

Prayer Focus

April 2018

Consider these prayers and use them along with your own this month.

Week 1

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

(Psalm 103 v.2.)

We live in a prosperous country when even the 'poor' are often wealthier than those who are thought to be wealthy in other parts of the world. We have become accustomed to having so much that what once felt like a blessing has become a necessity. We possibly need a reality check about what we need to be happy.

Over the coming week consider why your blessings are necessities. Are you more demanding than giving? What can you do to help equalise the inequalities of life? Talk this over with God and try to put your conclusions into action.

Week 2

Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

(Philippians 2 verses 2-4)

Fair Trade is a way of putting others first – supporting people who are trying to help themselves out of poverty. By purchasing Fair Trade goods we help farmers to feed their families and eventually

realise a more equal distribution of wealth in the world. This week pray that more people will look around the supermarket shelves and, where available, place Fair Trade items in their trolleys. Every sale can help to bring about change and revolutionise the lives of people the world over. Prayer and small acts can lead to a better life for all.

Week 3

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4 v 30)

What life skills has God given to you with which to work? Has he given you a lot, a little, or, like most us, something in between? Whichever one applies to you doesn't matter. What does matter is what you do with what you have. This week, consider what you have, and in conversation with God, decide how you will use your skills to do God's work in this community and in the world.

Week 4

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6 v.9)

The needs around us are manifold – our families, our neighbours, our friends, people struggling to feed themselves, people with chronic illnesses, people with life changing disabilities, people without homes who inhabit the streets. Ask the Lord to open your heart to the needs around you. Although you cannot help everyone, with God's help, decide who you can help and in what ways.

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