



BURNING NOV '25 SUES

INTERCESSION EDITION #3

FROM THE FRONTLINES IN UKRAINE

+ PROPHETIC
INTERCESSION

+ FALSE
RELIGION



Our vision is to see people set free from the pain and trauma of war, terror or oppression – releasing God's healing, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Contact us

Flame International,
PO BOX 424,
Aldershot, GU11 9ER
01252 336509

admin@flameinternational.org

flameinternational.org
@ / flameint
f / flameinternational

Flame International Ltd
is a Charitable Company.
Registered Charity No: 1195672.

Cover Photo: Nigel Mallon



In this issue

- 4 Understanding Prophetic Intercession
- 10 Field Report: Ukraine
- 16 Fast with Flame Follow-Up
- 18 Special Feature: On the Frontlines
- 20 False Religion
- 26 Led by the Holy Spirit?
- 30 The Forge: Testimonies
- 32 Book Review
- 34 Hot off the press
- 36 What's On

Hello,

Welcome to our latest edition of Burning Issues! The people of Ukraine have really captured our hearts and that is why we are focusing this edition on the ministry in Ukraine. We have had two brilliant teams go out to Ukraine this year and Nigel, our photojournalist, took some wonderfully creative photos on the mission in August which we hope will impact you. This edition's cover photo is of Viktor, a volunteer military chaplain, you will read more about him and his precious colleagues further into the magazine. It is our prayer to go twice to Ukraine in 2026 as there are still over 300 Chaplains to train. Please support us in our latest Ukraine Mission Appeal so we can continue this work.

We are excited that we have a guest writer from YWAM who shared on a Bespoke Course earlier this year and she has laid out the principles of Understanding Prophetic Intercession. If you are an intercessor or particularly a fledgling intercessor like me, you will find it helpful and inspiring.

We have insights offered by Di Payne on being led by the Spirit, it is worth a read. Many Christians can be led by the mind; this article gives insight into being led by the human spirit. We also have an excellent article on False Religions written by our own Rev Ian Fall.

This is the last time this year where we will feature on our theme of intercession, and we have a book review on "Praying for a World in Crisis", which is so needed in today's world!

I sense the Lord is saying from Isaiah 43:18-19, *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing."* Please pray we know what this "new thing" looks like and act.

At the end of this year we will have completed 8 missions, we are grateful to the Lord for the doors He has opened. Please pray for the doors to open wider!



Blessings Galore!

Jan

Jan Ransom
Founder & Director



Understanding Prophetic Intercession

By Lynn Yee

Our Role and Authority as God's Image-Bearers

Intercessory prayer is prayer on behalf of others — the church, the sick, the lost, the spheres of society, and the nations — in alignment with God's will. We live in a broken world of pain and injustice where not everything that happens is necessarily the will of God. In *Ezekiel 22:30*, we see God looking for intercessors — someone who would “stand in the gap” on behalf of the land, so He would not have to destroy it. What is the gap? It is a breach of God's righteousness in the land through sin, and hence God looks for intercessors who will mediate between heaven and earth. Sadly, in *Ezekiel 22*, God found no one. How can you and I today answer God's call for intercessors?

Being the only creatures created in the image and likeness of the Creator God, we human beings are image-bearers, and hence representatives of God's real presence in the world. The Hebrew word “tselem” is the same word for image and idol. In Old Testament times, the people understood that where the material image of the idol is, so is the essence of the god. Hence God told the Israelites not to make images of anything to worship, *Exodus 20:4*, as God had already made images of Himself — in men and women like you and me, *Genesis 1:27* — and we are meant to reflect His presence and exercise His authority on the earth.

Intercessory prayer is one of the

essential ways that we human beings partner with God to see His kingdom of order, beauty and abundance established “on earth as it is in heaven”, *Matthew 6:10*. As image-bearers carrying God's presence and authority on the earth, we have the priestly responsibility to stand before God — to see His will established in the lives of people, and to see His just reign prevail in the affairs of nations.

Why is there a need for human involvement through intercession in what God desires to do on earth? “Though God is sovereign and all-powerful, Scripture clearly tells us that He limited Himself, concerning the affairs of earth, to working through human beings”, Dutch Sheets in *Intercessory Prayer*.

In *1 Kings 18*, we see the story of Elijah's fervent prayers for rain. Although it was God's initiative to send rain on the land, He needed a human being to “birth” the rain through prayer. Again, in *Daniel 9*, we see Daniel had discovered from Jeremiah's prophecy that the seventy years of exile was nearly up, and so he gave himself to fasting and prayer in repentance for the restoration of Israel. The angel Gabriel was also sent out as an answer to Daniel's prayers, *Daniel 10:12*. Both these narratives give a Biblical basis for the necessity of intercessory prayer and assert the fact that God has chosen to limit Himself to working through the prayers of His image-bearers. ►

Praying from Heaven to Earth

There are different kinds of prayers, *1 Timothy 2:1*, and in many prayer meetings we are a part of today, petitionary prayers are the most common where we see the needs around us and lift them up for God's intervention. I would term this posture of prayer as praying "from earth to heaven". Petitionary prayers and supplications are well and good, but this is not the only kind of prayer we can engage in. How is prophetic prayer different?

Prophetic prayer is seeing the natural realm from God's perspective, and as we are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms, we declare and speak God's truth, releasing on earth what God is doing and speaking in the spirit. *Ephesians 2:6* tells us that "we are seated with Christ in the heavenly places", hence the prophetic intercessor takes into consideration this position we pray from.

How does God see a situation of injustice? What does the Word of God say about God's character that is unchanging? What revelation of God's character is needed in this nation, situation or individual you are praying over? Even when we do not know how to pray, we can declare aspects of who God is — His love, His righteousness, His fatherhood — over a nation, a war situation, or a crisis. Are there scriptures that the Holy Spirit would give us to declare over the people and lands we are praying for? When we do not know how to

pray specifically, we can turn scripture into proclamations, prayers and blessings.

In essence, proclamations are different from petitions. Petitions are good and needed indeed, but proclaiming scriptures and aspects of God's character, as we are being led by Holy Spirit, is taking a stance in the spirit to pray "from heaven to earth". The more we live our lives in relationship to Holy Spirit and understand our identity as children of God and His image-bearers, the more spiritual authority we gain in prophetic intercession.

Listening to God, everyone can be prophetic!

Prophetic prayer begins simply with listening to God. Listening prayer is not a gift reserved only for gifted people, but it is a skill for all believers to develop. Not everyone is a prophet by calling and gifting, but everyone can prophesy, *1 Corinthians 14:1-5* — every Christian can listen to God and speak words of life for the purposes of strengthening, encouraging and comforting others.

There are different levels of the prophetic, and here we refer to "Ground Level Prophetic" where everyone can be prophetic; everyone can hear the voice of God, *John 10:27*, and engage in intercession, as we are being led by the Spirit of God.

Before we dive into prayer based on a list of prayer requests at a prayer meeting, can we lay aside our own

agendas, and take time to listen to God for His heart, His thoughts and His agenda?

To effectively listen to God in prayer and be led by the Holy Spirit, we have to grasp some of these Biblical principles:

1

Lordship of Christ

Luke 6:46, John 10:27

Acknowledging Jesus as Lord means we live lives of surrender where we are ready to obey and follow the Lord, not only when it is reasonable and convenient to us, but even when we may not understand it. See the example of Abraham in *Genesis 22* when the Lord told him to sacrifice Isaac. If Jesus is Lord in our lives, we can be confident that He speaks to us, and we do hear His voice.

2

Clean Hearts

1 John 3:21-22, Psalm 66:18

Repent of any unconfessed sin when we prepare ourselves to listen to God in prayer.

3

Be Filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18, Luke 11:11-13

Ask for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit and trust the Spirit to lead you in the prayer agenda. This also includes being willing to lay aside your own burdens for what you feel you should pray for.

4

Faith

Hebrews 11:6

When we come before God in prayer, we must be expectant for Him to speak, and that He will lead us by His Spirit. For this reason, it is always good to start prayer with praise and thanksgiving — whether in musical worship or a time of spoken praise — because praise calls us out of the drudgery of the circumstances to fix our eyes on the magnitude of who God is.

5

Be Still and Wait on the Lord

Psalm 46:10, Psalm 130:5-6

Before you dive into intercession, take time to wait on the Lord in silence, trusting Him to bring to mind scriptures, pictures and impressions for what to pray for and how you are to pray it.

There is no formula to practising listening prayer or prophetic intercession, but if we live out these Biblical principles, personally and corporately, we will experience intercession as exciting Spirit-led times of partnering with God. ►

'Prophetic prayer is seeing the natural realm from God's perspective'

Discernment in the Corporate Setting

Unlike individual prayer, corporate intercession requires us not only to listen to God, but also to one another. There is power in agreement when two or three come together in prayer, **Matthew 18:19**.

In my mission organisation (YWAM), we are trained to practise listening to God in corporate intercession through the teachings of Joy Dawson. How do we effectively listen to God as a group, and discern what it is that God may be leading us to pray for?

Take time as a group to prepare your hearts before God in praise, worship, thanksgiving and waiting on the Lord. Share your impressions with one another before you dive into intercessory prayer.

When the Holy Spirit is leading the prayer meeting, He may give “a piece of the puzzle” to each member in the group, so don’t worry if you do not fully understand the scripture, picture or impression that you may have received in the time of silence and waiting. When you share your piece of the puzzle with the group, perhaps everyone will see a bigger picture and gain greater clarity on the direction of prayer the Holy Spirit is giving the group.

What if people in the group receive different insights that don’t seem to fit together? The Holy Spirit is dynamic, and the way He speaks and works in each of us can be dynamic. If people in the group seem to be receiving different agendas in prayer, or if clarity is lacking, we can go back to the Lord again, ask for clarity and wait in silence to listen and discern.

Some Biblical principles to consider in group discernment:

Humility

Philippians 2:1-8, Ephesians 5:21

We are to “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ”. Is there humility in the group, or does someone always have to be right? If others are sensing the urgency to pray for another world event, can I lay aside my own prayer burden and agenda for this prayer meeting?

Unity

Psalms 133, Philippians 2:2

Can the group come to a place of agreement to pray from a place of unity in the spirit? There is power in agreement, **Matthew 18:19**.

Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Love is the mark of character of someone who has matured in the prophetic. The more prophetically gifted we are, the more we need to mature in love and operate our gift in love.

In corporate settings, corporate humility leads to corporate unity, which then gives us corporate authority in prayer! Above all, prophetic intercessors learn to grow and mature in love, for without it, our prophetic gift can be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal at its best.

Mediating through Identificational Repentance

“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14

Is there sin in the land that hinders answers to prayers? Perhaps there is a need for Identificational Repentance where the people of God are called to stand in the gap — to identify with, confess and repent for sin in the land. Some examples in the Old Testament are found in **Nehemiah 1:6-7, Jeremiah 14:20** and **Daniel 9:8-20**. None of these characters had necessarily committed the sins they were confessing, but as leaders, they representatively confessed the sins of their forefathers and their people. God heard and God responded.

The Bible indicates that while God most definitely engages with us individually and personally, He also relates to us as families, tribes

and nations. In the West particularly, where individualism has infiltrated the church, our emphasis has been on personal salvation and relationship with God. We need to recover an understanding of our corporate identity as people groups before God. God does not punish the children for the sins of their fathers and mothers, but the consequences of the iniquity of the forefathers can still have an effect upon the children. It falls on the Church in each generation to take corporate responsibility for the spiritual state of their church, people group and nation.

Even when we feel we cannot identify with the ethnic history of the people we are praying for — where we see division, brokenness and the failure of the Church in the land — can we identify with the prejudice, the judgments and the lack of love in our own hearts for our neighbour when we come into intercession for that particular nation or situation? Instead of praying, “Lord, have mercy on them”, can we stand in identification and pray, “Lord, have mercy on us”?

Corporate humility leads to corporate unity, which truly gives us corporate authority in intercession.

In prophetic intercession, we have the privilege of partnering with God by listening to His Spirit, laying a hold of what God wants to do in the spirit realm, and releasing it from heaven to earth through our lives of surrender, obedience and intercession as God’s ambassadors on earth.



40°04' 14" N

45°02'27" E

UKRAINE

WORDS BY CHRIS NEW
PHOTOGRAPHY
BY NIGEL MALLON

14 - 24 AUG 25



What do you say to someone whose son has been killed on the front line defending his country, or to the widow who has just lost her husband, or to the family whose house was completely destroyed by a bomb? What do you say to the minister who is trying to concentrate on the teaching, having just heard that one of their congregation has been killed? And how do you do this when neither of you speak the other's language?

This was a daily occurrence for the Flame team on mission to Ukraine from 14-24 August.

The team arrived at the hotel in western Ukraine after an overnight journey and began three days of preparation. This included developing a Mission Declaration, based on *Isaiah 43:18-21*, which gave focus to what we aimed to achieve. Themes incorporated into the declaration included: bringing healing; making a way in the desert; seeking peace and prosperity; looking to Jesus who is the source of life; God's love for the people of Ukraine; and trusting in God to bring peace.

We had over 60 people at the conference – a mix of volunteer chaplains, spouses and our interpreters. Most of the volunteer chaplains are church pastors, they are therefore used to providing support to soldiers on the front line, the families of soldiers at home, and their church congregations. ►





Teaching

The Ukrainian chaplains and their spouses come from a very different theological background to the Flame team. Teaching on subjects such as Healing the Land, Spiritual Warfare, Deliverance and Generational Influences proved to be challenging for some of the delegates. By the end of the conference, however, most delegates had grasped it enthusiastically. Andrew, as he was about to leave, told us that he had decided to preach on Healing The Land the following Sunday at church. Another Andrew said, "Thank you for the teaching, especially Generational Influences and Healing the Land. In the post-Communist time many or all areas need to be cleansed." One of our interpreters, Tanya, said, "I have wanted to forgive but I didn't know how, but you have shown me how to hand my judgment to Jesus". Tanya, one of the war widows, added, "Thank you everyone. Every story I heard, I

could see in my life. The dramas were very special. I was able to give my pain to the Lord. I had been holding it for a long time. I burst into tears."

Prayer Ministry

We had three afternoons of prayer ministry with the delegates. One delegate had been in a car crash 20 days previously, had chest pain from the seatbelt and a fear of getting back into cars (not helpful if you are a roving chaplain and pastor). He received prayer for this and his need to forgive the other driver and, the following day, told us that he was healed. Others received healing for fear, suppressed emotions, low self-esteem due to criticism from family members, and difficulty in forgiving themselves or others. Yarik told us, "I learned to entrust my feelings to God. I can give my judgment and fear to the Cross. I learned to discern which emotions are godly and to forgive myself."

Sense of Unity

On the first evening we were introduced to the rich harmony of local voices and the skilled playing of the accordion. The presence of God was in our worship from the start. Throughout the week the worship was enriched as we sang, simultaneously in English and Ukrainian, a number of songs familiar to both communities including 10,000 Reasons, Light of the World, and The Splendour of the King being just three examples. Though we had different words, we had the same heart and a touch of heaven as all nations worshiped. That same sense of unity came out in times of prayer as delegates opened up about deeply personal battles in front of people who, only 3 days earlier, they had not known. More importantly, however, we strongly sensed a deep spiritual unity which benefitted all aspects of the conference. Flame's values include always connecting the spirit, soul and body. It was rewarding to see that heads, hearts and bodies were enriched by the content, drama and practical actions such as exchanging of gifts, nailing discs to the cross, and hugging!

Compassion

The delegates told us that this sense of unity arose not only from the teaching but from the atmosphere of the team's compassion and love. Within the Ukrainian culture it is not normal to offer praise in case it leads to pride. Negative criticism

however, mixed with domination, manipulation and control, is quite normal. It was, therefore, a hugely positive experience for the delegates to be affirmed, loved and praised. This, mixed with the compassion they experienced from members of the team, proved to be transformative for many of the delegates. Oleksii commented that it was inspirational to see the truth of scripture practically worked out at this conference, adding, "You have prayed a lot, and we feel these prayers. We see the spirit, soul and body always walking together." Lyuba added, "You are so sincere. This wins our hearts."

Rest and Recuperation

We recognised that we all need to value self-care and not be drawn to the dangers of self-comfort – to look after not just the spirit and soul, but the body as well. Most delegates have not had more than a weekend away for over three and a half years. Every day is filled with uncertainty, loss and grief as their country is pounded and their people killed. On arrival at the conference, therefore, the female delegates were met with an opportunity to have hands massaged, nails painted, and to be presented with make-up bags and products. Somehow the language barrier dissolved, relationships formed, and much laughter was forthcoming. Every day the delegates were given gifts, which had been collected and beautifully crafted by the ►

female members of the Flame team. Furthermore, the conference included time to relax in the saltwater spa near to the hotel, enabling husbands and wives to hold each other, relax and enjoy time together away from the stress of their current existence. This became, therefore, their first period of Rest and Relaxation since the main invasion began. In response one spouse said, "Thank you for the rest. We have many programmes, but to have rest with our spouses is special."

Prayer and Family Support

God planned, and achieved, a great deal of good work at this conference. The enemy, on the other hand, was eager to stop it but, through prayer, wisdom, support and leadership, God overcame these obstacles. It has been wonderful on reflection to see how He does immeasurably more than we can imagine. The success of the conference was, therefore, completely dependent on the mountain of prayer support we received prior to, and during, the mission. The many e-mails, pictures and scriptures sent in were hugely helpful in encouraging the team, affirming what we thought was happening, guiding our thinking on how to move forward, and giving us insight into what was happening in the spiritual domain. Equally important, however, was the support of our families, friends and churches, without which we would not be able to come on mission.

Conclusion

So, what do you say to the bereaved parent or spouse, the family that has lost their home, or the pastor who has lost another member of their congregation? And how, as a Flame team, do you speak into that situation when you have no language in common? Often, you can feel overwhelmed and inadequate. But, when we trust in God, show compassion and love, point them towards the helpful scriptures through interpreters, and lead them to take the right steps to cut themselves free, confess, repent and forgive, it is amazing what happens. In short, we can help to point them towards Jesus – not just a vague concept, but a series of practical actions which will lead to healing and freedom.

Afternote from Jan:

Flame trained 114 Ukrainian Volunteer Chaplains and Spouses in June and August 2025. We have seen so many lives touched by the Holy Spirit and the hunger for the word of God and our teaching. I thank the Lord for opening the door to Ukraine and also the 19 team members who have served these most stalwart, resilient people who daily have their lives under threat. Flame International is privileged to have these opportunities and we pray the Lord will protect this ministry about which we are passionate and have seen transformation of these precious lives.

Declaration

During the intercession part of the mission the team meditated on *Isaiah 43:18-21*, which the Lord had given before the mission. The team asked God for interpretations of the scripture for Ukraine. We then declared it out loud together, as an act of unity, over the nation each day.

The Lord will bring healing to their lives. They will not remember the ways of the past. The Lord will make a way in the desert and will bring peace and prosperity.

Behold, I AM the source.

Look to Him, do not trust in man. Hope and rest is in the Lord!

They will go into the bubbling springs which give life.

They will come to Him in the secret place, the hard place and He will be with them even in the rushing, fast water. Trust in Him.

They will not be distracted and will receive their peace from the Lord!

They will not look to the wild, those who live selfishly for themselves but who will still have to honour Him.

Creation bows down to the Lord, who will refresh the chosen people of Ukraine, whom He loves, for whom He is jealous. They are His beloved people and He will provide for them. They will proclaim Praise of the Almighty, in whom they have hope. He will bring peace!

Fast with Flame

Follow-Up

Why has Flame and its supporters been fasting?

Jan sensed in her spirit earlier in the year that there was a need to call for a fast. Flame and its supporters undertook a 21-day fast in 2020, during the time of Covid. Five years later the Spirit was saying the same thing; to conduct a 21-day fast this time with a focus on praying for the nations.

There are different types of fasting in the scriptures, and Flame's 21-day fast consists of employees, volunteers and supporters partaking in different types of fast for different periods of time within the 21-day fast. What's important through this, is the increased and intentional focus to cooperatively fast and pray for the nations.

We know from the book of Joel that fasting is certainly a part of the end-time church. Jesus also tells John's disciples, "Can the wedding guests

mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast." **Matthew 9:15.** We believe that as we draw nearer to the Lord's return, the Spirit is calling and reviving within His Church the desire to fast for the completion of the Great Commission and for the return of the Bridegroom.

How did it work?

Over 200 people signed up to join in and contribute to this 21-day fast for the nations which was fantastic. The fast drew people both well-known to Flame and others not so well-known, and for this we rejoiced. This was the Body of Christ from different nations and different walks coming together to see the Lord's glory and His Kingdom be made known on the earth.

Every day Flame sent out a devotion written by a Flame employee

or volunteer, followed by brief information on two nations for that day that people could choose to pray for. We were sent many words, scriptures and pictures, filling 29 pages, people sharing what they believe the Spirit is saying. Going through the multiple words is both humbling and encouraging as you see confirmations of what the Lord is saying and seeing the Lord's heart expressed through His people for the nations.

What has the Spirit been saying through His people during this fast?

For our own country, the UK, that we are in need of deep repentance. The Lord is calling us to wake up from our slumber. Discipline and judgement may be upon the nation, but the Lord has good plans for the country through those who stand in the gap and plead for mercy. For other nations of the world, there is acknowledgement of the darkness that covers the earth, **Isaiah 60:2**, but that as we fast and pray there will be breakthrough of His light. There is hope for the nations as we cry out for the Lord to rain down His Spirit; His love and grace will overcome every obstacle that stands in its way for it is the Lord's will for Him to be exalted among all the nations of the earth and for people to repent and receive His salvation.

As we continue to faithfully pray and fast for the nations, particularly

in these turbulent times, we must hold on to our faith and hope that God is good, and wants to reveal His goodness to the people of the world.

What has changed as a result of the fast?

Only God knows the impact that this time of prayer and fasting has had upon the nations. We hope, and believe, that the Kingdom of God would have been moving as a result of our prayer. It's God's will that we co-work with Him on the earth, and that is what we have been doing. Though it is hard to see direct changes in the nations as a result of our prayer and fasting, it is easier to see change within our own hearts. People have voiced that this fast has revived in us faith and passion to more regularly fast and pray. There is power in fasting!

Would we do it again?

I believe for many of us who have partaken in this fast, it has confirmed in us and fanned into flame, the passion and importance to partner with what the Spirit is doing in the nations. The Great Commission is vital; we long for the return of our King. Fasting is not just a one-off event, but a part of the life of a disciple of Christ. This has been a time of 'pressing in' to the Lord, and as we have done so, we give thanks that as we draw near to God, God will draw near to us, **James 4:8**.

SPECIAL FEATURE

ON THE FRONTLINES

Stories from Ukraine's military chaplains



VLAD

Vlad, as a volunteer chaplain, spends one week in every four on the front line working as a chaplain in a casualty treatment centre. He routinely helps with medical stabilisation, supporting medics with the treatment of casualties, dignified care of the dead, comfort, prayer and refreshments for the medical staff on duty. His role is to serve.

On one occasion there was a casualty who appeared to have been dead for 20 minutes with all monitors flat-lining. Vlad went over to the casualty, whispered into his ear and said, "If you can hear me and wish to say the prayer of repentance, repeat after me." Moments later, the monitors burst into life and medics were running around the room. The casualty came back to life and the next day confirmed that he had heard every word Vlad had said, and that he had repeated the prayer of repentance.

One night, a female doctor told him, "I appreciate you being here, but I don't believe in the God you serve." However, she did ask for proof of existence in the shape of a quiet night with very few casualties, adding that he should come to see her the following morning to discuss the outcome. That night, there were indeed very few casualties. The following morning the doctor met with Vlad, and she dismissed it as a coincidence and demanded a second night of limited casualties. This time the doctor slept in until 11AM the following morning because there were no casualties at all overnight. When Vlad found her, she had been in tears that morning and had begun praying!



Vasily is the coordinator of over 400 volunteer military chaplains with the Baptist Union. He and his wife Jane invited us to deliver teaching and ministry to their volunteer military chaplains.

This is a ministry that reaches both the traumatised and those who care for the traumatised. The trauma was apparent every time we heard any drone-like noise resulting in an outbreak of fear amongst the delegates.

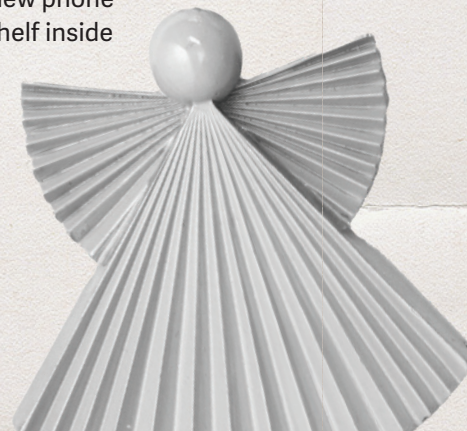


VASILY
JANE



OLEKSII

Oleksii shared a story. He had travelled to the front line to give a mobile phone and power block to a tank commander and had also picked up some paper angels made by some school girls with additional needs, one of which he gave to the tank commander. Shortly after this the tank was hit and burst into flames. All the crew got out safely, but the tank was abandoned as a burning wreck. The tank commander went back a week later to see if his new phone was salvageable. On a shelf inside the gutted tank was the phone and power pack unharmed, sat on a shelf with the paper angel sat on top.



IGOR
TANYA

Igor is a volunteer chaplain, and his wife Tanya was not a committed Christian on arrival at the August Conference. They had been at the June Conference but on 2 July their house was decimated by Russian Missiles.

Igor is an active Compass church member, and also a chaplain in the frontlines and in hospital. He has lost all his property due to

his house, workshop and car being burnt because of the explosion.

The Compass church Chaplains' van is also damaged. Igor's wife Tanya was injured but is now out of hospital. Their family of three (they have a teenage daughter) have lost all their possessions. They both received prayer and received a measure of healing. Tanya gave her life to Jesus in church on the Sunday after the August Conference.



TANYA
IRYNA

Tanya (left) is a war widow. Iryna (right) lost her son - her only living relative. These two have become close friends and assistant volunteer chaplains since their losses.

Tanya said: "Thank you everyone. Every story I heard, I could see in my life. The dramas were very special. I was able to give my pain to the Lord. I had been holding it for a long time. I burst into tears. In the prayer groups there were tears."

While we were on mission the US owned Flex factory, a few miles

down the road, was hit by 2 cruise missiles from Russia. The fires were still burning when we drove past, the devastation was huge. The 600 night-shift staff were evacuated with minimal injuries, but the impact on the community is huge. 2,300 people lost their jobs overnight as a result of this strike - many will have mortgages or loans which they will now be unable to pay. Many other properties had been damaged, and it was noted that most citizens and small businesses in Ukraine do not have insurance.





False Religion

By Rev Ian Fall

What is False Religion? This sounds like a loaded question. My prayer is that you catch something of what the Lord wants to speak into this. Some of these things are going to be strong. I pray that you read with an open heart and weigh what's being said against what the Bible teaches.

We live in a pluralistic society. The watchword of the day is that you can believe what you want to believe. No right, no wrong. The notion that there may be such a thing as false religion doesn't sit particularly well. It was not the message of love, forgiveness, grace and mercy that caused the early believers to be locked up, beaten up, whipped and killed! It was the message of exclusivity. One way to salvation through Jesus. One of the

costs of following Jesus revolves around what He says about himself.

As we approach this subject the posture of our own heart in this is of vital importance. Every single person, irrespective of where they stand in regard to faith, is a person created in the image of God and therefore has the utmost value and importance to Him. He died for them as much as He did for us. The most important thing here is to ask for God's heart, not to come from a perceived position of superiority.

Jesus states in *John 14:6*, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me." He is the way, not a way. He is the truth, not a truth. He is the only way to eternal life.

Why does this matter so much to God? *Exodus 20:3-5* says, "You shall have no other gods before me ... You shall not bow down to them or serve them for I the Lord your God am a jealous God."

God is always righteous, proportionate and just in the expression of His emotions. The jealousy of God is not the green-eyed monster, or insecurity that comes of being usurped by somebody else. It's actually a measure of His love for us. It

is a righteous zeal for His people and for His glory. It is a protective love that demands exclusive devotion to Him and Him alone. God's jealousy for us is rooted in His holiness and desire for a loving, covenant relationship with humanity. One of the reasons for God's jealousy is that He knows full well the damage that is done to us in the worship of false gods.

We need to guard our own hearts and ask whether or not we have inadvertently set up a spiritual idol in our hearts that has supplanted the place of Jesus in our affections. ►

'We need to guard our own hearts and ask whether or not we have inadvertently set up a spiritual idol in our heart...'

One of the signs might be our attitude towards people who have a different view to us. Do we find ourselves moving into pride or superiority, harbour bitterness, unforgiveness or a sense of anger that people don't see things the way we do? We need to be careful with the things that have an appearance of the spirit, but the enemy is using to gain a foothold. It's about being alert to the sort of things that gain an ascendancy in our thinking and so become a spiritual idol that dominate our thoughts.

Isaiah 45:5 states, "I am the Lord and there is no other; besides me there is no God." We live in an era where people think that all religions are basically the same. Isn't it just God and He is the same for every religion? The answer is no. Not only is God not the same in all religions He is not the first among equals either, He is the one God. He is utterly and totally unique. Yahweh stands alone and there is no other.

If other religions are not worshipping the God of the Bible, who are they worshipping? *Isaiah 14:13-14* says, "You said in your heart I will ascend to heaven above the stars of God. I will set my throne on high. I will sit on the mount of the assembly in the far reaches of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds." We hear the repeated refrain, "I will, I will, I will." God has clearly said besides Him there is no God, so who is being worshipped elsewhere is counterfeit, of the enemy, the

'I am the Lord and there is no other; besides me there is no God.'
Isaiah 45:5

devil. The devil craves the worship meant for almighty God. It is what got him thrown out of heaven in the first place, but it has not lessened his appetite to receive the worship that is meant for God. He doesn't come with a big arrow saying, "I am the devil", he comes as an Angel of light, the Prince of lies, the deceiver. As unpalatable as this will sound to modern ears other religions are worshipping the enemy, Satan, the devil. One of Jesus' temptations in the desert was Satan saying, "If you worship me, I will give you all of this". He still craves worship.

Isn't it arrogant to say that we've got it right and everybody else has got it wrong? You believe what you believe, and I'll believe what I believe. No, the truth is true because it's the truth, not because I feel that it's true. We don't have faith because we have the best argument, it is true because this is truth.

Those involved in false religion may well be sincere in their beliefs, but sincerity is not the truth. There is a thought that religions are all fundamentally the same and superficially different. The reality is that they are fundamentally different and superficially the same. Someone once said that all religions could all be wrong but it's a logical impossibility for them all to be right.

How can we engage with those

from other religions? We need to come with humility, love and compassion.

What about those who don't believe that there's a God at all? There's the question about suffering. There is so much suffering in the world there can't be a God. There is a fundamental weakness in this premise, if you take God out of the equation the problem is still there, the suffering is still present, the question still requires an answer. We worship the God who enters into man's suffering and who Himself

suffers. November 2023, Ayaan Hirsi Ali posted an article on Unheard entitled "Why I am now a Christian." She states, "I would not be truthful if I

attributed my embrace of Christianity solely to the realisation that atheism is too weak and divisive a doctrine to fortify us against our menacing foes. I have also turned to Christianity because I ultimately found life without any spiritual solace unendurable — indeed very nearly self-destructive. Atheism failed to answer a simple question: what is the meaning and purpose of life? Bertrand Russell and other activist atheists believed that with the rejection of God we would enter an age of reason and intelligent humanism. But the 'God hole' — the void left by the retreat of the church — has merely been filled by ►

'The reality is that they are fundamentally different and superficially the same.'

a jumble of irrational quasi-religious dogma. The line often attributed to G.K. Chesterton has turned into a prophecy: "When men choose not to believe in God, they do not thereafter believe in nothing, they then become capable of believing in anything."

There are fundamental differences in religions in relation to the nature of God, the person of Jesus and the means of salvation.

First, the nature of God. He is creator. In the beginning, God. He is eternal. He has always been. Mankind was created in His image for relationship with Him. Due to the fall, death enters man's experience. However, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." *Romans 5:8* He has made Himself known to us. He speaks to His people. He is Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. "Cast all your cares on him because he cares for you." *1 Peter 5:7* He lives in us. He is our Father.

What is the nature of God in Islam? Islam is an Abrahamic faith; however, Allah is certainly not the same as Yahweh. First of all, there is no Trinity. Allah is so transcendent that he is not personally knowable. He doesn't speak directly but through angels. Although he did speak to Moses. There's no personal relationship, no intimacy. Allah is in control of every detail, so no free will. Allah does not love those who sin.

What about Hinduism? There's not one God but multiple, millions

of them. Some benevolent, some malevolent. Creation itself is an illusion. It just came into being so you can't really trust it. The gods came later. There's no such thing as evil. What you work towards is self-actualization.

In Buddhism there is no creator, no afterlife, there's nihilism. If you achieve Nirvana, you get absorbed into nothingness. There's no personality. Whereas God says to us, "I have called you by name." Suffering is an illusion because all of the problems that we have stem from desire and therefore enlightenment comes from overcoming desires.

What about the person of Jesus?

He is God with us, Emmanuel. He came in flesh, born of a virgin. Jesus said he who has seen Me has seen the Father. He is the name that is above every name, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. The gospels describe His scourging, His crucifixion, the spear thrust into His side, His last breath, His burial and resurrection three days later.

In Islam Jesus is known as Isa. He is considered a highly revered prophet of God but not the son of God, merely a messenger. They believe He was born to the Virgin Mary, performed miracles and that He will return to earth before the day of judgement. Muslims advocate that Jesus was not crucified. The Quran says, "they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, but another was made to resemble

him." Some consider that Judas was put in his place. In Hinduism Jesus is just one more god of the millions that exist. In Buddhism he is considered a compassionate teacher and a wise guide. A bodhisattva or highly realised being but not as a divine figure or the son of God.

Finally, what about the means of salvation? Within Islam it is through works. The five pillars - the declaration of faith, the prayers, alms, fasting and pilgrimage. Deeds are weighed in a balance with the hope that the good deeds outweigh the bad. Within Hinduism they're looking for a liberation from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. This is achieved through self-realisation. In Buddhism the hope is your good deeds will allow you to be reincarnated better than you were before until you reach a place of enlightenment. The Bible says, "man is to die once and then face judgement."

The common factor in all three is salvation by works or self-effort. As a result, there is no assurance. *Romans 5:8* says, "While we were still sinners Christ died for us." *John 3:16*, "God so loved the world that He gave His only son that whoever believes in Him may not perish but have everlasting life." *Acts 4:12*, "Salvation is found in no one else for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." *Ephesians 2:8-9*, "It is by grace you have been saved through faith this is not from yourselves it is the gift of God. Not by

works so that no one can boast."

When we consider those from other religions we need to come with a heart of compassion. We want Jesus to reveal Himself to them. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. I don't believe anyone is argued into the kingdom, but plenty are loved in!

'Salvation is found in no one else for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.'

Acts 4:12

Led by the Holy Spirit?

By Di Payne

Galatians 5:25 tells us, "Since we live by the Spirit, let us also walk in step with the Spirit." Scripture gives numerous examples of being led by the Spirit: Jesus facing temptation in the wilderness, *Luke 4:1*, Ananias meeting with Paul after his conversion, *Acts 9* and Paul being called to Macedonia in a vision, *Acts 16*.

However, this may not be the day-to-day reality in our lives. Our minds seem to get in the way! We may know the scripture, "Do not be conformed any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind", *Romans 12:2*. But do we really take on board that this transformation comes through the renewal of our minds?

So often we allow our minds to control what we do, without having submitted that thinking to the prompting and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. So often, we think we know the answer, particularly if we have met a situation before - it worked last time, so we think it will do so again. The wisdom and leading of the Holy Spirit may be different. We can focus on 'fixing' something rather than listening for the Spirit's ways. The enemy targeted Eve's mind at the Fall, inciting her to reason that eating the apple was, "Good for food and pleasing to the eye and desirable for gaining wisdom." *Genesis 3: 6*. God prioritises our relationship with Him. Do we focus more on 'works', on getting something done?

Years ago, I was returning from a training event when the Lord spoke, telling me to be less sensible. As I worked with this, I slowly learned that if I allowed a 'passing' thought to land - instead of instantly dismissing it as impossible, inconvenient or too challenging - I would often find that the Lord was speaking about doing something unexpected. Some of those things felt strange but have produced significant fruit. A couple of

ministry examples may illustrate this.

On one occasion, I was asking the Lord what He wanted to do in someone's life. He told me to ask if there was something she had never shared with anyone. I began to argue that the person had so many caring responsibilities she was unlikely to have the head space to respond. When I did ask her, she immediately shared an abusive situation from the past that she had never told anyone before. We prayed for her, and she went away with the same responsibilities but markedly lighter in her spirit, no longer feeling used and abused.

I also argued with the Lord when a young person asked for prayer, she was certain that she would be healed that day. Her condition was the same as a family member for whom I had prayed for over many years. My argument was that I 'could not raise her hopes'. The Lord told me to declare "in the name of Jesus Christ, be healed". After what felt like a lengthy struggle, I got the words out. And she was, indeed, fully healed.

Both incidents show that God's wisdom and timing are far superior to mine. ►

Is it fear of losing control that blocks us from listening for the leading of the Spirit? Is it past abuse or involvement in the occult or Freemasonry somewhere on our family line? Intellectualism, pride, shame, family ways of doing things? Or simply a conviction that "I'm not like that"? Whatever it is, we would do well to ask the Holy Spirit if this is Him speaking to us and hand any issues over to Jesus, confessing our fault and seeking His forgiveness and cleansing. The Lordship prayer is a helpful declaration of submission to Him.

The Western world is renowned for education and reason, perhaps largely due to the Grecian thinking which influenced the Enlightenment or Age of Reason of the 18th century. Certainly, many of us have been trained to think things through, weighing the pros and cons, and coming to a reasoned conclusion. We give a lot of attention to the question "why", sometimes instead of addressing the pain of a situation.

'If we accept that "as a man thinks, so he is", *Proverbs 23: 7, KJV*, we need to look carefully at our thought life.'

We are created in the image of God, with spirit, soul and body, **1 Thessalonians 5: 23**. Our minds are part of our soul, together with our wills and our emotions. However, it is through our spirits that God communicates with us, not our souls. Soulish decisions are not helpful. In soulish prayer, the desires of our own hearts, unsanctified by the work of the Holy Spirit, take pre-eminence over the desires of the Holy Spirit of Jesus – and can also seek to manipulate the will of whoever we are praying for. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts of a need for change not our arguments.

If we accept that "as a man thinks, so he is", ***Proverbs 23: 7, KJV***, we need to look carefully at our thought life. My own experience is that I was seriously limited in the flow of the Holy Spirit in my life until I was convicted of 'mind control' – and repented of this.

So, do we feel programmed to "idolise" our minds? To be challenged on this at a personal level may feel totally alien. However, we know the Lord tells us to have no other gods but Him. May we examine ourselves and ensure that there is no root of such idolatry in us, that we really do allow God to be Lord of all our lives and be transformed by the renewal of our minds; and, indeed, in all things, to be led by the Holy Spirit of God.

A prayer to submit every area of my life to the Lordship of Jesus

Lord Jesus, I acknowledge my need of you, and I accept you now as my Lord, my Saviour, my Redeemer and my Deliverer. I invite you now to be Lord and to rule and reign in every area of my life.

I submit my spirit to you Lord - my worship, my conscience and my spiritual understanding.

I submit my mind to you Lord - my thoughts, my understanding and my imagination.

I submit my will to you Lord - my intentions and all my decisions.

I submit my emotions to you Lord - my feelings and my reactions.

I submit my body to you Lord - my physical health, all my actions and all my senses.

I submit my sexuality to you Lord and all its expressions.

I submit my finances to you Lord and all my material goods.

I submit my time to you Lord - my work, free time, my sleep and my dreams.

I submit all my relationships to you Lord - my family, my marriage/my singleness, my church fellowship and my friendships.

I submit my plans to you Lord - my ambitions and my future.

I submit to you Lord the manner - and timing of my death.

**Lord Jesus, I thank you that your blood was shed so that I might be free and cleansed. I recommit myself to you, body, soul and spirit.
Amen**

THE FORGE TESTIMONIES

One of the aims of the Forge is to equip people for ministry. Time and time again we see delegates receive healing themselves as they appropriate the teaching in their own lives. The following testimony is a perfect example of this.

"During the Forge 1 training, we learned about Generational Influences that are passed down the family line, both positive and negative, and how Freemasonry can have a negative impact down the generational line. I learned how to recognise the effects of generational influences, one of which is gut issues. I was intrigued by this because my mother's father had been a Freemason and I'd had a wheat intolerance for 43 years. When I mentioned this, I was able to receive ministry to release me from any negative influences and curses that may have been passed down to me.

"After being ministered to and receiving freedom from the Lord, I felt Him tell me that He had healed me from my wheat intolerance and encouraged me to eat some wheat. After 43 years, this was quite an ask,



'I felt very humble and completely in awe of God,'

but I chose to trust the Lord believing and accepting that He had healed me, so I ate some wheat, and He had indeed healed me! I am now eating wheat again with no adverse effects. Praise the Lord!

"Shortly after I completed the Forge 1 training, I went to the New Wine Festival. Having done the New Wine online training in order to minister to people while there, I was astounded (not that I should have been), when the Lord led me to four people who had suffered shock and trauma of some kind and because of the Forge training, I was equipped and able to use what I had learned to minister to them.

"It was wonderful to see how God released them and healed them. Not only were they blessed by their encounter with Him but so was I. I felt very humble and completely in awe of God, that He would use me and bless me in this way."



NEW FORGE COMING SOON

FORGE 1: NORTH

West Street Christian Fellowship, Richard Street, Crewe. CW1 3HE

2026

24
JAN

21
FEB

14
MAR

18
APR

9
MAY

6 & 27
JUN

We are delighted to announce that Forge 1 (North) is moving to Crewe starting in January 2026.

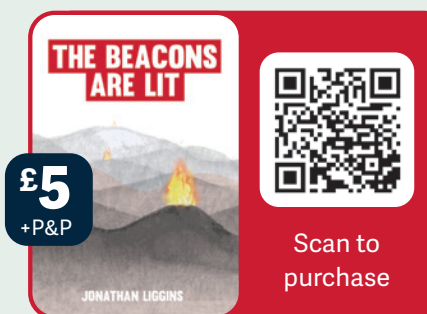
Having enjoyed running the course in Leeds for the past 4 years the time has come to change from East to West in the North of England. If you are living within reach of Crewe, why not come and join us for this exciting Forge journey and become one of the many who have experienced a new and wonderful touch from God through the teaching, ministry and fellowship.

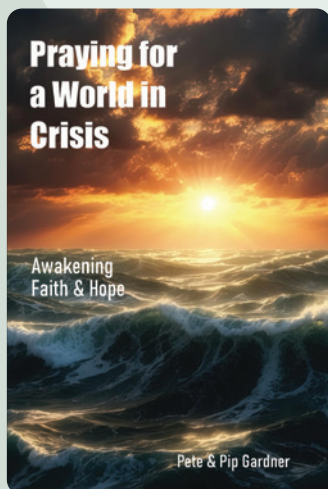
Register your interest today
flameinternational.org/theforge



New book now available

These are friends of Jon & Maggie Liggins - Sue and Jen-Jen. They went together to a hospital appointment in Plymouth. When they both pulled out their books to read, they were delighted to find they were both reading one of Jon's books about Flame! If you don't have the new book and would like to read it, you can order from the website or on kindle.





Book review

Praying for a World in Crisis:

Awakening Faith & Hope

By Pete & Pip Gardner

Praying for a World in Crisis by Pete & Pip Gardner is a very timely book indeed. Pete and Pip are aware of the times we live in and have a lot of insight into the spiritual dynamics at work and the political crisis at hand, having had experience in an NGO closely affiliated with the UN. Even though they have been praying for and watching the growing crisis that is coming upon the world for many years, the Lord only released them to write a book about it in 2024, published in 2025. Therefore, this book is incredibly relevant to the times we are in now, with tensions in geopolitical agendas, wars, and rumours of wars. More importantly, they give prophetic vision as to what the Spirit is calling for His Church in these days, amidst the difficulties, reminding us that, “Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint”, *Proverbs 29:18*. If anyone wanted to be encouraged and directed by the Spirit amongst these increasing global tensions, then I strongly recommend you read and take to heart the message in this book.

Pete and Pip very clearly expose the work of the ‘Cosmic Powers’, the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms, and how they work to cause crisis on the earth. It is really helpful

to read their insight into what these cosmic powers are and how they ended up in the place they are now. They link the Old Testament “sons of God” in the early chapters of Genesis to the “spiritual forces of evil” written about in *Ephesians 6*. Their main goal is to delay the return of Christ by hindering and preventing the fulfilment of the Great Commission which precedes the Lord’s coming, *Matthew 24:14*.

They write, “Every advancement of the Great Commission is a judgement on Satan and speeds up his eternal demise. Michael E. Norton writes, ‘The great commission is the highest, most pure form of spiritual warfare’. This is why Satan continues to fight and resist its completion. He continues to manipulate the minds of men to resist the progress of the Great Commission.”

Pete and Pip focus the believer’s attention therefore, to the return of Jesus. Prayer is so crucial to wrestling these powers at work against the coming of the Kingdom. But how do we pray and what are the most strategic areas for prayer in a world that is in crisis? This is what Pete and Pip write about, highlighting 5 key areas of prayer; the Church, the persecuted church, the unreached, geopolitics, and the Middle East/

Israel/the Jewish people. More than that, Pete and Pip guide the reader with accurate biblical insight into how best to pray for these areas. When I read it for the first time it struck me how simple it was, how clear it is in the Bible, and how it can be so easy to still not pray what the Scriptures are guiding us to. One point to note is their very helpful insight into why it’s so important to be praying for the leaders and authorities within nations, explaining that they will be main targets for the cosmic powers to influence, as biblical history reveals. I am grateful for the encouragement and direction written in this book. It continues to fuel the fire for faith-filled prayer.

The book finishes with chapters guiding the believer how to be alert and watchful in the last days and to **not** come under the depression and hopelessness that global events and the mainstream news can easily put people under. Our focus is the Day of the Lord, the return of Christ, our eternal salvation, and it will be a wrestle to continue to hold that as the priority focus in our lives. Prophetic, insightful, encouraging and comforting! This book is fantastic!

Hot off the press



Refuel 2025

Another blessed time was had again this year at Refuel '25. It was a joy to see old friends and meet new ones, who came to sample Forge teachings through our workshops, leading to prayer ministry in the afternoons. The dramas that accompany the teaching led to the aspirations of many a closet thespian being realised, with much hilarity on occasion! – but always powerfully assisting in getting the point across.

One of the biggest joys for the Flame team was partnering with Ellel. Their tent was next to ours and they joined in helping with the dramas and prayer ministry. To add to the joy, our accommodation was at the beautiful Ellel Blairmore estate for the week. The fellowship and support were an absolute joy and a sure taste of heaven! We are so grateful to them for coming alongside us during the Refuel week.

New Chair of Trustees

I am delighted that Chris New is now the new Chair of Trustees for Flame, after attending Forge 1 South and having been on mission in Ukraine and survived! Nick has now finished as Chairman after 14 hard years as a Trustee, of which 9 years were as Chairman. A big thank you to Nick and a warm welcome to Chris!



Nick



Chris



DRC

Two Evangelists from Bukavu Diocese, DRC - Bora Uzima and Birindwa Fidele - attended the 12-day Trauma Healing School in Kigali, Rwanda. They were sponsored by Flame International who has worked with the Bishop of Bukavu Diocese for a number of years, most recently in October 2025. The two Evangelists thoroughly enjoyed their training and learnt a lot which they will apply back in their Diocese to train others and help bring relief from trauma.

Fireside

After 5 years of running the Fireside, we've decided to pause it for 2026 while we focus on Bespoke Courses and prayer events through the year. We've loved the online community that has formed around the Fireside and hope that this will continue through other online events we'll be running.

**THE
FIRESIDE**

What's On



For more info visit
[flameinternational.org](https://flameinternational.org/training)
/training

NOV

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1-8 | Mission to Athens | | |
| 2 | Leeds Chinese Christian Church (LCCC)
57 th Anniversary Celebration Jan Ransom | | |
| 15 |  | The Forge 1: Scotland | Glasgow |
| 20 | Prayer for the Nations On Zoom | | |
| 22 | Rushden Mission Prayer Breakfast Rev Ian Fall | | |
| 23 | Tottlebank Baptist Church Val Batchelor | | |
| 23 | The Filling Station Harrogate Rev Ian Fall | | |
| 29 |  | The Forge 2: South | Camberley |

DEC

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--|--|
| 2-9 | Big Give Campaign for Nigeria | | |
| 25 | Thank God as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! | | |

JAN

- | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------|-----------|
| 13 | Staff Advance Sheffield | | |
| 24 |  | The Forge 1: North | Crewe |
| 31 |  | The Forge 2: South | Camberley |

FEB

- | | | | |
|------|---|--------------------|-----------|
| 5-20 | Mission to Nigeria | | |
| 7 | Healing Day Findlay Church, Glasgow | | |
| 21 |  | The Forge 1: North | Crewe |
| 27 | LCCC Retreat Weekend Val Batchelor | | |
| 28 |  | The Forge 2: South | Camberley |

