

World Focus for August

Health – Holidays & Holy Days

Introduction:

The term *health* has broad application, including healthy lifestyle, emotional well-being, relationships, and spiritual health, i.e. the quality of our relationship with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Linguistically, the word *holiday* is close to *holy day* which reminds us that one aspect of holidays should be spiritual refreshment.

Historically, medical care and training has played a part in the proclamation of the gospel worldwide. Jesus combined healing the sick, restoring the excluded to society, challenging unjust practices and preaching the Good News that the Kingdom of God is near.

Intercessions on Sundays:

Please use a selection of the following.

Health – Holidays & Holy Days:

- Praise for the quality of medical care that is available to us; pray for the spread of medical expertise and facilities worldwide
- For medical care for those displaced by conflict or natural disaster. Pray too for an end to conflicts.
- Pick an issue related to debates around health care in the UK or globally: possibilities include provision of care for the elderly or what care is appropriate near the end of life or the funding of health care or worldwide availability of drugs or drugs-resistant bugs or
- Pray for the spread of good health care and medical practice worldwide. Sustainable Development Goals 3 (health and well-being) and 6 (clean water) are particularly applicable. (See link below)
- One specific situation might be the cholera epidemic in Yemen, one consequence of the brutal conflict affecting parts of that shattered country

Local Mission Partners:

- For the hospital chaplaincy team, remembering its volunteers
- For Street Pastors, whose activities include preventing accidents from broken glass

Those involved with the Prayer for Medics group suggested the following for Christians in medical professions:

- That they practice caring as well as technically correct medicine
- That they recognise ethical challenges and discern a Biblically appropriate response
- That they achieve a good work / home / rest-of-life balance

Nb. these can be adapted to all professions as part of a healthy way of living

Passionate about Jesus:

- That the good news of Jesus will be shared with many through support of those in need of care and support
- That people will come to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord

You are welcome to pray for any of the church's Mission Partners you know well.