

Newsletter Update

Friday 14th January 2014

Stats

2,180 Streets being prayed for [See Map](#)
 220,180 Houses on those streets (101 per street)
 523,200 People living there (240 per street)

****[Click here to see our research sources.](#)**



Dear Carl,

Our prayers are with all affected by the bad weather at this time.

This week we bring you a new prayer guide, "Extreme Weather," produced in partnership with UCB Prayer. John Miller, a Baptist Pastor from Staines also shares his experience of the "floods"



We are asking people to write letters of support to their local MP, Councillors, emergency services and the army. We know there are lessons that need to be learned, but many people are doing their very best in very difficult circumstances to help others. We hope if many of us do this, it will lift morale across the Country. As we believe in prayer, we are asking as many of you as possible to join us at noon each day, praying for the country over the next week. As we pray for the UK, let us also remember those countries also experiencing bad weather who are unable to deal with the aftermath of bad weather the way we can.



Pastor John Miller, from Staines Baptist Fellowship, shares his experience of the "floods"

Most of us in Staines have been issued with "severe" flood warnings for over a week now. The phone message from the EA talks about danger to life. A very long stretch of the Thames from Windsor to Teddington is affected and Staines is right in the middle of that. I'm sitting about 200m from the river. The police came down our road yesterday and told us to move things upstairs and make plans for moving out.

Incredibly there are well-grounded fears that looters will move in to rob the houses that now stand empty.

Although Staines is by no means as badly affected as Wraysbury and Chertsey, upstream and downstream respectively we have an increasing number of road closures. Several of the families in my church have evacuated their house under the threat of flooding. People living right by the river are flooded when the river overflows its banks, as it has in many places. People further away, perhaps half a mile or more, are affected as floodwater "appears" when the groundwater level rises.





There doesn't seem to be any particular pattern or predictability to this.

Many agencies, churches and volunteers are working incredibly hard. It's really good to see the grace of God poured out through a wide range of generous and sacrificial effort. I'll be leaving shortly to pick up a family who have been warned to leave their house and bring them to the church.



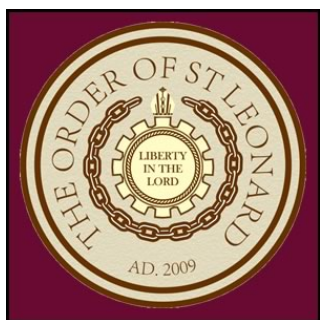
The people who have been flooded deserve our sympathy and help. The clean up won't start until the water recedes and then it will be many months, perhaps years for some people to get back to normal.

Reflection

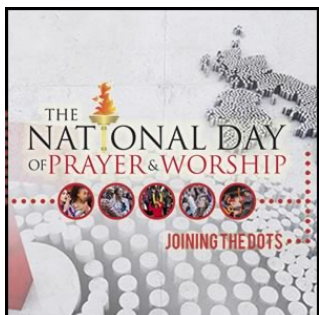
Watching the silent, swirling water of the swollen river is immensely sobering. There is something terribly dangerous, almost malignant about the inexorable and inevitable power of the water. It's unstoppable; there is nothing anyone can do... I've lost count of the number of times in the last few weeks that I have thought that and then turned my eyes up to heaven. Where does my help come from? I don't see prayer as a desperate last resort. We live and move and have our being in the God of heaven. Of course my stomach is churning but I'm not going to relax my grip on God.



Many people are shocked and frightened by what is happening to our community and rightly so. But I have talked to many people who are truly disturbed by the loss of certainty and security; the foundations on which people build their lives are disappearing. When this possibility was hurled against the psalmist his response was "the Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne. He observes everyone on earth." My prayer for my friends and neighbours is that they will start to cast around, perhaps blindly, probably ignorantly, for something more reliable and certain than the foundations that are now being destroyed. My unshakeable conviction as I pray is that: God is powerful; we can ask extraordinary and impossible things of him and he can do it. The sun can stand still, the shadow can go back.



God is merciful; Calvary is the timeless testimony to the deep, deep love of God. We are laying hold of his willingness to be generous, kind and caring.



God hears every single word that we offer to him in prayer; even the things we can't put into words are articulated in heaven by the Spirit of Christ. Christ's work has seen to it that the communication channels are open right now. God hears us loud and clear.

*John Miller
Pastor - Staines Baptist Fellowship*



Extreme Weather Prayer Guide.

This prayer guide is produced as a partnership between Neighbourhood Prayer Network and UCB Prayer.



Day 1: Faith to Move the Storm

Mark 11: 22-25

"Have faith in God, Jesus answered. Truly, I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart, but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive your sins.

When we pray with faith, we can speak to a mountain or a storm, to be cast into the sea, believing that it will be done.

- By faith, we speak to the current weather patterns across the British Isles and Ireland, that they will be moved from our shores. Stop the rain and subdue the wind Lord.
- Groundwater levels are saturated with water due to all the rain. Forecasters predict it could take 3-6 months for this to return to normal. Pray for dry weather and for the water to recede quickly.

Day 2: Heal Our Land

2 Chronicles 7:14

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 I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Let us come together in prayer for the current devastating situation in the British Isles and Ireland.

- Show us Lord if there are things that are wrong in Your sight. Forgive us where we have turned away from you. Open people's eyes to see you in this situation and

turn to You.

- Heal our land from the effects of this weather system. Thank you that there have been few injuries and fatalities. Pray for God's continued protection for people, businesses and homes.

Day 3: Stewarding God's Creation

1 Genesis 26-31

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them, male and female He created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the bords in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, " I will give every seed bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground- everything that has the breath of life in it- I give every green plant for food. " And it was so. God saw all that he had made and it was very goof. And there was evening and there was morning - the sixth day.

God created the Earth and everything in it and he created mankind to tend and watch over it.

- Forgive us where we have upset the delicate balance of our ecosystem due to human activity and not been good stewards of our planet.
- Help us to live more in harmony with our environment and find ways to deal with, and reverse, the damaging effects of recent weather patterns.

Day 4: Calm in the Storm

Matthew 8:23-27

Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord save us! We're going to drown!"

He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid? Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this?"

Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Jesus brought calm amongst the storm when the disciples where fearful.

- Jesus, bring calm to those suffering from flooding, power shortages, business and transport problems as a direct effect of the weather. Turn around this terrible situation for good.
- The Thames Water barrier that has been used 29 times this year and only 150 times since it was first built n 1982. Pray that it will continue to protect the City of London from flooding.

Day 5: Relieve the Burden

Matthew 11: 28

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burdern is light.

Many people's lives have been shattered by the recent flooding.

- Pray for churches to take this opportunity reach out in the right way to communities affected by flooding.
- We pray for strength and perseverance for families affected by floods and those helping them, like the armed forces and rescue services. Give them hope in this time of uncertainty.

Day 6: Being Good Neighbours

Matthew 22: 36-40

Teacher, which is the greatest Commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment.. The second is this, to love your neighbour as yourself.

In the tough times, let's work together as a community to help one another, particularly the elderly and disabled persons.

- Father, protect abandoned properties from looters or those who would take advantage of other people's misfortune.
- Lord, help people to share sandbags and other resources. Where tempers are flaring, please bring peace and a sense of community.

Day 7: Planning for the Future

Proverbs 15:22

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

- Lord, we pray for all those in government and positions of influence, to have the right advice at the right time to make wise decisions.
- Give wisdom to all of those currently dealing with the aftermath of the bad weather and preparing for future storms and floods, particularly the Environment Agency.

Every Blessing



Rebekah Brettle

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Neighbourhood Prayer Network | PO Box 308 | Manchester | M22 2DA | United Kingdom