

Western Europe Prayer Diary August & September 2021

Devotional

Psalm 103

In this Psalm of David, we can find much to encourage us to pray. There are 3 key elements within the Psalm: -

- 1) ***The Praise of God***
- 2) ***The Compassion of God***
- 3) ***The Rule of God***

Firstly then:

The Praise of God

Praise ought always to be an important element in our prayers. Will you always feel like praising God in your prayers? The simple answer is no. No doubt the same was true for David and maybe so in Psalm 103 which is why the Psalm begins with David speaking to himself. In verses 1 & 2 David tells himself to praise God with all of his being, which may be his way of reminding himself that he needs to praise God regardless of how he is feeling. I don't know whether you are at an age where you talk to yourself, but I'm giving you permission to talk to yourself today and remind yourself that you will surely bring glory to God by praising His name!

David praises God for His many mercies including forgiveness of sins v3a; healing of sickness v3b; deliverance from death v4a; and the enrichment of his life with God's great love and compassion v4b. Try drawing up a list today of what God has done for you – over your life time – in these recent months – even over the last day or two.

The Compassion of God

The dictionary definition of the word compassion is usually summed up in the words pity or mercy. However, the compassion of God is more than feelings of pity or mercy, God's feelings of compassion lead to action to do something about the situation.

In Psalm 103 David recalls the covenant loyalty of Almighty God to His people Israel despite their sinfulness and frailty. And in just the same way each one of us have experienced God's compassion towards us. In verse 10 it says "He will not always chide..." In some versions "accuse,".....literally He will not bring a court case against us. He certainly could bring a court case against us and with ample evidence to see us

convicted as charged. However, verses 10 & 11 remind us, "As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us." Christ has removed our sin, borne our shame, carried our guilt. Why has He shown such compassion to us? He knows our weakness and frailty whereby we cannot help ourselves and are eternally lost.

Made of dust, we are remarkably insignificant. No matter how great our life's achievements, life is brief and transitory. The eternal, covenant love of our God is all that we have to hold on to. The psalmist tells us that God's great love is toward those who obey Him and keep His commandments. In our weakness we are utterly dependent on the compassion of our loving Heavenly Father.

The Rule of God

I love how the Psalm starts out with the praise of God and ends up with the rule of God. You'll either have heard the question being asked or asked it yourself at some time, "Who is in charge around here?" When we know who is in charge it makes all the difference. David assures us, "The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all."

David wasn't waiting patiently to find out who would come out on top. He knew that God was over all and so all angels, all heavenly hosts, indeed all creation should praise the Lord! What a difference to our praying this simple fact makes. We are praying to the One who is sovereign over all. Our requests are being heard by the One who is in charge. He can answer in whatever way is pleasing to Him.

Let's give praise to our God through our prayers over these months. Let's praise Him for His compassion towards us, His weak and sinful people. However, let's not forget that He rules and that He rules over all things, people and situations. Nothing is too difficult for Him!!

August 2021

1. France:

Pray for a residential TCE 1 & 2 which will take place from today until the 7th and also for an IOT 1 & 2 course starting on August 14th. May the Lord allow these trainings to take place despite Covid.

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

Praise God for the opportunity to be involved in direct ministry last month. Give thanks that it was possible to go ahead with a residential camp, even though mitigations meant that it had to be outdoors in tents. Pray that God will do His own work in young hearts.

3. Sweden:

Pray for our 5-days Club in Holsbybrunn (in the beginning of August) and for Clubs in Lund (in the middle of August). Pray that children will come, enjoy themselves and be saved.

4. Switzerland:

We are thankful for two people who distribute evangelistic Christian literature in three Swiss cities. During summer vacation in July, many children were drawn to the bookstalls. Pray for the upcoming bookstalls in the beginning of August and for good contact with the children. Pray that they will carefully and mindfully read the booklets distributed. Pray that the Lord will give them an understanding of Himself and of the Gospel.

5. Great Britain:

Praise God that Liz from Switzerland has been accepted to join CEF Britain as a volunteer after the first half of her CMLC training is completed in August. Pray that Liz and her husband Micha, accepted to study for a Masters' degree in Theology at Union School of Theology in Bridgend, South Wales, will be able to complete their move to South Wales during August.

6. Chris & Lynn Holt, European Member Care:

Pray for God's comfort and support for those within CEF who have recently lost loved ones.

7. Portugal:

Praise God for those children saved at the Word of Life Camp at which Jovanka was teaching in July. We rejoice that 12 children put their trust in Jesus Christ for salvation and 5 children rededicated their lives to the Lord. Ask that God would continue to give opportunities to disciple these boys and girls in the months ahead.

8. Austria:

Pray for the few contacts we have made. They have been doing TCE online. Pray this

will result in children being reached with the gospel directly.

9. Italy:

Praise God for the success of the recent literature project led by Gary Cortes. Continue to pray that God will use the "What Children Really Need to Know" booklet as it comes into the hands of boys and girls in Italy. Remember as Gary now plans a second literature project using the message of the Wordless Book and the wristband based on the colours of the Wordless Book. He would like to produce 50,000 copies of this second booklet for distribution by June 2022.

10. Switzerland:

Pray for a number of churches and individuals, over 150 in number, who have received our 'get to know' folder over the last few months. We would like to follow up and, where possible, offer help for the work among children.

11. Germany:

Please pray that God will open many doors for ministry in our schools and also that God will help us to start many Good News Clubs after the summer vacation.

12. Spain:

Please continue to pray for urban camps, five day Clubs, and evangelistic campaigns in different parts of Spain. Pray that lives will be changed by the gospel.

13. Bogdan Bassara: International Literature Director

Please pray for all the translations that are happening into 38 European languages. Pray for more translators into languages where there is a very small Christian community. Pray for finances needed to pay for translations.

14. Ireland:

We are trusting that some 5-Day Clubs and Holiday Bible Clubs can be conducted throughout this month. Pray that the Lord will keep everyone safe and that His Word will go forth to precious boys and girls without too many interruptions.

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

Praise God for the opportunity to take time out this month for a family holiday and as part of that spend time with family in England. Please ask God to provide personal

refreshment at all levels, physical and spiritual.

16. Great Britain:

Pray that God will raise up National Directors for Britain to lead the growing ministry in England, Scotland and Wales.

17. Vilijam Valentini, European IT Director:

Praise God that Daniel Fer was able to have his operation and is now slowly recovering, but praise God for this progress. Please continue to pray for full healing and for his family during these more difficult days.

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

We really appreciate your prayers for the ministry in NW Europe and for us as a family. We are looking forward to a few weeks of holidays when we are all together during August – pray this will be a good family time. Please pray for Joel and Hannah as they get exam results and decide what is next for them – pray we will have wisdom to advise them.

19. Estonia:

Praise the Lord for camps and saved children during July. Pray that follow-up will be done well and children will join the Good News Clubs and Sunday Schools in the autumn.

20. Linda Corry, European Education Director

Praise God for the 18 students who complete CMLC online today (first 6 week module). They represent 10 European countries. It's amazing to know that 12 of the students are already serving in CEF or are planning to in the near future. Pray for those in the group who are currently seeking God's will for their future.

21. Lithuania:

Pray for August-September teacher training classes in Vilnius, Kaunas, Panevėžys, Klaipėda and Shiauliai to be a big help for local children workers. Pray that the Lord will send more workers into those cities.

22. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

Today I'm preaching in the Gütli, a Christian ministry and retreat centre in the Zurich area in Switzerland. Please pray that the Lord will bless His Word.

23. Netherlands:

Thank God for the outreach in Ghent at the beginning of July. Pray for God's guidance for the coming months as we want to continue the City Kids project in this Flemish city.

24. Iceland:

The team of volunteers have a full programme of camps during August – pray these will go ahead safely, that God will bless the team and work in the lives of the children, young people and their families.

25. Norwegian Lapland:

Two young girls from another mission are planning to come to Lakselv for a year. They will be with us in the Good News Clubs which will be a big help.

26. Sweden:

We thank God for more children using Wondersurf.se. Please do pray that more children will use our Bible Correspondence Course ONLINE (bibelresan.se)

27. Ireland:

Please continue to pray that God will call new workers to fill the vacant areas in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. We desire the people of His choosing.

28. Great Britain:

Pray for S, from Egypt, whose vision to reach Arabic speaking children and their families with the Gospel in the North of England is now at a cross-roads. Pray that God will guide him and that he will discern God's will for his life and future ministry.

29. Spain:

Please pray that all our workers can have a few weeks of holidays and be physically and spiritually refreshed before the autumn and winter ministry begins.

30. European Partnership Ministry:

Please pray for more countries to be involved in supporting those in need. Pray that in 2021 we will have more partners with a heart for reaching children in Europe.

31. Christmas Together:

Please pray for Christmas Together and all the preparations in our countries across Europe. Pray that we can make contacts with many local churches and that they will catch

the vision to reach the children with the gospel during the Christmas season and that many people will be willing to take the training and open their homes and hearts.

September 2021

1. Portugal:

Please continue to pray for the programs which are still being prepared and going out on the Boas Novas YouTube channel. Pray especially for the programs designed to teach Christian children and parents about family worship. May the model of family worship being presented in these programs act as a catalyst and guide for Christian families.

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

Ask God to give us wisdom and discernment as Western leaders to know what needs to happen concerning the Western Connections Conference in October. May it be clear what the possibilities for travel are for the various countries of North West and South West Europe. Please pray that a right decision will be made.

3. Bogdan Bassara: International Literature Director

Pray for countries in Eastern Europe that recently became closed to receiving Boxes of Books. Pray that it will be possible to find solutions to print the literature inside the countries and provide it digitally so the ministry in these countries could continue.

4. Spain:

Pray for a good start to the second TCE1 online course. We already have 25 students enrolled.

5. Norwegian Lapland:

We praise God we were able to have face to face Good News Clubs all last season. We will start again Billefjord tomorrow, Lakselv on the 7th and Børselv on the 8th September. Pray that more children will come to the Monday Club in Billefjord and that some new ones will come in Lakselv. We have a faithful nucleus of 8 and 9 year-old children in Lakselv, but do please pray that more 6 and 7 year-olds will come.

6. France:

Pray for the committee meetings that will take place this month in various areas: education, literature, prayer, evangelization. Each committee will work on the objectives for the year. We need wisdom from above and discernment.

7. Vilijam Valentini, European IT Director:

Praise God for the training which we have been able to have recently. Part of our ministry over this last year has been to help workers in using some of the online programmes which we use in CEF Europe. Pray with us as we continue to support workers in learning new techniques and ways to help them in their ministries. Pray as we continue to train workers in more of these online technologies over the next month or so.

8. Netherlands:

Pray for a dutch lady (who is a teacher) who is really open for full-time service in child evangelism. Today we will have a meeting together to speak about her calling. She is considering taking the English speaking CMLC.

9. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

Today the Area Directors and I are together on Zoom for our quarterly meeting. Please pray for the Lord's leading and good discussions of whatever will be on our agenda.

10. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

Pray for our European National Directors and Team Leaders online meeting today, pray that it will be inspiring and helpful. Pray for all the Department Directors who will share at this meeting.

11. Ireland:

We are planning the opening of our newly built Seaview Camp Centre today. Pray that this will be able to go ahead, in light of any restrictions that may be in place at the time. After the official opening we then plan to conduct our Workers Staff Conference from today until the 16th. Pray that this will be a time of refreshment and encouragement for each worker as they prepare to commence the autumn/winter programme.

12. Estonia:

Praise the Lord for Wondersurf/avastajad.net and for all the volunteers doing a great job in adding new content every week. Pray for the children who come to the site regularly.

13. Norwegian Lapland:

Pray it will be possible to have the week of Children's Mission in Mehamn from today until Friday 17th September, corona permitting!

14. Italy:

Please pray for Brindusa Vieriu and the ministry which she has amongst vulnerable boys and girls who are being looked after in care. Pray particularly for 2 young boys, L (13 years old) and N (10 ½ years old.) Both boys are praying and social workers have noticed that the behaviour of the boys has changed notably for the better. Ask that God will lead them to genuine faith through the working of His holy Spirit.

15. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director

Please pray for the preparations of the European Conference, that it can take place as planned, that it will be a refreshing and inspiring time for all who attend and that Philip will find all the people he needs to prepare such a big event.

16. Spain:

Please do pray that all the Good News Clubs can be started in person and that more new children will come. Pray that there will be no Covid restrictions in place and that the children will enjoy coming back to Good News Club!

17. Lithuania:

Pray for the new and also for more prayer bands who will be praying for CEF workers and the ministry in Lithuania.

18. Austria:

Pray for more contacts to be made and for new leaders, workers and volunteers.

19. Germany:

We thank the Lord for all our trainees and those doing a gap year as volunteers. Let us pray that the Lord will call some of them into full time ministry with CEF.

20. Stephen & Grace Chambers: Area Directors NW Europe

Pray for us as we plan ahead for the next year and for wisdom for what we should prioritise.

21. Great Britain:

Pray that the online Zoom meeting with the GB Workers this afternoon will give them encouragement to strengthen and develop their online ministry to boys and girls and as they consider how to reach children with Additional Needs, guided by Mark Arnold.

22. Switzerland:

In November we would like to offer Christmas workshops for children's workers. The aim is to motivate and equip them with materials and ideas to run an evangelistic Christmas children's meeting themselves. Pray for planning and good preparations, and that through this many children will hear the Gospel.

23. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director

The European Headquarters is registered in Switzerland as an association. The executive of this association with David Cook as chairman meets online this morning for one of their regular meetings. We appreciate your prayers.

24. Great Britain:

Pray for the sale of our National Office property in Scotland. Pray for Andrew McMullan as he leads the team to renovate and prepare this property for sale in the early Autumn.

25. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director

This weekend I'm in Germany. Today the German board comes together for their first meeting after the summer break. Normally the agenda is very full and we need God's guidance and wisdom. Tomorrow I will preach in my home church. I appreciate your prayer support that God will bless His Word.

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

Please pray for all those children and young people from South West Europe who have trusted the Lord Jesus through direct ministries this summer. Please ask that God will give them assurance of salvation by the power of His Holy Spirit and that He will protect them from the attack of the enemy.

27. European Partnership Ministry:

Pray for ministry partners who gave in the past and are now struggling financially. May God's presence be near and their strength each day be in Him.

28. Linda Corry, European Education

Director

The European education department will meet today. Pray that we will be aware of God's leading in all the points for discussion today and for every decision that needs to be made.

29. Iceland:

Please pray as Stephen Chambers plans a visit to meet the volunteer team and to make other contacts who he can help train, equip and support in the work of child evangelism/discipleship.

30. Philip Annett, European Leadership

Development Director:

Please pray for wisdom and creativity for our team as we work on developing a new training program to help develop and strengthen the National Committees across our region.

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