

5th to 18th September 2021

Prepared by Jean Meek

Each Sunday at 7pm, Christians in every part of the UK join in prayer. Here are some prayer thoughts from Jean that you may wish to focus on.

For in this hope, we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Hope within us means first and foremost our faith in God and secondly our expectation, despite everything, for a better future.

Pray for a better future for the people of Afghanistan. **Pray** for those who are now in grave danger; children (boys as well as girls), educated women and those who assisted the western forces. **Give thanks** for the number who have been airlifted to safety. Mountain Ministries missionaries have been working in Afghanistan for a number of years and some of them are now unaccounted for. Please **pray** for their safety. **Pray** too for a change of heart in those who seek to rule by fear and force.

Pray for a better future for those forcibly displaced from their homes as a result of violence, persecution or conflict. The UN puts the number at 15.5 million. Their homes and available services are grossly inadequate and many have no papers conferring citizenship and so are not entitled to any citizens' rights. **Give thanks** for countries, organisations and people who have welcomed refugees but pray for those still lost in the anonymity of refugee camps.

Pray for a better future for our world. Global warming is already causing drastic changes in weather patterns and temperatures and predictions are that they will get worse before (if) they get better. **Pray** for the COP 26 summit set to take place in Glasgow later this year, that they would all sign up to radical changes. **Pray** that each of us would make sacrificial choices for the sake of our grandchildren's grandchildren.

Pray for a better future for those whose homes, lives and livelihoods have been destroyed by flood, landslides, fire and earthquake - Germany, China, India, America, Haiti experiencing some of the worst of these. **Pray** that the help they need would be forthcoming and ask for God's undertaking to carry them through the rebuilding which will be costly in terms of finance and spirit.

Pray for a better future for Church congregations across Scotland. The uncertainty of current changes could be unsettling to some, causing speculation and anxiety. **Give thanks** for those in the Braes area who are working to make the changes as smooth as possible. **Pray** that we would be united in purpose and that God's Will would be the central focus of all the deliberations.

Pray for a better future for those living in the darkness of no faith. Those are the ones Jesus wants us to seek out and share with. **Give thanks** for those who shared with us and ask that God would give us opportunities to pay it forward.

Pray for a better future for those who are marginalised. No-one is born hating another - as the song says, it has to be taught. But love to be known has to be shown, **give thanks** for our Friends of Jesus group, our Friendship Plus group, Prospects across Scotland and other groups that seek to show the power of love by breaking through the barriers of colour, faith, age, learning abilities, hearing, sight or mobility loss.

Pray for a better future for those who can't make ends meet. There are many - in our country and further afield - who just don't have access to some of the basic needs of life. **Give thanks** for the Trussell Trust and other Food Banks that help to fill the gap and for organisations providing assistance with budgeting, form-filling and helping people access benefits they are entitled to but don't know how to go about receiving.

Pray for a better future for those living with addictions. Sufferers, their families and society alike are caught up in, and are affected by, the pain and misery the addictions cause. Release is hard but many have found freedom in Jesus. **Pray** that God would prepare them to receive the renewal He offers.

Pray for a better future for those affected in any way by the current pandemic. **Give thanks** for the vaccines and **pray** that the scientists may find a way to eradicate the virus completely.