

WESTERN EUROPE

Prayer Calendar February - March 2024

Dear Prayer Partners,

"When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars." Psalm 75:3

Listening to the news, many people feel that the world is falling apart. Crisis after crisis. So many wars. Our societies are divided. So much anger and discontent in the air, and protests and violence in the streets.

Politicians and governments appear helpless. They can't see or find a solution. Often they make things worse, feeding anger and discontent. Where will it all end? What will our world look like in a few years?

If only the churches were better. But even there we see division, the influence of false teaching and fewer people seeking first the kingdom of God (Mt 6:33).

The fact that God's Word describes an earth shaking and people tottering shows that God knows this will happen. He does not know this simply because He knows everything. He knows it because He has created the world in such a way that it must inevitably happen. The tottering of the earth and all its inhabitants is an effect. When the cause happens, the effect necessarily happens.

What is the cause? Ps 82:5 describes it in these words: "They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness. People refuse to leave the darkness and turn to the Light, Jesus Christ. They live as if God did not exist. The cause is the sin of man. Ps 82:5 continues: "All the foundations of the earth are shaken." This is the effect!

Psalm 75:3 is in the Bible so that *unbelievers* understand that all earthly things are unstable, that they are totally dependent on God for security, and that they should turn to the Lord for help and salvation. Unfortunately, this is the last response that unbelievers tend to give. One group responds with activity and effort ("We must save the world!"), another group responds with aggression and destruction, and a third group takes tranquillisers.

We *believers* are told the truth of Ps 75:3 so that we do not panic or react like unbelievers. To help us react spiritually, we are given additional information, comforting information: "When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars."

Sin is shaking the foundations of life and loosening its pillars, which, if God were to simply watch and do nothing, would lead to the collapse of the world and the disintegration of our societies. But God assures us (in poetic language), of His continuing work of providence. "He upholds both, the place where his people live as well as the moral order of this world" (ESV Study Bible, comment on 1 Sam 2:8). He

holds the pillars of the physical, political and even economic world steady. As long as Jesus "upholds the universe by the word of his power" (Heb 1:3), this world will not and cannot collapse.

How does He keep steady its pillars?

In one sense, it's a very big and complicated job that no man can do. When we think of His work to rule over every single one of the 8 billion people in the world - what a big task! Amazing that He can do that!

In another sense, it's a very simple thing and every man, especially Christians, can do it and should follow God's example.

Ps 89:14 says, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne." One way of preserving the moral order of the world is to continually bring injustice and unrighteousness to light. God has established and still maintains some kind of police and court system in every nation and tribe. Sin always tries to corrupt this system, but so far God has not allowed sin to destroy or dissolve it completely.

Especially in times of crisis upon crisis, it is important and comforting to see that behind the scenes "it is I who keep steady the pillars of the earth."

And God of course not only keeps the pillars of the world steady, but also of the Church. Even "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

And praise God, this comforting truth also applies to ministries like CEF. As long as He wants to use our ministry, and as long as we are faithful, this ministry cannot perish.

What are some applications?

- An old commentator said: "Verse 3 teaches us that no disorder or confusion should hinder
 us from doing what God requires of us." Don't let our present time, circumstances or other
 challenges discourage us. As long as God keeps steady the pillars of this world and keeps
 strong the pillars of our ministry, we have every reason to continue our work.
 We're all human and it's natural to focus on our own problems or the problems of the world.
 But then we need to remember the truth of this verse in order to keep the vision.
- 2. Another application is that the more the earth shakes and its inhabitants tremble in fear, the more important our ministry becomes. For only the Gospel honestly reveals and addresses the real cause of the problem, only the Gospel offers a lasting solution, and only the Gospel gives children a future and hope and encouragement if they accept and believe it.
- 3. We should help children, especially believing children, to understand this view of God as the one who holds the pillars of the earth, the Church and their young lives, in place. Every child would benefit greatly from understanding that our God *rules* the world, *cares* for the world and *holds it up*.
- 4. Let's study how God keeps the pillars of the earth firm. We have mentioned righteousness and justice. Proverbs 16:12 teaches that this is also the way to keep the foundations of our ministry strong and secure: "For the throne is established by righteousness." This applies to every leadership structure in the world. Ours will remain firm as long as it is shaped by righteousness. And in addition we read in Prov 20:28 "Steadfast love and faithfulness preserve the king (or any other leader at any level), and by steadfast love his throne is upheld. These are the means that God uses, and we are told to use them too.

The truth taught in Ps 75:3 wants to strengthen our hearts and hands. There is never any reason to be afraid or discouraged or idle. After all, "it is I who keep steady its pillars".

Gerd-Walter Buskies (Leadership Team, Germany)

Fabruary 2024

February 2024

1	Sweden: Pray that we will see an army of child evangelists - reaching the lost children for Christ.
	Britain: Pray for David Cook as he represents CEF Europe with the International Board of Trustees in the CEF HQ in Warrenton Missouri. Pray for a smooth transition of conjunctions following recent departures.
2	a smooth transition of senior leadership following recent departures. Greece: Please, pray for the 16-yr old son of one of our co-workers who has a very serious illness. May God guide the doctors to give him the right
	treatment, so that he will be completely cured!
3	Finland: Please pray for Helena who is training several people from one particular church and possibly several other people too. Ask God to help her to communicate His truths and the best methods clearly and with enthusiasm and conviction. Pray that God would bring just the right people there. Pray also for our plans to restart TCE 1 courses after a few years' (covid) break and for our volunteer instructors that they could find new motivation and get going again. There are at least two TCE-courses being planned for this year.
4	Philip & Denise Annett: Please pray that God will enable Philip to share effectively and powerfully with students at a CEF European Candidate course on the 5th February, with students from 2 school Scripture Unions on the 6th February and also with students at Coleraine university Christian Union on the 14th February.
5	Education Dept: Pray for the Candidate Orientation Training planned on Zoom (5 th – 9 th). Six students are registered, representing 5 European countries. Pray that God will call them into CEF ministry. Andrew & Beulah McMullan: Please pray for Andrew as he shares devotions
6	on The Heavenly Vision at Candidate Orientation Training online this week. Philip & Denise Annett: Please pray that God will help Denise as she finishes teaching the Bible lesson classes at the TCE1 course online for CEF Great Britain, and also for the practicals and evaluations.
7	Estonia: Pray for the ongoing two TCE-1 courses in Tallinn and Sillamäe. For the participants to start children's ministry as a result of the training.
8	Greece: Feb. 5-11 we'll have different promotional meetings in churches about the CEF work in Athens. May God raise some workers to reach more children in the capital city, with 5 million inhabitants.
9	Germany: We praise the Lord for 75 years of CEF ministry in our country! We thank Him for all those who have caught the vision and have evangelized children during those years and for all those who have supported us faithfully through prayers and gifts.
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11	Lithuania: Praise the Lord for every child at the Christmas party club who has heard the message of salvation. Praying for those children to continue wanting to know more about God and His creation.
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14 Feb	Latvia: Pray for TCE 1 students beginning today. The courses will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in February and March. Multimedia Dept: Praise the Lord for over 605.000 Gospel booklets
	distributed during the Christmas Together. Many children took the brochures to their homes. Pray that these paper missionaries will be used by God. Britain: Pray that God will direct our steps in the GB Workers' online Zoom meeting this morning, as we follow up from the GDPR presentation in January
	and consider plans for 2024.
15	Ireland: We are conducting quite a number of JYC weekends in Seaview Camp Centre, Kilkeel this month. Pray for Colin Hylands and Letitia McDonald as they share from God's Word with the young people. Pray that it will be relevant to their lives and that God will strengthen them as they take their stand in school, university or work.
16	Andrew & Beulah McMullan: Please pray for Andrew as he speaks at a Youth
	Weekend, pray that the young people will come with hearts prepared to listen to God's Word and that He will speak into their lives.
17	Estonia: Pray for Friends' Day Party clubs during 2 weeks in February. That children will trust Jesus as their personal Saviour and have the best Friend ever in their life.
18	Stephen & Grace Chambers: Thanks so much for your continued interest,
10	prayers and support for the ministry in NW Europe.
	Praise God for an amazing response, from our workers and volunteers in the
	countries, to 'Christmas Together'. We are thankful for many more children
19	who attended the clubs and heard a clear presentation of the gospel. Britain: Pray that God will raise up National Directors for Britain to lead the
19	ministry in England, Scotland and Wales. Pray that God will guide our steps and lead us to us the person(s) He is calling.
20	NW Europe: Please pray for the Lord to call someone to help us in the leading
	and development of the Area Team, so we can serve the country leaders, workers and ministry more effectively.
21	Spain: We continue to pray for all the children and teens who participate in
	the Good News Clubs, that they may truly know God, and that their lives may reflect to others that they have something special to share with others.
22	Education Dept: Pray for the Refugee Highway Partnership conference (22nd -
	25th) taking place in Warsaw, Poland. A number of our European staff will be
	representing CEF there as well as teaching one of the seminars. Pray for a
	blessed and profitable time.
23	Latvia: Thanks for the supporters to the ministry that have supported us for many years. Pray for new ministry partners.
	Iulian & Anca Mangalagiu: We invite you to praise God for allowing us to
	share the Gospel with many children during Christmas. The lesson was about
	JOY, and we pray that many children will experience the JOY of Salvation.
24	NW Europe: Please pray for the countries of Austria, Denmark, Norway and Iceland in particular. Pray for wisdom as we try to discover what God is doing
25	and where he wants us to concentrate.
25	Finland: Thank God for the new <i>Happy Easter</i> booklet that was printed at the end of last month. This was something we had hoped to have for several
	years already. Please pray that it would be a blessing among children and
	would bring many to Christ.
26	Britain: Pray for those who continue on the first online CEF GB TCE 1 as they
	complete Module 3 in the coming weeks. Pray that this will enable more
	volunteers to learn how to reach children in Britain with the gospel. Pray for some to consider further training with the CMLC course, later in 2024.
27	Multimedia Dept: Pray for the Multimedia and Digital Summit online
_,	happening today. Pray that our multimedia and digital resources will be used

	widely in all languages of Europe to help accomplish the vision of CEF – Every Child, Every Nation, Every Day.
28 Feb	Ireland: We have been holding special times of prayer specifically asking God
	to supply new workers (Luke 10:2). There are many counties in the Republic
	of Ireland that do not have any CEF Worker, and many children in those
	counties who have yet to hear the good news of the gospel.
29	Switzerland: Thanks to the Lord that CEF Switzerland has more office and
	storage space available now. Pray for a good adjusting into the new situation.
30	Netherlands: Pray for the "75 clubs-campaign" because of our 75th
	anniversary in 2024. We want to grow in the number of clubs. Now we have
	40 CEF Good News Clubs, so there is a lot of work to do!
31	Germany: Two of our local directors, Viktor Kuehn and Lars Goehl, are ready
	to join our leadership team. May the Lord bless them as they endeavour to
	serve Him in this capacity.

March 2024

1	Sweden: We will have a stand in two Christian
	conferences in March, one in Borås and one in Gothenburg.
	Pray for good contacts and pray for a growing interest to reach children outside the churches.
2	Greece: Please pray for the monthly GNCs at different Roma Gypsy settlements. Dozens of children hear about the Lord and respond to His love and salvation.
	We hope and pray for the needed funds to come in and for the building works at the CEF camp to be soon finished, as the different scheduled camps are about to start, and the campground needs to be ready.
3	Finland: This is the time of year to launch our new camp package. Thank God it was finished in good time this year. Please pray that many camps would benefit from it this coming summer, so that children would enjoy and have fun, but most of all get to know Jesus personally.
4	Cyprus: Please, pray for the few Evangelical churches in Cyprus and for the 6-7 faithful volunteers who teach two GNCs every month. Latvia: Pray for the participants of the Easter Seminars. Easter seminars will be held from March 4 to March 9.
5	Germany: We pray for many Easter Party Clubs to be held at new venues and that a lot of boys and girls will trust Christ when hearing the Easter message.
6	Lithuania: Pray for Easter seminars in 4 towns on March 1st-16th and for Easter clubs to be organized in new places to reach new children.
7	Switzerland: Many churches, organisations and individuals have received a letter from us over the past weeks. Please pray that they will be motivated to pray for the "Meet the King" distribution campaign, to give and to order and distribute to children themselves. Actual distributions are planned for the pre-Christmas period 2024.
8	Philip & Denise Annett: Please pray for wisdom, creativity and accuracy for Denise as she continues to work on writing projects with CEF Europe and CEF Ireland. Please pray that God will help Philip as continues to meet and encourage ministry friends and co-workers.
9	Belgium/Luxembourg: pray for the General Assembly meeting on 9th March. Pray that the Lord gives new vision when there is a brainstorming part with board, team and people who are involved in CEF Belux.

10 Mar	Stephen & Grace Chambers: Please pray for God's wisdom, strength and help in the area – for new board members, leaders, workers, volunteers and
11	supporters where they are most needed. Germany: Please, pray for the CEF workers' conference from March 11 to March 15. We pray especially for our guest speaker Uwe Walter, that God will
12	use him to strengthen us for our personal lives as well as for our ministry. Spain: We pray to the Lord for the next Holy Week camp where we expect more than 65 children to attend. May God guide the preparations, and also all the workers and volunteers who will participate. May they be special days where the message of the Gospel can be clearly shared, and may it be a great blessing for the lives of the children who will participate. Education Dept: Pray for the WE Education Advisory Group planned today. Pray for wisdom in all discussions and every decision made.
13	Britain: Pray that God will direct our steps in the GB Workers' online Zoom meeting this morning, as we review the recent workers conference and consider training, preparation and plans for Easter Clubs ministry.
14	Germany: Our General Assembly will meet from March 15 to March 17. May the Lord guide the discussions and may they take the right decisions.
15	Andrew & Beulah McMullan: Please pray as we share at the Faith Mission Bible College in Edinburgh today. Pray that God will give the students a burden to reach children and young people wherever He will call them.
16	Ireland: The Spring Week of Prayer will be taking place $17^{th} - 24^{th}$ March. Ask the Lord to challenge believers to intercede for the children and young people in Ireland.
17	Estonia: Pray for the TCE-2 course and students in Tallinn. Pray for new instructor Tetyana, teaching the course for the first time. Pray for good support team for our workers, for prayer and financial support.
18	Sweden: Pray that our new Easter materials and tracts will help reach more children.
19	Multimedia Dept: Pray for the Multimedia Advisory Group meetings that take place today. Pray for all the new projects that will be discussed and for His direction in making the decisions and progress on these.
20	Britain: Pray for the National Committee as we meet online this morning to review progress of the strategic plan 2023-25, the recent workers' conference and current training programmes. Pray that the impact of all this will enable more girls and boys to be reached with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus.
21	Belgium/Luxembourg: pray for the desire to reach more children by Good News Clubs. During the years many Christians are trained but pray that they will reach children outside the churches for the glory of Christ and the salvation of boys and girls.
22	Finland: Keep praying for Riina, our new young worker, that she would know how to organise her work so that she also has time to rest, so that she can give her best to the kids she is meeting. Ask God to give her supporters who understand the value of her ministry. Ask God to give us other new workers as well!
23	Latvia: Pray that the Easter materials will be ready and in the hands of the workers in time.
24	Switzerland: Pray for good preparation for the annual accounts.
25	Education Dept: Pray that the new online version of D6:7 – Love God Most will be a blessing and help for many children's workers in Europe.
26	Iulian & Anca Mangalagiu: We have small teams in several countries and/or no National Directors. Pray together with us for more workers and for the support they need in prayer and financially.

27 Mar	Andrew & Beulah McMullan: Please pray for Andrew as he speaks at a young people's meeting in Monaghan. Pray that God will give him the Word He would have him to share.
28	Member Care Dept: our vision for CEF of Europe is to see a dedicated Member Care couple/person in each country. Some countries are already doing this, and we pray that others will do the same.
29	Ireland: Pray for our Easter Conference (29th March – 2nd April) that God will challenge believers about the need of reaching the children in Ireland. Pray for each seminar speaker, missionary and Bible teacher that they will know the anointing of God. Remember our CEF President, Jeremiah Cho, as he travels to Ireland and speaks at the conference.
30	Finance Dept: Please pray for new trusts/individuals to give to the shortfall project. Pray for opportunities for visits and God's leading to those who want to support European projects.
31	Germany: Please, pray that the Lord will lead a good number of people into the CMLC which is to take place from Oct. 10 to Dec. 20, this year.

Many thanks for your prayerful interest and support!!