

Prayer Focus 8th July 2018

Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray by the power of the Spirit. Stay alert and keep praying for God's people." Ephesians 6:18

Don't be annoyed... pray. Don't be judgemental... pray

Don't assume they are a bad person... pray

Don't be rude... pray. Don't avoid them...pray

Loving Lord, help us to accept others for who they are.

Give us strength to do what we know is right.

Help us to open our eyes to see what is right,

open our ears to hear what is right and open our lips to speak what is right.

Help us to have right judgement and so be a loving,

caring, compassionate and respectful people

especially to those people who we find difficult to love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Family Prayer News: Pray for Sara & Steve Wise. Give thanks for Judy's new grandson.

Street of the Week: Hendrie Close

Amani lives in the Ituri province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Violence against women doesn't just happen behind closed doors here, it's rife in conflict too, with sexual violence used as a weapon of war. Yet, in the midst of a seemingly hopeless situation, there is a beacon of light. Tearfund's partner Action Entraide has set up a number of initiatives to promote peace and reconciliation in the DRC, as well as challenge harmful behaviours.

One of these is a choir for young people, led by Amani. It's a mixed group of eight singers aged in their late teens to early 30s. 'We decided to write songs to mobilise people against sexual violence,' says Amani. 'To help people deal with the trauma, and to teach those involved in violence another way. 'The choir visits places where young people gather, singing and performing dramas to challenge behaviour and promote gender equality. The need is still great, with nearly 60% of women facing gender-based violence but, the choir is having an impact

Lord Jesus,

You know what it is to suffer, to feel the pain of rejection and abuse.

Thank you that you took the weight of humanity's pain upon yourself.

We lift up those in the DRC who have experienced sexual violence;

We pray for powerful healing, comfort and restoration.

We pray for a shift in hearts and minds, that harmful behaviours will change.

And we pray for your kingdom to come, and for your will to be done in the DRC.

In your holy name, amen.