



Prayer Calendar Western Europe February/March 2020

February 2020

Devotional

Psalm 87 Where and Who?

The kingdom of God is sometimes summarised as “**God’s people, living in God’s place, enjoying his rule and blessing!**” We see this in many contexts throughout the Bible, for example in Eden, in the land of Israel, when the Lord Jesus Christ was here on earth and ultimately and forever in the new creation. When we come to the words of Psalm 87, we read of...

1. Where? - God’s place

Back then, when first read or sang, v1-3 was referring to Jerusalem. It was a place where God came to dwell with his sinful people in the temple. They therefore enjoyed his blessing, rule, help and even protection because he himself was with them there. Jerusalem, here referred to in different ways as Zion/ holy mount/ city of God, is the place the LORD founded and the place the LORD loves. As I’ve mentioned already it was only partly fulfilled here at this stage of the Bible’s story. The picture it portrays points to a place that will be forever perfected for all the people of God. As we read in Revelation 21: 2 & 3 ²“And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.” What an awesome place – God’s place. But what joy to see in the Psalm that not only is God there, but his people will be too.

2. Who? - God’s people

God says **he** is the one who is recording those to be included as inhabitants of his place. Every day our children go immediately in the morning to registration in school and are recorded by a teacher as present. If for some reason they are absent, we are sent a text to let us know and to remind us to bring a note of explanation on return to school. On a few occasions we leave the children to school and then receive a text to say they are absent. We contact the school, only to discover a mistake has been made and they are safe and well in their classroom. The surprising, even shocking truth here in Psalm 87 is not who is absent from the list but who **is** included on this list. According to verses 4-6 God will record the long-time enemies of his people among those who acknowledge him. This is purely God’s grace – the love of God showered on the undeserving. Just as he chose his place out of love, he chooses his people out of love too. Ephesians 2:4-6 says the same for all who will enter the forever place of God. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, **because of the great love with which he loved us,** ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—**by grace you have been saved**— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. What an encouragement for us all when we come to pray. We are all inhabitants of different nations and peoples, yet we all belong together to God’s place and God’s people. Let us pray for each other that we will all live increasingly like citizens of heaven. Let us also pray that God will be gracious and that many children will come, by faith, to him from all over Europe to be inhabitants of God’s place and those who are registered members of God’s people.

1. Luke 10:2 initiative

29 CMLC students have applied for the work. Pray that they will have a beneficial time of training now, and that the Lord provides the finances for them to stay in the ministry long-term.

2. Stephen & Pam Garrett: Area Directors, SW Europe:

Pray for safety as Stephen travels again to Milan, Italy. Ask God to bless the meetings with the workers, board and General Assembly. He also will be preaching tonight.

3. Iceland:

Please pray for the volunteers who are needed to run the camp work in particular. Also pray for ongoing follow-up after the tract distribution some years ago.

4. Norwegian Lapland:

Please pray we will get a new leader for the JYC group in Karasjok. Pray too that more young teens will come to the meetings.

5. Bogdan Bassara: International Literature Director

Please pray for the Wordless books for Africa project. Pray that many people and especially boys and girls around Europe will give towards this project to help share the Gospel with this effective tool.

6. Finland:

We have been thrilled to introduce the Bible Timeline in Finnish in January. Ask God that many people would want their children to get to know the Bible. Pray also that teachers would have courage to use this material in schools.

7. EPM:

Pray for the Support Seminars in K. and Romania. We really want people to go home with a good attitude and with a desire to promote the ministry

8. IT

We praise the Lord for his help to finalize 3 websites during 2020. We are also thankful to God for Vilijam and Ruth who are working to design and update them.

9. Luxembourg:

We had our very first Christmas clubs in a small town near the capital

10. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

Today and tomorrow I’m in Germany to take part in some important meetings of the Literature Committee for the German speaking countries. May the Lord guide us as we discuss how we can serve teachers and reach children through CEF literature

Denmark:

Today and tomorrow we have a big building event with LEGO®. Please pray for the children and parents that show up.

11. Latvia:

Pray for God’s guidance in a team meeting where decisions will be made about training.

12. Italy:

Ask that God will guide our small team of workers as they adapt to the loss of Lisabeth and Ester from their number in the last 19 months. We recognise that the team are spread out geographically which makes life and ministry very lonely.

13. Ireland:

There will be a number of JYC weekends taking place this month. Pray that the young people will be encouraged and blessed as they meet together for fellowship and Bible teaching.

14. Estonia:

Please pray for the right students to join JYC training, so that more young teens might join new JYC groups and receive solid Bible teaching.

15. Spain:

During this month Jose and Damaris the National Directors, will do more than 3000 kilometers across Spain to promote CEF ministry, and the CMLC course. Pray that God will take care of us on the road and in the meetings that we have.

16. Chris & Lynn Holt: European Member Care

Pray that God will encourage and direct the workers in those countries where there is currently no National Director.

17. Wondersurf:

Pray for Angelika as she is working hard to update the Wondersurf website. The site is looking better and better, and we pray that many children will register on this platform to know God better.

18. Switzerland

We are so encouraged by the development of a new website - please pray, as it goes live soon, that many will respond to pray and support the ministry. Also please pray for a new web shop that will be operational soon. Remember Daniela in the office as she manages orders and distribution of materials. Please pray for four people (especially with leadership potential) to apply to the Intensive training in Germany next Autumn.

19. Belgium:

Please pray that we can start at least two new Good News Clubs, and that the Belgian Bible Institute will again ask us to give a full TCE-1 for their students.

20. Philip & Denise Annett: Directors of Leadership & Ministry Development

Please pray for Philip as he travels today to Argentina to share ministry vision with a group of volunteer ministry promoters. Pray that they will be able to arrange 50 Christmas Clubs this year, in partnership with local churches in their towns and cities.

21. The Netherlands:

We are in a new phase to make more use of social media in making IKEG better known in our country. Please pray for wisdom in how we do things, and what to do.

22. Stephen & Grace Chambers: Area Directors NW Europe

Thank God for his continued provision for our monthly support and for those who are serving with us in this way. Pray as we begin to visit countries, National boards and National Directors/ Team Leaders, that we will be a help and encouragement to them

23. Bogdan Bassara: International Literature Director

Thank the Lord for the Gospel of John with CEF illustrations. Pray that it will be used in many ways, in many locations, in many languages in Europe. Pray that those reading it will get the conviction of the need of a Saviour.

24. Sweden:

Pray for the possibilities to teach a Bible lesson at an accommodation block for asylum seekers. Pray also that we can start a new GNC in the Gothenburg area.

25. Lithuania:

Pray that this year we will see more prayer bands, praying families or praying mothers interceding for our workers and our ministry in Lithuania.

26. Portugal:

Praise God for the APECP Worker's retreat held last month in Portugal. This was the first time that the whole team had been together since 2016. It was so encouraging to see the team unity and be able to make plans as we move on into the future. This coupled with the commitment of the National Board gives real hope for our ministry in Portugal.

27. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

The Area Advisory Group for Eastern Europe meets today in Germany in Jakob Wiebe's home. Please pray for our meeting and that the outcome will be a blessing for every country in the Area.

28. Great Britain:

Pray that the Spring Conference for the Workers at The Pioneer Centre near Kidderminster would be a time of encouraging fellowship and fruitful discussions as we clarify our strategic objectives, and form plans to focus and build effective ministry to reach even more children throughout Britain in the year ahead. Pray for Stuart Owen as he prepares to teach the Bible from Acts and for **Philip Annett** as, with **Denise**, they guide the workers in the seminar programme.

29. Christmas Together:

We praise the Lord for every opportunity He gave to us during December and January to bring the gospel to thousands of boys and girls. It seems that the total number of children reached maybe about 20% higher than the year before. All the glory to God!

March 2020

1. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

Today I am preaching in a church in Liestal and tomorrow I am flying to Sibiu/Romania for Multimedia Advisory Group meetings. Many thanks for your prayers.

2. Bogdan Bassara: International Literature Director

The Multimedia Advisory Group meetings are held in Sibiu, Romania from today until the 4th. Please pray for Bogdan as he chairs the meetings. Pray for new projects that will be discussed and developed in 2020.

3. Spain:

Pray that God will touch the hearts of people who will want to go to the CMLC to prepare and train, and then become part of the CEF Spain team.

4. Germany:

Once again, we pray for the CMLC in autumn 2020. May the Lord guide those who are considering to come and may He grant us new workers from those who attend this course.

5. Finland:

Please pray for Elina, our new worker, that she would be able to find enough supporters so that she could continue to work for us for many, many years. Pray also for her children, that they would all be blessed by her work.

6. Stephen & Pam Garrett: Area Directors, SW Europe:

Please remember Stephen as he travels to Belgium today to attend the National Board and General Assembly tomorrow. Particularly ask that the General Assembly may be given much wisdom when considering important decisions to be made in regard to the Beho Camp Centre.

7. Denmark:

Please pray for a huge building event with LEGO® this weekend. Please pray that many children and families may meet the Lord through this.

8. Netherlands:

Pray that IKEG will be able to assist the churches in Holland to reach out to the muslim people coming into our continent as refugees.

9. Ireland:

Our Ministry Department Leaders will be meeting for 2 days of planning, prayer and strategizing of the ministry in Ireland today and tomorrow. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance.

10. Portugal:

Please pray for the right camp directors to be identified, and appointed for the running of the APECP Camp Centre at Vendas Novas outside of Lisbon, Portugal. Please pray that all who have this decision to make will have much wisdom

11. Belgium:

Praise God that we had a good number of 4 day clubs conducted by former TCE1 and 2 participants

12. Great Britain:

Pray for the National Committee as they meet online to consider the future of the National Office and promote the ministry of CEF throughout Britain this year. Pray that they will know much wisdom and unity in their discussion and that God will direct their thoughts and plans.

13. Denmark:

We have our annual retreat for workers and committee members today and tomorrow. Please pray for a blessed time, and God's direction for the decisions to be made.

14. Finland:

There are two courses at the same time in Nilsia, TCE 1 and 2, during three weekends in March and April starting on the 14th of March. Please pray for these two parallel courses - for the instructors and the participants. Ask God for new people to attend the course who could eventually become new workers for CEF in Finland.

15. Ireland:

We have a special week of prayer set aside from 15-22 March. Pray that many believers will have a burden to meet and lift up the children of Ireland in prayer.

16. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

For this week Jakob Wiebe and I have planned a trip to one of our Central Asian countries. Please pray for safe meetings with our staff there and that we can be an encouragement to them.

17. Chris & Lynn Holt: European Member Care

Pray for Chris & Lynn as they plan to attend the European Member Care Consultation in Spain from 16th - 19th March. Many Member Care representatives of European Missions will be there.

18. Great Britain:

Pray for the Zoom online meeting this morning with the GB Workers, that it would be a helpful time of sharing and encouragement as we continue to strengthen our ministry to boys and girls and reflect on the plans.

19. Estonia:

Please pray for a good course for Pre-school teachers, and for the instructors to be an example and encouragement with many practical ideas and advice.

20. Denmark:

We praise God for 20 new regular donors in 2019. This year, we also ask God for 20 new donors to step in.

21. Stephen & Pam Garrett: Area Directors, SW Europe:

Please pray for Stephen as he travels to Lisbon today to attend the APECP General Assembly on tomorrow. Please pray that this General Assembly meeting may mark a new era for the General Assembly in Portugal after a lot of troubles in recent years.

22. Stephen & Grace Chambers: Area Directors NW Europe

Pray earnestly with us every day at 10:02, that the Lord of the harvest will send labourers into the harvest field of NW Europe to reach many more of the 18 million children who live there with the gospel. (Luke10:2)

23. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

This week I take part in the CEF Germany workers' conference which will be followed by their Board meetings. Please pray that the Lord blesses these times of fellowship, spiritual refreshment and discussions.

24. Norwegian Lapland:

We will have Easter Clubs in Alta from the 24th to the 27th March. Pray that the churches will get involved.

25. Austria:

Please pray for four people (especially with leadership potential) to apply to the Intensive training in Germany next Autumn.

26. EPM:

Please pray for more contact with businesses or trusts that would be interested in supporting workers in Europe.

27. Germany:

Pray for the meeting of our national board today. May the Lord grant wisdom and unanimity as important decisions are made.

28. Sweden:

Pray for our preparation for the Easter programs.

29. Norwegian Lapland: We plan to have an Easter Club in the Horseshoe Block of flats in Hammerfest. Please pray that we will get contact with the children and they will come.

30. Spain:

We thank God for the help of all the volunteers, without them we could not do so many things.

31. **Lithuania:** Pray for more opportunities to present CEF ministry so we can start effective ministry partnerships with local churches.

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