

Bromley Temple Corps

AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN

# ***A DAY OF PRAYER***

On Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> 2016

FOR THE FUTURE

DIRECTION OF OUR CORPS

This is part of our seeking of God, and in the light of the recent Commitment Sunday and the open Corps Council.

I suggest we follow the pattern of the great intercessory prayers of the Old Testament.

The amount of available time we each have will vary. The quality of time is more important than how much.

## **AFFIRMING THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

God is always with us. The famous Methodist preacher Leslie Weatherhead spoke of the value of simply affirming His presence. We shall have different ways of doing this, but pause and realise His closeness to you.

The prayer patterns from the Old Testament are suggested

- Recognising who God is and what He has done and praising Him;
- Responding humbly confessing personal sin and corporate sin;
- Asking God to intervene, calling on His covenant promises;
- Affirming their faith in their God and moving on that faith.

## **OUR GOD**

Our God is the Living God, the God of Heaven, and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

Maybe meditate on verses such as these below:

*'LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you. (Neh. 1:5-6),*

*'Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;  
wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons;  
he deposes kings and raises up others.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.  
He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.  
I thank and praise you, (Dan. 2:20-23)*

Maybe some worship music, the natural world, or other expression to aid us.

## THE GOD WHO LISTENS TO THE CONTRITE IN HEART

A true sense of God's presence may cause us to recognise our own sins and failures.

Repentance is one of God's choicest gifts. In the light of His Holiness we may exclaim with Isaiah *"Woe is me for I am ....."* (Isa. 6:5).

In His mercy he grants us *"godly sorrow that is in accord with the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation"*. (2 Cor. 7:10)

(Practical tip: do not go looking for skeletons in the cupboard, for the Devil will find you plenty. Let the Holy Spirit of God reveal any issues in your life.).

Let us come humbly before our God, remembering how much God loved us when He sent His Son to suffer and die for us.

For *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"*. (1 John 1:9)

## THE GOD WHO HEARS OUR PRAYER

We have thought very carefully about the Corps' developing mission and ministry. Some wonderful and exciting thoughts have been expressed.

We need, now, to ask God for His direction, His vision. This is vital.

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he"*. Prov. 29:18 (KJV).

Pauls cautions us:

*"... if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?"* (1 Cor. 14:8) (NIVUK)

But God encourages us to pray and wait on Him as when He spoke to Habakkuk:

*"Then the LORD replied: 'Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.'*" (Hab. 2:2-3)

When God shows us His vision then all our deliberations will fall into place.

## THE GOD WHO CALLS

With the vision will come the call.

Jonah gives us insight. God had used Jonah before to bring blessing to God's people. (2 Kings 14:25). Now he is called to go where there was risk - Ninevah. But he chose to go to Tarshish. It was a case of "Surely not me... and definitely not them". We are sometimes tempted to go to our Tarshish where we are safe. The truth was Ninevah was the place of God's blessing not Tarshish.

We shall remember what God has said to us over time and be willing:

- To get out of the boat
- To row into deeper water
- To go to our 'Capernaum'

And then? God can open doors, lead through a Red Sea, and, yes, there will be battles..But wherever He leads, as it was with the Israelites in the wilderness – we have His living presence to guide and empower us.