the congregation to come along to Prayer Time on Sunday morning (10:30am) or evening (6:00pm). We meet in the Prayer Room and would love to have you join with us. Or why not come along and join us for a **Prayer Breakfast** on the 1st Saturday of each month @ **9.00am** in Montgomery's! - **Sat 11th February.**

¹³Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5

Pray for people struggling to cope in difficult life situations and experiencing varying degrees of stress and depression, families who have been bereaved, (Boyd) & members waiting on appointments with consultants.

Information concerning people's illnesses is given with permission, but is personal, and should be treated with sensitivity and respect, and used for prayer only.

Encourage your friends to pray! Our weekly Prayer Bulletin is available every week @ www.westchurchballymena.org or send your prayer requests to West Church Prayer Team "westprayer@hotmail.co.uk"

Heavenly Father

When praise goes up, victory comes down.

When praise goes up, healing comes down.

When praise goes up, deliverance comes down

Heavenly Father we pray for God's wisdom and blessing on weekly activities within West Church. May these fulfil our vision **to be a vibrant growing church whose members of all ages are becoming more like Christ, active in His service and reaching out in His love to our community and beyond.** Amen

Pray that as God's people we will grasp that nothing of eternal value is accomplished without prayer.

Please pray for the upcoming Discipleship Explored course.

Pray Specifically that:

- 1. Those whose walk with Christ would benefit from the course will be moved to come along. Pray as it starts this Monday evening*
- 2. The Discipleship team will finalise the logistics of the course without any major difficulties.*
- 3. Mature Christians will make themselves available to assist with leading groups*

Pray for vision to invest in the spiritual formation of children and youth in our churches. Pray that strong discipleship ministries (Youth Fellowship / Link etc) within church will establish firm spiritual foundations for our children and youth.

Pray that divine miracles of healing will regularly follow prayers of faith offered for the sick.

Pray that we will fervently seek God's help and direction in overcoming spiritual challenges and accomplishing Kingdom purposes.

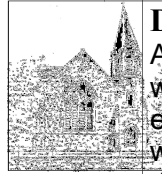
God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things.

Bless those fathers and mothers, who have taken upon themselves the responsibility of parenting.

Bless those who have lost a spouse to death ... or divorce who are parenting their children alone.

Strengthen them by your love that they may become the loving, caring persons they are meant to be. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen!

Rich is the person who has a praying friend. --Janice Hughes



Don't Forget To Smile

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to the elementary school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with thunder and lightning. The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school and she herself feared that the electrical storm might harm her child. Following the roar of thunder, lightning, like a flaming sword, would cut through the sky. Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did so, she saw her little girl walking along, but at each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up and smile. Another and another were to follow quickly and with each the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile.

When the mother's car drove up beside the child she lowered the window and called to her. "What are you doing? Why do you keep stopping?"

The child answered, "I am trying to look pretty, God keeps taking my picture." May God bless you today as you face the storms that come your way.

Prayer Points: Dear Father and Creator, There are so many people who have marriage issues that need intervention. Sometimes one spouse is strong in the faith and the other is weak; sometimes one is held back by old strongholds that need to be broken; sometimes the communication line contains a lot of static and neither can hear the other clearly; sometimes one spouse carries much more responsibility than the other; sometimes the ungodly attitudes of selfishness, jealousy or laziness pop up and wreak havoc; sometimes the family is so busy that husband and wife do not make time to nurture their relationship--they just coexist; sometimes health issues strain the marriage. God there are so many things that pull against a healthy relationship. I pray for every married couple today. I pray that you will touch their hearts with compassion for one another. I pray that you will open their eyes to see the truth. I pray that each will think of the other above himself or herself. I pray that every couple will share responsibilities. Above all, I pray that every couple will look to you as the centre of their marriage, as it is a spiritual union--not just physical. May you be glorified and pleased and may marriages be blessed. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

David & Besiana Update! please continue to pray for: David as he continues to learn the very difficult Albanian language; For guidance for both David and Besiana as they seek to know in which areas of ministry God wants them to serve; and For safety and health for them all as a family as they travel between Pristina and Peja. Remember them preparing to return home for their break later this year **New Nelson Newsletter (February) on Welcome Desk**