

World Focus for May Your Kingdom Come

Our title this month comes from two global prayer initiatives. The first entitled **Thy Kingdom Come** is being actively promoted by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. This initiative runs from Ascension to Pentecost, which this year is 10th to 15th May (on the Western church's calendar). The focus is on praying that people decide to follow Jesus, become disciples and regular worshippers within a Christian community.

The second prayer initiative is **30 Days of Prayer** for the Muslim world, Christians praying for Muslims with faith, hope and love. It has operated each year since 1993. Some note that there is some correlation between this initiative's inception and the rising number of Muslims accepting Jesus as Saviour and Lord. 30 Days of Prayer runs during the Islamic month of Ramadan, which this year is 15th May to 14th June. (The dates are set by lunar cycles as observed at Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Consequently, the dates move ten or eleven days earlier each year.) For Muslims, Ramadan is a month of fasting during daylight hours and greater concentration on spiritual matters.

The motivation of both initiatives is that God's kingdom grows numerically, with implications for welcome and nurture of new believers. Evangelism is much broader than overt proclamation of the Gospel. As our strapline puts it, the whole manner of how we live, our attitudes and actions as we follow Jesus Christ speaks of the hope that He brings.

Many of our Mission Partners fit within this broad topic. For example, **Mat's** work in training local pastors in Madagascar facilitates indigenous Christians and churches in all aspects of their work including evangelism and the discipleship of new believers. Any who have gone elsewhere explicitly in response to God's call invite those they meet to explore why such choices are made. The work of **Dan & Narineh** and **Ian & Wendy** focusses on places where local Christians live, work and witness within predominantly Muslim communities. Ian's call to mission is rooted in assisting the growth of the church in places such as North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula where it was vibrant in the early centuries of the church and is being rebuilt in the present era.

Locally, both **The Rock** and **Youth for Christ in Gloucestershire** work to make Jesus known and accessible amongst youth with limited other opportunities to hear of His love for them.

Intercessions on Sundays:

Please use a selection of the following.

Your Kingdom Come:

- That many would come to faith in Jesus, locally, nationally and globally

Specific Mission Partners:

- For pastors in Madagascar trained by Mat to be ever more effective in witness, testimony and discipleship of all who follow Christ
- That those who attend The Rock or meet their staff in school would know and respond to the love of Christ.
- Similarly for Youth for Christ in Gloucestershire.

Knowing Jesus Christ and sharing His hope:

- Pray that many find peace with God because of how each of us lives our daily lives
- Likewise, pray that all involved with each of our mission partners will make Jesus accessible to many by how they live their lives and do what they do

Useful links:

Thy Kingdom Come: www.thykingdomcome.global/

30 Days of Prayer: www.pray30days.org or www.30daysprayer.co.uk