



friends
INTERNATIONAL

may – august 2018

prayer diary



“The LORD is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.”

Psalm 113:4

may – Praying for Returning Students

1-6 May

✦ RETURNING HOME TO IRAQ

Pray for Sami who has just finished his PhD in the UK and is about to return to Iraq. He has attended the church locally and has come to love his church like a family. He has learned a lot about Jesus and we pray he would continue to investigate Christianity and make a decision to follow Him. It will be hard for him to return to Iraq and he can't bear thinking about leaving. Finding a job will be hard. May the Lord guide his future steps and provide for him as he returns to Iraq.

7-13 May

✦ RETURNING HOME TO JAPAN

Pray for Kiki who came to study English. She comes from a fairly secular background, however while in the UK she has come along to a Bible study every Thursday, to church lunches and to our Global Café events. She learned about God and belonging to the family of God. As we said goodbye I gave her a book in Japanese, about the testimony of a couple of Christians. She shared with me that she feels very anxious about the future, and I suggested that she prayed. Please pray that Kiki would be touched by this book, that she also would encounter Christians and continue investigating Christian faith as she returns home.

14-20 May

✦ RETURNING HOME TO ITALY

I have been blessed to get to know Rob from Italy. Join me in praying for him: Father, we praise you for your grace and kindness shown to us in your son Jesus. We thank you that you have shown Rob the wonder of your grace this year. Please would you continue to show Rob this grace more and more as he prepares to return home to Italy. Please would you provide a church for him when he returns home which faithfully teaches your word. Please will he be rooted in truth, and grow in his love and knowledge of you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

21-31 May

✦ RETURNING HOME TO WESTERN EUROPE

Laura is an au pair from Western Europe. She started coming to our international café a few months ago and quickly became friends with all of us, and we discovered how open she was for discussions and questions about faith. She said "I can see that this Jesus matters in your lives. I can see his impact. But it's like he's outside of me, and I don't know him. I want to hear more." So I met her for coffee, and that turned into lunch, where we talked for hours! She still thinks that all religions are somehow possible, and that you can choose whatever you like. In June, she will return to her home country. Please pray for her to continue having all these questions, to see Jesus' uniqueness and the love He has for her.



june – Praying for Returning Students

1-10 June

❖ RETURNING HOME TO CHINA

Jenny was a visiting academic who came to the UK with her son. On arrival in the UK she knew nothing of Christ, but she was soon eagerly coming to church and a weekly Bible study. Her son also told us how he felt God's presence as he prayed. They have both now returned home and she says she now wants to be a follower of Jesus, but her job forbids any religious affiliation. She actively keeps up a weekly online Bible study, but we have not found any Christian contacts in her home city. Pray that she will meet other local Christians and will surrender her life to Jesus, whatever the cost.

11-17 June

❖ RETURNING HOME AND MOVING ON

This academic year I have had the pleasure of getting to know Josh, who is from China. He has attended church with me almost every week and has been asking deep searching questions. He has just finished his undergraduate course here in the UK and is moving on to do a Masters. Please pray that Josh's searching heart would come to see and know the great God who loves him. Pray that if he gets on a Masters course in the UK he would be able to meet more Christians in his new location.

18-24 June

❖ RETURNING BELIEVERS

Every year we are blessed and overjoyed by the international students

who come to faith while here in the UK. However, when they return home, the challenges and opposition that their new faith encounters can be devastating. Join us in praying for those returning with new or young faith. May they find local Christians they can fellowship with and mature believers who are willing to disciple them and help them grow in Christ.

25-30 June

❖ RETURNING SEEKERS

Over the last few weeks of this prayer diary we have prayed for a number of returning students, many of whom are seekers. They are curious and questioning, hungry for truth. Pray for the countless students who are in this position; that their journeys would not end when they leave the UK. Pray that they would not lose their curiosity and that the Lord would put Christians in their paths and opportunities for them to continue on the road towards Jesus. Finally, pray that their Christian friends in the UK would make efforts to continue contacting them and encouraging them in their seeking.



july – Summer Teams

1-8 July

❖❖❖ MANCHESTER

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

(30th June – 13th July) Please pray for good relationships to be built with team members and for them to have opportunities to share the gospel. The team will consist of about 25 volunteers, including 5 from the Navigators in the USA. Pray that they will work well together and that the cross-cultural training will be helpful. Please pray for the many pre-sessional and language school students to respond to invitations to the iCafé, guest services and other activities. Finally, pray for good access to the university and language schools and for an effective churches programme taking place throughout the rest of the summer.

9-15 July

❖❖❖ CANTERBURY

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

(1st – 15th July) Pray for students we will meet during the outreach, that they might start a journey of finding out more about Jesus and want to know more. Please pray for advertising in the universities and language schools. We have recently experienced difficulties advertising as the universities have started only accepting online fliers or one poster. They do not wish to have fliers distributed to the language school or university, as they now have a policy of allowing only their own marketing materials on their premises.

16-22 July

❖❖❖ READING

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

(8th – 22nd July) This will be the second year of Reading International Outreach. Pray for another great team to come together, more people than last year if possible. We are using a different evening location; pray that this makes it possible for more people to attend the cafés. We celebrate one of last year's attenders coming to faith during the year and pray for more this time round. Give thanks for and pray for Team Leaders Peter Harris (UCCF) and Lilli Jones (FI staff). Josh Luke (Wycliffe Church) and Alan Tower are organising the outreach with a local team.

23-31 July

❖❖❖ OXFORD

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

(14th – 28th July) Father, we thank you that the truth about your son Jesus is good news. We praise you that your plan for the world is to bring all nations before your throne. We thank you that over the summer you bring all nations to the UK. We trust that you are the Lord who provides, and so we ask that you would be raising up willing volunteers who love you to come and serve in Oxford this summer. We ask that through us you may work powerfully to share the good news with people from all nations, that they might worship your name. Amen.



august – Summer Teams and Arriving Students

1-5 August

✦ DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL

OUTREACH (10th – 26th August)

This year, we're changing from early summer to late summer so please pray that we still have a good reach despite fewer connections with students who have been coming during the term. Praise God for the strong support of local churches that let us use their spaces in various ways each summer. Pray that as the team get their teeth into the Bible studies, God's word would transform them and that it would equally intrigue and fascinate the international students who join us.

6-12 August

✦ CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL

OUTREACH (8th July – 26th August)

Please pray for our team leaders as they run the summer team – in particular as they facilitate training, Bible teaching and see to pastoral needs. This year we want to think how we can better invite people to the café, how we can make it easier for people to 'share their stories', and we'd love to see more people attending our guest services each Sunday. Please pray as we think these things through.

13-19 August

✦ PRE-SESSIONAL STUDENTS

Some international students arrive in August – which is much earlier than their British contemporaries. They come early in order to complete pre-sessional English

language programmes, which are often conditional for their entry onto their university course. Our summer teams and activities can provide a much needed outlet for social activity and friends. Pray that this would be the case, but also that the good news of Jesus would be evident in all that our teams do.

20-26 August

✦ PREPARATION FOR MEET

& GREET

Every year in September Friends International staff and volunteers pitch-up at Heathrow to welcome incoming international students. This initiative has been going for 17 years! We thank God that we have this privilege to work alongside the Heathrow Chaplaincy to welcome students. Pray for this year's team as they prepare for a busy September. Pray for the students that are already planning their departures and will be coming through Heathrow.

27-31 August

✦ UCCF'S FORUM (28th August

– 1st September)

Forum is a large annual conference for leaders of Christian Unions at UK universities. It is a vital time of equipping. It is also an important time of envisioning them to see and include the international students on their campuses. Pray that the CUs in the UK would be blessed by Forum and that they would start this new academic year with a passion for the lost, including those who are overseas students among them.

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*transforming students
transforming nations*