



Corporate prayer meetings in Smyrna

Mondays at 12 & 18

Tuesdays at 12 & 18

Wednesdays at 12 (communion)

Wednesdays at 18 (prayer & worship)

Thursdays at 12 & 18

Fridays kl 12 & kl 18

Sundays at 10, 14 & 18

SMYRNA
KYRKAN 
G ö t e b o r g

2020

Smyrnakyrkan, Haga Kyrkogata 2, Göteborg
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A HOUSE
OF PRAYER
for all nations

SMYRNAKYRKAN





As a church we are in the middle of a very exciting season. Many things are to be formed regarding the future, not in the least when it comes to the developing and building of a new church. At the same time, every year is a challenge and a possibility to deeper understand what God has in mind. As a church we do not only exist for ourselves, but also pass on Christ to those in our vicinity, our city and our world. This year our 3 weeks of prayer are formed as a movement from within and outwards. We commence with prayer for the church, then the city and finally our world. With the help of this booklet we want to support your daily devotion during the period of prayer. It's a powerful thought knowing that our prayers can play a part in opening for God's kingdom. Above all we know that it is God's power and touch that makes all the difference. Or as Jesus said: "Without Me, you can do nothing." John 15:5. We challenge you to take some extra daily time in prayer during this period. We also want to encourage you to participate in one or more of the corporate gatherings for prayer we will be having every week (Monday-Friday 12.00 and 18.00(6pm); Sundays 10.00, 14.00 and 18.00).

Another tool that adds focus to prayer is fasting. Fasting is refraining from something that in essence is good (you should always try and refrain from things that are bad). A fast is a food fast. It can stretch from refraining from all food to refraining from certain meals or certain types of food. For the last few years we have recommended a Daniel fast which is eating vegetarian or vegan depending on how strictly you interpret it. We will be posting some tips and recipes on Smyrnas website. Another type of fasting is refraining from something that otherwise is a natural part of our lives. It can be for example social media, TV or other interests. Whatever type of fast you choose, it's all about having a special focus for a period of time. It is a reminder for yourself and a way for you to show God that you are dedicating a special time of prayer. Refraining from everyday things gives even more time for prayer.

So, let us together pray for a 2020 that will really have an impact on people around us!

/Johannes Magnusson

THE CHURCH - A Holy building

Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians 2: 20-22

The first receivers of this letter were the church in Ephesus. In Ephesus there was one of the antique seven wonders, the temple of Artemis. It was the pride of the residents in Ephesus, an architectural masterpiece.

When Paul writes his letter, he doesn't mention the temple of Artemis. Instead he paints a picture of a greater masterpiece, a more beautiful masterpiece that is gradually developing. God's church. Where the Cornerstone is Christ, God's Word is the foundation and the building material are people of all sorts that God connects to be a place for Him to live in this world. A spiritual home that preaches God's glory and draws people to Himself.

When Paul paints this picture, he is overwhelmed and falls on his knees in prayer and worship. Let us do the same. Let us thank God that we can be a part of His masterpiece on earth. But also pray that we understand what we have in the church so that we don't tear down what should be built up or separate what should be whole. Sometimes when we focus on our faults and mistakes, we forget that we a part of an ongoing construction. Let us, like the first Christians, be proud of the church and thank God that we can be a part of it. But also, be careful with it and pray for it.

/Urban Ringbäck

PRAYER

Let us thank God that we can be a part of the church.

Let us pray for unity and coherence.

Let us pray for the continual growth of the church in our city.



Jag följer korset och lämnar världen
och aldrig mer, tillbaka gå
Jag följer korset och lämnar världen
och aldrig mer, tillbaka gå

THE CHURCH - the Lord's building

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.

Psalm 127:1

"Unless the Lord" must be the saddest start to a sentence and also to a new year...

The word vain isn't very encouraging either. Unless the Lord builds the house, fancy venues and high membership numbers, lots of activities and loads of volunteers, nice services with good teaching doesn't help at all. Yes, the list can be a long one.

The thought alone can be pretty depressing. Let's turn it around. Allow the Lord to have first place and the final word. What will that result in?

If the Lord builds the house, the builders labor will be blessed. If the Lord watches over the city, the guards standing watch will be blessed.

Wonderful! Thank goodness God is in the construction business. Ever since "Let there be light", God has been building the heavens, the seas and people. Just because the Lord is building the house, it doesn't mean that the workers should stop building. That He watches over the city doesn't mean that the watchmen can lie down and sleep. Actually, the opposite. God uses people. Entrepreneurs, architects, engineers, foremen, craftsmen, decorators. Loads of people are involved in God's building, but God is the developer. The definition of a developer is, "the one who has the full responsibility for the construction". What we are building belongs to God. It's God's handiwork and His responsibility. This in regard to our lives, our fellowship and the new church. If God is allowed to be the developer, Christ the cornerstone and the Holy Spirit the architect, then both the church and the city have a bright future awaiting.

So, let us wish each other in the name of the Lord a blessed and happy year of construction!

/Anne-Jorid Ahgnell

PRAYER

Let us thank Jesus for being the centre of our fellowship
Let us pray that God would be the developer in our lives
and our assembly

Let us pray that God will lead the construction at
Frihamnen

DAY 2 - TUESDAY

THE CHURCH - Growing in love

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
Ephesians 4: 15-16

This past summer my father's Privet bush was doing pretty good. It was green and grew intensely. Me and brothers trimmed it. Just as happy as we were after a day's work, we stood astonished a few weeks later. It had grown so much that it was time to trim it again!

The previous summer was not the same picture regarding the bush. The drought held nature in its grip and every branch fought to keep its leaves. What is doing good, grows. When nature sings its finest song, not even tarmac can stop the dandelions from breaking through. In Ephesians we as a church are called to grow "in every aspect". I think it's all about growing in love for Christ, for each other and for others. When the church feels good and the Spirit rains upon us we grow numerically too. We become more! More in the body of Christ. That's our calling.

The key seems to be that every part in the body is positioned correctly. Help and support with the power that Christ gives. My challenge to you is two parts. PRAY for the Spirit's rain on our church and surroundings. LIVE so that other people can find their right space in the church. Such a prayer, such a life changes lives and society.

/Christofer Öhrvall

PRAYER

Lord, send the Spirit's rain on our church and surroundings.

Help us to create space for others to find their right place in the church body.

THE CHURCH - Love one another!

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13: 24

Jesus says: "As I have loved you", is that possible? To love as Jesus loves?

Jesus loves us humans irrespective of whether we respond to His love or if we deserve it.

He doesn't put up any terms for His love, He loves, without reservation, all the time.

He is the One Who loved us first, that loves us now and who's love will follow us right into eternity.

Love each other in the same way as I have loved you!

Did Jesus have to urge us to love each other?

Doesn't it work automatically once you become a Christian? Yes, most of the time, but in relationships every now and then we face challenges where we still must make conscious choices and actively choose the path of love in meeting each other.

The choice to love is not always either easy or logical and often costs. That's when we have to remember Jesus urge to love one another as He loved us.

Why is the love between Christian siblings so important? "Everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Does it really say everyone?

Yes, The love between Christians shows that Jesus is a reality in our lives.

"I have loved you with an eternal love, that's why I allow my grace to remain over you." Because of Jesus' love and grace for you and me, we can choose to love in the Holy Spirit no matter what.

/Maria Larsson Tibell

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for continually giving Your love into our lives. Help us to receive it and pass on to others.

Lord, help us to choose to love even when there is a cost.

THE CHURCH - Kids and Young people

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16

Sometimes we find ourselves in a process that starts to reveal just how we feel on the inside. This autumn has been just that for me. I have faced fears and worry that I haven't experienced before. Can I be a part of this or am I disqualified? The feeling of being counted out and passed by has scared me.

In the Bible text we've just read, we met Jesus and His disciples and a whole group of people that want to be near Jesus. The disciples, that I'm sure sense that the people are forcing themselves a little too close to their Jesus, start to show people away that are coming with their kids. What happens next is beautiful I think: Jesus confronts the disciples and tells them that the kingdom of heaven belongs to the children and that we must be as children to be a part of it.

You and I are saved by grace not because of what we've accomplished ourselves and I think that's what Jesus wants to teach us. We need to allow ourselves to be carried, loved and taken care of by God Himself. It's not about how good we are or if we do everything correctly. I'm also touched by God's heart for the young. What place do they have? First place!

Are we building a church and a fellowship that places the young high up on our priority list?

I dream of a church where we do all we can so no one is passed by or counted out. Especially not kids and teenagers.

/Jonathan Boström

DAY 5 - FRIDAY

CHURCH - a place for restoration

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel.

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Jeremiah receives a fantastic and very important picture from God. A picture regarding how God sees His people. We need to remember that the people of God at this time were far from good examples. They had fallen away, disappointed and failed again. When you read the whole story you realize that this was far from the first time as well. God not only gives a second chance but again and again He has the patience and is ready to start over again. In this we discover a great invitation. You can come as you are, one more time! But He doesn't allow you to remain a failed pot but starts over again. He wants something more. He wants your best. The church is God's fellowship here on earth, where else should you be able to come as you are? The nice thing is that the idea is not that you should stay as you are. The church is a fellowship based on faith, love and forgiveness. At the same time it is a place for processing, deepening and a place to develop and bloom.

Sometimes our failures are seen clearly in our surroundings, but most times only few know. But the invitation from God stands the same. Come! I want to start over with you and form you into what you were meant!

/Johannes Magnusson

PRAYER

Pray that God will form you.

Confess your sins and failures to a God who is ready to do all to forgive you.

Pray that the church will be an honest place for restoration.

DAY 6 - SATURDAY

CHURCH - workers for God's kingdom

*Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."
Matthew 9:37*

Very often Jesus got His illustrations for His speeches, conversations and exhortations from the surroundings He was in just at that point. My guess is that on this occasion His view was on a ripening harvest field or a bountiful vineyard or olive grove. Or maybe it was people He saw, all of these are previously noted in the story: those that were helpless and battered. Here aswell, language from the surroundings: they are as sheep without a shepherd. Jesus doesn't state that it is only their souls that are to be saved, He says it's people who are to be saved. Harvesting is taking care of what has been sown and planted. Often very practical.

There is an urgency in Jesus message, a ripening harvest has a limited time to harvest.

But how can we manage? This is exactly what the text answers. It gives us two tools: Limitation and prayer. In the jewish Talmud texts it says: "Don't be put down by the incredible needs of the world. Do the right thing now, be merciful now, It's not up to you to complete the work, but you should neither abandon it."

Noone can do the job by themselves. No church. No denomination. No society. But all can do their part, in other words limit so that what is done is done with care and sensitivity. And in the same breath, pray.

Pray that the Lord of the harvest would awaken a desire to work in other people. Only then will the harvest festivity be a victorious festivity.

/Tomas Sjödin

PRAYER

You, the Lord of the wonderful harvest that is ripening, give me a clear mind so that I see what my role in the work is. Give me a praying and blessing attitude toward others in the field. Only You God can do it. Amen.

THE CITY - Seek the best for the city

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Jeremiah 29:7

It is very easy to adopt a "fortress mentality" while we live in a broken world. Not knowing exactly how to handle all we see and hear. Instead we withdraw and separate from the culture and community around us to guard ourselves and simply wait for Jesus to return or for us to die and go to heaven. Or adapt to the mindset: "The society and culture is a cesspool of human sin, so we should just abandon it to its own ways and keep ourselves as far from it as possible." "We know that things are predicted to get worse before the Lord comes back, so why seek the welfare of the city?"

It was just the same in the prophet Jeremiah's day and age, but he challenges them with a radically different attitude. Jeremiah wants the Hebrew people to realize that God has placed them in Babylon on purpose for a very special reason. He challenges them to go and... make homes, get jobs, have families and do life in the city. But also at the same time to "seek the peace and prosperity of the city" Despite all that's going on they are to continue to "do life" and be as much of a blessing as possible to the community around them. The exact same principle applies to us today. God has placed us in our community and city on purpose. We are to seek the welfare of our city.

/Mark Beckenham

PRAYER

Lord, show me how to see my city with your perspective so I don't get trapped in a negative mindset.

Lord, reveal to me how I can in my everyday life be a blessing for my surroundings. In Your name I pray. Amen.

THE CITY - Pray for those that lead

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

This letter is written during the time that Nero had the power. A fire starts and the Christians that lived in Rome are made responsible and as a result live in persecution and torture. A parallel could be a wave of refugees that starts and the Christians and those converted have to stand before the Immigration authorities and courts with their lives on the line here in Gothenburg.

Pray for a new era in the Gothenburg judiciary offices to help the vulnerable!

God who has all power and is all knowing allows our prayers to be a means of change! It can be hard to understand how it works. God wants all to be saved – from those we least expect to those that have waiting a long time for Jesus. Our city needs Jesus both morally and as Saviour!

Fellowmen in our city need our prayers. Our city suffers in many ways at the same time as expansion and preparation for the jubilee is underway. People need asylum, homes, food, contexts, activities, fellowship, whole relationships, hope, meaningfulness. God works through our prayers and loves to hear both thanks and prayers for help. Let us work through more prayer, more often so that we can experience even more often God's miracles in our city!

/Annelee Thorstensson

PRAYER

Pray for those that work with developing our city so that all will have room and value in society.

Pray that we as Christians can be co-workers in the city plans and lead people to salvation.

THE CITY - Pray for prosperity

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels."

Psalm 122:6-7

What does God desire for our city? Does God desire prosperity? If I speak from my own experiences, then prosperity is a sensitive word. Can I pray for prosperity or will someone then label me as a prosperity theologian? Just imagine how much these labels destroy and the risk of distorting our image of God.

There should be an obvious yes to the question I asked. Of course, God wants prosperity for us, our city and for His entire creation. God is good and generous, so of course He desires prosperity for His people.

We know this is not always the case because we live in a fallen world. That's why we have to be ready to do exactly what Paul did and live in both poverty and persecution, but also abundance in a healthy manner. *"I can do all this through him who gives me strength".*

Philippians 4:13.

With that said, in Psalm 122 we have the encouragement to pray for prosperity, the Hebrew word shalom, for Jerusalem, where the Lord's temple was situated. We know that today God's temple is in our hearts. God wants us to pray that His shalom will touch the places where His temple is.

Yes, God wants shalom, peace and prosperity for us and our city, His entire being is such that He desires the best for all people. We are placed where we are to draw down God's kingdom. That's what we do when we pray for His shalom.

v.7 talks about prosperity, peace and safety amongst God's people. When the church is marked by God's peace and safety, it can give it to the city where it is situated. That's exactly what all cities need and long for.

/Daniel Ånskog

PRAYER

We praise and thank You, God or Father for being entirely good and desiring prosperity and peace for us and our city. God, form us so we will be a blessing for our city.

DAY 10 - WEDNESDAY

THE CITY - Share with others

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2:15

Faith in Jesus Christ has to cause practical consequences, otherwise our faith is just loads of empty words that sound out of tone. How can we let our lives and our church life become trustworthy?

By feeding the hungry, food distribution and soup lunches

By listening and conversing, by being there

By visiting the sick and the lonely

By being a church that welcomes all people.

A lot of these things we already practice in our church.

Of course we can always be better, but the hot question is actually: What consequences does faith have in my life and is it trustworthy?

By seeing the other person, listening to them and taking time with them

By walking a few steps of their life journey together with them

By calling them sometimes, laughing and crying with them

By letting THEM know that YOU are there for them

Not always visible, but you are there

This is what a trustworthy is that creates consequences.

"I assure you that when you did this for the least, brothers and sisters, you did it for me."

/Sture Kuhlin

THE CITY - The Gospel brings faith to the city

*“Return home and tell how much God has done for you.”
So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.*

Luke 8:39

It can be really captivating listening to a good communicator as they tell a story. But nothing can compare with the experience of hearing it firsthand from the person. There will always be a greater depth to the words and more convincing as well. The Gospel is not only a story to be delivered by a good communicator. There is power in it's core. Those that haven't experienced the power of the Gospel don't know what the Gospel is. Bu those that have experienced the power of the Gospel also have a powerful mission to share it.

When we search for ways to share faith with our city so that it not only affects my neighbor, but on a greater scale – then the full power of the Gospel is vital. Not just general good works even though they are touching. The demons took all the herd of pigs into the deep. That a person was freed was more important than the income for those that took care of the 2000 pigs. The miracle didn't just lead to cheers. They asked Jesus to leave their area. Apparently, they had a different value system compared to Jesus.

When the Gospel shows itself in its full power different reactions are caused. That's just the way it is. And we can't expect it to be otherwise in our city when the Gospel hits people with freedom. A message that is experience is not only captivating but also freeing. The Gospel can free our city!

/Anders Svedstam

PRAYER

We pray that our city will meet the power of the Gospel through faith that is practiced.

We pray for courage and freedom from fear for us that believe.

THE CITY - Liked by all the people

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:46-47

A healthy fellowship makes people curious about Jesus. The church in Jerusalem were dedicated in their worship and their family love was contagious.

A healthy and loving church grows.

A fellowship like the church is meant to be, crushes all borders. Here, all ages can meet, from many different countries, believers, doubters and sceptics. There is room for all. Together we become something fantastic you can't become by yourself.

Breaking bread together and sharing the wine – a meal – is a sign of belonging irrespective of whether we do it at home or in the church.

To welcome people into our church and share fellowship is built upon us asking God to lead us, be loving and Jesus-centered.

/Rosalie Zakrison

PRAYER

Thank God that we can celebrate church together numerous times every week.

Thank God for home-groups that are spread around our city.

God, give us wisdom and assurance to reach new people.

THE CITY - the hope for the future

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

Revelation 21:2-3

We humans are beings that thrive on hope. You could say that the hope we have regarding our future effects how we live in the present. Imagine that you seat two people in the same room at two tables. Then you tell them: screw this "thing" on to this "gadget" for ten hours a day for a whole year. To one of them you say that you will give them ten thousand crowns at the end of the year, but to the other you say that they will get a hundred million crowns at the end of the year. None of us would be surprised to hear that the one who was promised a hundred million was the one who found easier motivation and perseverance in their task.

When John gets to see the Holy city descend, he sees right into the hope that God wants to give to you and me through faith in Him. And He wishes that we would pass it on to our city and our world. This hope means that irrespective of how things look around us, God is in control and at the end great joy is waiting and the great feast when heaven kisses earth, when God's kingdom breaks forth in it's fullness. Our city needs Christians that live in that hope. Because the hope we have regarding our future will affect our present. And our hope is about so much more than just a hundred million.

/Lars Svensson

PRAYER

Lord, let me live in the hope of Your eternal kingdom today. Guide us as a church so that we can touch our city with the hope for our day and age. Amen.

THE WORLD - For the sake of this world

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16-17

“οὕτως γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς” this is what the first part of John 3:16 looks like in the Greek text. Notice the word *κοσμον* (*kosmos*).

Kosmos as in the entire universe and all that it includes. God’s love is total. It stretches to ALL people. It can’t be limited, it’s not only for the few. God became human for each and every one sake.

Christ embodies God’s love for the world. This is the love that transforms the foundations of the universe. The human value is no longer the summary of it’s deeds but eternally valuable through the unlimited love of God.

In *1 Corinthians 12:27* we read: *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.* The church is an extension of John 3:16. A message of love in words and deeds for the sake of this world. When the body of the church functions at it’s best, the world around is transformed.

Are you a Christian? What consequences does your life have on your surroundings? Who do you invite to meet Jesus? Where is your focus?

/Christofer Öhrvall

PRAYER

Lord help us to follow You in words and deed. Give us the same love for people around us that you have. Let our lives follow Your direction. Help us not to judge. We want to point to Your grace and inevitable love. For the sake of this world.



THE WORLD - The Commission

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

"Then Jesus came..." What made Jesus come forward and take a new position? The disciples are gathered when they see Jesus they fall down and worship Him "but some doubted". Jesus stands amongst them and some doubt? Just imagine doubting in that situation. I have mostly met doubting people with a consoling attitude, but Jesus seems to do it in a totally different manner. Jesus steps forward and says: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Jesus meets all their doubt by showing them who he really is and what power that is given to Him. He adds a mission and a promise and notice how they are connected.

If you desire more of Jesus presence in your life, dare to stand on His words, dare to be more offensive. Tell what Jesus has done, what He's doing in your life, who He is and how much He loves every person. Dare to take the risk of praying for those that are sick, hurt, broken, imprisoned and I believe you will experience and see more of Him in your life. It is He that says: "...make disciples... and I am with you always..." God holds all His promises that He gives and has given. Dare to go, because of your love for Him, for the salvation of people and for the sake of this world!

/Daniel Ånskog

PRAYER

Jesus, we praise You for You have all power.

Jesus, we thank You for entrusting us with the mission to make disciples.

Jesus, give us courage through Your Holy Spirit to share the Gospel wherever we are.

THE WORLD - Pray for the persecuted

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35 -39

Open Doors confirms the Research Institute Pew forum that investigates religious freedom around the world and freedom to believe and has found it to have become drastically more limited over the past 10 years. In 143 countries Christians are persecuted or harassed by aggressive statutes of law, often in combination with extreme pressure from the majorities of society.

In Sudan for many years, churches have been closed and pastors imprisoned and harassed. In certain countries in Asia you can be imprisoned if you cooperate in people becoming Christians.

In India and Pakistan persecution of Christians has increased vastly.

In China churches are closed and pastors imprisoned and persecuted.

In our country we still have great freedom to believe, but high-school and college students can be scoffed at for their faith during lessons by both teachers and classmates.

Despite all of this we can receive comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. We haven't chosen Christ, he has chosen us. In all circumstances of life, He is our peace.

/Agneta Kuhlin

PRAYER

Pray for the persecuted Christians, that they would be strengthened in Christ and each other.

Pray for wisdom and courage during persecution and that Jesus would fill them with His peace.

Help us to see their vulnerability and support them.

DAY 17 - WEDNESDAY

THE WORLD - The least of these

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

In other words, we are messengers for Christ. We are ambassadors of Jesus Christ and the church is the heavenly Jerusalem's embassy here on earth.

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. Revelation 21:10

In order to truly understand the power and role the church has here on earth it is good to look at the definition of an embassy.

An embassy is a diplomatic authority of highest rank ordered by a state or political authority to represent a country within another country. It involves diplomatic messengers and their followers.

An embassy is officially counted on as being a part of the country it represents. In the same manner we can say that the church which is the body of Christ has all the power that Jesus has and has given to His embassy here on earth through the Holy spirit.

What a joy and an honour it is to serve as an ambassador of the heavenly Jerusalem's embassy here on earth with all the power and the glory that belongs to our heavenly Father.

John describes it this way: I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

Revelation 21:22-24

/Foad Khorshidi

PRAYER

TPrayer: Thank God that through the church all people are able to receive heavenly citizenship

Pray that the Holy spirit would help and equip all ambassadors in the name of Jesus Christ.

DAY 18 - THURSDAY

THE WORLD - Show love

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13: 34-35

Those of you that watched TV during October 2019 probably didn't miss the advertisement ICA did for its "Pink-band" products. Basically it's all about a boy that gets 20 crowns from his mum to go and buy some Saturday sweets, but he walks past all his friends standing next to the candy and instead buys a pink washing-up brush where part of the money goes to cancer research. When he leaves the checkout, he hides the brush in his coat and is met by his mum who apparently has cancer. I was very touched every time I saw the advert – it's on YouTube if you want to see what I mean – and it carries a very beautiful message. A boy that has received so much love from his mum, so he wants to pass it on in some way, and he chooses to give it to the people that fight the same fight that she does.

God has loved us with an everlasting love. We can choose what we want to do with it, but Jesus challenges us to love one another, and when we chose to pass on Jesus love to our fellow beings, we give it to God's, the author of love, reflection just like the boy in the advert passed on the love from his mum to those that were in the same situation as her. Living in this way is an astounding action because it goes against our daily egocentric society. That's exactly what Jesus wants: that we will be noticed. Then our lives will point to Him who is personalized love.
/Gabriel Slätthagen

PRAYER

Teach me how to love with open arms as You do. A love that erases all borders. Light the flame so strongly so that all will see that You are here. God, let my smile tell of who You are.

THE WORLD - Cast your bread over the water!

Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.

Ecclesiastes 11:1

This verse has supported the church's mission and passing on the Gospel. Passing on the Gospel is both about words and actions. It's about doing and giving things that can help and be of use to those that are in poor and vulnerable situations. It's also about telling and explaining that God stretches Himself towards humans through Jesus Christ in order to give life, love, forgiveness, restoration, meaning and so much more. Both words and actions are needed. This is needed in our everyday relationships. Sometimes it's right to talk about Jesus, sometimes right to show love and sometimes you get the possibility to do both. Also, in regard to what we do in the world. This is something very nice and goes in line with the mission Jesus gave us to pass on to people we may never have met in another part of the world. What we can do through our mutual mission work. A work that is signified by both words and actions.

/Johannes Magnusson

PRAYER

Pray that you can pass on the Gospel in word and action. Pray for those that we as a church, through our mission work, can help get a better life through care, education, clean water and other important initiatives.

Pray for those that we as a church, through our missions work, can help tell who Jesus is through church planting, bible schools, Sunday schools etc.

THE WORLD - Sent by God

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
Acts 1:8

People have always headed for the mountain tops to get a wider view. Various times in the Gospels, Jesus takes His disciples on top of mountains. On at least two occasions after His resurrection. It's all about widening the view, giving the disciples a greater vision for their lives, a greater calling. It's not a minor journey for the fishing boys from Galilee to within three years receive a widening of their life mission from covering their hometown and the needs of their families to it being the whole world and the salvation of all people.

What turned out to be decisive for the mission to come to pass was not the amazing view from the mountain top that spread for miles. It was instead the walk up the stairs to a room on the top floor. What changed it all came after 10 days in prayer and waiting for the promise Jesus had given on the mount of Olives.

We have a great calling as a church and as individual disciples. But we also have a great promise. We cannot win the world in our own strength. It is then doomed to fail.

It is the promise of the Holy Spirit that is the great secret. And that promise still stands. We live in the age of the Spirit. In prayer we open our lives to receive what God has promised.
/Urban Ringbäck

PRAYER

Let us pray for a widened vision for our lives and the church.

Let us pray for a greater desire and a deeper dependency on the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray for strength to share our faith in Jesus with others.