
Koinonia Prayer Requests

Last time we looked at China and Myanmar, this week we are concentrating on Vietnam and Mauritania.

- There are nearly 9 million Christians in Vietnam, the majority of Vietnamese are Buddhist, but the main threat is from the Communists. As in other areas of the world, some Christian women are forced by their families to marry non-Christians. Women and girls are more vulnerable to sexual abuse, given their low standing in society. Even non-Christian ethnic minorities, like the Hmong, are discriminated against. Yet communities like Roman Catholics enjoy a certain amount of freedom.
- Mauritania has only about 11, 000 Christians (0.2%) as it is an Islamic country. Converting from Islam is seen not only as a religious betrayal, but also as a betrayal of the tribe and family, so, like many countries; no baptisms, Christian marriages or funerals. Those who do convert face prosecution as well.
Teenagers are forced into marrying Muslim men. Modern day slavery makes ruthless detention and exploitation of female converts more likely.
Pressure has increased in the past year, caused by a tightening of the blasphemy and apostasy laws. Please pray that those who have made the bold decision to follow Christ will stand firm and serve Him and that He would protect these Christian girls and women.
- I presume we all saw the email from Leo and Leah which Bas sent out regarding the situation in Colombia and the ongoing children's work there. Please could you keep this work in your prayers.
- Please could we pray for The Jackson Club (MDSH) as they consider ways to promote the ministry there and to recover financially from the effects of Covid restrictions. Thank God that all those in authority in Gibraltar Barracks still see the club as an asset to the military personal there.
Could you also pray for Kevin (he took over from myself & Pat) for wisdom as he seeks God's will for his future and in all he does there.
- We were/are praying for Anna who had bowel cancer — she was a member of the youth group Hilary and others used to attend in the 80s. Sadly, the cancer has gone too far and there is little hope of recovery (although as we all know, God still can heal).
Praise God! Hilary has said, that Anna has professed to have becoming a Christian, she is witnessing to her family and neighbours. Her comfort is to read her Bible, listen to Christian messages and singing choruses from her childhood. Please continue to pray that she would remain steadfast in the trials that are to come and that Jesus will be her strength.
- Jeremy has asked if we could pray for The Holiday Club. The following items are what he has requested for prayer, That good relationships between us as a Church and the school would always be maintained; for wisdom when planning this event that in everything God's will would be done; for willing leaders and helpers to come forward; that children and families will be willing to sign up and attend; for good teamwork and love shared between all who attend; and that God would bless the event with many children being saved so they would come to know Him as they accept Jesus into their hearts and parents would start coming to church because of it.
- Could we also pray for David and Eileen Sullivan; Eileen has been poorly recently, thinking of Andrew and Rose Sullivan as well.
- Could we also pray for Matt, Lydia and family, thanking God for all their ministry to us as a church.
- As our spiritual leader, please always remember to pray daily for Don, keeping Paula in your prayers as well.

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- Mary has asked me to thank everybody for prayers for her Dad, who was released from hospital last Friday, and is feeling somewhat better. Please uphold them both in continued prayer.
- For all in the Fellowship who are going through a bad patch at the moment, particularly thinking of Eileen and Barry as she continues with her treatment. Also, please continue to lift up Clare's cousin Katie as she starts her cancer treatment pray that she will come to know Jesus as her Saviour, friend and brother.
- Maria mentioned a very good point that as we slowly come out of lockdown, we need to pray for each other that we will be patient, loving, kind and understanding with each other and particularly to folk within the Fellowship who are finding it difficult to return to normal and feel that any pressure we might put on them will make them worse ('Love is always patient, always kind, love always protects, love never fails.').

Thank you all,

Billy