

Prayer Focus 24th February 2019

“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Lord, I understand that this verse is not a wish or an idea; it's a command.

You instructed Joshua to be strong, just as You are now instructing me to be strong.

It's a mandate. It's a clear command, and I want to follow it.

Would You give me the grace and the strength to do what You ask?

Would You fill me with power and make me bolder?

Father, I'm going to need You desperately if I'm going to be courageous!

I know, however, that these are not feelings. They are choices.

With my eyes on You, I will step out in strength and in boldness today.

You are my light and my salvation – so why should I be afraid?

You are my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?

I will choose to not be afraid or discouraged, Lord.

Even though it can be tempting to fear.

I will choose to face everything in my life with courage.

Lord, I know that I can trust You totally and completely – every moment.

And, Lord, thank You for this truth – You never leave me alone.

You never turn Your back on me or forsake me.

As Your child, I can depend on you 100% of the time! Amen

EBC & Local Focus:- Please prayerfully consider names for nominations for the church leadership team.

Pray that the Blues Festival (1st-3rd March) goes really well. Pray for businesses that have struggled over the winter that this will mark the start of a prosperous season.

Street of the Week:- Holmes Road

Swanage Community Prayer Calender:- The Community Centre – Kim Gallagher

National & World Prayer Points:- Historically, Islam is deeply embedded in Sudan's society and the ruling elite aims to enforce an Islamic regime in the country. Sudan has been run by an authoritarian regime ever since al-Bashir came to power through a coup in 1989. There is no freedom of the press and no freedom of expression. Leaving Islam to follow Jesus is illegal and can be punished with the death sentence, and believers from Muslim backgrounds often keep their faith completely secret. Some have been put under house arrest by their families when their new faith was discovered. **Please pray:-** Lord Jesus, thank You that in You we find total freedom. Please free our brothers and sisters in Sudan from the oppression and restrictions they face, both in living out their faith and in sharing it. Please protect Christians who have left Islam to follow You, and help them to find others with who they can safely build community.

Pray for the people of Kenya, especially in the north where many are on the brink of drought following a lack of rain. Pray the rains will come, so that the crops will grow and livelihoods and food supplies will be restored.

The Nigeria elections were postponed from 16 to 23 February, causing some anger and frustration among people and parties there. Please pray for peace and calm in the days and weeks to come, and for a fair process and just outcome. Although Christians make up a large part of the population in Nigeria, elections are not an easy time for them. Christians are attacked ahead of the polls and also afterwards, if the outcome is not considered to be favourable. One church leader, Ibrahim Bakwe, told Open Doors, "Every time elections approach, there is so much fear of the unknown among Christians, because they have been targeted so often."