

Pray without ceasing.... Pray without ceasing.... Pray without ceasing.... Pray without c



Ludlow Elim Christian Fellowship

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"Making families fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ"

Number 17: May 2011 - In this issue.....

Tim Says / Texts for the month	P1
Dates, & Praise / Prayer Requests / Poem	P2
Special Notice items	P3
News from Rachael / "And Finally..."	P4



Tim Says

Just recently, as part of the "Emerging Leaders" training programme that I am on, I was constructively challenged by someone who is acting as a mentor to me. He posed this question: 'Tim, how much time do you spend in personal prayer?' I wasn't upset by his question, or unduly disturbed to face up to what I knew could be perplexing answer. I was however flummoxed, because I didn't know how to calculate the time in order to give an honest answer. The truth is, that I

do have time each day when I pray, but probably a greater amount of my prayers are "arrow prayers", short sharp cries for help & wisdom sent up throughout the day; and how do you factor those in, when posed the question I was? The Bible tells me to 'pray continually' (1 Thes 5:17) which I would suggest partially relates to these types of 'arrow prayers', but it also says 'when you pray, go into your room and close the door...' (Matt 6:6) In other words have longer times of dedicated prayer when you really seek God's face & not only tell him what is on your heart, but listen to what is on his heart! I came up with an answer for my mentor but I'm not satisfied with the response I gave! During the coming month there will be plenty of

opportunities for corporate prayer. Prayer for our building on the first Sunday evening of the month (1st), our Quiet day (3rd), & the cross-border prayer initiative on the 21st/22nd. I hope you will support these events, but I really hope that they will spur you on to greater times of personal prayer in your own quiet room. Don't be content with what you've done to date.... be bold in putting time on one side when you can be totally focussed & uninterrupted in hearing what God would say to you. This is really what prayer is about, & it is what God is waiting for us to do - above all else!

Text for the Month:

Isa 58:9 Then you will call and the Lord will answer you, you will cry for help, and he will say: 'here I am!'

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Dates for this month:

Sun 1st 10:30am Tim speaking
Sun 1st 6:00pm Prayer for our building
Tue 3rd 10am - 4pm & 7:30pm Quiet Day
Thu 5th 7pm Team Leaders at Tim & Judith's
Sat 7th 7pm at Burford Village Hall - Valley Worship with Roger Hurrell
Sun 8th 10:30am Jogesh & Tim speaking
Mon 9th 7:00pm Men's get together - See Gary for details
Tue 10th 7:30pm Jogesh continuing his message
Thu 12th 7:30pm Bob Lillyman re starts Bible studies at Carol & Moss' home
Sun 15th 10:30am "Go with the Flow" (PLEASE come prepared with something!)
Tue 17th 7:30pm Gil speaking
Sun 22nd 10:30am Rob Speaking
Sun 22nd 6:30pm CTAL Christian Aid service at Ludlow Conference Centre
Tue 24th 7:30pm Jackie speaking
Sun 29th 10:30am Charlie speaking

Dates for the future:

Elim Bible week (the last one at Prestatyn!!) from 4th - 11th June. Booking information is on the shelf by the door.

Matthew Clark from Regents will be with us on 26th June

Shropshire Prayer Breakfast - 9th July at Shrewsbury Town FC. Full English Breakfast £10.50 Steve Clifford (EA Director speaking) **Book in via Tim TODAY** (further details in this bulletin...)

Prayer Requests

- ★ **GIVE PRAISE:** Dave Lines is much better!
- ★ Rachael Crawley in Uganda. For safety, & freedom from "nasty diseases" & to have her life impacted as a result of the experience
- ★ For our students at Regents taking exams
- ★ For help for Dain as he works with around 20-25 Young people off the streets coming to our youth night.
- ★ Pray for those doing GCSE's & starting their final revision this month.
- ★ Lynne Graham who has had a number of mini-strokes
- ★ Boldness for all of us as we transition from a 'traditional church' mentality to being much more community focussed as we take on new facilities etc

Poem

Open my eyes that I may see
the Heavenly presence all around me.
Open my ears that I may hear
the voice that is quiet, yet ever near.
Open my heart that I may feel
the love of God so close and real.
Open each sense and make me aware
of the power and peace that is always there!

Your prayer requests could be here.... get them to us by 18th May!

Cross Border Prayer Initiative

You may have heard about the Cross Border Prayer Initiative that is happening all down the Welsh/English border during May. The idea is to pray blessings into a partner town on the opposite side of the border & also pray into your own town. The idea is for a 24 hour concerted prayer effort with folks praying throughout the 24 hours. Ludlow will be twinned with Presteigne & plans are already under way to get a prayer room in operation at our Elim church; with (hopefully) people joining us from the other churches. Our 24 hours begins at 12 noon on Sat 21st May & goes through till 12 noon on the Sunday.

As the Bible entreats us to pray (1 Thes 5:17, Eph 6:18 etc) & to pray for our Governments, the Monarch, The Jews & for all to be saved - I'm sure this is a way for our unity to be visibly expressed! Prayer can be done quietly or out loud, using your own words, tongues or liturgy.... this is NOT prescribed! The important thing is that we do it!! Surely, there can be no reason not to?

I need people to sign up for an hour of prayer.... don't worry, you will have plenty of ideas given to you, you are unlikely to be on your own, refreshments will be available & you can use the time exactly as you see fit. Please use the rota on the notice board to sign up TODAY!!

An update on the building....

As we go to press, the Leaders are considering making an offer for the Riddings road site (known as 'the old tax office.')

Please pray urgently:

1. that our existing building would sell quickly at a fair price
2. that our offer would be accepted
3. that we would have no difficulty obtaining "change of use."
4. that funds to enable us to both purchase & equip the building to a good standard would be forthcoming. NB this should touch our own hearts (& more importantly our bank balances) before we ask God to do miracles!!

We also need funds urgently to enable us to employ a full-time centre manager and a full-time qualified youth worker. Please pray about these things also.

Prayer for Israel

The next Prayer for Israel meeting will be on Monday 9th May from 10:30am - 12 noon.

It meets at Kathy Boulton's home. For more information, please contact Kathy on 01584 873685, or speak to Dave Lines

Facebook

If you have access to the web, please access the Ludlow Elim Facebook page. You can leave a message, join a discussion or leave your comments on the things we have done.

This raises our profile & allows us to reach those who may not come to church!

Things for Mums & Tots.....

Little Squiggles meets on a Thursday morning. See Louise Bromley for more details 01584 856747

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News from Rachael in Uganda

Hello everyone, Sorry for taking so long to email!!

I can't remember if I told you all this but a few weeks ago some relatives visited the house for lunch. They're engaged and so we had a big family meal. In the morning, Aunt Molly brought a live chicken back from the market. It didn't dawn on me as I was leaving for wherever I was going that day, that the chicken was going to be my lunch! Also, the male relative brought some chickens as a sort of 'dawry'. One day they were happy clucking away downstairs and in the morning cock-a-doodle-dooing, later on they were being boiled and whatnot for my dinner.... Then yesterday, I was getting some jewellery out of my box and a baby gecko was chilling out on my finger!

I've been at the high school mainly this week, which has been good as seven year olds don't always produce the most intellectual of conversation! Then yesterday I started the drama club. In dribs and drabs about 30 students showed up and I was actually quite surprised at their acting skills after watching the horrific African acting on local tv channels. Some of the children are definitely stars in the making and I am looking forward to seeing what will happen in the future.

I'm in the process of planning my birthday party with Wasswa, one of Uncle Paul's adopted sons. I'm going to have it at the high school and hire a dj. The students love miming so they will be able to have a go at doing that, and Wasswa is persuading me to sing Your Song live to the students. I am trying to get some break dancers so I can make my 'big entrance' with them (not dancing though, obviously). It's like something found in an American programme! I am very excited.

Yesterday was a really good day. Aidah, one of Uncle Paul's adopted daughters, is like my sisiter, and I've taken to a liking to sitting in the coffee shop where she works and reading. Yesterday we went to the cinema together and for some food, and I made her cry when I told her she was like my big sister! She's coming over with the choir so I hope she can stay with me when she's in Ludlow.

Anyway, this is short and sweet so that mum has it in time for Church. I will try to write a longer one at some point soon.

Speak soon, God bless!

And Finally....

The small ship was weathering a terrible storm & was taking on water. After a time all the pumps failed & the vessel began to sink. The crew quickly herded the passengers onto the life boats, and whilst this was going on the Captain called out: "does anyone know how to pray?"

A humble clergyman stepped forward & said: "I know how to pray." At that a rival clergyman rose to his feet. "I think I would do a better job" he declared, "you're so quiet that your voice is hardly heard in church let alone above a noisy storm!"

"Very well" said the Captain, pointing to the second clergyman; "you pray.... we're one life jacket short!"

YOUR contribution could be in this newsletter.....
Send it (preferably by e-mail) by May 18th to Tim Coles, *Thank you!*