

Weekly Prayer Theme: 20th Sep-27th Sep

Being There

THEME OVERVIEW: This week we are praying for those who spend their time being there for others; those in the voluntary sector, carers, volunteers, grandparents etc. The witness of the Church in the market place must have as a priority prayer support for those involved in any one of the mentioned. This comes under the umbrella of the 'Voluntary Sector', and is a vital component of the life of our nation.

'CARERS': (DEFINITION): THOSE WHO UNDERTAKE UNPAID CARE FOR A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER WHO, DUE TO ILLNESS, DISABILITY, MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES OR ADDICTION, CANNOT SUPPORT THEMSELVES. This accurately describes the support given by literally thousands of people nationwide. Carers can be full or part time and from all age ranges from a younger person caring for a parent or an older person caring for a partner with serious health issues.

The role of grandparents can never be underestimated. They provide a vital dimension of care in many and varied family circumstances. Those involved in child care also play an equally vital role in caring for children through a important time in their lives.

Much of this work goes on behind the scenes, but our society would be much the poorer were it not for the great work undertaken by those who dedicate themselves to the voluntary sector. We are praying for those who volunteer in many different ways from charity shops, to kids clubs to carers! As a nation, we owe such people an enormous debt of gratitude, and we must seek to support them in every way, not least through our prayers.

BIBLE VERSES:

I HAVE SHOWN YOU IN EVERY WAY, BY LABOURING LIKE THIS, THAT YOU MUST SUPPORT THE WEAK. AND REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THE LORD JESUS, THAT HE SAID, 'IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE'. ACTS 20: 35

REAL RELIGION, THE KIND THAT PASSES MUSTER BEFORE GOD THE FATHER IS THIS: REACH OUT TO THE HOMELESS AND THE POOR IN THEIR PLIGHT... JAMES 1: 27 (THE MESSAGE)

LIFT UP 100

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray for members of your own fellowship who are involved in the voluntary sector; that God may grant them wisdom and compassion in all aspects of their work.
- Pray for grandparents in your fellowship and those known to you, that they have the assurance that their work is greatly appreciated and valued.
- For those involved in child care activities, that they may serve with care, and that they also may exercise great wisdom in all aspects of their work.
- Pray for carers; that they may receive adequate support in areas such as holidays, transport, respite care and finance.
- Pray for there to be a clear understanding that the work undertaken by those in the voluntary sector is as much valued by God as work undertaken in any form of Christian ministry.

CREATIVE IDEAS/PRAYER ROOM:

- For those within the local fellowship who are involved in the voluntary sector to be invited to share about the nature of their work and to provide prayer support for them.
- To create a support structure for grandparents such as a forum in which they could meet so as to share experiences etc., and to receive prayer support.
- To identify people within the local fellowship who would be willing to lend support to those in the voluntary sector in practical and other ways.
- Create a prayer section in your local church bulletin and mention these voluntary sector areas for prayer.

Notes prepared by Rev. Alistair Cole (Pastor, Glossop & Chair Elim Prayer Network)