

Prayers for the Festival

PRAYERS TO USE

Lord God,

Look with love and mercy on this city and region and its people.

*Once the gateway of an earthly empire,
Through which flowed the wealth of many nations;
We ask now that the River of Life, your divine grace,
May flow crystal clear through our city streets,
And out to the whole world,
For the healing and well being of all nations*

Amen

*Peace to the brothers,
and love with faith*

from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

Amen

God of all times and places,

*we ask you to
attend to this prayer and the voices, heard
and silent, who pray it:*

*For families who struggle to speak to one
another in love,*

For families who delight in being together,

For families who read your word together,

*For families who find it hard to spend any
time together,*

For the families in our communities,

For the families visiting this Festival

Those who know you

And those to whom you are a stranger

We pray that your love will shine in them

And that they turn to you

And follow you.

Amen.



Prayer Guide

Wednesday 4th to Sunday 15th June 2008

For more information contact TFH, PO Box 155, L15 0JH Email prayer@4th.org.uk 07711 5516 3149

What is it all about?

Festival of Hope on 14th June is the culmination of a whole series of events taking place in the first half of the month. These are being organised by Liverpool Hope University, Love and Joy Ministries and Merseyfest.

This prayer guide is designed to help you to back up the events with prayer. In Luke 9 and 10 two stories about prayer are flanked by two stories about mission. The two go together; all the hard work and effort to tell people about Jesus would be powerless without prayer, and the breakthrough brought by prayer needs to be exploited by mission. The guide provides a resource to enable you to be part of the prayer in your home on your own or with others, as well as being able to be used in church groups and meetings.

It starts on page 4 with prayer relating to 4th June and follows through with a page per day right up to June 15th on page 15, when the events will be capped by involvement in a walk through the Tunnel. Each day provides an outline of events and suggestions for prayer, as well as a prayer for you to use. Please copy this as many times as you want for your own use and to share with other people.

Prayer Dates for your Diary

In addition to praying at home or in your church, you can get involved in praying with other Christians during the period of Festival of Hope 2008

24/7 Prayer at Hope University

From Wednesday 4th to Friday 13th June the University Chaplaincy on Taggart Rd Woolton is dedicated to prayer around the clock. You can pray there at any time, either on your own or with others. It will be set up to enable different ways of expressing your prayer, and will be a place to meditate and hear the Lord as well. Phone Damian Parry to book a time 07882768269, or just turn up.

Prayer at the Anglican Cathedral on 14th June

From 10 am until 5 pm on 14th June prayer will be going on to back up the festival day. Come and support this for as long as you can - drop in for an hour or spend the day in prayer. It will be in the Western Rooms.

Sunday 15th June

INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL: OVER AND UNDER

Through Mersey Travel a rare opportunity to walk through the Mersey Tunnel is being provided today. Around 25,000 people are expected to buy tickets to walk through the tunnel and return on the ferry to their point of departure.

Through the mercy and grace of God, Love and Joy Ministries have been asked to provide music at all the various stages of the route, through the tunnel and above ground as well. Many of the Gospel Music artists and overseas visitors have agreed to stay on an extra day to take part in this historic event in Capital of Culture Year. Praise God for the wonderful way the Festival of Hope and this event have been arranged so that this became possible.

Pray for safety and protection from all forms of danger and accident as people walk through the tunnel or ride on the ferry. Pray protection for the musicians & artists taking part.

Pray for a clear Gospel message to be communicated all along the route as people enjoy the music and the walk. Ask God to send his Holy Spirit to touch the hearts of walkers, that whole families might be saved.

Pray for the police and Mersey Travel personnel who are stewarding the event, that they will be touched by the presence of God as they go about their duties, and that they too are kept safe.

Pray that as a result of these two days, there would be more opportunities for the Church to be at the centre of the region's life, and that the popular perception of the church and of Christians be radically and favourably changed.

A PRAYER TO USE

*Heavenly Father
May Your Light surround us;
May Your Love enfold us;
May Your Power protect us;
May Your Presence watch over us;
And all who are part of this day,
Wherever we are.*

Amen

Saturday 14th June

TODAY IS THE DAY OF THE FESTIVAL

There are loads of things to pray for:

THE PAGEANT: Churches start assembling from 9.30 am. Please pray for all the hustle & bustle of getting people together ready to walk. The pageant sets off from the Anglican cathedral at 10 am. Pray for good timing, for the stewards who will be overseeing safety, and everyone who is taking part. Pray for this to be an excellent witness as well as being a really fun event. **Pray for good weather!**

THE FESTIVAL ON HOPE STREET: At 10.30 am until 5.00 pm there will be masses of things going on along Hope Street and nearby. There will be many stages and a number of other venues in use. Gospel artists, musicians & dancers from the UK and around the world will be involved. Performances, concerts, Gospel Music, Food, world dance, Children's Activities, Market Stalls, workshops and much more.

Please pray that all the arrangements work out. Pray for a real sense of the presence of God in the street that inhibits "evil-doers". Pray that many people come including many not-yet-Christians. Pray for encounters with the message that will change lives - that people will become followers of Jesus. **Pray for good weather!**

HOPE INSPIRED: is a musical evening starting at 7 pm at the Metropolitan Cathedral involving Love & Joy Choir and the Metropolitan Cathedral Choir, as well as others from the Gospel music scene. Please pray for the anointing of God in this that brings many to Him.

SPACE@FESTIVAL OF HOPE: also starting at 7 pm at the Anglican cathedral (in the open air) is the youth spectacular of contemporary Christian music. Please pray for many young people to be impacted by the message from the main stage at this. Pray again for all the arrangements and of course, for the weather.

Pray for the clear-up after the events. We want this to have been a great witness to the city and region, and leaving everywhere really clean is part of this.

A PRAYER TO USE

*O God of burning cleansing flame, Send the fire!
Your blood-bought gift today we claim: Send the fire today!
Look down and see this waiting host,
And send the promised Holy Ghost;
We need another Pentecost! Send the fire today!*

Amen

There are more prayers on page 16

Preparation

Everyone is capable of praying, but many think that they are not called to pray. Just as we are called to salvation, so we are called to prayer. The bible says, "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Turn your heart towards God and receive His love in return.

For those with the desire, it is easy to pray.

Come, draw near to your Father in heaven, through Jesus the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let all, without exception, come. For all are called to pray

As you come before the Lord in preparation for the coming period of prayer, meditate on this Psalm. Pray it out to the Lord. Acknowledge His greatness and thank Him for what He has done for us.

Psalm 96

*Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous deeds among all peoples.
For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
Splendour and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.
Worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.*

Wednesday 4th June

THE BIG HOPE GLOBAL YOUTH CONGRESS: delegates arrive today from all over the world. Please pray for them as they settle in, that each one will quickly adjust to his/her new surroundings and (where appropriate) culture. As the delegates prepare for the week ahead, pray that each will have a significant encounter with the Lord. The opening takes place at 2.30 at the Metropolitan Cathedral (Cherie Booth, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor & Ken Pye) and 7.30 Hope Park (Baroness Cox)

LJM's INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL: already running for some time, the next fortnight will be the culmination with a number of events, plus the Festival of Hope on 14th. Please pray for the final stages of preparation for this, that all the finances are provided, that the hiring of equipment is completed. Artists and performers for the Festival will be preparing: please pray for them, that all travel and accommodation arrangements work out. Praise God for the Christians that have offered to host some of the visitors. This is a massive and very welcome gift in kind, especially as the hotels in Liverpool are fully booked because of the Capital of Culture year, and it enables costs for the events to be kept very low.

MERSEYFEST: Churches are already at work on projects and others will be starting during this period. Please pray for them, that thousands of hours of kindness will be demonstrated to our communities. Merseyfest is also organising the **PAGEANT** 10 am to 12 noon on 14th June. Pray for more churches to get involved and be part of this great witness to the region of the Church in action. Pray for all the arrangements for marshalling, music, and transport that are being made.

A PRAYER TO USE

Heavenly Father,

*thank you for leading your Church into this united witness
to the world in which we live.*

*You said, "Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations" -
we praise you that nations are coming to be part of the great programme.*

*As the final preparations for the many activities
are being made,*

*help your Church in the region to be a living demonstration
of your magnificent love and your incredible Good News about Jesus,
so that people may see our good works and glorify the Father.*

Amen

Friday 13th June

INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL:

Today sees the pinnacle event of City Sings Gospel, which has developed and brought together choirs and gospel groups across the region.

Pray that it will be an inspirational evening of great gospel chorale singing.

Pray for Beverly Trotman (of X-factor) and the Stavanger Gospel Choir who will be taking part.

Over 700 singers from schools and churches will give two special performances at 6 pm and 7.45 pm at the Anglican Cathedral.. Pray for all the guests who will attend, that they will be impacted by the Gospel message and the vibrant faith of those leading and taking part.. Pray for the choir members, that they will enjoy the experience and through it give praise to God. Pray for the not-yet-Christians that they might meet Jesus.

MERSEYFEST: remembering that tomorrow is the Festival Day, please pray for the completion of all the preparations that need to be finalised today: training of stewards, delivery of stages and equipment, rehearsals for artists and performers. Pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit in all these preparations, and for the whole of the festival day.

Pray for the finances. At this stage all the expenditure for the Festival will have been committed. Pray for the provision of heaven to meet those costs.

Pray for the prayer room at the Cathedral, that there will be a good team of praying people from 10 am to 5 pm, who will cover the whole day in prayer.

Pray for no last minute hitches in permissions for road closures.

Pray that even at this stage churches and individual Christians will decide to take part in the pageant.

A PRAYER TO USE

We pray to the One who is called, "The God who provides".

*Lord, we look to You for all our needs for the festival,
for people and for practical needs as much as finances.*

Thank you that we can say, "My God will provide all your needs, according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

May your name be glorified in our hearts today.

Amen

Thursday 12th June

INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL:
 The conclusion of the International Youth Congress allows us to focus our prayers on the build up to the Festival of Hope. But don't forget to pray for delegates to the IYC who are travelling home, particularly those travelling to countries "closed" to the Gospel, that they will carry the love of Jesus in their lives.

Pray as well for delegates who choose to stay on to enjoy the Festival of Hope and the conclusion of the International Gospel Music Festival, that those who are part of the Body will be strengthened and built up, and those who aren't will be challenged about where they stand.

Pray that one outcome of all the Gospel Music Festival events will be for many people to become Christians through the great music and wonderful testimonies of those taking active parts in it.

Pray for the Lighthouse team again as they focus on preparing for the Feast of Choirs at the Philharmonic tomorrow.

Pray for good weather on the 14th.

MERSEYFEST: Today it is planned to hold a prayer reception for visitors from Mobile in the USA. This is to build on the growing partnership between Christians from that city and our region. About 200 people are expected to come from Mobile to take part in the Festival of Hope! Praise God for the willingness of Christians in Mobile to come to be part of this. "when the people willingly offer themselves—praise the LORD!" *Judges 5:2*

Pray that the reception can take place in Liverpool Town Hall. Praise God for the positive response to links with Mobile from Liverpool council leaders. Pray that this is part of a greater partnership with the council.

Pray that as the leaders from Mobile and Merseyfest pray together, great vision will be birthed in our hearts from God to see our two cities transformed.

A PRAYER TO USE
Lord of Creation,
*You have said, "Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain."
 We ask you to watch over our city and region
 that we might fruitful in our endeavours to see it transformed
 and that men and women might find faith in you*
Amen

Thursday 5th June

THE BIG HOPE GLOBAL YOUTH CONGRESS: Discussion Forums start today on Sport, art and culture; Faith relationships in Britain; Human rights and the child; De-constructing social inclusion.

Pray that the delegate will be stimulated by the discussions and ask questions about their faith as a result.

Pray for the Keynote Lectures at 11.30, 1.30 and 5 when the speakers will be Dr Jonathan Sacks (Chief Rabbi), Mary McAleese (President of Ireland) and two activists from India.

INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL: Pray for the team at the Lighthouse on the eve of the arrival of international guests and speakers. Pray for the practical arrangements for accommodation and transport around the region.

Pray for opportunities on radio to talk about hope over the next ten days not only on religious programmes but on secular programmes as well. Pray for all in Love & Joy and Merseyfest who will be doing this, that they speak with clarity and conviction. Pray that many people will see hope as a result.

MERSEYFEST: Pray for projects already running and for those starting up today.

Every project is a part of the churches' plan to show kindness to our neighbours. The target for the Mersey Region is 50,000 hours of kindness, towards a national goal of 1 million hours under the banner of Hope 08.

Pray that this would build on Merseyfest 2005 in demonstrating to the public the goodness of God: "let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

A PRAYER TO USE
Heavenly Father,
*Thank you for your goodness, your everlasting mercy and compassion
 Thank You for the many blessings You have allowed in our lives
 that draw us to you.
 May Your Church so let their light shine in our city and region this week
 that men will turn to you in praise and wonder and find faith..*
Amen

Friday 6th June

THE BIG HOPE GLOBAL YOUTH CONGRESS: Discussion Forums continue today. Pray that the delegate will be stimulated by the discussions and ask questions about their faith as a result.

Pray for the Keynote Lectures:

9.00 am Bryan Sanderson (Banker) on the Social responsibility of the corporation,

13..30 John Gummer MP on Christian Faith & the Environment

17.00 Baroness Ilora Finlay of Llandaff on Dignity at the end of life.

INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL: Love & Joy Ministries have been working tirelessly over the last three years to engage both the church and the local communities through the means of Gospel Music. This International Festival is the public culmination of their efforts. Praise God for every contact they have made outside the church, and pray that each one will bring fruit for God's Kingdom and contribute to the transformation of the city and region. Pray for every church that is involved that it might be a means for friends and families and others outside the church might be moved to come to at least one performance and find faith

MERSEYFEST: Pray for churches as they prepare for the Pageant on 14th. Pray for creativity and imagination as banners, puppets, wind socks and many other things are made.

Pray for musicians as they get together to practice.

Pray for trumpeters and other brass instrumentalists that are needed to lead the pageant procession.

Pray for the police and that the Church will leave a positive impression on these men and women.

A PRAYER TO USE

Word of God

*Will you indwell all our conversations today?
We pray for your wisdom to be present,
your grace to be evident,
and your mercy to surround
all our activities this day.*

Amen

Wednesday 11th June

THE BIG HOPE GLOBAL YOUTH CONGRESS:

The congress closes today, please pray for friends. Please pray that as the delegates leave to go back to their lives they will take wisdom with them and that they can use what they have learnt from each other back to their home communities and apply it there. Please pray for those not going home but are joining the other events in the Festival, pray for their safety. Pray for the closing event of the Congress, 10.30 am at the Anglican Cathedral. Pray for Bishop James Jones as he speaks.

INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL:

As with all big events a major need is for volunteers to fill all the rolls. Praise God for all those who have already volunteered. Please pray for even more to offer their services. Pray for every volunteer, that their service will result in spiritual growth.

Pray for stewards in particular, as there will be a great need for them.

Pray against any confusion in communication between Love and Joy and Merseyfest

MERSEYFEST: One of the big issues throughout the planning and delivery of the Festival of Hope has been the finances, for all three partners in the venture. Praise God for what He has already provided.

Praise as well for the way costs have to be kept down by giving in kind, and by many volunteers working hard for it.

Please pray that God would release the final finances needed to completely cover all the expenses.

A PRAYER TO USE

Father of the Fatherless

*We ask you, who have said,
"I put the lonely in families"
to make your love known to all the young people
involved in the Youth Congress, the Gospel Conference
and the Merseyfest activities.*

Amen

Tuesday 10th June

THE BIG HOPE GLOBAL YOUTH CONGRESS: The 'strands' carry on today, please pray that as the time together nears an end that relationships are solidified and that those seeking faith will have the opportunity to talk and pray to those they have met.

Please pray for honesty and gentleness throughout.

There will be worship tonight in Iona style, please pray for all involved.

The keynote speakers will be **Stanley Wells CBE**, **Harriet Lamb** and **Martin Palmer**

INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL:

This week all the plans for the Festival on Hope St come together, and all the many arrangements for equipment such as stages, amplification, barriers, signs, stalls, tents and so on have to come together for the events. The timetable for set-up and take down is much shorter than it was for Merseyfest in 2005.

Please pray that all materials and equipment ordered turns up and is on time. Pray against any last minutes hitches. Pray for patience and grace from the organising team. Pray for those doing all the practical setting up.

MERSEYFEST: Pray for the team of people who have been working on the Merseyfest side of the Festival of Hope, for the for the last two years and longer.

Pray that they will know the strengthening of the Lord in the last few days running up to the Festival.

Pray for encouragement and for a sense of the Lord's presence in their lives as they serve the Church in the region in this way.

Pray for their health and for safety as they travel around the region.

A PRAYER TO USE

Father of Compassion

We ask for your protection and care for all those working on the Festival of Hope.

May your presence accompany each one as they travel and as they meet.

Give them health, strength and safety.

Amen

Saturday 7th June

THE BIG HOPE GLOBAL YOUTH CONGRESS:

Pray as discussions continue, pray that the delegates and speakers will continue to build relationships with each other and learn more about each others cultures and homes.

Pray for the Fiesta in the evening, that this will offer a time for the friendships to grow and understandings increase. Please pray for the weather, a beautiful summer's evening would be great!

INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL:

Please pray for the finale of the Gospel Arts Partnership Summit which concludes with a Showcase Concert at the Lighthouse, 7.00 pm, featuring Gospel Artists from Africa, Europe, UK and the USA.

Praise God for the favour the Gospel Music Festival has had with artist from the UK and overseas. Pray for the witness opportunities of Gospel Music, that it would open doors to people that other evangelism wouldn't do.

MERSEYFEST: Pray for publicity about the Festival on Hope Street.

For the posters produced by Message on the Move, features on 270 buses in the region, advertising the "Party on Hope St"; For the New Life Newspapers, special edition for the Festival. 40,000 have been ordered. Pray that churches are able to distribute all of them; For mention on radio during the week.

Pray that this will be effective in reaching the public, and that Christians prayerfully invite friends to come on the day and that thousand come on the day.

A PRAYER TO USE

All knowing God

May the knowledge of your love and mercy increase through all that we do this day.

May your Holy Spirit move in power to convict of sin, righteousness and judgement and to guide into all truth.

Amen

Sunday 8th June

THE BIG HOPE GLOBAL YOUTH CONGRESS:

Today is a day off! Trips around Liverpool and Merseyside or to York, Chester, the Lake District and North Wales. Also delegates will have the chance to visit local churches and join in with the different styles of Christian worship, please pray that the delegates will feel at home and able to worship freely in their chosen environment.

There will be a key note address 'A Young India in Tomorrow's World' at 6pm give by **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam**, President of India 2002-2007

INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL:

Today presents many opportunities for artists and performers from all over the world to worship God in many local churches. What a fantastic time to build up local congregations through linking with followers of Jesus who have come to serve. Please pray that many churches make use of this time to offer hospitality to visiting Christians and to benefit from the various ministries being offered. Pray for the congregation at the Lighthouse, who have poured their energies and prayer into this, that they will share in the blessing.

MERSEYFEST: Praise God for the interest in and involvement of councillors, council leaders and others from the political scene.

Pray that they will be impacted by the Gospel Music and the Gospel Message.

Pray as Paul urged, "For all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

Pray that the outcome of Merseyfest will see an increase in favour for Christians and Christian churches in their contacts with authority.

A PRAYER TO USE

All Powerful Lord

We pray for those in places of political importance, that they will recognise that all power belongs to you and that they will choose your rule and authority.

We thank you for their willingness to serve and we pray that they will have wisdom in dealing with the issues that they face.

We pray for protection for them and their families.

Amen

Monday 9th June

THE BIG HOPE GLOBAL YOUTH CONGRESS:

Work Starts again with discussions around various topics. Please pray that God will be in these discussions and will free those of faith to speak for His truth. Tonight there will be a contemporary worship evening. Please pray for Gods anointing on this event.

Keynote speakers will be **Rt Revd Dr John Sentamu** (Christian Opposition to Oppression), **Stephen Green** and **Sir Stephen Wall** the Former European Adviser to Tony Blair

INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL: Pray for the team of people working from the Lighthouse who will be doing many essential tasks of organisation this week: organising itineraries of artists, arranging transport, overseeing events, as well as making the final physical arrangements for the Festival of Hope on the 14th.

Pray that they will know the peace and presence of the Lord in their lives that will undergird all their work.

Pray for wisdom in decisions that have to be taken, that the right paths will be spiritually discerned.

MERSEYFEST: Many of the visitors from overseas, such as the Native Americans from USA and Pacific Spirit from Samoa will be going out this week to do evangelistic outreaches in locations throughout the region. Pray for enough opportunities to make the most of their time. Pray that their faith will be expressed clearly through their performance giftings and their personal testimonies. Pray for people in local centres to hear the Gospel in an interesting and appropriate way, and that many will respond in faith.

A PRAYER TO USE

Lord and Redeemer

Thank you that your heart is filled with love for people here.

*We ask that by your Spirit
you will touch their hearts with
the Good News of Salvation found in you.*

Amen