

**THE  
EMW**

**CALL TO  
PRAYER  
2020**



**AN INVITATION  
TO JOIN US FOR A  
WEEK OF PRAYER  
FOR GOD'S WORK  
IN WALES**



**EVANGELICAL  
MOVEMENT  
OF WALES**  
SERVING THE CHURCH

# THE GREAT MYSTERY OF PRAYER

**This Call to Prayer has been issued to encourage God's people to join together to pray that God would work with power in our land.**

One of the great mysteries of prayer is that it combines two things which seem, at first glance, to be completely irreconcilable:

1. We draw near to the holy God who cannot abide sin, and who is a consuming fire
2. Yet at the same time, we are invited to speak to God as a child speaks to its father: with absolute transparency, and full confidence in his love, good-will and power to help.

## **How are we to reconcile these two things?**

It doesn't mean that the only people who can pray acceptably are those who have never sinned. It means that those who pray acceptably are those whose sins have been dealt with by the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **To pray acceptably:**

**1** We need to be true Christians, whose sins have been forgiven through the blood of the cross - how else can we call him Father!

**2** We need to be true Christians who are not conscious of any unconfessed sin which might break our fellowship with the Father - how else can we hope to be heard!

*But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. Isaiah 59:2*

John Newton understood this:

*With my burden I begin;  
Lord, remove this load of sin;  
Let Thy blood, for sinners spilt,  
Set my conscience free from guilt.*

**But there is something more.** All too often, our prayers are discoloured by personal bias, prejudice and imbalance. To be acceptable to God our prayers need to be cleansed with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ also. In the Old Testament, the incense offered in the tabernacle symbolised the prayers and worship of the people, and the altar of incense was cleansed with the blood of the sin offering of atonement, Ex. 30:10. In the same way, our spiritual sacrifices are "acceptable to God through Jesus Christ", 1 Pet. 2:5.

So what should we pray for? God's will, and God's blessing, and that involves humbling ourselves and praying "Your will be done".

In the coming week and year, may we:

- **desire God's will above all else;**
- **trust in his goodness;**
- **plead for his mercy;**
- **thank him for his grace.**

**- Mark Thomas**

*(General Secretary of the EMW)*

# HOW TO USE THE GUIDE

Our aim in producing this guide is to help you pray (for Wales) and seek the Lord's face. We've based every day on a different Bible promise in the hope that we'll move from the propositions of Scripture to our needs, rather than the other way round. It is not meant to be a tool to promote the EMW – we have no interest in doing that. We're thankful that gospel work is taking place throughout our land by so many churches, Christians and organisations, and we hope that this guide can be used to pray for whatever gospel work is happening. We could never include all that is happening in Wales in this booklet; we've given some specific examples. Please use these examples, but don't limit yourselves to them. The need is great, but thankfully our God is greater!

## WHAT IS INCLUDED

### VERSES FOR EACH DAY

To ground our prayers in Scripture.

### A BRIEF DEVOTION

A small paragraph introducing the theme for the day.

### SOME EXAMPLES

A collection of examples from around Wales of specific topics or situations that you can pray for. These include EMW and non-EMW ministries.

### PRAYER POINTS

Split into three sections:

*Thankfulness and Praise* – to thank God for what he is doing;

*Response and Contemplation* – an opportunity to look at our own hearts and behaviours;

*Petition* – to ask God to work;

## CONTACT US

If you would like to give us feedback, ask for specific prayer or find out more about the EMW and what we can offer, please contact Steffan Job at the North Wales Office or visit the website.

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# GOD LOVES US



Sunday - 1

*For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8:38-39

We start the week by looking at this wonderful truth and promise found in the letter to the Romans. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. This is a very precious promise, as Mark explained yesterday in his introduction to the week of prayer. How can we ever come to God and consider that He would listen to us? It is only through His love in Christ Jesus our Lord, and we can be sure that once joined to Christ, we will never be separated.

These are not easy times – we're aware that there are battles outside of the church – apathy, secularity and hostility. There are also worrying battles within the church – some leaders falling, a lack of devotion to the Lord and some harshness between Christians. These can easily affect our faith and spiritual walk. How can we stand?

We must look to Christ. In Him we find strength to stand strong knowing that our sins are forgiven and that He is Lord of all. If we are saved, then we can be sure that nothing or no-one can separate us from His love. It is here that we must start our week of prayer.

## PRAYER POINTS

### THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

Thank God for His grace and for the certainty that we are safe and saved. We are loved beyond our understanding!

### RESPONSE AND CONTEMPLATION

Do you doubt or take God's love for granted?

### PETITION

Ask that God's people in Wales would be known for being people of thankfulness and faith. Pray through all the battles, that we would continue to look to Christ Jesus our Lord.

## EXAMPLES IN WALES

Last week was a time of blessing in the mini-Gwersyll, a 4-day camp in Bryn y groes. Many young Christians would meet every morning to pray. Thank God that we can look at this young Christians and know, if they are truly saved, that they will stand to eternity.

We can easily forget the love that God is shown us in Wales - there are hundreds of gospel fellowships throughout the country. No person has to travel too far to meet another Christian.

We have the scriptures in the two official languages of Wales.

[www.emw.org.uk](http://www.emw.org.uk)  
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**EVANGELICAL  
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# OUR WORK IS NOT IN VAIN



Monday - 2

Often think that a mission week can feel like a microcosm of our Christian life and ministry. We start the week fresh and excited with the possibilities of what God might do. We see the great need and, although we are weak, we're aware of the potential we have as God's children. But things often change as we move through the week... we labour, we share the gospel, we seek God's blessing, yet we see little fruit. We can even question what we're doing and is there any point to it at all.

Do you sometimes feel like this?

It is at times like these that we must hold on to the great promise that Paul shared with the Corinthians – our labour in not in vain. We can be certain that God is at work and is using us for His glory.

We might look at our own hearts and feel that we are not growing spiritually. We can sometimes look at our church and question why we're seeing so little growth and converts. It is right that we do this; we must always expect more and search in our own hearts why we're not seeing more fruit – but we must never lose hope. Our work for the Lord is never in vain. One day we will look back in amazement as we see how God was at work through the tapestry of our struggles, failings and encouragements.

*“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.*

1 Corinthians 15:58

## PRAYER POINTS

### THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

**Thank God for this wonderful promise. Thank Him that the work depends on Him rather on us.**

### RESPONSE AND CONTEMPLATION

**How are you viewing what God is doing in your own church? How can this promise help you?**

### PETITION

**Ask God to encourage His people in Wales - there are many small gospel churches and many faithful Christians that are seeing little visible fruit. Ask God to give wisdom and spiritual discernment to see what true fruit looks like in the Christian life..**

## EXAMPLES IN WALES

**Many small churches having been faithful for many years have recently seen encouragements – examples include Eglwysbach Welsh Church and Roche Church.**

**Over the next few years we will see many older ministers retiring from their pastorate. They have ministered faithfully in difficult times, pray for them and for the men that are taking their place.**



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# CHRIST WILL BE GLORIFIED



Tuesday - 3

When we enter the kingdom of God we are enlightened to an earth-shattering fact – we can't do it on our own. Having realised that we are guilty, separated from our creator and with no hope in the world we do the only thing that our regenerate hearts can do and throw ourselves on the mercy of another. We see in Christ the glory and mercy of God revealed, and through faith, we call out and trust in Him.

The Bible teaches us that we must also continue our spiritual walk in the same way – we can't do it on our own. What a comfort it is that Christ promised the Spirit who would guide and keep the Church and that He would be present in the heart of every Christian. We need to depend on the Spirit and listen to Him as the verses today remind us. But we mustn't think that the Spirit is there just for us, there is a deeper truth in Jesus' words: The Spirit will glorify Christ.

What do we want for Wales? Although we may have correct motives, we often come to God with our own agenda and ideas, but we must realise that we look at the situation through finite eyes. What a comfort it is to know that the Spirit will glorify Christ. As we pray today, let's start by asking the Spirit to guide our prayers, change our own hearts and work in our land. Let's realise that we can't do this on our own.

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

John 16:13-15

## PRAYER POINTS

### THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

**Thank God that He has given the Holy Spirit to guide us and bring glory to Christ.**

### RESPONSE AND CONTEMPLATION

**How can we seek the Spirit and ensure that we are listening to Him?**

### PETITION

**Pray that the Spirit would work in God's people in Wales. Pray that we would depend less on ourselves and our own ideas and spend more time seeking Christ's glory through seeking the Spirit.**

## EXAMPLES IN WALES

We've received reports recently of some churches seeing an increase in those present in the prayer meeting and a deepening realisation that we can't do anything without a total dependence on God.

The devil seems to be attacking some Church situations through taking the focus off the glory of Christ and therefore leading to disunity and disagreement. This is a tragedy that only God can reverse.

I'm sure many have heard the tragic news of the death of young Samuel who was involved in a traffic accident in Monmouth. Samuel and his parents are Christians, and as a result of the tragedy a prayer meeting for revival is taking place three times a week in the town.

# GOD WILL KEEP US IN THE WORK



Wednesday

God is full of grace – He mercifully chooses people. This was true of Abraham and the Jewish nation, and it continues to be true today for all He has saved through Christ from the farthest corners of the Earth. We have not been chosen because we deserve His goodness, it is all of grace, a wonderful gift to us through Christ Jesus and we can be sure if God has chosen us that he won't leave us. God is with all His children and His eye is continually on each one of us, He will not turn His back and He will keep us to the end. What a precious promise!

When we look at our own situation and at churches in Wales it is easy to find ourselves in survival mode – we struggle to keep things going and can often feel that so much depends on us. Dear friends, we have been chosen by God, and we can be sure if we've been chosen by Him, that He will also keep and sustain us!

Have we been saved by our own efforts? Did we decide to save ourselves? Certainly not. Let us be clear, He chose us, and from that fact there flows a river of encouragement. We can stand firm, we can be salt and light, we can resist the devil, not because we're strong enough, but because He's strong enough and He chose us.

*But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Isaiah 41:8-10

## PRAYER POINTS

### THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

**Think of all the gospel churches and Christians you are aware of in Wales - thank God for the glorious and unmerited work that He is doing.**

### RESPONSE AND CONTEMPLATION

**When we pray, do we sometimes forget that we must look to God for our strength?**

### PETITION

**Pray that we'd learn to depend on God and seek His strength. Pray that God would bless those who are in small and struggling ministries.**

## EXAMPLES IN WALES

We're aware of the increasing pressures many are feeling within secular work due to the changing morality of the country. Pray that God would give wisdom and strength for Christians to stand firm.

Over the past year a group of farmers have been meeting in our conference centre in Bala to pray and reach out to their peers. Please pray that God would work in these communities that are having such a tough time.



# GOD GIVES WISDOM



Thursday

We have concentrated over the past few days on our total dependence on God – something that is completely counter-cultural in our can-do society. As Christians we know that it would be a distortion of reality and a rejection of what we know to be true to even claim that we could work the answers out to our biggest problems ourselves. Only with a complete and total dependence on God's grace, power and wisdom can we expect to do eternal work.

But depending on God is not an abdication of our responsibility or an excuse for inactivity or laziness. We know that we have a calling and that we've been placed in Wales for a reason and we're therefore not to sit back with only a passing concern for our friends, neighbours and fellow country men and women. The verses and promise today gives us great confidence.

There are no silver bullets to reach Wales with the gospel. For some it may be continuing the path that God places them many years ago. For others it could be a complete change in direction. May we have the humility, faith and strength to bend the knee and ask God for wisdom to follow the path He wants us to follow.

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.*

James 1:5-6

## PRAYER POINTS

### THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

**Thank God that He gives wisdom to all who truly seek Him.**

### RESPONSE AND CONTEMPLATION

**Are you open to God changing your mind?**

### PETITION

**Ask God for wisdom. Pray that Church leaders in Wales would seek God before deciding on any action or reaction.**

## EXAMPLES IN WALES

We're aware of a number of churches who have changed the way that they've been doing Church 'business meetings' recently with more emphasis on prayer throughout. They report that this has been helpful to seek the Lord's guidance, especially when dealing with difficult decisions.

There are so many English language (and some Welsh language) resources available to help people understand the Bible with Scripture Union Cymru producing a number in the past few years.

Pray for Pete Harris the new UCCF Wales team leader in his first year in post as he leads the work in the Universities and Colleges.

# GOD SAVES



Friday

It would be wrong to superficially claim these words that were given to humanity as a direct promise for Wales – yet they contain a very relevant truth and promise for us today: God saves.

We all know some great gardeners, people who put us all to shame by turning up in church with their apples, marrows and tomatoes to share with others! But even the best gardener in Wales is dependant on other elements – the sun, rain and the soil. Yet these verses open our eyes to the fact that God isn't dependant on anything! God can take dry desolate land and bring forth fruit for His glory.

Many parts of Wales look dry, but that is no problem to God. The Bible, history and even our own hearts testify to the fact that God, through the Spirit, can transform the hardest and driest of land into lush fruitful pastures.

We've been conditioned to think that we need a 'top-down' approach to changing communities: through politics, leaders or initiatives. While this way of thinking is not wrong and God can bless in this way, we need to realise that God doesn't need a top-down approach – he can make trees pop up from dry ground! Pray that we would see changed lives and communities through the power of the Spirit.

*For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams. This one will say, 'I am the LORD's,' another will call on the name of Jacob, and another will write on his hand, 'The LORD's,' and name himself by the name of Israel.*

Isaiah 44:3-5

## PRAYER POINTS

### THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

**Thank God that He continues to save people in Wales every year.**

### RESPONSE AND CONTEMPLATION

**Are you expectant when you share the gospel with somebody?**

### PETITION

**Join us in praying that God would bless our nation through saving lost sinners and bringing them into His family. May we hear on our radios, see on our TVs and read on our social networking sites more and more people testifying that they belong to the Lord.**

## EXAMPLES IN WALES

A student was recently converted in the Bangor University mission.

In the last year we've heard of people turning up in churches having had dreams or visions telling them to come to Jesus.

There are many churches who are seeing real growth with new people attending the church every Sunday.



# GOD GIVES HIMSELF TO HIS PEOPLE



Saturday

What do we want?

I'm sure that this morning many in Wales would take a victory over England in the rugby, but what do we want as God's people in Wales? We may give many answers that would all be noble and correct: more resources, more conversions (not the rugby kind!), more love, less poverty, less hypocrisy in the Church.

We live in days where we can have so many different things. From gadgets to houses, from friendships to family and from success to health – these are all things that so many people seek and live for. They are not wrong in themselves, but none of them will ever truly satisfy to eternity. We've been created for more.

The promise today points us to a truly wonderful possibility – we can have God!

As we finish this week of prayer, it's important for us to come back to this central truth. We should ask God to work in Wales, but our main focus should never be on what God can do or give us (even that will not satisfy). Our focus must be on seeking God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and finding our delight in Him. When we find Him, everything else falls into place and their purpose is made clear.

We do not know what the next year will bring. We may see clear and widescale spiritual blessings, yet we may see hardship, increasing difficulties and we may feel let down by some. We must trust that the Lord's ways are perfect. It would be easy for us to seek different things: more resources, a new church building, more workers, more opportunities to share the gospel, more conversions – all good things. But our focus and delight must be in the Lord. As our eyes are transfixed on the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we will be given all that our hearts desire.

*Delight yourself  
in the LORD, and  
he will give you  
the desires of  
your heart.*

Psalm 37:4

## PRAYER POINTS

### THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

**Praise God and thank Him that he has created us to enjoy fellowship with Him.**

### RESPONSE AND CONTEMPLATION

**What practical steps can we take to delight ourselves in the Lord?**

### PETITION

**Pray that the Church in our land would grow in our devotion and love of God. May that love work its way out in our lives for the glory of God.**

# PLEASE PRAY WITH US

We are dependent on God in every way. Without Him we can do nothing, yet we can do all things through Him who strengthens us. Prayer is therefore a vital part of the work of the EMW.

Would you consider receiving one of our prayer bulletins? Almost on a weekly basis the EMW will send news and prayer bulletins about one of our specific ministries. You can subscribe to one or all of these bulletins by visiting the website.

## PRAYER LISTS INCLUDE:

GENERAL PRAYER AND NEWS

MISSIONS

EMW CONFERENCES

EMW CAMPS

PASTORS' LIST

CHURCH LEADERS LIST

EMW RESOURCES

BRYN Y GROES



[www.emw.org.uk/prayer](http://www.emw.org.uk/prayer)

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