

Weekly Prayer Theme: 6th Sep-13th Sep

Being an Influence

THEME OVERVIEW: This theme focuses on a particular group of people who are an influence for God – Chaplains. They are people appointed by the Church to work in all kinds of places outside the normal life of the congregation. There are chaplains in hospitals, workplaces, prisons, the armed forces, Emergency services, shopping centres, rural areas, colleges, universities and schools to name but a few.

In all these places chaplains try to show God's love through offering care and support, and by representing Christian values and beliefs. Chaplains share the great privilege of discovering what God is doing out there – beyond the Church. In our diverse society chaplaincy has to show the greatest sensitivity and respect. Christian chaplains often work in ecumenical teams or alongside colleagues from other faiths.

"Chaplains are missionaries, the human face of Christ, the church that has left the building... We can all be involved in chaplaincy." - Rev. Martyn Atkins – General Secretary Methodist Church in Britain

We each of us can serve others in the places we work, so feel free to pray for your own places of community, work and worship this week too.

BIBLE VERSE:

So we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. 1 Thessalonians 2:8

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray that the chaplain will be used as God's instrument in communicating the Gospel in such a manner that the people they engage with and their families will come to faith in Jesus Christ.
- Pray that the chaplain would be appropriately courageous in the presentation of the Gospel during their counseling, worship services, discipleship and Bible study classes.
- Pray that they would be a positive influence and Godly witness. Pray that they would have a sense of God's peace in the midst of often-difficult circumstances.
- Pray for the chaplain families as they seek to support and encourage them in fulfilling their duties.

LIFT UP 100

- Pray for wisdom and understanding for the chaplains who are working as part a multi faith team. That they will be confident in relating appropriately without compromise.
- Pray for chaplains to have opportunities to be relevant, that their faith would be apparent and for witnessing opportunities to come about naturally.
- Pray for the chaplains you know by name-especially whenever you are gathered with other believers in corporate times of prayer.
- There is a measure of "social work" required of chaplains. Pray for all of their work to be honouring to God not just those things that present the gospel.
- Pray for deployed chaplains to grasp at the deepest level that God is sending them into front line situations for a purpose. Pray for them to be open to His leading in their lives and their physical protection.
- Pray that Christian Chaplains will stay Christ-centered, gospel-driven, and Godly in response to the diverse demands and pressures that come upon them.
- Pray that their words and actions reflect the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

CREATIVE IDEAS/PRAYER ROOM:

<http://www.police-chaplains.org.uk/> Click 'Faith Information' tab (Overviews about some of the main faith groups)

www.sportschaplaincy.org.uk/ A great website for sports chaplaincy

4G Prayer

- Choose four areas of chaplaincy and pray for each area. Get together some prayer requests or issues going on in those sectors, split them into four groups (4G): i.e. Fire, Army, Prisons and Hospitals. Then when you are with your larger groups break down into four smaller groups each praying for one sector. Rotate so that everyone at some point is praying for each sector.

The Newspaper

- This is a way to pray for the needs of the community, nation, and world where Chaplains may be involved. Open the newspaper and begin praying for the people and concerns identified in the headlines. Pray that Chaplains can work in those situations to bring the relevance of Jesus into the need or situation. This invites us to pray for God's presence in the lives of those who are suffering, lost, struggling and serving.

LIFT UP 100

Photo Prayers

- Uses photos to encourage people to consider the prayer needs in the lives of Chaplains. Cut out photos and images from magazines and place them in the centre of a group. Invite people to retrieve an image that connects with them and prompted them to pray for a particular aspect of Chaplaincy ministry. Ask each person to share why the image grabbed their attention and how it speaks to them about a prayer concern.

Notes prepared by Rev. Ian Anderson (Pastor, Elim, Neath & Chaplain, Elim Prayer Network)