

Greetings from the WPC Team,

It's been a while since we last mailed you, so we thought a postal newsletter was due. We give thanks to God for many of the things that have happened since the last update was sent and look ahead to see what the next few months holds for us.

SHIFTING SEASONS

We feel that we have very clearly moved into a new season. That move came as a direct result of the celebration, held in Harvest Fields Centre, Sutton Coldfield on Saturday 22 April, to give thanks to God for 30 years of the World Prayer Centre journey. We joined with friends who have been part of the journey over the last three decades to worship, pray and hear testimonies of God's faithfulness. It was such an encouraging day and brought great glory to God. Malcolm Duncan gave a word specifically for World Prayer Centre from Matthew 11:29-30, helping us to understand about how Jesus calls us to be completely yoked to Him, allowing Him to set the pace and allowing Him to set the direction... this is our new season!

WALK OF BLESSING

In October, Ian Cole the founder of WPC will be 80. To celebrate the day and give thanks to God for His faithfulness, Ian, Pauline, family and friends are doing an 8 mile walk of blessing around South Birmingham, speaking a blessing over every church and school they pass on Saturday 30th September at 10.30am. Ian's faith target is to raise £1,000 for every year of his life! As 8 represents new challenges and beginning, are you able to sponsor him with 8 in it? £8, £18, £28, £80, £800... Money raised will be for the developing ministry of WPC and a double tithe to two charities, 'Love your Neighbour' in inner city Birmingham and 'Advantage Africa' working with the poor in Africa. You can join us wherever you are by doing an 8 mile sponsored walk of blessing (1 mile a day for 8 days) and sending us whatever you raise.

To support Ian, send a donation to World Prayer Centre, 18 Hartswell Drive, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B13 0PE, or into Barclays bank, Account name 'World Prayer Centre', Sort code: 20 08 64, Account No 30013420. More info www.worldprayer.org.uk. Ian and Pauline really appreciate your support.

CONNECTING

We have been able to connect with many different ministries, networks and organisations. Our monthly Prayer Watches are an amazing source of inspiration and encouragement and out of these times, conversation often continues across the various channels that we use to communicate on social media and other platforms. It has been a privilege to be able to pray for The Commonwealth Family of Nations, in the lead up to, during and following the 2022 Commonwealth Games held in the West Midlands. We feel that the Father has given a clear mandate to draw Commonwealth Prayer Leaders together in the coming months and hold regular online gatherings to be able to pray for and support the Commonwealth Nations.

In Europe, we are part of The German – UK Prayer Bridge, which has been developing and growing steadily over the last five years since 2018. Relationships have grown strong and the knowledge and insight about praying into, and for, the two nations have gone very deep. We also have also been connecting with many prayer leaders around the world through International Prayer Connections. It is amazing to be part of the global prayer calls and hearing what God is doing in other nations and we can then mobilise people to pray with discernment, through our prayer watches and communication channels. We prayed during the G7 Summit as it happened and was able to bless Japan where the leaders were gathering. We have also been mobilising prayer for our rural communities with Hope Countryside. Many people have gathered to pray with such a depth of knowledge from Holy Spirit and see change through praying.

REGIONALLY

We continue to connect and stand with people who are part of networks around the British Isles with Connecting the Isles and Prayer Connections England and petition the Father for His ways and His Kingdom to come.

WATCHING

Every week, we stand watch as a team praying, and also we gather others together to watch over what is happening globally and nationally, and for what God is doing in our nations. We are able to alert others so that people can pray in an informed and insightful way. It is great to see many of you on our twice monthly Prayer Watches that have covered a wide range of areas in prayer over the past three years.

We have prayed for many nations during our Saturday Global Prayer Watches, and then focused on different moral and ethical situations in need of prayer on our Monday Prayer Watches. We have recently started to hold in-person meetings again. At our last day of prayer, we made an altar which we brought ourselves and all the plans for the World Prayer Centre to it. The vision remains strong in our hearts as we look to God that in His time and in His way, the heaven to earth vision will be fulfilled'. We are looking forward to what is up ahead with our prayer watches in the autumn. You'll find the dates below.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

We continue to seek the Father regards direction with a house of prayer, a virtual house of prayer and a canopy of prayer and worship. We are excited to be looking for some worship and prayer space in Birmingham, which will allow us to have a place for His presence in the heart of the nation and be a resource for the City. We are also praying that this space will contain some office space, as we look to develop and grow our team. This of course all connects into the growing Houses of Prayer Network that God is raising up as more and more people gather in smaller groups to seek His face and His heart in prayer on a regular basis.

THE TEAM

Over the coming months we are looking to grow and develop the team as the Father opens up new roles and new opportunities – We believe that as the team grows, we position ourselves closer to the establishment of the World Prayer Centre and seeing the vision become a reality.

PRAYER WATCHES

Our Prayer Watches through the autumn look like this: These are the dates, and at present they are planned to be on Zoom, however, do keep an eye on the website for any changes.

Saturdays: 9 September / 14 October / 11 November – 10:00 am on Zoom

Mondays: 25 September / 23 October / 27 November – 1:00 pm on Zoom

FINANCES

Our financial situation has many challenges. We continue to journey on a walk of faith as God leads us and provides. Join us in praying that The Walk of Blessing will bring in substantial sponsorship funding.

We are also looking for people to support us regularly on a monthly basis. Is this something you could consider? Please contact us and we'll let you know how you can – either via 0121 633 7393 or projects@worldprayer.org.uk or www.worldprayer.org.uk/donate

Thanks again for being part of this exciting journey. We look forward to seeing you or hearing from you in the coming months.

With our love, Laurence, Jane, Natasha, Diana, Colin & Chrissie, Ian & Pauline.