

Prayer Calendar Western Europe April/May 2020

Devotional

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4 (ESV)

The redwood trees in California are considered the largest creatures on earth and the tallest trees in the world. Some of them are 100 m high and over 2,500 years old. One would think that trees so large would have extremely deep roots. The redwoods actually have a very shallow system of roots, but they all intertwine. They are locked to each other. When the storms come, the redwoods stand. For all the trees support and protect each other (Robert Morgan, Preacher's Sourcebook of Creative Sermon Illustrations, 129.)

What a joy to see when people in our fellowship support one another! Here are a few examples:

- A group of workers does an outreach in a weaker country or in an undeveloped area of their own country. They give their time despite all the work they have in their own ministry.
- God has blessed a CEF country with people that are gifted in a certain area and they share these people and their gifts freely with other countries.
- One worker learned about an urgent need of a coworker and immediately promoted that need among his own friends and ministry partners, not considering that he might loose support should his friends start giving to this co-worker.
- In national offices workers stand together and help and support each other in times of heavy workloads or urgent needs.

All of them are not looking to their own interests, but also to the interests of others. This not only deepens our fellowship, it makes our whole organisation stronger. Like the redwoods stand through their storms, we will more easily withstand our storms, as we stand together, pray together, work together, help each other and strive towards the same goals!

Looking to the interests of others is not a matter for just one moment. It's a whole Christian lifestyle that will be revealed every moment.

April 2020

1. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

We are looking into different options to promote and develop our online ministries to children. Please pray that our workers will cope with the demands, and that children will find what we offer. Also pray for additional ideas to develop a solid online teaching program.

France:

From March 30 to April 3, Felly Yoka and Corinne Ruhland will give lessons on the spiritual needs of children at the Biblical Institute in Geneva. It will also be by Zoom, since the students are in quarantine.

2. Sweden:

Pray that we can still reach the children during Easter period.

Switzerland:

Ask the Lord for wisdom, help and strength in designing promotional materials and sending them out. We will do this from April 1st. Ask the Lord specifically to bless the distribution of the leaflet "Do you wonder why?" Ask the Lord that the children who have questions may find the Lord through this booklet.

3. Spain:

Pray that God will provide our team the financial provision they need to be able to carry out the ministry and that they will not have to look for another job.

4. Norwegian Lapland:

At the minute we are are trying to get some information out to the GNC children so that they can follow a meeting with activities online. A fellow who took CMLC a number of years ago has put it online last week. Please pray that many children will go online and follow this teaching.

5. Bogdan Bassara: International Literature Director Easter lessons are available from TeachKids. Please pray that these could be used online to teach the children about the meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

6. Kilchzimmer Executive:

Please pray for the European Headquarters Executive (Gerd-Walter, Iullian, David Cook and Stephen Garrett) as they meet together online this morning to consider various matters relating to the function of the European Headquarters.

7. EPM:

"The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul." Acts 11:29-30

Praise God for every believer who gives as able and sends their gift for child evangelism. God is using them mightily all across Europe.

8. Belgium:

It would help to have part time help at the office for our administration tasks. Please pray that we'll be able to find a suitable person.

9. Luxembourg:

We are still looking for a part-time or a full time worker in order to represent CEF in this country. Please do pray for the right person.

10. Wilna Shaw:

All schools are now closed, and every child is getting a home-school programme online. Pray for workers to help us reach children with the Gospel online.

Easter Weekend April 10th - 13th

Please pray for the spiritual encouragement of our CEF workers and volunteers over what would have been a very busy weekend for many. As churches are shut we ask that CEF personnel within Western Europe may truly experience the resurrection power of God in their lives.

11. Latvia:

Pray for someone who can and would like to develop ministry for children online.

12. Ireland:

Due to the situation we find ourselves in at present with the Coronavirus, we have ceased all ministries. Like many countries, we are praying that God will stop this virus, and that soon we can recommence reaching the children and young people of Ireland with the gospel. Remember the Leadership at this time as they seek God's guidance for the days ahead.

13. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

At the time of writing it is still scheduled that I'm preaching in my home church in Nümbrecht/Germany as always on Easter Monday for the last 25 years. But maybe a solution will be found to do this online.

14. Germany:

The German local offices try to stay in contact with their children and encourage them online. We also try to offer online GNCs at a local or even national level.

15. Spain:

Pray for strength, wisdom and health for the team of workers in Spain.

16. IT:

Praise God for the development in Wondersurf, with new activities and two new languages, Farsi and Portuguese. We have now more than 20 languages and many children enjoy the activities on the website.

17. Wondersurf:

We thank the Lord for Wondersurf, and that we can reach lots of children in these difficult times through it.

18. Switzerland:

Thank the Lord for the help of a volunteer with the book-keeping (Darina).

19. Portugal:

Please ask God to direct regarding the urgent repairs needing to be done at the Vendas Novas Retreat Centre in Portugal. These have been greatly hampered by the enforced restrictions of the Covid-19 virus.

20. Estonia:

Please pray for wisdom to do video classes for GNC and Sunday School children. We record Knowing Christ lessons to be viewed online.

21. Stephen & Pam Garrett: Area Directors SW Europe

Praise God that the CEF Britain Board will be able to meet online today and that they will have the joy of interviewing new missionaries coming to work in GB.

22. Great Britain:

Please pray for the CEF GB Team Meeting on Zoom this morning, especially as we consider together the various possibilities of reaching boys and girls in the absence of physical face to face evangelism. Pray especially for those children who are signed up for the Bible Correspondence Course.

23. Denmark:

As a response to the Corona crisis, we have produced 6 videos as an online treasure hunt to show children that God is with us when everything is uncertain. Please pray that many children and families will find it on YouTube.

24. Finland:

Please pray that we can effectively advertise the idea package we have put together for Christian parents to teach their own children during the corona virus days. Ask God to use this time so that parents take more responsibility for the spiritual upbringing of their children.

25. Latvia:

Today we hope to hold a camp seminar in Riga. The camps are one of the most fruitful ministries in Latvia.

Sweden:

Pray today for the National Board meeting.

26. Stephen & Grace Chambers: Area Directors, NW **Europe:**

Please do pray for the leaders, workers and volunteers in NW Europe that they can use some methods to encourage young disciples they have contact with, and to reach out in some way to children who have not yet trusted the Saviour. Pray they will not feel anxious, frustrated or even guilty if they cannot do this, but pray they will know God's grace and peace to spend time with him and catch up on other things they can do.

27. Ireland:

Work has commenced on the foundations for our new camp centre. Please pray for God's protection upon those working onsite and that everything will go according to the timescale set.

28. Wondersurf:

Seven new language sites are under development. Let's pray for the translators, and that these sites soon can be live.

29. Iceland:

Please pray for wisdom for the future of the work in Iceland. Stephen Chambers would really need to take a trip there to meet with and listen to church leaders to encourage training, offer resources and support for their ministry. A national board and Team Leader are needed to develop the work and we need workers/volunteers who are engaged in different ministries to reach children with the gospel.

30. Luke 10:2

We praise the Lord for 14,200 volunteers, 700 more than the year before. We pray for 17,500 volunteers in Europe by 2024.

May 2020

1. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

In these days children ask questions: "Why did this happen? Will I get seriously ill? When will it be over?" Please pray that the Lord will bless every copy of the Wonder Why? booklets that are being distributed these weeks, and that many will come to a living faith.

2. Bogdan Bassara: International Literature Director

Pray that many National Offices in this time of working from home will be able to focus on translations of the new curriculum, devotional books and gospel leaflets.

3. Sweden:

Pray for effective promotion of our TCE1. The course will run for the first time in Sweden.

4. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

Please pray for the Regional Director's meetings that take place online this week for a couple of hours from Tuesday to Friday. (It's a challenge as we are up to 15 hours apart from each other. In Europe the meetings are in the early afternoon.)

5. Finland:

Please ask God to use the big amount of Bible correspondence course (BCC) leaflets we have in storage, either as a traditional course or to be used at home. Maybe He meant them for times like these! Thank God for Kaisa, our faithful BCC lady!

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

Remember the Board of UEB (CEF Italy) as they seek to reschedule the board meeting and general assembly meetings which had to be cancelled at the end of February. They are considering the possibility of rescheduling this month but it is not at all certain that restrictions will be lifted to allow this to happen.

7. Denmark:

Pray for all the Christians who go online these days with the good news for children such as Sunday School online and more. Pray for inspiration and wisdom - and pray that many children and families will find these posts.

8. Netherlands:

We are very thankful for the new translators who are a result of the latest prayer letter we sent out last March.

9. Ireland:

Pray for more workers in the Republic of Ireland. We have targeted 6 counties and are looking to the Lord to burden the hearts of believers who are called to reach the unreached. We also have 3 vacant areas in Northern Ireland and again are asking the Lord to fill them with the people of His choosing.

10. EPM:

We had a course planned in March which we were able to hold online. We are so thankful that God guided so that these tools could be in place enabling training to continue for CEF workers at this time.

11. Belgium:

Didi has befriended the 2 Greek twin daughters of a single Greek mum. She now invites them over from time to time in order to befriend them, and ultimately to share the Good News to them. They need lots of prayer since the father who sees them every two weeks is quite hostile toward religion.

12. Great Britain:

Praise God for encouraging fellowship together at the Spring Conference for the Workers, as we worked together to focus on vision, objectives and strategic plans for 2020. Pray that, despite the disruption of our ministry due to the COVID-19, all the workers will complete their plans before Easter, entrusting their delayed implementation to be directed by God in due course.

13. Switzerland:

Ask the Lord for more prayer partners for CEF Switzerland, and ask HIM for the needed finance.

14. France:

We are preparing "family get-together" times that we make available on the AEE France Facebook page. Pray that these will be a blessing and help.

15. IT:

Please pray for the re-design of the Teach Kids website and that it would become an invaluable tool for many workers, teachers and volunteers in the future. Please pray too as we aim to create a website (journey4kids) for children to grow and learn more about God.

16. Spain:

Please pray for the ongoing preparation of all the details for the CMLC course (Portuguese/Spanish) to be held in August this year.

17. Luxembourg:

We trust that some Easter Outreaches can be done in spite of the ongoing restrictions.

18. Great Britain:

Praise God for answered prayer that the Home Office approved changes to the oversight of our Sponsor Licence to enable David to manage future changes more conveniently.

19. Austria:

Please pray for wisdom here especially. Pray the Lord will lead and we will be guided as to what to do in Austria. Pray for the Lord's provision for workers for this harvest field. Luke 10:2

20. W Europe:

Pray for all the children and families who need to find a new way to be together right now. Pray that it will be a time when families will receive divine inspiration for how to be together - both now and long term.

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

Please ask God to provide the financial needs of all our workers in South West at this uncertain time. It may be that the ministry partners who stand by the work of CEF will be affected by the economic fall out of the present emergency and therefore unable to give what they have been giving.

22. Stephen & Grace Chambers: Area Directors NW Europe

Pray that Grace and I will be a blessing and encouragement to National Directors/ Team Leaders during this time of working in a very different way.

23. Christmas Together

In a number of countries the teams are continuing to plan for Christmas. Please pray for good ideas and the Lord's leading.

24. Norwegian Lapland:

We are still planning tentatively for camps and other activities but realise it is a case of wait and see. Some children and parents have been talking about camp some time ago. If camps do go ahead we will need a cook and 2 male leaders for both camps.

25. Finland:

We are thankful for Marika's online live Bible club on Wednesdays and for the opportunity to watch these programs anytime. Pray for Marika that God would lead her to say what she should say to children and for many children to benefit from these 30-minute programs.

26. Latvia:

Pray for wisdom how to conduct our Training ministry. Pray for new people to come into this ministry.

27. Wondersurf:

A special prayer concern is that God holds his protective hand over our server and that the Internet remains intact.

28. Netherlands:

Please pray for the effort to give our TCE-1 course in a digital way. Pray that students will be able to continue the course and they will be still blessed for their ministry with children

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

Ask God to help those of us with leadership responsibility in Western Europe (Regional, Area and Country leaders) to be endowed with wisdom and compassion which comes from our heavenly Father, so that we may be able to help our workers and volunteers on a physical, spiritual and emotional level in these days

30. Wilna Shaw:

Pray for the opportunity to encourage Good News Club children by Whats App, e-booklets, correspondence lessons and Wonderzone.

31. Estonia:

Praise the Lord for <u>avastajad.net/wondersurf</u> site in Estonian. Many children are visiting the site.