

SHINE PRAYER DIARY FOR MAY 2007

Tuesday 1 May – IMPACT (In Merseyside Police And Church Together)

IMPACT asks us to pray for:

- ❖ Families in Croxteth who are receiving abuse
- ❖ for the Youth of Sefton and Crosby
- ❖ for increasing racial harmony in the Wirral

We thank God for the Police Officers of our region who work with dedication for our safety and we ask for protection for them. Amen

Prayer for our Nation

Wednesday 2 May – harmony within our cultural diversity

We thank you Lord that you never show favouritism, but rather you love all women and men equally. We ask that our lives would reflect this great love which you have for us. We pray that our nation would move towards a greater harmony and respect for all who call Britain their home country. We pray for all who have been the subject of racial abuse that you Lord, would bring forgiveness and healing. We ask for those who have been perpetrators of such attacks that you would bring greater understanding, forgiveness of perceived wrongs and tolerance where there has been rejection. Jesus you are the Healer and you understand rejection and intolerance and so we ask these things in your name, Amen.

Thursday 3 May – carers

Remembering that many women and men and sometimes children across our land care for others, with often complex needs, we pray for all carers. Thank you for these special people. We ask you Lord, to be the carers' provider, their strong tower, their 'listener' and their inspiration. Help them to accomplish what at times may seem impossible and help them to keep a sense of humour.

'The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life' Proverbs 15:4

Prayer for the Nations

Friday 4 May – Jesus, we hear so much news about the nations help us to pray

The Wailing or Western Wall is the last remaining bit of the original temple Jesus knew. For hundreds of years people have prayed there. Sometimes writing their prayers on paper wedged between the bricks in the wall. Over the next few days take time to listen to the news, read the paper or surf the web. As God speaks to your heart about the needs of the nations use the space below to write your prayer and so help to build up a wall of prayer for the nations. Thank you.

Saturday 5 May – Climate change

Jesus, we have heard of so many people who have recently been affected by droughts and flooding which are the direct results of climate change. We pray for all who have lost their homes and livelihoods in floods and landslides. We pray that they will be able to rebuild their lives. We pray for nations facing droughts and the economic hardships which come as a result of drought. We pray for a fairer world for all nations. We pray for governments facing decision making that may affect climate change, grant them wisdom and integrity

Sunday 6 May – Praise Jesus

'From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly, before those who fear you, will I fulfil my vows. The poor will eat and be satisfied; they, who seek the Lord, will praise him, may your hearts live forever. All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations.'

Psalm 22:25 – 28

How important it is to remember – to remember all that the Lord has done for me and you. What a great God we worship. Representing my family I praise you today God, with a heart filled with thankfulness for all the great things you have done!

Prayer for churches in Moss Bank

Monday 7 May – Billinge Family Church ask us to pray for:

many opportunities to share the faith through:

- ❖ the "Counted" group that meets on Fridays
- ❖ the Boys Brigade Company that meets on Monday evenings – for a real Christian witness to the 40 plus boys and their families
- ❖ the "Sunshine Club" for mothers and toddlers that meets on Monday afternoons

Tuesday 8 May – Billinge family church

- ❖ the proposed return to London Fields for a further Merseyfest Project in 2007
- ❖ the community choir meeting to prepare for

Wednesday 9 May – growth in faith communities

- ❖ we pray for an increase in love, service and fellowship in the faith communities of St. Patrick's and St. Peter & Paul's
- ❖ we remember Father Kevan O'Brien in our prayers today, asking God to grant him good health and strength

Thursday 10 May – St David's Carr Mill ask us to pray that:

- ❖ the TANGO ministry (a community lunch with nearly-new clothes and goods) would continue to grow and flourish
- ❖ a new cafe-church to be held at Moss Bank Mission would draw new people to Christ

Friday 11 May

Pray for St David's that:

- ❖ members of the congregation would realise that they are chosen by God to share their faith with those around them
- ❖ the worship would be vibrant, inspiring and relevant to the people of our area (Rev Tom Thomas mentions – 'we need a bit of ooomph!')

Saturday 12 May

Lord grant to your faithful people in Carr Mill grace as they seek to become more Christ like. We pray that the young children and people of this neighbourhood would see that your church is a place of love, friendship and hope. Amen

Sunday 13 May – Praise the Lord whose nature is love and faithfulness

'Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. The land will indeed give what is good'. Psalm 85:10 – 12

When I meet you Lord, I meet One who is love and who is faithfulness.

I worship you because of this. Birth in me today more of this special love and faithfulness. I ask you to let it spill out of my life to touch many others. Jesus, you are my example. Blessed be your name.

Town Centre (prayer requests from Marjorie Conroy – St Helens Town Centre Chaplain)

This week we pray Lord, for every person in the Town.
May we give each other a warm smile as our paths cross.
May we extend the hand of friendship to the strangers in our midst.
May we offer kindness to the lost and lonely and to each other.
Amen

Monday 14 May – protection

- ❖ thank God for all employers, employees and services offered in St Helens, thanking God for how vital they are for the economy and well being of our town
- ❖ please pray for all employers and employees within the town centre, for safety in work places and safety as people travel to places of employment.

Tuesday 15 May – employment opportunities

- ❖ Lord, we ask for the creation of more employment possibilities in St Helens
- ❖ We pray for everyone seeking employment or education within our Area

Wednesday 16 May – gratitude for our Council

We thank God for:

- ❖ for Carol Hudson and her award winning team
- ❖ for everyone who is employed by St Helens council, for their hard work in helping our Town Centre to be a safer and more vibrant place

Thursday 17 May – those recently made redundant or facing redundancy

Thank you God for being the author of new beginnings. We pray for:

- ❖ all those in St Helens who have recently lost jobs, comfort them, provide for them and give them new hope
- ❖ the provision of more sources of work in St Helens
- ❖ wisdom for those who face making the decisions that lead to redundancies

Friday 18 May – Mission in the Economy

Marjorie, Fran, Linda and all at Mission in the Economy ask you to join with them in:

- ❖ thanking God for the privilege of serving everyone within the town centre
- ❖ seeking God's face and heart in all they do
- ❖ seeking God's grace and favour, to be encouraging, sensitive and to have listening ears for ALL people they come into contact with

Saturday 19 May

Lord Jesus, we ask for your Glory to cover our town. We thank you for your continued protection and we ask you to continue to prosper St Helens, to renew struggling businesses and that all empty premises will be filled and vibrant. Amen

Sunday 20 May – Praise God who is a strong tower and refuge in times of need

'From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge; a strong tower against the foe.' Psalm 61:2, 3

I praise you, Lord, because you hear the cry of the desperate and you are a strong tower, a refuge. No child, woman or man in St Helens is hidden from you and you hear their cries. What a wonderful God you are. Today I praise you because you are the Rock of my life. Amen

Monday 21 May – Prayer for foster carers and looked after children

During National Fostering Fortnight we pray for:

- ❖ stable living situations for the children of St Helens and for good and adequate provision when there are breakdowns in family situations
- ❖ stability, love and healing for looked after children
- ❖ opportunities for looked after children to thrive and do well

Tuesday 22 May

We pray:

- ❖ thanking God for many foster carers in the Borough and asking that they will all be given strength and wisdom
- ❖ ask God for more people to come forward to offer homes to children in need of this provision
- ❖ foster carers who are facing difficult times that they may be given wisdom in their decisions and strength for each day

Wednesday 23 May – SAINTS — from SAINTS Chaplain Phil Pawley

As we thank God for SAINTS please pray for:

- ❖ players with long term injuries
- ❖ medical treatment and coaching as they try to rehabilitate the player
- ❖ the player's family and generally for wisdom to know the best course of action

Thursday 24 May

Remembering that as humans we are spiritual beings, we ask God:

- ❖ that those players and partners interested in faith will take advantage of the opportunities offered by the chaplain to explore faith further
- ❖ to help the younger players coming through the ranks who are faced with the temptations of 'girls, gold and glory' as they progress in the game and gain more public recognition
- ❖ to facilitate positive mentoring and role modelling from the older players
- ❖ to enable the chaplain to find and make the most of the opportunities that arise to discuss such matters with the lads on a one to one basis as well as a team.

SHINE

Friday 25 May – SHINE Publicity

We pray:

- ❖ for the development of the SHINE web page that this may become a widely used resource
- ❖ for inspiration for all who are involved in producing SHINE publications

Saturday 26 May – SHINE Board

Lord, grant to the members of the SHINE board enthusiasm, dedication and creativity as SHINE seeks to promote unity within the whole body of the church and seeks to encourage neighbourhood evangelisation. Amen

Sunday 27 May – Praise the Lord of time and place

'Lord, I have heard of your fame, I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.' Habakkuk 3:2

Lord, thinking back to the beginning of time, through the history of your people, through the history of my life, I am filled with awe at the great things that you have done. You are Lord of this time in history and this place in which we live. So with praise and longing in my heart I ask you to renew your deeds at this time and in this place. Amen

Prayer for the flowing of the Holy Spirit in our spirits

Monday 28 May – Streams of living water

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given as Jesus had not yet been glorified.' John 7:37 – 39

Thank you, Jesus, for your promise to us. We have believed in you. Thank you that you have been glorified, and thank you for giving us the Spirit. We pray that you will be glorified as we live our lives today and in the coming days. Alone I could not do this but with the Spirit I can. Let the streams of living water flow!

Tuesday 29 May

'Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb' Revelation 22:1

Lord Jesus, Lamb of God we praise you because you are seated on the throne and from your throne flows the river of life. Today I ask you to let the river bring life to my spirit and may it flow out to the lives of those I meet today. Thank you for so many opportunities today to bless the lives of others. Amen

Wednesday 30 May – Jesus said, 'Behold, I am coming soon!'

'Behold I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.' Revelation 22:7

Thank you, Jesus, that today we are one day nearer your return, than we were yesterday. In the power of the Spirit help me to be more ready for that great day. Help me to live today in a way that counts for eternity. Amen.

Thursday 31 May – We receive water from the river of the Holy Spirit

'Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.' Ezekiel 47:12

As this month ends we ask to receive the Holy Spirit and we are glad to be filled by the Holy Spirit. Our prayer is that next month we will bear fruit which will be spiritual food and healing for many others. Amen

Thank you for praying

Sally Bartlett on behalf of SHINE