

Devotional

ACTS 2:1-41

With the coming of the promised Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, there was a sudden sound like a mighty rushing wind (v2), tongues as of fire on each of the waiting apostles (v3) and they began to speak in other languages (v4). On hearing this a crowd gathers (v6). Amazed and perplexed (v12) they ask, 'What does this mean?' Luke, the careful author of Acts, gives us a summary of Peter's sermon in three points, (probably much longer at the time v40); each point taken from an Old Testament passage, to answer their question.

1. In his first point (v17-21) he quotes Joel 2:28-32 and he explains that they are now in the last days that Joel prophesied. All the signs are there to be seen and heard including what they have just witnessed. Joel promised the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on 'all flesh' in the last days and everyone who calls on the Lord Jesus will be saved (v21).

What an amazing truth as it begins to unfold here. All who call on the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved and receive the Holy Spirit. Pray we would know this reality in our families, our lives and ministries. But also, please pray that the children of our countries and languages will call out on the name of the Lord Jesus and be saved and know the Holy Spirit's comfort, help and presence in their lives. This is their only hope. Why?

2. The second point Peter makes is from Psalm 16:8-11. He says this man Jesus, is the one who was approved by God in the many miracles they saw him do (v22). This Jesus who died as God planned, at the hands of cruel men (v23), is the God who death could not hold. In fact, death had to push him out, as an expectant mother in childbirth cannot hold the baby inside. The Psalmist's point is that God said Jesus would not stay dead (v23, 24), so he did not. Therefore, every believer who trusts in him cannot stay dead either. What a hope, the only hope, for all who call on the name of the Lord. Jesus said himself in John 11:25, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." Will you pray earnestly, as we pray through the items in this booklet, that we as an organisation will more and more clearly and powerfully witness to this risen Jesus in these days and that the children we reach will call on this living Jesus and have this hope of eternal life.

Prayer Calendar Western Europe June/July 2020

3. For his third point Peter says this risen Jesus is the only one exalted to sit at the right hand of God, and therefore the only one who can send the promised Holy Spirit they have seen and heard (v33). Peter bases this on Psalm 110:1 (v₃4). His conclusion is that they can know for certain (v₃6) that this exalted Jesus is both Lord and Christ and he must be Lord and Christ of their lives too. At this final point the crowd is cut to the heart (v37) and ask how they must respond? The answer 'repent and be baptised for the forgiveness of sins and you will receive the Holy Spirit" (v₃8). Please note he doesn't include 'to be baptised' as a condition of salvation, but as a sign of their faith and trust in this Lord and Christ Peter has been proclaiming. They must however repent from their sin and believe in the Lord Jesus alone for salvation. That means acknowledge that Peter is right about their sin and turn from it. They must acknowledge that he is right about Jesus and trust their whole selves to him. And they did – many were added that day (v41). Please pray that the children we reach will be 'cut to the heart' by the gospel – and that they will repent of their sins and trust him with their whole lives, serve him and be added to the church for discipleship and service.

June 2020

1. Lithuania:

Pray for small 3-day camps planned for June in Kaunas (2) and Klaipėda (1). Pray that parents would not be afraid to let their children come to the open-air day camps.

Bogdan Bassara: International Literature Director Please pray for the International Multimedia Ministry Summit online that started in May and will continue on June 2 and 4. Pray that many new projects will be developed in 90 languages around the world. Pray for Bogdan as he chairs the meetings.

2. Latvia:

Pray that we will be able to launch Bible lesson courses online – <u>Atver.eu</u> – in early June. Pray for a team that will continue to develop our online ministry.

Italy:

Please pray for important decisions to be made by the National Board regarding the appointment of a National Director. Pray that God will give guidance as we consider how to proceed at our online meeting today.

3. Spain:

We thank God for allowing us to adapt to this situation of the pandemic, by sharing materials online and creating a new YouTube channel.

4. Great Britain:

Praise God for the opportunity for the workers in Britain to pray together with workers in the Netherlands this afternoon, as we share and encourage one another as part of the CEF family worldwide.

5. Finland:

We would need a warm garage or something similar near our office in the northern Finland to store many boxes full of printed booklets and tracts. Our office is quite small, and the fire regulations do not allow keeping them all there. At the moment we only have cold storage space, but in the long run it might damage the literature.

6. Austria

No CEF ministry exists here at present. Please pray for the Lord to give us wisdom and to lead and guide us regarding the future. Pray the Lord will send out workers into his harvest field in Austria in his time.

7. EPM:

Some countries have challenges in raising support during this crisis, especially where donations in cash is a usual practice. We pray that God will continue to provide in His miraculous ways, so that the workers will continue to preach the Good News of the Gospel.

8. Belgium:

As we do not yet know if the government will allow any camps in July/August, it is difficult to plan ahead. Please pray that we will know very soon.

9. Sweden:

Pray for the preparation, and for the effective promotion of our first TCE1 course in Sweden, planned for this Autumn.

10. France:

Since the start of lockdown, we have gathered the team twice a week for a prayer time. It has been a blessed time. Now that we are in a period of opening up again, we wish to keep this habit and continue to meet once a week.

11. Norwegian Lapland:

Praise God that the online club went well and that many children and adults watched it for the 6 weeks. We have had very positive feedback.

12. Ireland:

Please pray for the redevelopment of our Seaview Camp Centre. Unfortunately, due to the current situation with coronavirus and following the Government's advice, work had to cease temporarily on the site. We are pleased to be able to share that the contractor is now back on site and progressing the project. We recognise this will affect the proposed time schedule, but we are looking to the Lord to undertake and enable some time to be redeemed.

13. Chris & Lynn Holt: Member Care, Europe

Pray for us as we continue to support and encourage the CEF workers throughout Europe. The travel restrictions in the lockdown has meant we have had to cancel several trips.

14. Estonia:

Praise the Lord for new opportunities to serve the children via Wondersurf. Pray for the whole team, serving to put three video classes online every week, plus Bible adventures and activities.

15. Denmark:

Please pray for a 5-day-club in a very needy area from 15th to 19th. Please pray that it will be possible to have the clubs despite all the rules and regulations.

16. IT:

We praise the Lord for starting the online Bible Correspondence Course in new languages. We pray that this tool will be a blessing for many children as they want to grow in their spiritual life.

17. Wondersurf:

Please pray for wisdom to change the Wondersurf app, so that we will get permission to publish it in the Google Play Store. It has been rejected because it is an app for children, and connected with a website.

18. Switzerland:

Thank the Lord for the establishment of the webshop. Pray that workers among children will get in touch with us, and order CEF teaching materials.

19. The Netherlands:

Pray for Anneke Breet and the rest of the team who will work out the plans for our garden clubs. Pray that believers will get involved in these, and that the corona policies will make it possible.

20. Germany:

Today the annual CEF Germany members' meeting for the first time will be done online. Please pray that all members can be present, the technology to work fine, and especially that the Lord will guide and bless the discussions and decisions.

21. Stephen & Pam Garrett: Area Directors SW Europe Remember Stephen as he prepares for 2 classes at the planned CMLC in Portugal. He will be teaching one of these classes for the first time.

22. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

For the first time in the history of CEF Europe the summer meetings of the European Leadership Advisory Group (ELAG) will take place online. We meet from June 22-29 either for a full morning (Mon, Weds, Fri & Mon) or a full afternoon (Tue & Thur)

We have a full agenda and would highly appreciate your prayers that the Lord guides us during our discussions and in all decisions that need to be made.

23. Chris & Lynn Holt: Member Care, Europe

Pray that God will use One Another Ministries' new on-line training course "Intimacy is God's Best Gift" to deepen the spiritual lives of many in CEF.

24. Finland:

Our vision is to see many more children's workers all over the country who concentrate on reaching out to children. Ask God to send the right people with similar vision and suitable gifts into the harvest field.

25. Kilchzimmer Executive:

Pray for David Cook as he chairs the Kilchzimmer Members' meeting online this evening, that there will be unity and wisdom, as changes to the constitution and working structure are finalised after the sale of Kilchzimmer in October 2019.

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

Pray for us as a family during continued lockdown. Pray for Grace and me as we have this rather unique time with our children. Please pray, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will all have a renewed, deep and lasting passion for the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and a love for him, his word and the world.

27. Lithuania:

Pray for the updated TCE-1 course, that the instructors will get refreshed for a new start, and that God would lead believers of His choice to this course.

28. Wondersurf:

Wondersurf is in progress into 9 other languages: Turkish, Spanish, Arabic, Dutch, Tajik, Kyrgyz, Mongolian, Ukrainian, Albanian. We hope that all 9 languages can go online in autumn at the latest. Pray for the teams, for wisdom and good progress, as well as good functioning technology.

29. Portugal:

Please pray for the decision to be made by today at the latest regarding the running of the joint Portuguese/ Spanish CMLC this summer in Vendas Novas, Portugal. Ask that much wisdom may be given in knowing what is safe and wise in this present covid-19 pandemic.

30. Luke 10:2

We praise the Lord for 600 workers in CEF Europe. We continue to pray to the Lord of the harvest that He gives us for a total of 725 workers and their support in the next couple of years.

July 2020

1. Switzerland & Germany:

Once more, please pray for enough participants for the CMLC this autumn. We need 20 students, and we hope that some of them will be able to come into the work immediately after this training, in both Germany and Switzerland.

2. Finland:

Thank God for many new Bible correspondence course participants. The corona virus situation has given children more time and interest to try to finish the course. Please pray for Kaisa who faithfully writes to children, adding also personal notes for them.

3. Sweden:

Pray for our 5-days Clubs that will be held during July and August. Pray for children to come, and for lives to be changed by the Gospel.

4. Luxembourg:

We still dream of doing a one-day Congress for Christian Educators in this needy country. Lord willing it can be done in 2021. Your prayers before the throne of Grace are important.

5. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

Today I will preach in the church service in my home church in Nümbrecht, Germany. May the Lord give authority and grace so that His word may reach the hearts of the listeners.

6. Latvia:

Pray for preparation for the camps that will take place in July and August. May many children get to know Jesus through this ministry. Pray also for readiness to follow up these children.

7. Estonia:

Pray for the children, JYC and Sports camps in July. Pray for wisdom and protection over our outside activities.

8. Netherlands:

Please pray for the translation of the Wondersurf website, so that we in the Netherlands will soon be able to have an online ministry going for our children.

9. Ireland:

Ministry has taken a very different format in recent months. We have conducted an online Easter Club and provided free resources on our website. We will be launching an online Summer Club containing a series of 5 teaching sessions and are planning a Camp experience for children and young people in the summer. Many children will be disappointed that they cannot attend camp with their friends this summer, but our prayer is that they will log on and be encouraged by what they see and hear.

10. Germany:

We ask the Lord to give us the opportunity to have camps and camp site ministries this summer, in spite of the restrictions because of the corona virus.

11. Norwegian Lapland:

Please pray for Katrine who is on our committee and is a Good News Club teacher. She has been diagnosed with cancer and has started chemotherapy treatment.

12. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

Today I will be preaching at the Güetli (Switzerland). I am very grateful for your supportive prayer.

13. Lithuania:

Please pray for the day camp from July 12-17. Please pray for the team and for the campers, especially that the Lord would save souls and disciple the believing children.

14. France:

Oria Boumerzoug, who is our administrative manager, will retire in 4 months. We are looking for a replacement. We have several candidates, but we ask you to pray that the Lord will give us a person according to His heart.

15. IT:

Please pray for the re-designing of the <u>teachkids.eu</u> website. Thousands of teachers from all over the world are downloading materials for their children's ministry and a new look for the website is needed soon.

16. Spain:

We don't know when we can have direct contact with the children of the Good News Clubs again. We ask God that in these times of separation, they will not forget everything they have learned and they will continue to desire to learn more about the Bible. Pray that we can take advantage of all the means we have to stay in contact with them.

17. Western Europe:

Pray for the CEF Family, particularly the families and friends of workers, and especially those who are single, the vulnerable and elderly.

18. Great Britain:

Pray for the workers, as they and the National Committee continue to develop their strategic plans for 2020 and that, in spite of disruption and delay due to the COVID-19, all the plans will be completed in these next few weeks.

19. Italy:

Continue to pray for the financial situation within UEB, and in particular the finance needed to make contracts with the workers.

20. Switzerland:

Ask the Lord for more prayer partners for KEB Switzerland.

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

Please pray for focus in ministry during these months when all meetings and discussions happen remotely. This situation can lead to a feeling of detachment from the realities of direct ministry and meeting face to face.

22. Stephen & Grace Chambers: Area Directors NW Europe

It has been great to talk to so many prayer and financial supporters these days – please thank God for them and also pray for the Lord to provide the needs of all our workers and ministries in NW Europe.

23. Iceland

At present there are a number of volunteers who work here, mainly with a camp ministry. Will you pray that the camps will be able to go ahead this summer, and if not, that an alternative gospel opportunity will be available. Also pray for the development of other ministries, so that many more children will hear the gospel and be saved.

24. Bogdan Bassara: International Literature Director Please pray for our ministry partner Revival Movement. The production has been suspended. Pray that many orders that are waiting to be printed will soon be printed, shipped and used to reach boys and girls in many lands.

25. Portugal:

Praise God for the appointment of a new camp director and his wife coming to work in Vendas Novas from June 1st. Pray that God will richly bless Franc and Sandra and meet all of their needs as they begin in this new area of service.

26. Denmark:

Please pray for a new office worker of God's choice for the national office.

27. EPM:

New tools (a website and a quarterly report) have been prepared in order to present the need for workers in Europe. Please pray that this tool will be a blessing for many people, and more partners will join us in reaching children in our region.

28. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director: Please pray that we can still do regular camps wherever possible. Please also pray for those countries that plan alternative summer ministries in West and Eastern Europe.

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

Please pray that there may be some opportunity under the prevailing restrictions imposed, to take vacation as a family from the demands of day to day ministry. Like so many others who are living and working from home, it can be difficult to differentiate between working time and rest/family time.

30. Spain:

We pray that God will allow us to do Five Day Clubs in late August and early September. We are also thinking about holding our Summer camp in the first week of September, or doing it virtually. Please pray for wisdom in these plans.

31. Bogdan Bassara: International Literature Director Pray that the digital tracts, booklets and even individual devotionals from Stuck at home devotionals will be used in reaching and teaching boys and girls.