

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will have welfare.

Jeremiah 29:7 (NRSV)

Dr Rebekah Brettle

is a practising GP, the National Director of Neighbourhood Prayer Network and the author of *Neighbours, Transform Your Street.*

SEEK PEACE IN YOUR AREA

So many of us have been left shocked as we have seen numerous newspaper reports of teenagers stabbed or shot in London since the beginning of 2018. In the midst of this horror I am reminded of something that happened in South America many years ago. A Christian pastor disturbed by the number of local killings gathered Christians to pray in a stadium in Cali, Colombia. That night there were no murders - unheard of in many years. What followed was a Christian revival that remains strong to this day. George Otis produced the *Transformations* videos in the late nineties, detailing this story. If God can transform a whole community through prayer in South America, he can do it in London or in your local streets as well.

In response to violence, local churches and individual Christians are prayer-walking the streets, bringing God's light to the shadow being cast as violence spreads. Join in prayer-walking with people from your church. As we walk together, may we see London, our local streets, and the whole of the UK changed.



PRAYER

Lord, we pray that your teaching about loving our enemies, will be made famous across the streets of London, changing hearts and minds away from violence and despair. Help divided communities find common ground and heal divisions. Bring profound friendships between people from different cultures and backgrounds, and let love reign! Amen

ACTION

Choose a place in your local area where there has been some trouble recently. As a group, make a plan to prayer-walk this area. Wear a t-shirt with a saying of Jesus on the back. Hand out Christian literature that shows people how much God loves them.

[Pray] ... for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.

1 Timothy 2:2 (NIV)

Dave Hearn, a veteran of the Iraq war, is the founder of the charity Global Adventure and works with young men from disadvantaged backgrounds.

PRAY FOR THOSE IN AUTHORITY

'The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war,' said U.S. Army General Douglas MacArthur. Tasked with overseeing the occupation of Japan after World War II, General MacArthur understood that the fledgling peace had a spiritual element as well as a political element – that there was a 'spiritual vacuum' that only Christ could fill. He realised that in war, there were deep wounds that must be healed on both

sides. In the midst of any war in our lives, we must go to the cross. Christ's sacrifice gives us hope that no matter the conflict – we can be rescued; we can find salvation.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, bless our leaders and give them a spirit of peace. Protect our soldiers, physically and mentally, and give them strength to carry out their duties. Heal those who carry the 'deepest wounds and scars of war' and bring them closer to you. Amen

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13 (AKJV)

Dr John Hargreaves

is a Methodist Local Preacher, General Secretary of the Wesley Historical Society and Chairman of Halifax Civic Trust.

GREATER LOVE

Horace Sykes sang in the choir of Salterhebble United Methodist Free Church, Halifax. He enlisted and served as a private in France. He sang to his fellow soldiers and the townspeople where he was stationed. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry during a German gas attack for standing by a man who had become incapacitated under heavy fire and carrying him to a place of safety, and for helping carry the wounded from the trenches

under shellfire. After returning from the war to Halifax, he died one week later aged 27 from Spanish Flu.

PRAYER

Gracious Father we thank you for the sacrifice of your Son Jesus Christ for all humanity and for all who have selflessly followed his example. Help each one of us to know his peace in our hearts and in our world today for his sacrifice is entirely sufficient. Amen

22
AUGUST
82 DAYS

...and it was a river that I could not pass through, for the water had risen. It was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be passed through

Ezekiel 47:5 (ESV)

Roy and Daphne Godwin lead the work of Ffald y Brenin, a retreat, conference and missions base in southwest Wales.

WALES RELEASING BLESSING

Ezekiel paints a picture of a supernatural river of blessing flowing from the Temple which grows deeper as it travels. Similarly, a stream of blessing has been flowing from Ffald y Brenin in Wales which has resulted in hope, healing and peace for many. What started as a small local ministry has turned into a movement which now embraces the world. Networks are forming across the nations to pronounce blessings in the name of Jesus, and to be a blessing. As a result, we have seen feuds end; broken relationships healed;

communities transformed; those who despair finding hope; the sick healed, and captives released. Blessing breaks curses, heals history (with repentance) and exalts Jesus.

PRAYER

Father, your heart and purpose is that peace may come. You have revealed Jesus as the Prince of Peace. We offer to you the areas of conflict in the world and ask you to raise up the peacemakers in the nations. We bless your purposes on the earth. In Jesus' name. Amen

23
AUGUST
81 DAYS

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7 (NIV)

Annika Mathews is a young adult exploring Christian vocation.

PEACE THE WORLD CANNOT GIVE

Although life inevitably has its ups and downs, we can rest assured that God is always there, journeying alongside us. I find it helpful when I have a really busy schedule to spend some time each day reading God's Word, as well as constantly talking to Jesus throughout my day. Whenever things seem a bit overwhelming, I look to the 'things above', away from earthly concerns (Colossians 3:2), in order to give me a better sense of perspective of God's great plans for

us. I take heart from the fact that he freely gives us his peace, which is incomparable to anything we can experience here on earth.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, amidst the troubles of this world, we pray that your inner peace will be present in all those who believe in you. We pray that those currently living in strife will experience peace and seek comfort in the confident hope you inspire for the future. Amen

24
AUGUST
80 DAYS

One of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name...

Luke 11:1-4 (NIV)

Phil Mason is Bolton Wanderers' chaplain and heads the charity arm of the Club Bolton Wanderers Community Trust.

ABBA FATHER

Harry Goslin was the Bolton Wanderers FC Captain in 1939 at outbreak of World War II. Influenced by those who sacrificed in the Great War he made a passionate speech to the players and crowd at the end of a game calling on them to join him in serving his country. Every player signed up to the Bolton Royal Artillery. Serving in Italy, Harry was the only one who didn't return. Bill his son, now in his 80s, lost his dad at an early age. Two years ago I went out to Italy with the Bolton Royal Artillery as we re-traced the steps of the Wanderers at War. I conducted a service at the war grave of Harry Goslin. Bill was

present, seeing his father's grave for the first time. Bill, full of emotion, told me that now re-united with his own dad he could pray 'Our Father' for the first time and know what it meant. Out of the pain of loss had come a new hope and peace as he knew the Father's love.

PRAYER

Abba, Father we thank you for your love that surrounds us and supports us even when we are unaware. Help us to recognise we are your children and that you hold us in times of trauma, turmoil and tears and well as times of joy. Amen

25
AUGUST
79 DAYS

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

1 John 4:16 (NIV)

Captain Jim Currin is a responsible for Evangelisation, Mission and Media for Churches Together in England and is commissioned in the Church Army of the Church of England.

GOD IS LOVE, EVEN IN WAR

April 5, 1918. *Church Times*. 'The Church Army's place as a hut provider in the very closest possible neighbourhood to the front trenches has been proved by the loss of fifty-two of its recreation huts, tents, and centres in the German advance, and almost certain loss of five more, under heavy shelling at the time of information. The loss includes all the stores and equipment. The staffs of these huts and

tents are all safe as far as known, with the exception of those who stopped behind to help the stretcher bearers'. Prominent in Church Army work was a sign, 'God is Love'. In the front-line God's love was shared. It was love from the cross of Jesus, for all.

PRAYER

Father, help me to show your love to those around me. Amen