



friends
INTERNATIONAL

may - august 2017

prayer diary



“...you, LORD, have never forsaken
those who seek you.”

Psalm 9:10

may – From the Directors

1-7 May

❖❖❖ **SCOTLAND REGION.** Give thanks for the many Christians who give of themselves to befriend and share Jesus with international students, some over many years. Pray for them, that God would renew their strength and vision as the academic year comes to an end. One of the key needs at the moment is recruitment. We currently have adverts out for team leaders in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Stirling with more to follow. Pray for God to raise up more workers. – **Pete Edwards, Regional Development Director, Scotland**

8-14 May

❖❖❖ **NORTH REGION.** Please pray for our amazing staff and volunteers in the northern region, for a close daily walk with God, fresh energy, encouragement and protection. Pray that the May training conferences (8th-10th and 22nd-24th) would be helpful and effective, and the staff would be well equipped and enjoy rich fellowship with one another. Pray for fruitfulness in every centre, that international students would find friends and ultimately, the greatest friend of all. – **Ramsey Pigott, Regional Development Director, North**

15-21 May

❖❖❖ **SOUTH REGION.** Please pray for new staff we are hoping to recruit in Guildford, Norwich and London. Pray especially for the appointments in London, that through these staff and relationships with local churches,

we would be better able to reach the thousands of international students in the capital each year. Pray that the Lord would provide the resources that the staff need – a strong base of supporters both financial and in prayer. – **Sarah Dawkins, Regional Development Director, South**

22-31 May

❖❖❖ **IRELAND REGION.** Friends International has recently entered into partnership with Christian Unions Ireland (formerly IFES Ireland) to grow international student ministry across the whole island of Ireland. Churches in Belfast are particularly active among international students, but there are many international students elsewhere whom we wish to reach, particularly in the south. Hollie Tagle has been appointed by FI/CUI as Ireland Team Leader. Pray for Hollie, for the work to grow and for churches and CUs to be envisioned. – **Pete Edwards, Regional Development Director, Scotland**



june – Ministry Initiatives

1-4 June

❖ MISSION HOUSING TRUST.

Wonderful news: the Charities Commission has approved our application, so the Trust is now a Charity! Our generous financial supporters have now pledged a full 100% of our budget for the Cambridge property. Please thank God with us for His goodness in all this, and pray for wisdom in choosing the right house at the right price. We pray that this initiative would really strengthen the sustainability of the work and aid its future growth across the whole country, starting with Cambridge.

– **Joel Callow, Head of Innovation and Partnership**

5-11 June

❖ **SUMMER TEAMS.** The very first outreach of the summer is the Dublin International Outreach (DIO), 4th - 17th June. Please pray for the DIO team, receiving training and reaching out to English language students each evening. Please pray that they would have ongoing contact with students who currently attend term-time international cafés, from countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Korea, Japan and Turkey. Please pray that the guests will be open to conversations about faith, and to attend the optional Bible study each evening. – **Ruth Bridcut, DIO Coordinator**

12-18 June

❖ **TEACHING ENGLISH NETWORK (TEN).** TEN is an initiative that connects together Christians who teach English to

speakers of other languages. We thank God that this has proved to be a great way for Christians to bless and serve internationals. We pray that through teaching English more churches would have the chance to share Jesus, and that TEN can be a resource to those who are a part of this.

19-25 June

❖ **REACH PROGRAMME.** The Reach Programme is a gap year for graduates who want to give a year or two to reaching and serving international students, while also being trained and equipped in ministry. We thank God for the fantastic group that is just about to finish for this year. Please pray with us for the 2017-18 group, that they would hit the ground running in September and that they would be bold and courageous in ministry.

26-30 June

❖ **TRUE LEADERSHIP (30TH JUNE–3RD JULY).**

TRUE Leadership is a 3-day retreat for international students who want to rise to the challenge of leadership and excel. World class business leaders come and share with international students, while team building exercises get the students problem-solving and communicating. Please pray for us that it would be an extremely beneficial time for the students and that they would have their eyes opened to what Godly leadership looks like. Pray also for the team that we would organise and lead well. – **Wynelle Cowdery, TRUE Team Leader**

july – Summer Teams

1-9 July

CANTERBURY (2ND–16TH JULY).

Please pray for our team members and leaders – that they would grow in their relationship with God and in confidence to share Jesus with internationals. Pray for the host families who will be giving team members bed & breakfast. Pray that they would be blessed through hosting the team. Pray for the churches to be excited and envisioned about the opportunities to reach international students. Finally, pray that students would come to know more about Jesus and trust Him as their Lord and Saviour. – **Baiba Strause-Kalmere, Canterbury Centre Team Leader**

10-16 July

EDINBURGH (1ST–29TH JULY).

Please pray for the team members at Edinburgh International Outreach. Many of them already have a heart for sharing the gospel with international students, and being part of an outreach team can be an important step in learning about mission and discovering their strengths and gifts. Pray that the Edinburgh International Outreach would equip them to serve international students in their own contexts after the outreach finishes. – **Susi Steier, Edinburgh Centre Team Leader**

17-23 July

BOURNEMOUTH (15TH–29TH JULY).

Praise God for hundreds of students who come to study English in Bournemouth over the summer. Give thanks for our partnership with United Beach Missions (UBM), who run two weeks of outreach on the beach immediately before our outreach. Pray that we would be

able to follow up on contacts that the UBM team make. Pray for our team and local volunteers as we work together. Finally, as we host a café each evening pray that our guests would feel welcome and that they'll be keen to join the optional Bible studies.

– **Gareth Leaney, Bournemouth Centre Team Leader**

24-31 July

CAMBRIDGE (9TH JULY–27TH AUGUST).

The Cambridge International Outreach is about both equipping our team members, helping them to grow in their faith and in their own response to the gospel, as well as sharing the gospel relevantly with all the various internationals we'll meet in Cambridge this summer. Pray that international students who meet our team will all move closer to grasping and accepting the gospel of Jesus than they had done before. Pray for lives to be changed by Jesus! – **Jenny Hunter, Cambridge Staff Worker**



august – Returnees and Language Students

1-6 August

❖❖❖ STUDENTS RETURNING (1).

The summer period is often a time of transition for international students, especially if they are heading home. This can be difficult if they are leaving good friends and have the challenge of finding work. Pray for students as they go through these transitions, especially for those students Friends International staff have been sharing the gospel with. Pray that the gospel seeds would take hold and continue to grow.

7-13 August

❖❖❖ STUDENTS RETURNING (2).

For international students who have become Christians while in the UK, returning home can have a drastic effect on their faith. Often, if they don't quickly connect with local Christians they can easily fall away. Please pray for those students who have responded to the gospel while they have been here. Pray that they would meet Christians back home and that their development as disciples would not be hindered.

14-20 August

❖❖❖ LANGUAGE SCHOOL STUDENTS.

During the summer months thousands of students come to study at English language schools all over the UK. While here, they may encounter our summer teams or other church activities. Pray that through these encounters they would see something of God and have a curiosity and desire to pursue him. Pray that

language schools would be open to publicise local summer team activities and that they would be warm towards our volunteers.

21-27 August

❖❖❖ PRE-SESSIONAL STUDENTS.

Many universities run pre-sessional courses for international students before the academic year begins. These usually consist of a study skills programme that prepares them linguistically and culturally for their future degree studies and gives them a chance to settle into life in and around the university. Some of these students will also encounter our summer teams. Please pray that these students would not feel isolated and lonely when they arrive but would meet Christians and summer team members who can involve them in activities and share Jesus with them.

28-31 August

❖❖❖ ARRIVING STUDENTS. As the new academic term draws near, some international students arrive early in order to visit tourist sites, settle in before their course starts or to start reading around their subject. We thank God for these brilliant individuals, who are committed to diligent study, and who present a wonderful opportunity to the UK church to welcome and befriend international students from the very beginning of the term until the end. Pray that we would all be God's witnesses to both our neighbours and the strangers in our land.

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*transforming students
transforming nations*